



Serving Norwegian-Americans of Sigdal, Eggedal & Krødsherad ancestry

Announcing the 2004 Stevne

Earl O. Knutson, President of Sigdalslag, Coordinator for the 2004 Sju Lag Stevne.

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Velkommen, nye lag medlemmer!

- SINDIE & LEE HOLMBERG *Vesta, MN*
- JOHN & MICHELE BISBEE *Fairmont, MN*
- TERRI SKADELAND *Golden, CO*
- JUDY ANN (THYBERG) JACOBSON *Fargo, ND*
- RICHARD & MARCENE ASLESON *Rogers, MN*
- ANNE SLADKY *LaPorte, MN*
- PHYLLIS J. & DONALD ABRAHAMS *Bloomington, MN*

Gifts and Memorials

Memorial for Sidney Rand:
\$25 from LEE & DAVID
ROKKE *Apple Valley, MN*

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The 2004 Sju Lag Stevne will be held July 7-10, 2004 in the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Willmar, MN. Sigdalslag, which is making the arrangements for this stevne, cordially invites you to attend.

Willmar is located in west central Minnesota, 100 miles west of Minneapolis, and is the seat of Kandiyohi County. This area was settled starting in 1857, mainly by Norwegian immigrants. Prior to that, the area had been visited by explorers, fur traders, and some land speculators. Kandiyohi County is dotted with lakes, and the early settlers tended to stake claims near these lakes. In his book *The Promise of America - A History of the Norwegian-American People*, Odd Lovoll specifically mentions The Norway Lake Settlement, located in the northwest part of the county. A 1916 church-history book indicates that emigrants from the Sju Lag areas of Norway, particularly Sigdal-Eggedal, Krødsherad, and Land, are prominent among the settlers in the northwest part of the county.

The 2004 stevne will be the first Sju Lag stevne to be held in a hotel rather than at a college campus. This will be a different experience!

Facilities: The 11,000 sq. ft. Convention Center will nicely accommodate all our usual stevne events (genealogy room,

classes, convocations, banquet, entertainment, lag meetings).

Housing: Three motels in the vicinity have given special rates for the stevne, namely Holiday Inn (\$69.99 + tax, walkway-connected to the Convention Center), Comfort Inn (\$69.99 + tax, a few steps away), and Days Inn (\$49.99 + tax, 3 blocks away). There are 8 other motels within 5 miles.

Meals: The three motels provide complimentary cold breakfasts. The Green Mill restaurant is available on site for other meals and more substantial breakfasts. There are many other restaurants in town.

Fees: The registration fee for the conference has been set at \$20. The Saturday evening banquet will be \$21.

Transportation: The Convention Center is near the intersection of US Highways 12 and 71. There is shuttle service (once a day, by reservation) between Willmar and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Optional tours: A history tour of the northwest part of the county is being planned, at a cost to be determined. A dinner cruise on Green Lake is another suggested activity.

A complete program, along with a registration form, will be published in the next newsletter.

2002-2003 Sigdalslag Officers

EARL O. KNUTSON *President*
722 Second Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201
320-222-1613
eoknutsn@en-tel.net

CAROL MEADE *VP 1*
6929 Park Ave.
Richfield, MN 55423
612-243-3924
cmeade@bitstream.net

GARTH ULRICH *VP 2*
Box 28, Spalding SK
SOK 4CO, CANADA
306-633-2274
gulrich@sasktel.net

JUDY SOSTED *VP 3*
1118 Lia Court
Northfield, MN 55057
jsosted@hotmail.com

DON SKADELAND *Treasurer*
10642 "O" Street
Omaha, NE 68127
402-331-5906
DLSkad@msn.com

AMY MICHELSEN *Secretary*
18730 Roanoke St. NW
Anoka, MN 55303-8971
763-753-5484
amymikemichelsen@earthlink.net

LEE ROKKE *Genealogist*
13465 Garden View Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-432-9767
leerokke@aol.com

MARILYN MOEN *Co-Editor*
32557 Clay Bank Road
Erhard, MN 56534
mmoen@prtcl.com

CINDY PETERSON *Co-Editor/
Publisher*
3520 Banyan Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-573-1504
vikingsby7@msn.com

*For submissions or questions,
please contact Marilyn Moen
or Cindy Peterson*



Fra Presidenten:

Your Executive Board has just completed its "mid-year" meeting, which took place January 17th in Willmar, MN. The big news is that we decided to press ahead with a new Sigdalslag book, which will be the first since 1949. Our Genealogist Lee Rokke will lead us in this effort, but we will need contributions from a great many of our members. Watch the Saga for information about the plan and what we hope to get from you.

At the Board meeting we heard that our web site has brought in a number of new members. This is good news, since we enjoy sharing our genealogy and cultural resources as widely as possible. On the other hand, there was an indication that many members of long standing are just learning to use the web site, especially the "Members" section. This section is available to all those whose membership is current, all of whom have been assigned a **username** and a **password**. If you don't know yours, contact Garth Ulrich or Earl Knutson.

In the second half of the meeting, we discussed and revised the plans for the 2004 Sju Lag Stevne, which will take place July 7-10 in Willmar. Sigdalslag is this year's host lag - responsible for the planning, organizing, publicity, and many other things. Watch for news in this issue, and a complete program and registration form in the next issue.

Ha det bra,

Earl O. Knutson
President, Sigdalslag

Editor's Corner...

The new **Sigdalslag book** is an exciting new project! The May issue of *Saga* will have all the details (if you don't want to wait until May, you can check out the website right now).

In the mean time you might start thinking about and jotting down some notes on your family's Sigdal/Eggedal/Krødsherad descendants. Briefly, we will be looking for family histories of current members (approx. 1,000 words),

photos, history of the lag since 1949, and a Who's Who among descendants.

Until then, I hope you enjoy this issue of *Saga*! And for those who were nominated to receive this complimentary issue, we certainly hope you enjoy it too! Thank you to all who contributed, your submittals and letters are welcomed and appreciated.

-- Cindy

Beatha

by Amy Elverud Michelsen

Beatha Regina Haugen was born in rural Portland, Traill County, North Dakota, on June 6, 1907, the first of five daughters born to Gilbert Haugen and Bertha Flatmark. Her parents were married in November 1906 at Mayville by Nils Ylvisaker, a mission pastor from Bruflat Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. Beatha was baptized July 22, 1907 by Pastor Svein in the Aurdal Church, Portland. Beatha is Eggedøling on her dad's side, and she is the reason this writer became involved with Sigdalslag. Although she is half Eggedal, Beatha knows little about Eggedal because her dad was born in Traill County too. Her mother emigrated from Etnedal in Valdres.



Gilbert & Bertha Flatmark, 1938

When Beatha was still a baby, her parents bought a farm south of Church Ferry in Benson County, North Dakota, where Beatha grew up. Other Sigdal families in the vicinity were Liens, Helgeseths, Hiaasens and Tofsruds.

One of Beatha's earliest memories was helping her mother at the birth of her sister, Norma, in February 1910, when Beatha was still two years old. When the time came for the baby to be born, Pa hitched up the horses and buggy and went to get the neighbor woman who lived on the farm to the north

(Mrs. McDonald). But giving birth was always a quick affair for her mother. Before Pa got home, the baby had been born. Beatha remembers Ma asking her to fetch the scissors and something else that her Ma needed to cut and tie the umbilical cord herself.

A tornado hit the farm when she was three years old. It completely took away the barn and granary. Splinters of wood were strewn all over the farm, including one in the horse's thigh, which eventually healed. Bea remembers the funniest thing about the tornado was that it did not move the buggy which was parked right up against the barn that blew away.

They did not have toys or material goods in those days. When Christmas came, "We were lucky if we got a pencil. I remember how badly I wanted a colored pencil, either red or green or yellow or something. I never, never got it."

When Bea was seven years old a boy at school knocked her out. She started school at the age of seven; most others started at six. The Tofsrud boys threatened to "give her a licking" if she dared catch up with them, who had been in school for a year. She did catch up. One day, out behind the schoolhouse, she was pushed or punched hard. She lost her wind and blacked out. When she came to, she was lying on her back by the coal shed. A circle of kids who wondered what had happened surrounded her. She

knew that she was knocked out because she had "caught up in school" with the Tofsrud boys. "Pa must have helped me learn stuff at home," she said. She was always intelligent.

On the Haugen farm, they had five horses that were used to pull the plow: King, Nellie, Nancy, Fannie and Tom. They also had a pony named Maude who pulled their buggy

to school. They called it "the school horse." When the girls went to school two miles away, Beatha would drive the horse. When automobiles became the fashion, she never wanted to drive, and she never did.

Beatha said she must have been a bit haughty at one point. The children were told to shake hands with visitors. One time when old man Tofsrud came, she knew she was supposed to shake his hand. But when he stuck out his hand, she saw that it was black and shiny, as was common when the farmers rarely washed their hands. She said to him, "I'll wait til you wash up." Her parents reminded her of that for many years.

Bea and her sisters helped their dad on the farm. They shocked the grain and set it up to dry, six sheaves together. They wore dresses, "and our poor legs were just scratched."

They spoke Norwegian at home so the Haugen girls did not learn English until they went to school. They heard slang terms in Pa's "Halling dialect" and learned more formal Norwegian



Beatha and sister Norma, 1912

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from Ma's "Valdres dialect". As the oldest daughter, Beatha was expected to do anything that required English, like talking with traveling salesmen. She complained to me, "I had to do the speaking, like that was the law in the home." Beatha was home when the Census Enumerator came to the farm in June 1920. As usual, her folks asked her to answer all the questions because she spoke the best English in the household. Nevertheless, the man misunderstood the surname and recorded them all as the HAGUEN family. Obviously he was not Norwegian! All the other details, however, were exactly right.

Beatha told me: "Pa was made director of the school board. He was supposed to write a letter to offer a teaching position to a girl. He couldn't write well enough, so he asked me to do it." As Bea was still in school herself, "I had to hire my own teacher—kinda funny and kinda sad too." (That newly hired girl, who taught only one year, was Clara Landmark, later Mrs. Carl Hiaasen. They were grandparents of the writer Carl Hiaasen of Florida.)

Beatha and her sisters were confirmed, in Norwegian, at Antiochia Church, Churchs Ferry, ND, by Reverend Kristoffer O. Rafshol. He didn't speak English very well, but the ministers that followed him used English, so Rafshol was at the turning point of the language transition at that country church.

Martha Eide, Beatha's friend from confirmation class, talked her into rooming with her in Minnewaukan and attending high school there. "Martha and I stayed together in the house of an old maid who had an extra room." They brought food from home where

they usually went on the weekend. Beatha was probably 16 years old when she went to high school. She stayed only for the freshman year, and that was the end of her formal education. She explained to me that she quit because her folks insisted that if she got higher education, she would have to help pay for her sisters and she didn't think that was fair. It was common in those times that the first child got an education, then got a job to help pay for the education of younger children. Beatha had a chance to get married, and she decided marriage would be better than staying home and caring for her sisters.

Beatha saw Martha Eide's older brother Arthur at church functions occasionally. Art, who was really the gentleman, came courting. Bea's sisters all thought it was so funny when their dad told them Art had asked if he could "have Beatha." Her sister Christine told me, "Ma tried to stop her from getting married." Because Beatha was so young (18), and very intelligent, her mother wanted her to get more schooling. Christine, ten years old at the time, remembers seeing both Beatha and Ma crying after a discussion about her getting married, but "Beatha went ahead and got married anyway." Art & Beatha were married in the Lutheran parsonage in Minnewaukan just after



Art & Beatha's wedding portrait

the worship service on Sunday morning, September 30, 1925.

Art & Bea lived and worked on rented farms for about 22 years. Bernice was born on the Castle farm. They lived on the Bowman farm for 21 years, where Gordon and David were born. David died there in February 1939, a devastating blow to Beatha. In 1940 Elsie Mae was born at a midwife's house several miles north of home.

The thirties were a very difficult decade, with drought, dust and poor crops. Beatha remembers she could not afford to buy a package of raisins for her baking. When they could not purchase new clothes or yarn, Beatha would rip up an old knitted sweater and patch it by reknitting it with the same yarn. Beatha picked up dried cow chips to burn in the stove. This way they saved their coal for winter and they could still warm their house on cold mornings. Cow chips were even used for the cooking stove. Those were dry years. So much dirt blew around the country that it was difficult to keep a house dust free. Some mornings Beatha found the outline of her head on the pillow from the dust settling all around her. During that time, she vowed that she would never complain again about high water or too much rain because, she believed, too much water could never be as bad as living through a drought like that.

Beatha remembered gypsies in their area. "There'd be a whole train of horses and horse-drawn wagons and they had some cows. Sometimes we could tell that somebody had been by the coulee during the night. In the summertime they would travel and they'd camp out at night. Some of the wagons were open, some were cov-

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Madison Lutheran Church

by Rosella Goettelman

When Ole Aslesen Myran from Sigdal built his log cabin eight miles west of Decorah, Iowa in 1851, he knew of no white settlers to the west of his land. Soon he was joined by several relatives and friends from Sigdal. Other Norwegian immigrants settled there too. Since it was in Madison Township, it was known as the Madison settlement. Rev. Nils Brandt conducted services in Ole's cabin in 1852.

Several Norwegian settlements in northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota were affiliated with the Little Iowa Congregation. Rev. V. Koren came from Norway in 1853. He had his headquarters at Washington Prairie and traveled over a wide area, conducting services in various homes. Eventually, Little Iowa was divided into several congregations.

The Madison Congregation started to build a church in 1856. By the time it was finished it was already too small. In 1863 it was decided that Madison would separate from Little Iowa congregation. Pastor Koren continued to serve the congregation until 1866, when Rev. Nils Brandt became the pastor of Madison along with Decorah, which had also separated from Little Iowa.

Since there were so many members, it was decided that the Madison Congregation should be divided. One part would be called Madison and the other part would be called Lincoln. Pastor Brandt served the Madison, Lincoln and Decorah churches.

The Madison Congregation was incorporated in 1871. They bought two acres of land from Helge Nilsen Myran and built a brick church. It was dedicated November 4, 1873. A sacristy was built in 1865. In 1905 it was decided to build a new church, because the old one was so cold and in poor condition. The brick church was torn down and a new frame church was built. It was dedicated in 1907. The education unit was built in 1961.

Some of the early members of the Madison Lutheran Church were: Ole Aslesen Myran, Helge Nilsen Myran, Asle Nilsen Myran, Helge Gundersen Blekeberg, Ole Gundersen Blekeberg, Gunder Helgesen Blekeberg, John Helgesen Blekeberg, Narve Gunbjorsen Moen, Nils Gunbjorsen Moen, Peder Gunbjorsen Moen. (The Moen brothers used the name Gilbertson in America.) Ole Helgesen Saeton, Ole Aslesen Lillemoen-Velstad, Ole Knutsen Haga,



Lars Knutsen Haga, Hans Knutsen Dessarud (He used Knutson), and Andres Nilsen Bergrud from Sigdal; Herbrand Anstensen Hovland (He used Ansten), Stener Olsen Hellerud and Bjorn Eriksen Aasland from Eggedal; Gut-torm Jonsen Hovden, Knut Jonsen Hovden and Jakob Thoresen Berg-Fossli from Krødsherad. Also, there were Ole Herbrandsen Fulsaas from Rollag, who married Olaug Pedersdatter Nerdalen from Sigdal, Halvor Herbrandsen Fulsaas from Rollag, who married Barbro Christoffersdatter Flatin from Eggedal and Ole Ellingsen Vold from Flaa, who married Mari Helgesdatter Skare from Eggedal. Many of the present members are descendents of these early pioneers.

The Madison Lutheran Church sits on a high windswept hill eight miles west of Decorah, Iowa. The spire can be seen for several miles in every direction.

Information and photo furnished by Rosella Goettelman, 502 Oak Street, Decorah, Iowa 52101. Thank you Rosella.

Just For Fun...

Ole : Say Sven, look at my new glasses I got today from Dr. Haugen.

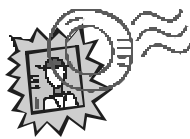


Boy! Can I ever see good. Right now I can see your one-eyed cat over dere, comin in thru da doorway.

Sven: I don't vant to disappoint you too much, Ole, but dat cat is walking OUT da door.



From the Saga Mail Bag:



From our own VP...

"Hi You All,

The Newsletter and Directory came this week. Excellent jobs on both. Thanks for your hard work.

Would it be possible to put a note in the next newsletter asking if anyone has known the name HUMASON. I have a postcard with the picture of a Raymond Clair Humason, in a National Guard uniform from about 1918-1919. Portland, Oregon. It is address to my great-grandparents as Cousins. His mother could have been a Gullickson or and Anderson. How's that for covering a lot of ground!

... have a good Holiday Season."

Judy Sosted

From San Diego, CA...

I got my copy of the latest Sigdalslag Saga and was delighted to see the article "New Book on 'Bunads in America'". Thank you so much for editing all the information I sent and for printing it in the newsletter. You did a very nice job.

...I always enjoy reading my Sigdalslag Saga when I get it.

Thanks again,
Jean Negaard Shogren

(Thank you Jean! -Cindy)

Prestfoss, Saskatchewan

by Garth Ulrich

The Prestfoss post office came into being in 1908 with the renaming of the former Norden post office. The name Prestfoss was given to the post office by postmaster Andrew Bergrud who chose to name it after his village in Sigdal. The post office was located on section 10, township 37, range 21, west of the 2nd Meridian. This land is north of the present day community of Kinistino, and northeast of Weldon.

Anders Reiersen Bergerud was born in Sigdal in September 8, 1859. His wife, Mari Knudsdatter Sundelien, was born in Sigdal in July 13, 1855. They emigrated to the United States and from there came to the province of Saskatchewan, Canada in 1901. He is said to be the third settler to arrive in the Norden district where he was known as Andrew Bergrud. Here, he was the first postmaster, operating the post office from the time of

it's opening in 1903 as Norden, until it's closure in 1919, brought about by his resignation. In 1908 he had the name of the post office changed from Norden to Prestfoss.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergrud were both active community members in the Norden district. As well as being postmaster, he also served on the Norden school board from it's beginning until his retirement to the village of Weldon. Mrs. Bergrud organized the first Ladies Aid in the district in 1903.

Their children were: Martha Hanson, Carl Anderson, Clara Reksos, Richard Bergrud, Annie Sager and Olga Gunderson. The two oldest, Martha and Carl, were born in Sigdal.

Mrs. Bergrud passed away on February 6, 1929 and Mr. Bergrud six days later on February 12, 1929.



Sigdalslag Surveys have been received from:

- Ilene Forde, Plymouth, MN on the descendants of ELI ELLEVSDTR BØLESHAGEN.
- Calvin Jokstad, Fargo, ND on the descendants of CARL HANS JOKSTAD.
- Lorriane Dahl, Woodbury, MN on the Descendants of JOHN HELGESEN BLEKEBERG, GUNBJØRN NILSEN FAGERLI; KNUD JONSEN HOVDEN, OLE ASLESEN LILLEMOEN, and EVEN ANDERSEN SPILHAUG. If we gave prizes for the most immigrant ancestors from Sigdal, Lorraine would surely be in the running.
- Twila Halvorson, Detroit Lakes, MN on descendants of KITTIL HALVORSON ÅSEN.
- Paul Broughton, Redondo Beach, Ca on the descendants of TORSTEN KRISTOFFERSEN TJERNEBRATEN.
- Anne Sladky, Laporte, MN on the descendants of BJØRN GUNDERSEN ENDERUD
- Phyllis Abrahams, Blomington, MN, on the Descendants of OLE OLSEN (RÅENSET) THORUD.

These have been added to the Sigdalslag library:

- The Sigdalslag (Sixth Book) 1949, English translation by Rosella Goettelman, Edited by Debbie Jackson Shortino, published by the Sigdalslag 2002, printed by Anundson Publishing Co., Decorah Iowa. 2 copies
- Cynthia DeLano, Winona, MN, has donated a very good copy of the Portland, North Dakota Diamond Jubilee book that was published in 1957.
- The Sigdalslag has purchased the two volume set of Gards og Slektshistorie for Flå i Hallingdal by Terje Østro, published by the Flå Kommune 2003.

Beatha...

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ered. Ladies sat in there with small kids. Kids were running around them on the road." They saw gypsies both from the Haugen farm and from the Bowman farm, where Bernice grew up.

In 1948, Art & Bea bought the Gilbert Haugen farm from her dad and they lived there for 21 years. They retired from farming in 1969. In 1973 they sold the farm to their son Gordon and moved into Minnewaukan, county seat of Benson County, where they lived for 20 years.

Beatha and Art traveled to Montana, Panama, California, New York and Georgia; all were trips to visit their children and grandchildren. When asked if she ever wanted to see other places, she said, "I could have gone to Norway at one time, but I'm kind of glad I didn't after seeing pictures of

those terrible mountains." Having grown up in the flattest country around, she has always been wary of mountains and hilly roads.

A homemaker most of her life, Beatha spent a lot of time cooking, baking bread, cleaning, and caring for her family. Her artistic ability also came out in the many hours spent sewing, knitting and crocheting. She made items for all her descendants: blankets, quilts, afghans, tablecloths, placemats, table runners, snowflakes, angels, dolls, Barbie doll clothing, wall hangings-- innumerable pieces. She created a beautiful flower garden each year. The only games she enjoyed were Scrabble or Uno. To this day she still plays board Scrabble with her daughter Elsie.

In 1993 Art & Bea sold the car, house and most everything they owned at a farm auction. They moved to their daughter's home in Fridley, Minnesota. When Art could no longer be cared for,

he was moved to Crestview Nursing Home and Beatha moved into the attached apartment building. She continued living at Crestview after Art's death in 1995. Beatha used to keep busy with reading mail and newspapers from Benson County, watching television, quilting, crocheting, or stitching pillowcases. Now at age 96, she can no longer do handiwork nor read, but she still enjoys family birthday parties, holidays and being around her great-grandchildren. She holds a treasure chest of memories from the 20th century.

By Amy Elverud Michelsen, granddaughter of Beatha

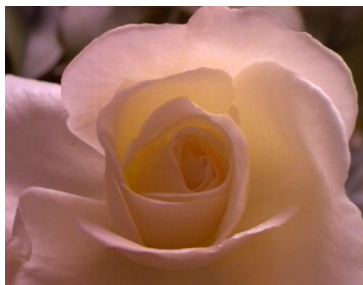


Gifts to the Genealogy fund:

\$ 25 from DARLENE HANSON, Hoffman, MN

\$ 25 from CHARLES WHEELER, Farmington, NM

\$ 15 from MAREN MASON, Laguna Hills, CA



In Memory

SIDNEY ANDERS RAND

9 May 1916 - 16 Dec. 2003

Former St. Olaf president; Ambassador to Norway, Sigdalslag member

Sidney Anders Rand was born in Eldred, Minn., to Charles W. and Alice Pedersen Rand. He lived in Beltrami and Williams, Minn., where his father was Superintendent of Schools. Following his father's death in 1920, the family moved to Rothsay, Minn., his mother's hometown.

He attended school in Rothsay and graduated from high school in Fergus Falls, Minn., in 1933, from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. in 1938, and from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1943. He also did graduate work at the University of Chicago.

In 1942, he was married to Dorothy Holm, a college classmate. Two children were born to them. Dorothy died in 1974, and later that year he married Lois Schiager Ekeren, a long-time friend. He is survived by his wife, by son Peter (Nancy) Rand, daughter Mary (Ron) Taylor, step-daughter Sarah (Ben) Buck and step-son Mark Ekeren; by grandchildren Amy (Scott Pryor) Rand, Dorothy Rand, Luke (Jill) Williams, Leah (David) Barbieri, Dave Boosinger, Bryce and Jessica Ekeren, Jennifer (Rocky) Rivera and Charity Spencer; by great-grandchildren Luke and Sam Barbieri, Nate and Sydney Williams, and Cynthia, Chyna and Cole Rivera; and by a brother, Lyman Rand.

Sidney Rand was ordained into the Lutheran ministry in 1943 and served as pastor of Nashwauk and Trout Lake Lutheran Churches in northern Minnesota for two years. He joined the religion fac-

ulty of Concordia College in Moorhead, where he taught from 1945 to 1951. He served as president of Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa, for five years and in 1956 became executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1961, when the American Lutheran Church was created, he became executive director of its Board of College Education. From October 1962 to February 1963, he was a tutor in the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Bossey, Switzerland.

He was elected president of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., in 1963 and served in that capacity until February 1980, at which time he became United States ambassador to Norway. He retired in Minneapolis in 1981. In retirement he taught part-time at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and was a consultant to colleges on management studies. He has served as interim president of two colleges, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D. (1986-87 and 1992-93) and Suomi College (now Finlandia University), Hancock, Mich. (1990-91). In 2000, he and his wife, Lois, moved to Northfield.

He served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Governor's Commission on Tax Reform, the Minnesota Judicial Planning Committee, the Executive Committee for the Peace Prize Forum, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, and the Boards of Directors of Fairview Community Hospitals, Northfield National Bank, North American Life and Casualty Company, Wheat Ridge Foundation and the Fund for Theological Education and on

the Regional Board of the former National Conference of Christians and Jews. He also served on the boards of several national and regional organizations in the field of higher education.



Sidney Rand received numerous recognitions for his work, including honorary doctoral degrees from Concordia College, Colorado College, St. Olaf College, St. John's University, Carleton College, The College of St. Scholastica, Augustana College and Luther College. He was decorated by His Majesty King Olav V of Norway with the Knight's Cross, First

Class, Order of St. Olav, and the Commander's Cross, Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. King Harald V awarded him the Commander's Cross with Star of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. He received the Edgar F. Carlson Award for service to higher education, the Brotherhood-Sisterhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Luther Institute's Wittenberg Award, and was elected an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield.

During his retirement years, he wrote a memoir for his family, *In Pleasant Places*. It has since been enjoyed by many in and beyond his large circle of friends and colleagues.

Praised by Many

Described as a "gentleman" who led the college with quiet determination and in-

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fluenced many people with his kind intellect and warm humor, Rand was "one of Minnesota's truly remarkable human beings," said former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale.

"He was a religious leader, an academic leader and he was a wonderful president of St. Olaf College," said Mondale, who helped install Rand as ambassador in 1980.

In many ways, Rand's personality and dedication are reflected in St. Olaf, the college he led for 17 years, said Chris Thomforde, St. Olaf's current president.

"He was the personification of what is good about St. Olaf," Thomforde said. "Deep faith, crisp intelligence, sharp wit, civic engagement and a good sense of humor. He didn't take himself too seriously."



Photo by M. Moen
Sidney speaking to crowd at Rothsay when Serkland Doctor's Office was to be moved to Norway.

When Thomforde became president in 2000, he said, Rand would regularly take him to lunch. There, he would gently guide the school's new leader.

"I always had a list of questions or ideas to run past him. He would never say a lot," Thomforde said. "He'd say, I'm not sure I would do

that, Chris,' or 'That sounds like a good idea; why don't you give it a try?' It was almost like talking to your father."

During Rand's tenure at St. Olaf, the school grew from just over 2,000 students to more than 3,000, and he led two major fundraising campaigns that brought more than \$21.5 million to the college. Three times after his retirement from St. Olaf, Rand served as interim president of regional colleges -- twice at Augustana in Sioux Falls, S.D., and at Suomi College (now Finlandia University) in Hancock, Mich.

David Laird, president and CEO of the Minneapolis Private College Council, said Rand was a forceful champion of making private colleges available to needy students. In 1983

he served as acting executive director of the council. And he was an active mentor and coach to other college presidents and deans. "He was direct, but not stiff. And exceedingly caring," Laird said.

President Jimmy Carter named Rand ambassador to Norway. Later, Rand, Mondale and others started the Nobel Peace Prize Forum Conference, which is held annually at one of a number of Lutheran colleges in the region.



Photo by M. Moen
Sidney speaking with Olaf Olson of Rothsay, MN

Rand's Sigdal Connection

Sidney donated a copy of *In Pleasant Places* to the Sigdalslag library. Rand had roots on his mother's side of the family to Sigdal.

His mother Alice Pedersen Rand and his aunt Berthe Pedersen Serkland were born to Anders Braatlien Pedersen and Jøran Olsd. Vatnaas who were both born in Sigdal.

Sidney's grandfather Anders Braatlien Pedersen was one of the founders of the Sigdalslag and it's first President.

The Sigdal House moved from the Vatnaas farm in Sigdal and located in the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot had connections to his grandmother's heritage. The completed house was dedicated on October 15, 1991 and Sidney Rand took part in the dedication.

(source: Excerpts from the Minneapolis Star Tribune article by James Walsh, published December 19, 2003, and from the funeral program, Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, December 23, 2003. Sigdal information provided by Lee Rokke and Marilyn Moen)

If you have information on a departed member, please contact the editor.

Schedule of Events

- April 23 - April 25, 2004
The Art of Rosemaling: Tradition meets the Creative Mind, A Symposium
Vesterheim Museum,
Decorah, IA (563) 382-9681
www.vesterheim.org
- April 23 - April 25, 2004
Calif. Lutheran University
2004 Scandinavian Festival,
Thousand Oaks, CA
(805) 493 3151
www.dunet.edu/Events/
ScanFest
- July 7 - 10, 2004
7 LAG STEVNE, *Holiday Inn
Convention Center, Wilmar, MN.*
- Ongoing
"THE DREAM OF AMERICA"
Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle,
WA (206) 789-5707 and
www.nordicmuseum.com

Royal Arrival

HRH Princess Ingrid Alexandra



Crown Princess Mette-Marit and Crown Prince Haakon became proud parents to a daughter on Wed., January 21, 2004. Ingrid Alexandra may be the first reigning queen in Norway since the Middle Ages.

The birth is an historic event, as this is the first time a daughter of Norway's crown prince and crown princess is born to inherit the throne. In 1990 section 6 of the Constitution was changed to give both sexes equal right to inherit Norway's throne. The child now born thus enters the order of succession as number two -- next to her father the Crown Prince.

Sigdal'slag Saga



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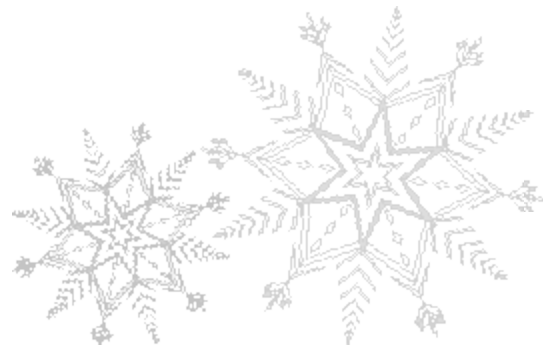
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Comments? Suggestions? SAGA solicits feature articles, news, pictures and obituaries from members. Please contact editors Cindy Peterson or Marilyn Møen (contact info on Pg. 2).

Next deadline: April 10, 2004

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Garth also maintains e-mail addresses. To update yours, write him at gulrich@sasktel.net