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Old Trondhjem News
Trondhjem Community Preservation Society
P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046

Trondhjem Community Preservation Society

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OLD TRONDHJEM CHURCH

APRIL, 2008

TRONDHJEM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SOCIETY P.O. BOX 259

LONSDALE, MINNESOTA 55046

www.trondhjempreservation.org

Syttende Mai Celebration

Sunday May 18, 2008 2:30PM
At the Old Trondhjem Church



Leroy Larson and Scandinavian Ensemble

Come join our celebration of the Norwegian National Holiday, Syttende Mai, when we gather at the old church on May 18th at 2:30 PM. We're happy to have **Leroy Larson and his Scandinavian Ensemble** back again to play for our program. These excellent musicians play waltzes, polkas and schottisches that form the backbone of Scandinavian old-time dance music. They will entertain us with accordion, banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, button-box, and a variety of other instruments. The program is open to anyone and a free will offering will be taken to help raise funds for the ongoing capital campaign.

A brief annual meeting will be held to elect members to the board of directors. Following the program traditional Norwegian treats such as lefse, flatbrod, rommegrot, rosettes, open faced sandwiches, and coffee will be served. Members are asked to bring their favorite home made foods to serve.

Message from the President

The Trondhjem Community Preservation Society is a totally volunteer organization. We function with no paid staff whatsoever, which is quite a feat when you consider how much goes on here on the hill.

Sandy Valek and Ramona Pumper handle all matters concerning rental and scheduling the use of

the building. Dallas Berg handles all the building upkeep and maintenance with occasional help from others whom he recruits. Joyce Pflaum and Millie Johnson chair the museum committee with help from Carol Johnson, Barb Lentsch, Edie and Orv Peterson, Mavis and Merle Fossum and three volunteers from the MN Historical Society, John Lindell, Judith Hentges, and Kate Roberts. Deb Simon, our treasurer manages all our finances and pays the bills. Bonnie Pavek is our Secretary and keeps track of our mail, and the organization's records. Charlene Hamblin and Lee Topp assemble and print the newsletter, and at our special events Nancy Topp and Randa Vogen manage the kitchen while many members bring wonderful food contributions and others volunteer to help set up and host, serve, usher, and park cars. Many volunteers say they like to help at the old church because it feels so good to be a part of this happy community and they believe in the mission of saving this historic heirloom and the history it represents.

If you would like to participate more fully as a volunteer, we need you. You could participate with any of the activities mentioned above. The museum committee needs a lot of help with managing the large collection of photographs, cataloguing and entering data in the records, and telling the stories of old Trondhjem, MN. We always need helpers to clean the church and set up for special events, and host the people who attend. If you have skills that you'd be willing to contribute, please contact me or any of the people mentioned above.

Merle Fossum

July Ice Cream & Pie Social

Save the date on your calendar to attend our annual Ice Cream and Pie Social on Sunday afternoon July 27, 2008. From 12 noon to 4:00 PM we will be entertained by the **Mowin' Weeds**. Come for lunch and eat home made hot dogs, Sloppy Joes, fresh pie and ice cream.

Museum Tells the Story of Old Trondhjem, MN

The Old Trondhjem Church and its members share a rich and interesting history. Kate Roberts and I discovered this when we were invited by Joyce Pflaum and the TCPS Museum Committee to talk about creating history exhibits. Kate and I both work for the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, and have collaborated on many exhibit projects over the years as designer (me) and developer (Kate).

When we first met with the Museum Committee, the preservation of the 1899 church was complete. The building had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and your efforts had been recognized by the Minnesota Preservation Alliance. Carol Johnson and other volunteers had already collected and labeled many, many historic photos of the Trondhjem community, and Joyce had spent many hours and days researching and documenting community history. Display panels created by Dallas Berg were being used to exhibit photos. Judith Hentges, an interpreter and teacher at the Minnesota History Center, has added her skills and enthusiasm to the monthly work sessions.

Together with museum committee we visited the Rice County Historical Society, Scott County Historical Society, and exhibits at the Minnesota History Center to help us imagine the potential of exhibits for telling the Trondhjem community story.

Drawing on photographs, objects, newspaper accounts, historic research, family letters, and oral histories—as well as a collective memory—the Trondhjem Community Preservation Society has built a fascinating archive. Working with the committee, we are now shaping these wonderful resources into an exhibit to chronicle the story of the Trondhjem community.

Together, we are remounting and cataloguing the photographs and developing an outline of the Trondhjem community story. Now the outline is coming alive—Merle Fossum is working with other committee members to draft text for the exhibit panels, and all are meeting regularly to choose photos and other resources that best illuminate the stories told on each exhibit panel. Some sample panels will be on view at the Syttende Mai celebration—we look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on this work in progress.
John Lindell.

John Lindell and Kate Roberts designed and developed the new exhibit “MN 150” celebrating the state’s sesquicentennial now on view at the Minnesota History Center.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Submitted by Joyce Fossum Pflaum

HAPPY SYTTENDE MAI (17TH of May- Norway’s Constitution Day)

IMPORTANT DATES IN NORWAY HISTORY

May 17, 1814 - Norway adopted its own constitution freeing them from Denmark’s rule.

1905 – Norway gained its independence from Sweden.

1825 – The ship “Restauration” left Norway with a group of over 50 Norwegians that were emigrating to America. They landed in New York City on October 9th, 1825. This was the beginning of the Norwegian immigration to America.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MINNESOTA AND AREA HISTORY

1849 – Minnesota became a territory.

May 11, 1858 – Minnesota became a state. (150 years ago)

1855 – Martin Taylor, an Irishman, was the first known white man to settle in Webster Township.

1860’s – Norwegians were settling in this area.

1878 – Trondhjem Lutheran Congregation built their first church building—130 years ago. (The alter area we are preserving in the Old Church today is part of that 1878 building.

EARLY SETTLERS IN THIS AREA

The first settlers in this area had to be very strong, mentally and physically, to persevere in this area of wooded land. Rev. Edward Neill's book, "The History of Rice County", written in 1882, tells something about the hardships endured. Martin Taylor erected a small log shanty in 1855 and moved his family here the following spring. He cleared and spaded up three acres of land, which he planted to corn and potatoes. In the spring of 1856, with a yoke of oxen but no wagon, he went to Northfield (about 10 miles) for wheat seed. He placed one sack of seed across the back of each ox and arrived home safely. He raised 110 bushels of wheat that year. Harry Humphrey arrived and secured a place on the shore of Union Lake in 1855, about 4 miles east of Taylor's land. In December of 1855, two more parties arrived, S.J. and Chalmer Webster, and their father, Ferris Webster, for whom the township was named.

Jacob Camp and his wife came in the spring of 1856. He secured land near Union Lake and erected a log hut. Mr. Camp carried the logs to build his house on his shoulders, and drew his stove through the woods from Northfield with a sled by hand. (This would have been a distance of about 6 miles, with only a path to follow – no lighted, paved road to walk on!)

A LESSON IN NORWEGIAN

Uff da.....Expression of exasperation

Ish da.....A little worse than Uff da

Fie da.....About as bad as it gets

Takk for sist.....Thanks for the last time (as you shake hands with someone you saw before)

Takk.....Thank you

Mange Tusen Takk.....Many thousand thanks

Velkommen.....Welcome

God dag.....Good day, hello

Vaer saa god.....Please come and help yourself

Jeg elsker deg.....I love you

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR HOME IN THE 1930'S?

I was recently thinking about the home we moved to in Webster when I was 2 ½ years old. We were fortunate to have electricity. We had 2 sources of water – rainwater was pumped from the cistern to be used for washing ourselves and washing clothes. Drinking water was pumped from an outside well into a metal pail that was used for drinking and cooking. There was a trap door located in the pantry floor. This door was lifted up and laid against the wall, so we could go down some "awful" steps to get to the basement that had a dirt floor. All the worn out 12 x 12 linoleum floor coverings that had previously been used in the living area of our home, were laid one on top of the other on that dirt floor. The washing machine and tubs were down in the cellar, and there was a cook stove down there on which to heat water for washing clothes. Mother was a frugal person so, in the summer, she would pour the water left from washing clothes on her garden. This was the only outdoor watering that would get done. The second room in the cellar was used to store canned goods and potatoes, carrots and other garden foods. It was not uncommon to see a mouse, and once in awhile a lizard would appear. In the summer we would use the outside entrance to the cellar – this was 2 wood doors laying at a slant from the ground to the foundation. We were fortunate to have a wood cook stove in the kitchen, and two large room heaters that burned distillate to heat the dining room and living room. There were transoms, or round metal open designed grates in the floor of each bedroom upstairs to heat the rooms in winter. Of course, Dad tuned the burners down so low at night that there was "no heat wave" anywhere in the house. No, we did not have indoor plumbing, so we had an outhouse out in the yard—it was a 2- holer with catalogs and once in awhile we were treated to peach wrappers. It was scrubbed once a week with a pail of soapy water and a broom. And because we lived in a small town (population 100), the outhouse was tipped over by local boys each Halloween. In the winter there was an enamel "chamber pot" kept in the closet under the steps to avoid nighttime trips to the outhouse. There were hollyhocks growing along the south side of the house in the summer. Milk was delivered in glass quart bottles, and if needed, the same neighbor also delivered ice blocks for the icebox. Ice

(History, cont'd.) blocks were cut from a local lake in the winter and stored under sawdust in the icehouse until needed. The extra bedroom upstairs was the storeroom and winter playroom combined. What fun it was to dig through Mother's old dresses of the 1920's and play "dress up".

What are your memories of your home, your family life, the stories handed down by your family, your school or church experience? Write them down today and mail them to Joyce Pflaum at our TCPS address. I am also still looking for photos of the 1878 church, and the Charter members of the Trondhjem Church. Can you help me with these? Who is the caretaker of your family pictures? Contact that person and see what is available. We are presently cataloging all our photographs, but we would certainly accept any photos of home life, activities, etc. that you would happen to have.

I would like pictures of E. Skauge, E. Stratte, Ole Rygg, O. Anderson, Ole Johnson, N. Solberg, P. Danielson, J. Danielson, H. Olsen, Ole Matsen, Herman Lyng, Bertinus Nilsen, H. Grotte, P. Olsen, Jens Nyhus, A. Guttormsen, Ole Hansen, E. Nilsen, and Guttorm Nilsen. (Some of these men may also have been known by other last names such as Berg, Johnson, etc.) Please help us with this project if you are able. There was an Ole and Maria Nygard in early church records. Can you give me any information on that family?

Our annual Sytennde Mai celebration is always held the third Sunday in May. Please join us for a fun day. The doors open by 12:30 p.m. so you have time to look around at our exhibits, the church interior, the cemetery, or visit with your friends. We invite to add to the festivities by wearing a Norwegian Bunad. If you do not have one, dress the way your grandmother or grandfather would have dressed for church, or for a neighborhood gathering, a trip to the store, a family gathering, a summer picnic, Ladies Aid, or a day in school – have you seen pictures of young boys in their overalls with only one suspender hooked over a cotton work shirt? Look at your old photos and you will come up with many ideas. MEN and WOMEN, BOYS and GIRLS, please join in the fun! The entertainer for that day, LeRoy Larson, will have to tapping your toes!

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Capitol Campaign

Doug & Pat Fossum
Merle & Mavis Fossum
David & Ardis Asp
Michael & Mary Ann Johnson
Alvin & Eunice Johnson
Karissa & Erich Roeller
Wendell & Barb Halverson
Millie Johnson
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Maxine Halverson
Arvid & Gloria Boyum
Alan & Randa Vogen
Elna & Sherwin Hansen

**Memory of Grandparents: Mens & Edna Berg
& Father: Arleigh Berg**
Carol Berg

**Memory of Hans & Irene (Beyer)Christianson
& Thomas & Marie (Beyer) Walstad**
Darlene Pfahning

Memory of Roy Johnson
David & Ardis Asp

Memory of Vernon Fossum
Warren Velenchenko

Memory of Duane Pflaum
Jeffrey & Mary Pflaum

Memory of Dale Hansen Quinnell
Daisy Quinnell

**Honor of Sherwin & Elna Hansen's 60th
Anniversary**
Ronald & Kathleen Halverson

Memory of Ralph, Donald & Arleigh Berg
Ardis Wilson

**Honor of Gene & Margaret Hegland's 50th
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Diane Weise
Joyce Pflaum
Ramona Pumper
Alan & Randa Vogan
Merle & Mavis Fossum
Elvah Fossum
Rev. Gene & Margaret Hegland

Honor of Merle & Mavis Fossum's Birthdays
Pastor David & Karen Johnson Thomas & Linnea
Eng

**Honor of Arvid & Gloria Boyum's
50th Anniversary**
Rev. Gene & Margaret Hegland

Memory Of Palmer Fossum
Doug & Pat Fossum
Charlene Hamblin
Bill & Arlene Neil & Kevin & Vicki, Emma,
Caroline & Kristen & Craig & Sandy & Michael
Fossum
David & Judy Saxerud

Memory of Floyd Johnson
Dale & Deb Simon

Memory of Jackie (Madsen) Kerkpatrick
Barbara & Leonard Chlan

Memory of Raynard Johnson
Maxine Halverson
Alvin & Delores Hille
Arvid & Gloria Boyum
Sherwin & Elna Hansen
Ralph & Lyla Arneson
Rev. Gene & Margaret Hegland
Darrell & Arlys Wiese

Memory of Ralph Arneson
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Erling & Joyce Kindem
Arvid & Gloria Boyum
Alan & Randa Vogen
Sedona Miller
Kaia Emerson Pelstring
Darrell & Arlys Wiese
David & Ardis Asp
Joe & Lorna Docken
Memory of Ralph Arneson
Rev. Gene & Margaret Heglund
Elvah Fossum
Ramona Pumper
Lyla Arneson

Honor of Christmas
Thomas & Linnea Eng

And remember to visit us on the web at:
www.trondhjempreservation.org

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To be Given
In Honor of: _____

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We will gladly send an acknowledgement of your gift to someone you choose, if you would like. Simply write the name and address below, of where you would like an acknowledgement sent.

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