



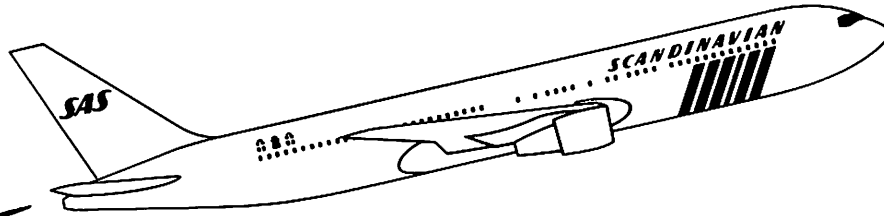
Danish Brotherhood in America

October 1994

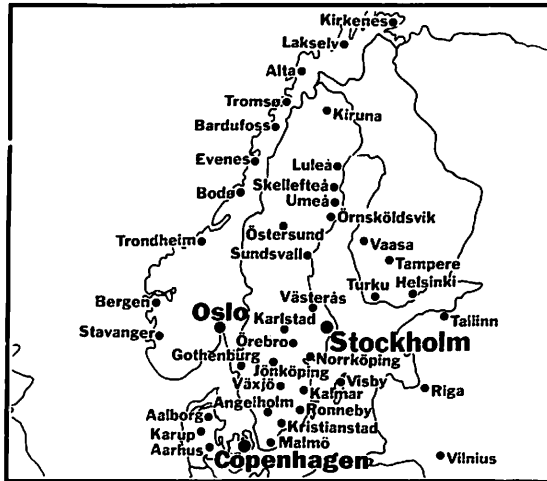
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# American Dane

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**Cover photo:** Pictures of the Danish Brotherhood's history. Left column: (*top photo*)

Secretary-Treasurer Howard Christensen, (*center photo*) recently elected District Board of Directors and Officers, and (*bottom photo*) Secretary-Treasurer Axel Skelbeck with other dignitaries laying the National Headquarters Building corner stone (1967).

**Center column:** (*top photo*) Past National Presidents Kris Jorgensen, Clyde Langsted, Robert Ibsen and George Jacobsen, (*center photo*) 1882 Convention banner and (*bottom photo*) Past National President Woodrow T. Petersen at the 1991 National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

**Right Column:** (*top photo*) Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Christensen, (*second photo*) Tom Netherton entertains guests at the DBIA 100th anniversary party in 1982, (*third photo*) Queen Margrethe greets members at a DBIA banquet during her 1976 visit to the United States, and (*bottom photo*) DBIA National Headquarters Building, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

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# President's Page

Barry Edmonds, District President

Welcome to the Danish Brotherhood in America District 9, Sons of Norway. It is a pleasure and a great honor to be writing the President's Page in this issue of **American Dane**.

By the time you read this, the merger of the Danish Brotherhood in America with the Sons of Norway will be completed. The doors of our Home Office building in Omaha will soon close and our full-time staff will be free to pursue other job opportunities. While some might say this is not the happiest of times in the history of the Danish Brotherhood, and I couldn't disagree, what we have started with the Sons of Norway is not the end but another beginning.

I am sure some people might sit around and talk about the what ifs and why didn't we do this or that and I expect that to happen. We all have difficulty adjusting to change. Especially change that affects our personal and social life. We all adjust and we will adjust to our new organization and partnership under the wings of the Sons of Norway.

The Danish Brotherhood is now in the capable hands of the newly elected Board of Directors of District 9 of the Sons of Norway. As president of the District I am proud to serve with the newly elected District Board members. Let me assure you that all the Board members are concerned about the success and well being of the Danish Brotherhood. Beginning on page 5 you will be introduced to the new District Board members. Make sure you read about them and become familiar with these new leaders of the Danish Brotherhood. They would be glad to hear from you with your thoughts and ideas on the future of the

Danish Brotherhood in America. Their addresses are on page 3.

The new Board is getting organized! I have made the following appointments: Counselor - Erik Hansen, Social Director - Robert Pedersen and Youth Director - Edward Melzark. Each of these directors will be establishing goals and objectives with guidelines that are necessary to continue some of our fraternal programs. These programs would include, but not necessarily be limited to, scholarships, camp grants, bowling tournaments and lodge support activities. We will hold our first District Board meeting this month.

Of vital importance to our continued success will be communications; keeping in touch with our lodge, and lodges keeping in touch with each other. To satisfy this requirement I have asked Asbjorn Fisker, District Vice President to take charge of this important activity. We all enjoy the **American Dane** magazine and I for one would like to see something very similar published for our members. Any suggestions or thoughts, or if you would like to volunteer to help with a DBIA District publication, call or write Asbjorn.

I look forward to the next two years as your District President. I thank those who have written me with congratulations and best wishes for success. I believe we have all the ingredients for success: a strong international organization, dedicated and involved district officers and directors and Danish Brotherhood members wanting to stick together and keep the Danish Brotherhood alive. Making the Danish Brotherhood continue into the next century will take all of us working together.



Barry Edmonds was elected President of the Danish Brotherhood in America District of Sons of Norway in July at the Special National Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Barry has demonstrated years of leadership experience as a member of the Danish Brotherhood in America. He has held the positions of treasurer, secretary and president in Lodge No. 32, New Haven, Connecticut. He has served the General Committee of Eastern Lodges (GCEL) Zone as treasurer, secretary, vice-president and president. Barry was elected to the DBIA National Board of Directors at the 1987 National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. He was re-elected to the National Board at the 1991 National Convention in Portland, Oregon. He served on the Auditing and Securities Committee, the National Fraternal Donations Committee, the Scholarship/Camp Grant Committee and chaired both the Retirement Committee and the Bylaw Committee.

At the encouragement of his father, Barry joined the Danish Brotherhood in 1967. At that time lodge meetings consisted of men only, poker and beer. Today Barry, Winnie, his wife of 24 years, and their daughter Roberta Lee, enjoy the family-style lodge and the variety of activities offered. The Edmonds are a 100% insured family. It is interesting to note, Winnie, who was born in Denmark, met Barry when they were paired as partners in the Danish Folk Dancers of New Haven.

His experience on the National Board and his work as a member of the DBIA Merger Committee lead him to the decision to continue serving the Danish Brotherhood in America members. "As a member of the Merger Committee I felt the need to see the transition from Danish Brotherhood in America to Sons of Norway completed smoothly and in total. Building a solid organization as a District of Sons of Norway is vitally important for our success."

Barry advises members, "Make sure you become active and stay active! Now, more than ever before, it is important to support your local lodge. It is the local lodge that will keep the Danish Brotherhood going and surviving."

Barry attended Central Connecticut State College after high school. After three years in the United States Army, he continued his education at the New Haven Business Academy and was employed by The Travelers Insurance Company as a data processing director. He currently owns and operates a medical billing and consulting business in Connecticut.

### Asbjorn Fisker

Vice President Asbjorn Fisker is proof that Danes are still attracted to life in the United States. Born on a small dairy farm in Gislev, Fyn, Asbjorn came to the United States



in March, 1971. Denmark's loss is the Danish Brotherhood in America's gain, especially, Lodge No. 167, Portland, Oregon. Asbjorn joined that lodge in March, 1981. Since then he has held lodge offices of inner guard, treasurer, president and past president. As a member of the Pacific Northwest Zone, Asbjorn served as secretary/treasurer, vice president and president.

He brings leadership experience to his role as a member to the newly elected Board of the Danish Brotherhood in America District of Sons of Norway. He served the Danish Brotherhood as a National Director on the National Board of Directors after being elected at the 1991 National Convention. As a National Director, Asbjorn served on the Auditing and Securities Committee, Scholarship/Camp Grant Committee and he was chairman of the Building Committee.

As an ambitious and active DBIA member, Asbjorn stresses the importance of youth to the society. "As vice president I will contribute leadership to make our society stronger and increase our membership, and promote more youth involvement on the local level." His goal, "is to reach the day when prospective members will seek out the society and not the other way around."

"I joined (DBIA) to get our two children involved with the Danish tradition and carry on our Danish heritage." Asbjorn and his wife Diane are the parents of two children, Christian and Alison.

He advises members, "Try to update your lodge activities to fit into today's world, don't dwell on what has been done in the past. Yet, hold on to the valuable traditions."

Asbjorn is a system control center manager with Portland General Electric. He has his commercial pilot's license. He is active in Boy Scouts of America and enjoys hiking, mountaineering and skiing.

### H. Owen Miller

Owen Miller, Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles, California, elected secretary of the Danish Brotherhood District of the Sons of Norway, is no stranger to his position. He has served the California-Nevada Zone as Secretary-Treasurer since 1988. He also served the district as trustee for 10 years. He served Lodge No. 126 as president in 1966 and has held the treasurer's position since 1972. He is dedicated to the success of the Danish Brotherhood in America. "I am proud of my heritage and proud to be associated with all the members of the DBIA. My life has been enriched by my membership and involvement in the DBIA. I am committed to its success and am pleased to assist in and further that success."

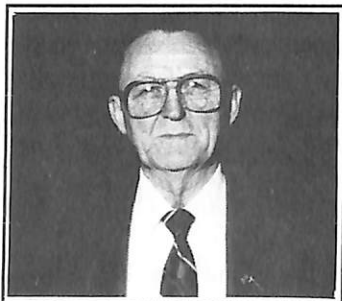


"I want to publicly thank all the members of the Merger Committee for their superb efforts in bringing to fruition our joining the Sons of Norway. They had an extremely difficult task and the results are better than we had hoped. This will mean the continuance of the Danish Brotherhood."

As secretary of the newly reorganized Danish Brotherhood in America, Owen has a request for each Danish Brotherhood member, "Become more fully involved, seek new members, and continue to support the DBIA."

Owen has been involved in the Danish Brotherhood since he was a small child. His parents took him to Lodge No. 167, Portland, Oregon activities where Owen's father was a member from the time he reached Portland in the early 1930's. Owen became a member of Lodge No. 167 in 1954 and transferred to Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles, California in 1961.

After graduating from Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, Oregon, Owen attended Multnomah Junior College and Washington State University. He is an engineering manager with Northrop Grumman Corporation. Owen and his wife Patricia live in Inglewood, California.



**Raymond L. Nielsen**

"Joining the Sons of Norway will give us (DBIA) a chance to grow." Those are Treasurer Raymond Nielsen's thoughts regarding the merger.

Raymond is a member of Lodge No. 35, Chicago, Illinois. He has held every office in Lodge No. 107, where his membership began in 1954. He transferred to Lodge No. 35 and held all positions there and in the Midwest Zone. He and his wife Wanda served the Midwest Zone as a District Fraternal Coordinator team from 1987 to 1991. In 1992 Raymond received the prestigious "Howard E. Christensen" Award. Raymond and Wanda's two daughters, their son-in-laws and all five grandchildren are members of Lodge No. 35.

When Raymond joined Lodge No. 107, Chicago he had several motives. First, he wanted to spend time with his father and learn more about his roots. He says, "Both my parents were born in Denmark and I knew that there was a great void in my life." The Danish Brotherhood has helped to fill that void.

Growth and heritage were factors for Raymond when he accepted the nomination to the DBIA District Board. "I can contribute to rebuilding the Brotherhood and keeping our Danish heritage alive." Raymond notes the board cannot do the work alone. He has this message for DBIA members, "Go to work and get as many new members as possible."



**Erik Hansen**

Erik represents the Nebraska Zone of the Danish Brotherhood in America District of the Sons of Norway. He was elected as a director at the Special Convention. He has held all offices of Lodge

No. 84, Lincoln, Nebraska, and all offices of the zone with the exception of president. Erik said he joined the lodge in 1958 to associate with other people of Danish descent, and to obtain life insurance.

He decided to serve on the District DBIA Board because he believes he can contribute in a meaningful way as the DBIA continues as a district of the Sons of Norway. The success of the Danish Brotherhood in America District is important to him, "It's important that we all work together now if our new district is to prosper. Let's set some new goals and show everyone that we can succeed. This is going to take the effort of all members, not only the Board."

Erik was born in Nykøbing Sjaelland, Denmark. After high school and trade school, he served in the Danish Army for two years. Erik and his wife Ingrid came to the United States in 1958. They travelled to Lincoln, Nebraska, where Erik had family. He worked as a carpenter for six years before he started his own building contracting business. Ingrid and Erik have one son, Michael.

**Edward Melzark**

Director Edward Melzark is the representative of the Heartland Zone on the Danish Brotherhood in America District of the Sons of Norway Board of Directors.

He joined Danish Brotherhood in America Lodge No. 263, Askov, Minnesota in 1977. Like many members, he married into the Danish Brotherhood in America. His father-in-law was the late Byron Petersen. Edward has taken an active role in the his local lodge and the Heartland Zone. He has served as Lodge No. 263 trustee, vice president and president. He has been a trustee of the Heartland Zone since 1992.

Edward looks forward to the future of the Danish Brotherhood in America. "This is a new and exciting time for our organization. I will serve the Danish Brotherhood in America any way I can."

His advises members, "Look at the benefits we can share with Sons of Norway, watch us grow for the better."

Edward is a contractor and a licensed insurance agent. Edward and his wife Rebecca have two children, Angela and E. Brandon.



**Robert Pedersen**

Robert E. Pedersen of Lodge No. 225, Canton, Ohio, was elected a director at the Special Convention in July. Robert represents the Michigan-Ohio Zone of the Danish Brotherhood in America.



Robert is a native of Canton, Ohio, where he and his wife Dorothy 'Dena' reside. Robert is a retired from Republic Storage Systems Company, Inc., where he was a chief tool & die engineer and ESOP Administrator.

He graduated from McKinley High School and U.S.A.F. Electronics school in Biloxi, Mississippi. He attended Bridgeport Engineering Institute in Connecticut, the University of California extension in Misawa, Japan, and Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Robert's involvement in the Danish Brotherhood in America began in 1953. "Membership to the DBIA was a tradition started by my grandfather and now I am passing it on to my grandchildren." It is a tradition Robert is proud of. Dena and Robert have one daughter, Kathy, and two granddaughters, Jamie and Abby. Son-in-law Mark Nodo, is a Lutheran pastor in Pickerington, Ohio, and also a member of the Danish Brotherhood in America.

Through his many years of membership to DBIA Lodge No. 225, Robert has held every office and he has represented his lodge as a delegate at conventions many times. He served the Michigan-Ohio Zone as vice president in 1982 and was elected president in 1983. In addition to being a member of Lodge No. 225, Canton, Ohio. Robert was a social member of Lodge No. 227, Detroit, Michigan for about six years.

As a member of the Danish Brotherhood in America District Board, Robert says he looks forward to making more friends in the district and in the Sons of Norway. "I wanted to take an active role in this 'New Beginning'. I encourage all members to support their lodges and participate in the development of the 'new' Danish Brotherhood in America."



**Edward Madsen**

Ed Madsen was nominated to be the International Director from District 9 of Sons of Norway at the Special DBIA National Convention in Omaha on July 23, 1994. He assumes that position on the effective merger date, October 1, 1994.

In 1975 Ed joined Lodge No. 299, Solvang, California. He joined the lodge for social reasons, but that attitude soon changed. "I rapidly developed a concern for the organization and a desire to see that our heritage is sustained through the Danish Brotherhood." His father was born in Kimballton, Iowa of Danish immigrants and his mother immigrated from Esbjerg, Denmark.

He has served his lodge as vice president, trustee and president. On the district level he has held all offices, and recently declined to continue as trustee in order to give others a chance and to serve and devote his time to the new position of International Director.

As a National Director of DBIA, Ed has served on the Investment Committee, Auditing and Securities Committee, Bylaws Committee and as chairman of the Retirement Committee. He also served as chair of the special Merger Committee

assigned with the responsibility of negotiating a merger agreement with a prospective partner.

A graduate of University of California, Santa Barbara, Ed has been employed as a plant superintendent with manufacturing and engineering responsibilities, making lenses implanted in the eye to restore vision following cataract surgery.

Ed's family includes his wife Betty and their children: Pamela, Robin, David, Daniel, Larisa, Kimberly and John.

Ed has this advice for members, "We have reached an important crossroads for our organization. We have been warmly accepted as brothers and sisters in Sons of Norway, thereby protecting our certificate holders. Our work is not over, however. This merger does not address the root problems that led us to seek this solution in the first place. We must become more active at the lodge level and recruit new members in order to ensure growth and continued good health of the organization."

## Farvel! Farewell!



Home Office Staff in front of the Home Office Building, from left to right: Secretary-Treasurer/CEO Jerome Christensen, Sales Administrative Assistant Lynne Swingen, Fraternal Director Jennifer Denning-Kock, Executive Assistant Lori Mitera, Bookkeeper Deloris Hansen, Fraternal Clerk Pam Mainelli and Sales Director "Andy" Andersen.

We want to thank everyone who has sent well wishes our way. In turn, we wish the Danish Brotherhood in America the very best, as they enter this new era with the Sons of Norway.

### Payment to Board Members

August

Woodrow T. Petersen, allowance, \$99.65.

# The Danish Rescue of the Jews

by Cindy Halpern

Each April, Yom Hashoah ceremonies are planned to commemorate the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. But I want the heroes of the Holocaust remembered as well because if it weren't for their acts of bravery, more Jewish blood would have been spilled.

This article will explore the Danish Rescue of the Jews, a chapter of the Holocaust that is rarely taught in the classroom.

First, let us review the geographic setting for the rescue. Denmark is one of the smallest countries in Europe. It is comprised of 500 islands. The capital, Copenhagen, is situated on the island of Zealand. Norway and Sweden are its neighbors to the North and to the East while the mainland of Denmark, Jutland, shares a border with its Southern neighbor, Germany.

Here is a brief history of how the Jews came to Denmark. The first Jews settled in what was then the Danish city of Altona in 1584 under the status of "Schutzjuden", protected Jews. Altona was a Danish city until 1864. It was located in ancient disputed territory called Holstein-Slesvig that swung back and forth between Denmark and Germany. Thus, Anti-German sentiment was a residue of this conflict between these two peoples.

In 1622, King Christian IV invited the Sepharic Jews from Amsterdam and Hamburg to settle in the newly developed Danish town of Gluckstadt to establish a successful commerce colony to rival the German city of Hamburg.

On August 1, 1641, the same king ratified a charter that outlined the rights of these Jews who were invited to settle in his kingdom. The Jews would be permitted to erect a Synagogue and conduct religious services within its walls, they would be permitted to bury their dead in Danish soil and slaughter animals for meat according to Jewish law.

These terms represented the liberal trends that would prevail in Denmark towards its minority Jewish population.

On December 9, 1691, Axel Cantor would be the first Jew to be granted Danish Citizenship; citizenship would not be a right Jews would be granted in other European countries until the 19th Century.

The first Jew to be buried in Denmark was David Israel, who was buried in a newly established Jewish Cemetery, Mollegade, on September 5, 1693.

The first permanent Synagogue in Copenhagen was dedicated in 1743, but half a century later, it was destroyed in a fire that raged in the capital.

The Jewish population, although never equaling the Jewish population in Germany, grew. In 1694, there were

only 12 Jewish families in Copenhagen, but by 1784, there were 250 Jewish families dwelling in the capital. By 1807, there were 500 Jewish families living on the island of Zealand.

An interesting footnote, in 1729 the City Sheriff of Copenhagen, Jens Gedelock, converted to Judaism, another unheard of event in the neighboring German States.

In 1758, S.J. Wolff, the first Jew, was admitted to the Medical School at the University of Copenhagen.

According to the Kollegialtidende (census) of 1799, 44 Jews belonged to the guilds, an institution Jews in other countries were prohibited from joining.

But the most liberal proclamation for its time was a royal decree made on March 29, 1814 by King Frederick VI who stated:

*"Those of the followers of the Mosaic religion, who are born in our Kingdom of Denmark, or have permission to settle therein, should be permitted to enjoy equality with the rest of the citizens to support themselves in every lawful way..."*

This provided universal rights for the Jews of Denmark. Jews were protected by written laws, no longer were they just protected by a mortal king whose heirs could revoke privileges.

In 1833, a Synagogue on 12 Krystalgade was dedicated. There was already another Synagogue located on Laederstraede.

At the turn of the century, Jewish immigrants arrived in Copenhagen. They had escaped from the pogroms of Poland and Russia. Some continued on to America or Palestine, but others remained.

Between 1933- 1940, 4, 500 more refugees arrived from Germany, Austria, and other countries that were invaded by the Nazis.

The attitude of the Danes toward their Jewish population was best represented by King Christian's attendance at services at 12 Krystalgade to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Synagogue. Many rulers of Europe had ordered Synagogues to be burned down instead of honoring their continued presence.

Thus, this is the historic background of the Jews presence in Denmark prior to the Nazis occupation of this kingdom on April 9, 1940.

The beginning of the occupation differed greatly from the Nazis' occupation of Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Christian X, friend to the Jews, remained in power. His daily rides on his horse through the streets of Copen-

hagen were a symbolic reassurance to the Jews and all of the Danish people. He didn't wear a yellow star of David, contrary to popular belief, since the Jews of Denmark were not required to wear such an emblem during the Nazi occupation or anytime during their history in Denmark. The Nuremberg Laws were never introduced in Denmark.

There was a tiny segment of Danish Nazis and they published a newspaper entitled *Faedrelandit*, but it shut down due to a lack of subscribers. Unfortunately, the two Jewish newspapers were forced out of business by the German Nazis.

All Kosher butcher shops remained open for business as usual, but the three Hebrew letters on their window panes had to be removed.

In 1941, the Nazis tried to burn down the Synagogue at 12 Krystalgade, but the Danish police foiled their plan. Another attempt to burn down the main Synagogue also failed in 1942.

On the occasion of the first failed attempt to destroy the Synagogue, King Christian offered his moral support to the Jewish Community when he sent the Chief Rabbi Friediger a letter dated December 31, 1941:

*"I have heard about the attempted fire at the Synagogue, and I am very happy that there was only slight damage. I beg of you to give my congratulations and best wishes for the New Year to your congregation."*

However, the clouds of occupation darkened and the storm began to rage on August 29, 1943 when the German Nazis declared martial law in Denmark. Chief Rabbi Friediger became a prisoner of the Nazis. This was symbolic of Hitler's and Himmler's desires to implement the Final Solution in Denmark.

But Anti-Semitism was never a Danish tradition. It was a foreign concept of the Germans. The Danish people believed that their honor as a people was at stake if they allowed their fellow Danes to be harmed by the invaders.

Werner Best, the Nazi head of state in Denmark, planned to round up the entire Jewish population during Rosh Hashanah services during the evening of October 1 and the day services on October 2. He informed his German Director of shipping, Georg F. Duckwitz, on September 18, that the Nazi ships would anchor in Copenhagen Harbor for 10 days, then after the Jews were captured, they would be shipped as human cargo to the death camps of central Europe.

But Herr Duckwitz acted on the orders of his conscience. He flew to Stockholm, Sweden, on September 25 and asked the Swedish government if it would offer asylum to the Danish Jews. On September 28, he revealed the Nazis' plan to the Socialist Democrats of Denmark. Political figures Vilhem Buhl, H.C. Hansen and Herman Dedichen were present during this meeting.

These political officers used the Danish Secret Police cars to visit many Jewish friends to ask them to spread the word to the Jewish Community. As a result, a public announcement about the imminent danger was made in the Synagogue on 12 Krystalgade the next day.

Housewives, fisherman, farmers, clerks and Protestant clergy hid the Jews of Denmark in hospitals, churches, farms and their own homes. The Asiatic Warehouse in Christianshavn and the Inn of Snekkerstern were but two secret rendezvous points where Jews were organized for sea departures to Sweden.

One of the escape routes to Sweden was the Strait of Oresund. Another escape route used was from Gilleleje or Stevns, Copenhagen via Bornholm or mainland Jutland to Sweden. Fishing boats, ferries, and even rowing boats (in good weather) were used to transport Jews to the safety of Sweden.

One of the Jews who was rescued by the Danish was Niels Bohr, Nuclear Physicist, who was flown out of Sweden to England by the Allies and was brought to the United States to work on the Manhattan Project (Atomic Bomb Program).

The Nazis in their narrow mindedness tried to murder every Danish Jew, even though one of those Danish Jews was a valuable scientist that could have provided them with

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scientific knowledge that could have helped them win the war.

In Lutheran Churches across Denmark, prayers for the Jews' safe passage to Sweden were recited and condemnation of the Nazis' hatred for the Jews were made from the pulpit.

Perhaps the most remarkable part of this non-fiction tale is about the 464 Jews who were captured and sent to Theresienstadt Concentration Camp located in Bohemia, a section of Czechoslovakia. Chief Rabbi Friediger was among his fellow Danish Jews in this camp. The Danish prisoners had an elevated status from the other Jewish prisoners because Denmark didn't forget about them!

In February, 1944, Red Cross parcels from Denmark arrived and were delivered to the Danish Jews. The packages contained precious food supplies. A Red Cross delegation was sent to Theresienstadt to inspect the camp on request of the Danish people. Improved conditions were created for the inspection, but the improvements remained for awhile after the delegation left the gates of the camp.

Not one Danish Jew was sent to Auschwitz from this camp, while other Jews from other countries were often sent to Auschwitz.

But something even more amazing happened on 15 April, 1945. Thirty-five Red Cross white buses took 423 Danish Jews and a few Norwegian Jews out of Nazi bondage and brought them to Sweden via Denmark, where crowds of Danes rushed to the streets to show their moral support to their fellow Danes.

Unfortunately, 57 Danish Jews perished in Theresienstadt before help could be rendered. Many of them were elderly, who didn't believe the reports given in the Synagogue about the planned round up. They were so accustomed to Danish liberty, that it was an alien concept for them to imagine that their lives were in danger.

Behind the scenes of the miracle of the Holocaust were three men: Norwegian Minister in Stockholm Niels Ditleff, Permanent Secretary of Danish Ministry of Social Services H.H. Koch and Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte, who had convinced Arch-Criminal Himmler to release the Scandinavian Jews to the custody of the Red Cross.

At the end of the Nazi Occupation, in May, 1945, when the Danish Jews, including the Chief Rabbi, returned to Copenhagen, their property, businesses, schools, Community Center and Synagogues were intact and returned to their rightful original Jewish owners. Not even Holland restored the actual property to displaced Jews.

On October 15, 1957, Museum of Denmark's Fight for Freedom (1940- 1945) was dedicated by King Frederick IX. The museum is under the jurisdiction of the Danish National Museum. It is located near the Harbor of Copenhagen at Espeanaden.

A famous Danish expression best describes my personal affection for Denmark (which my husband and I visited in June of 1990), "Der er et Yndigt land det Staar med brede boge!"

"It is a lovely land!"

## Editor Wanted

The Danish Brotherhood in America District is in search of an editor for the district newsletter.

Applicants must have excellent writing skill, be organized, able to meet deadlines, have desktop publishing experience and access to a computer with a desktop publishing program and a laser printer.

The editor will be responsible for the production of the newsletter from writing notices, editing articles, contacting a printer, to mailing the newsletter.

Interested individuals should send writing and design samples to: Asbjorn Fisker, 5119 SW Multnomah Boulevard, Portland, OR 97219.

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# The Red Ski Sweater

by Lillen Wegener

I'm on my way home from the library when I notice an almost white-haired little girl walking at her mother's side, dressed in a yellow oil slicker. Kikkan! I think, my memory flicking back to another time, another country.

She was the daughter of one of my mother's friends. I didn't really know her, except in the reserved way one knows people in a small town by seeing them around, perhaps catching their names accidentally. At a time when most girls wore page-boy haircuts, her pale hair stopped at her ears. I remember that the name she went by, Kikkan, struck me as being outlandish, with a rackish sound to it. Otherwise there was nothing rackish about the girl. She dressed neatly in a tasteful way that probably reflected on her mother more than the girl. She was just a child and in no way with in the realm of my interests.

Then one Christmas my mother gave me a hand-knit sweater she said had been made by Kikkan. The stitches were beautifully even, the fit just right and even I could see that the finishing was expertly made. When school continued after the holidays, I moved casually over to her corner of the school yard just before the bell rang. She was wearing this yellow oil slicker and black rubber boots, the common uniform for kids in our rain-soaked west coast town. When I caught her eye I smiled vaguely to let her know I was pleased with her job. I didn't talk to her; that was the way I was, we were.

It was 1940. In early April we were invaded and occupied by German troops. This of course is history. I still remember certain details clearly, others have dimmed with time and distance. I was graduated that spring and moved to Copenhagen for further education, which was to be sporadic and frustrated because of various war-connected interruptions. Whenever I got travel permission and was able to leave, I visited at home, where bartered food was easier to come by.

For someone who is at the butt of rumors, life in a small town can be cruel. The streets were filled with handsome, vital-looking young soldiers one was supposed to hate. I guess school girls aren't much good at hating. One of the rumors was about Kikkan, that she had taken up with German soldiers.

"Not Kikkan!" I protested, more shocked than my

scant knowledge of the girl justified. But yes, Kikkan. Nobody spoke to her any more, I was told, - if you met her on the street you would look above her head.

"It's almost a blessing her mother died," my aunt said.

She ought to be a pretty girl by now, I thought, with her slimness and pale hair and chicory-flower eyes. Just like the Germans, with their "Aryan" ideals, pictured Nordic girls.

The next time I was able to get home, things turned grimmer. Hostages with names we knew had been shot as reprisal for sabotage. Extra food was almost impossible to get hold of. People were demonstrating in strange, almost obscure ways. And Kikkan, I heard, had had her head shaved by zealous nationalists...

After that I myself got involved in demonstration and sabotage and finally had to go underground till the end of the war. As soon as I could after the country was free again, I went home to my family, to be cared for and to rest. At least that was what I had hoped for.

Our newspapers filled as they were with euphoric headings, made room for pictures showing old people and children in flight from the eastern parts of Germany, and women maltraced by Russian soldiers. How quickly hate turns to compassion! A former school pal was organizing a church-sponsored action to aid German war refugees, and I was asked to assist. As it happened, I became one of a small group that was to go to Germany to carry out the mission.

The night before we were to leave, a tall, good-looking boy came to the door. I didn't recognize him, but when he said his name I had a vague recollection of a little boy clasping his elder sister's hand, Kikkan's.

"I saw your name in the paper," he said. "You're one of those going to Hamburg?"

I nodded, wondering what he wanted.

"Kikkan is in Germany. We haven't heard from her in ages. We're afraid something might have happened to her in the raids. She lived in Hamburg - here, I have her address..." He pulled a square of stiff paper from his pocket. "Do you think you could find out about her?"

His blue eyes were pleading. He must have known what I stood for, he must have known what Kikkan stood

for in my circles.

"What on earth is she doing in Hamburg?" I said roughly.

"She was going to marry her German friend. I don't know what you heard, but he was the only German friend she had!" He looked defiant. "They shouldn't have done what they did to her! After that she couldn't stay here..."

Hamburg - what was left of it - was beyond description. But that, too, belongs to our shameful history. We did our task almost numbly, hardly realizing that the faces of survivors and the horror stories of people dying slowly under the ruins would stay with us forever. Only the day before we were scheduled to leave was I able to take time to look for Kikkan, fearing the worst. A friend from the Allied occupation forces drove me through streets that were only paths between heaps of rubble. With the help of an old city map we drove in the general direction of the address marked on my slip of paper, asking dazed people along the way till we finally got to the street we were looking for, one of the few with the street sign still standing.

But that was all that was standing. The short street looked no different from those around: gutted ruins, jagged iron rods, mountains of bricks...

I felt a sadness heavier than any of the shocking stories of the last days had provoked. This was personal: Kikkan from the school yard, with her industrious fingers knitting for me as if I were an elder brother - was this the fate that had been decreed for the girl, to be driven from home and country in disgrace and buried alive in a German basement?

"What was the name of the people?" my friend asked. He was studying a sheet of paper fastened to a remaining foundation. It was filled with names and information about where survivors could be found -- in different handwritings.

"Boettger..."

"Here." He pointed. An address, a village. Nothing more.

Our map showed the village to be south-west of Hamburg, toward the Luneburger Heide. I looked at my watch: would we have time? Again I pictured the girl, her dead mother... It was a duty I just could not push aside.

The time it took us to get to the village was longer than the actual distance required, what with the frequent stops to ask for directions. Some of the people we asked were strangers themselves, refugees from the eastern parts of the country, haggard and weary after running from the hordes of Russian soldiers, with their belongings strapped to bicycles and makeshift wagons.

The house was a longish, thatched-roof farm house of red bricks. The sound of our motor must have announced us; the front door opened and a man I gauged to be in his fifties came toward us limping.

"Herr Boettger?" I asked, doubtfully. Surely this couldn't be the man she had married!

He nodded, looking apprehensive.

"I have come to ask information about Kikkan," I said.

"Oh! Kikkan...Are you her brother?"

I explained. My German was passable.

"Won't you come inside," he suggested after hesi-

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tating for a moment, making it sound foreboding. Was I going to find a crippled Kikkan in the house, or had he something so grievous to tell that it needed the confinement of four walls?

"This is my wife," he said, and I looked stupefied at the blond, middle-aged woman who held out her hand in greeting. Even months of heavy air-raids couldn't have altered her this much...Then it struck me.

"You are the parents-in-law," I said ingeniously.

Husband and wife looked at each other.

"We wish we were," the wife said finally, and again I had a feeling of doom.

"Kikkan came to us because of what her landsmen did to her," said the man, taking over. "They hoped to marry as soon as our son came home on leave. But there wasn't going to be any leave. Our son fell in Italy." He turned up his hands in a gesture of bitter finality.

Young as I was at the time, I'm afraid the parents' loss and their grief made less impact on me than the realization that Kikkan was free and, I hoped, well.

"Kikkan lived through some of the worst attacks," he said, as if reading my thoughts. "That was before we all fled to my father's farm. My wife and I are both teachers. We have been teaching children here in the Dorf, refugees... Kikkan has helped building the shelter - she's a fine girl."

"We love her," the wife said. "Our son - he was our only child, you see..."

We were drinking surrogate coffee when Kikkan came back from the refugee shelter. A very thin young woman, but tanned, her short blond hair held back by a kerchief the color of her sky blue eyes.

"I'm sorry about your friend," I said in a low voice,

in Danish. It was difficult to think of things to say.

"I hadn't seen him in two years when it happened," she said simply.

Later, before we had to hurry back, I talked to her alone.

"You must come back home," I told her. "This isn't your country, they aren't your people!"

She shook her head. "Never."

I was struck by her quiet determination.

"What do you plan to do?" I asked.

"Eventually things will get better here. As soon as I can I'll start studying." She looked at my sceptical face. "The Boettgers will be there for me."

She waved to us when we left, standing alone in the shadowed brick-paved yard, her cotton skirt wafting around her legs in the evening breeze.

"What a pity," said my friend, ambiguously, as he turned the corner.

The little girl and her mother are nowhere in sight. I am in my own street, tightening my grip on the books that threaten to slip away. One of them is for my wife, who looks like Kikkan would at this age. Because I couldn't forget her, and I sought her likeness in every girl I met - till I finally found her. And then we emigrated to the States, because that was what she wanted then, stubborn female that she was and still is.

"I got your book, Kikk," I said as it slips to the floor with a bang. And she lifts her still beautiful eyes toward heaven in some wordless, mock plea for patience with her bungling old husband.

She still knits, although these days mostly for our three grand children, one of whom is the age I was at the time of the red ski sweater.

## Lest We Forget

*In grateful remembrance of their service and fellowship, we honor those members who have passed away since the last report.*

Date of Death	Name	Age	Birthplace	Lodge No.	Location	Year Joined
8-9-94	George H. Jensen	97	Randers, Denmark	600	Omaha, Nebraska	1915
7-31-94	Elmer Bensen	87	Denmark	67	Fresno, California	1990
6-25-94	Renwick Baker	75	Ontario, Canada	328	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	1991
7-20-94	Raymond H. Springdorf	75	Muskegon, Michigan	30	Muskegon, Michigan	1947
8-12-94	Sydney L. Jacobsen	76	Clovis, California	67	Fresno, California	1962
7-21-94	Clyde P. Rowland	84	Sturgis, South Dakota	4	Racine, Wisconsin	1961

# Sons of Norway Convention

by Edward Madsen, International Representative

The 53rd Biennial Convention of the Sons of Norway was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 10 - 13, 1994. National President Woodrow T. Petersen, Secretary-Treasurer/CEO Jerome Christensen and National Director Edward Madsen attended this convention as guests of SON.

As was the case at our special National Convention, the most important topic and vote at the convention was the proposed merger between DBIA and SON. The vote was 165 - 37 in favor of the merger.

Jerry Christensen was asked to speak to the delegates on the opening day and presented the merger from the DBIA perspective. He gave an excellent presentation. There were many positive comments from the delegates following his presentation. One delegate mentioned that he came to the convention prepared to vote against the merger, but five minutes into Jerry's speech, they decided to change their vote.

On the last day of the convention, International President Sorheim asked Woodrow Petersen to speak. He received a standing ovation when he symbolically became a son of Norway by transferring a copy of the bylaws to his other pocket, donning a sailors cap bearing the SON emblem and declaring himself a son of Norway.

We were all very warmly welcomed into the organization by most of the delegates at the convention, who came up to us and hugged us or shook our hands. The widow of Cyril Wittrock, recently deceased International President of SON who worked very hard to see this merger come into being, expressed that Cy would have been very pleased.

Many of the leaders of SON asked for contacts in their area so that their organization could contact our lodges and welcome us at the local level. This is indicative of the warmth and fellowship that awaits us as we set out on this new course.

--Ed Madsen represents the Danish Brotherhood in America District Nine on the International Sons of Norway Board.

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## Attention:

### Danish Brotherhood Members

Although the Danish Brotherhood in America will not be meeting in Milwaukee for the 1995 Joint National Convention, the Danish Sisterhood will.

Danish Brotherhood members are invited to Milwaukee to enjoy the festivities. It may be possible to meet as an unofficial group for discussion. The schedule follows:

**Wednesday, October 4, 1995** - President's recognition night, an informal evening, with entertainment and fun.

**Thursday, October 5, 1995** - An evening city boat cruise on the "Edelweiss."

**Friday, October 6, 1995** - "Octoberfest" in Milwaukee at the Bavarian Inn, German food, comedy and dancing.

**Saturday, October 7, 1995** - Formal banquet, installation and dancing.

We would like for as many of you as possible to join us for this festive occasion. Room rates are \$78.00 per night. Please take a few moments to complete the following questionnaire for us. Thank you.

John Mollerskov  
Chairman

Robert Ibsen  
Co-Chairman

- 1). I am definitely planning to attend the Milwaukee convention. Yes No
- 2). I will be accompanied by my wife/husband.  
Yes No
- 3). Is your wife planning to attend as a Sisterhood member? Yes No
- 4). I may be coming to the convention:  
Yes No
- 5). If you are coming how many nights will you be staying? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6). Are any members from your lodge planning to attend? Yes No
- 7). If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: John Mollerskov, 1407 Oakdale Ave., Racine, WI 53408

# Our Lodges in Action

This is the final issue of *American Dane* magazine. In the future, material for publication should be sent to Vice President Asbjorn Fisker, 5119 SW Multnomah Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97219.

## ☪☪☪ Gold Lodge Award

## ☪☪ Silver Lodge Award

## ☪ Bronze Lodge Award

### Pacific

### Northwest

**Lodge No. 29, Seattle, WA**--We will sponsor the Pacific-Northwest District bowling tournament in 1995. Bowling is planned for once a month through the winter. Practice will begin in October.

**Lexie Sorensen, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 33, Tacoma, WA**--We held our annual picnic on August 12 at Titlow Beach in Tacoma. Jørn Andersen and his wife Alice, who were visiting from Denmark, were special guests of Mr. and Mrs. Vagn Olsen. Vagn and Jørn are cousins.

Myra and Perry Brochner and Leo Madsen attended the Lief Erickson Committee meeting on August 9 to discuss the plans for the Scandinavian Days Festival. This three day festival will be held at the Western Washington Fairgrounds at Puyallup, Washington. The Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood prepare and sell pea soup and æbleskiver every year. The profit goes to provide scholarships to students of Scandinavian descent.

There will be no regular meeting in October.

**Jeannette Madsen, Cor.**

### California

### Nevada

#### California-Nevada District

The 73rd annual convention of the California-Nevada District was hosted by Orange County Lodge #345 on July 28-30 in Anaheim, California.

President Karl Duus brought the meeting to order Friday morning, July

28. The convention was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence for our dearly departed brothers.

President Duus introduced national guests: National Directors Ebba Norby and Edward Madsen. He also introduced his Parliamentarian, Al Tunsen.

Holger Danske Lodge presented a flower arrangement to the convention.

Roll call of officers was completed by the secretary. President Duus appointed Sue Patterson to fill in for Ed Madsen as trustee. The trustees reported that all the delegate certificates were in order and roll call of accredited delegates was held.

President Duus then asked the District Past President and Honorary Life Members to stand. The Honorary Life Members each received an engraved glass stein presented by the host lodge.

The President appointed the necessary committees. The Resolutions Committee consisted of Aage Lundquist, Lodge #39, San Leandro; L. S. DeLaurant, Lodge #67, Fresno and Dave Seale, Lodge #126, Los Angeles. The Bylaws Committee consisted of Kate Krake Nielsen, Lodge #126, Los Angeles; Betty Christensen, Lodge #345, Orange County; Paul Morrison, Lodge #67, Fresno; Judith Kjer, Lodge #230, Arcata and Francis Sweet, Lodge #95, Ferndale.

The minutes of the previous annual convention were distributed to the delegates along with the financial report for the current year and a list of donors to the Scholarship and Youth Funds.

The treasurer's report for the current year was reviewed. All lodge dues are current, making it easy to balance the books. It was noted that Hayward

Lodge #184 had dissolved and that no correspondence had been received from Silver State Lodge #339. It was also noted that the district lost 118 members this past year, compared to 179 the previous year.

The minutes were approved as written.

President Duus reported on his travels throughout the state to install the new officers. He thanked all the lodges for their hospitality and to the Conductor, Bill Jensen, for his help in installing the new lodge officers.

Trustee Karen Rowse reported that the trustees had audited the treasurer's books and found everything in order. The report was approved.

Secretary Miller read the bills and communications.

Ken Olsen, Lodge #345, Orange County, reported 24 golfers teed off at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning. Mike Olsen, Lodge #345, Orange County, was the golf chairman and gave the following results at the banquet on Saturday night: low score, Team 6, Mike Olsen; Closest to pin #11, Corwyn Roberts; Closest to pin #13, Ron Hansen; Longest putt, Scott Lucidi; Longest drive, Mike Olsen; Biggest hat, Bill Jensen; Highest Score, Team of Walt Miller, Kaj Kristensen, Aage Lundquist and Fred Harris.

Gary Gossett, Lodge #345, Orange County, reported there were 12 youth present at the convention. They would have a meeting at 4 p.m. and would give a report on Saturday under the Good of the Order.

Ed Madsen, as district trustee, reported two scholarship applications were received. Karen Rasmussen was determined to be the winner of the

district's first \$500 scholarship.

District Fraternal Coordinators Ken and Gerry Olsen, Lodge #345, Orange County, informed the delegates of their activities in Southern California for the past year.

Johannes Jaeger, Lodge #299, Solvang, reported that he has been elected to the Board of the Solvang Museum.

President Duus introduced National Director Ed Madsen from Solvang. Ed gave a chronology of the Merger Committee's activities that brought the DBIA to the point of accepting the offer to merge with Sons of Norway.

A recommendation was made that the secretary send a letter of congratulations to the new Board members, the outgoing Board members, the Merger Committee, and to Jerry Christensen and the Home Office staff.

A standing round of applause was given to Ed for all the hard work that he did on the Merger Committee in making this merger happen.

The secretary brought to the attention of the convention that two years ago the district won the National District President's Award and received \$200. The convention decided to have a district membership contest. There would be a prize for the lodge that brought in the most new insured mem-

bers, percentage wise, and the lodge that brought in the most new members, percentage wise. Both prizes were won by Silver Gate Lodge #306 with one new insured and a total of two new members. The prize money was donated evenly to the District Youth Fund and Scholarship Fund.

At the last convention, it was decided that all the lodges should give a report to the convention on their activities throughout the year. These reports were given by the delegates.

Ed Madsen, Trustee and Scholarship Chairman, distributed the scholarship guidelines to the delegation. After review and discussion, a motion was passed to accept them with the addition of college juniors being eligible to apply.

A five man proposal was presented to the convention on Friday and was passed on Saturday. The proposal was to revise the bylaws. The current bylaws require a payment of 17 cents per month per adult member. The proposal increased the amount to 20 cents.

A motion was made and passed to pay the bills.

Ed Madsen thanked the district for the convention package and donated it to the Scholarship Fund.

Ebba Norby thanked the district for the convention package and donated it

to the Youth Fund.

Lodge #126, Los Angeles, invited the convention in 1995 with the possibility of it being held on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Lodge #95, Ferndale, invited the convention to Ferndale in 1996 to help them celebrate the lodge's 100th anniversary.

Lodge #143 in Petaluma, Lodge #39 in San Leandro and Lodge #49 in San Francisco were thinking about having a joint convention in 1997.

The following officers were elected: President, Gary Gossett, #345, Orange County; Vice President, Bill Jensen, #306, San Diego; Secretary-Treasurer, Owen Miller, #126, Los Angeles; Trustees, Ed Madsen, #299, Solvang, Walter Miller, #143, Petaluma and Karen Rowse, #126, Los Angeles; Conductor, Kenneth Olsen, #345, Orange County; Inner Guard, Deborah Mahler, #39, San Leandro and Outer Guard, Bent Olsen, #299, Solvang.

The selection of the Bylaws Committee for the coming year resulted in the following: #332, Ripon; #306, San Diego; #39, San Leandro; #126, Los Angeles; and #299, Solvang.

President Duus announced the recipients of the Hans M. Andersen Award for their service to their local lodges: Harold Mathiasen, #126, Los Angeles and Dan Mogensen, #67, Fresno.

Ebba Norby, National Director, announced Lodge #126, Los Angeles, received the Silver Award and Lodge #346, Riverside, received the Gold Award under the Lodge Rating and Awards Program sponsored by the National Headquarters.

The youth delegation came to the front of the convention. Tina Hogan from San Diego was the spokesperson. Tina reported that they made \$403 on their raffle. Tina thanked the convention and all the lodges for their support in their activities and programs. The youth delegation introduced themselves. At the youth bowling, the winners were Bryce Gossett, most strikes (9), Jamey Gossett, high game (146),

## Velkommen

*In recognition of DBIA members who are participating in the growth of the Danish Brotherhood in America by recommending their family and friends.*

Member	Lodge No.	Location	Sponsor
Carol K. Eriksen	35	Chicago, Illinois	Edward Eriksen
Lou V. Johnson	49	San Francisco, California	Home Office
William Conaway	126	Los Angeles, California	Jane B. Conaway
Inger M. Aagesen	126	Los Angeles, California	Kate Krake Nielsen
Bengt P. Berggren	227	Detroit, Michigan	Houghton Smith, Jr.
Anna Christensen	325	Nassau County, New York	Aase Melendez
Robert K. Wales	600	Omaha, Nebraska	Home Office
Emil A. S. Andersen	600	Omaha, Nebraska	Elaine M. Andersen

Tina Del Grippo, most spares (8), DaNeil Gossett, most improved (+45) and Kaleena Chappell, most dedicated.

Johannes Jaeger indicated that Jack Cameron, #143, Petaluma, is the wagonmaster for the RV Club and the next outing would be in the Redwoods in November.

Several members made donations to the Youth or Scholarship Funds.

The Resolution Committee report followed.

The installation of officers was held with Edward Madsen, National Director, as installing officer and Ebba Norby, National Director, as conductor.

A drill team consisting of women from Brotherhood Lodge #345, Orange County, with the assistance of women from Sisterhood Lodge #126, assisted in the installation.

The new president, Gary Gossett, closed a successful convention.

**Owen Miller, Sec-Treas.**

### Scholarships

The Scholarship application for the California-Nevada District is now available for those interested. They are available to members or children and grandchildren of members in good standing. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college, university, community college or vocational/technical school in the U.S.

**Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles, CA-** The next regular meeting will be Thursday, October 6, at 8 p.m. at the Alamo. The Sisterhood will be in charge of refreshments.

We will be celebrating our anniversary with a party on October 15.

It was suggested to the Law Committee to raise the district dues by 3 cents per lodge member, payable to the newly established zone in order to break even. A notice will be sent to all lodges to vote upon. A 2/3 majority vote of all lodges is needed. Lodge #126 brought it up to the membership for voting and received a 100% yes vote for the in-

crease.

The Nominating Committee named for 1995 consists of Doris Christensen, Kate Krake Nielsen and Inger Dix.

Brotherhood Lodge #126 and Sisterhood Lodge #68 offered to host the 1995 district convention. We have tentatively scheduled it for July 17-29, 1995, to be held on the grand old ship "Queen Mary", Long Beach.

Convention committee meetings will take place the third Thursday of the month. Everybody is invited to attend these meetings. We are going to need a lot of help.

The next meeting will be held October 20 at Karen and Dick Rowse's home.

Coming events scheduled include a regular meeting on November 3, a fish dinner with bingo on November 18, a regular meeting on December 1 and a children's Christmas party in the Alamo on December 4.

**Kate Krake Nielsen, Editor**  
**Inger Dix, Assoc. Editor**

**Lodge No. 306, San Diego, CA-** Bill Jensen has complete video tapes of the Special National Convention regarding the merger which you may borrow so you can hear and see first hand what transpired.

Regretfully, our lodge had to withdraw from hosting the 1995 convention. Our active membership has dwindled and many of our members are too ill to help sponsor such an undertaking.

This year's convention in Anaheim was a huge success. Holger Danske #345 did an outstanding job. They are to be commended for the time, work and thought involved.

**Bess Jacobsen, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 345, Orange County, CA-** Our last meeting was held on Saturday, August 13, at the Westminster Mobile Home Park. August 13 marked our 17th year anniversary and we were pleased to have the following charter

members in attendance: Kaj Bjorn, Helga Bjorn, Cal Christensen, Pat Christensen, Rosemary Allison, Floyd Pedersen, Betty Christensen and Soren Christensen.



Charter members attended the anniversary party.

That evening we received two applications for membership transfer from Leo and Evelyn Jensen. We voted unanimously to accept these two members from Lodge #325, Nassau County, New York.

Betty Christensen gave a treasurer's report and convention financial report. Secretary Gerry Olsen proceeded to read many thank yous and congratulations on the successful convention we hosted. Ken Olsen gave a delegate report from the National Convention.

Helga Bjorn reported that she will deliver aluminum pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. She delivered 50 pairs of eyeglasses to a local optometrist who repairs them and sends them

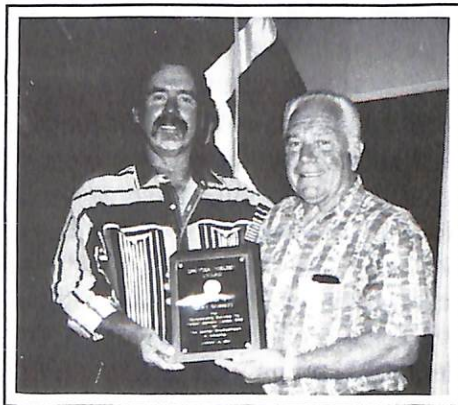


Helga Bjorn & Erna Andersen with tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

to those in need in the Third World Countries. Thanks to Helga for con-

tinuing to work as Operation: H.O.P.E. Special Projects Chairman. She will be heading a new program for our lodge which deals with the Ronald McDonalds "Wish List". Items include liquid laundry detergent, individual size cereals, bleach, white vinegar, kitchen and large size trash bags, all size freezer storage bags, 29¢ stamps, paper towels and 35 mm - ASA 200 black and white color film. Bring your items to lodge meetings and Helga will see that they get to the R.M. House. Another "Wish List" request was for a 13-20" color television for the Bone Marrow Room which we may wish to consider as a lodge donation.

We wish to congratulate this year's most deserving recipient of the Spencer Nielsen Award, Gary Gossett.



Spencer Nielsen Award Winner Gary Gossett with lodge president Ken Olsen.

We are celebrating a successful convention with a special dinner on October 17. Reservations are required. This dinner is for Lodge #345 members only, no guests please!

**Toni Olsen Gossett, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 346, Riverside, CA-** Sue Patterson and Pete Petersen attended the Special National Convention in Omaha and have lots of information to share if you have any questions. Pete taped the convention and the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa. He also made a tape of the National Headquarters building.

Three delegates from our lodge and

four other members including Tina Del Grippo, our youth delegate, and three youth attended the 73rd annual district convention in Anaheim. Congratulations to Holger Danske for a great convention. All their hard work paid off. It was a job well done. Delegate Kaja Del Grippo accepted the Gold Lodge Award from the National Headquarters on behalf of our lodge. It was one of two presented this year by National Director Ebba Norby.

We have been invited to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of Sons of Norway Lodge #67, Redlands, on October 9 at Shandin Hills Golf Club in San Bernardino. We thought it would be appropriate to help them celebrate their anniversary and the new relations between DBIA and Sons of Norway. Happy hour begins at 4 p.m. followed by a dinner buffet. Dancing will follow dinner. Reservations are required.

**Sue Patterson, Sec.**

## Nebraska

### Nebraska District

The Nebraska District Convention was held on August 12-14. It was hosted by Omaha Brotherhood Lodge #1 and Sisterhood Lodge #6.

Friday night's event was a social gathering. Ladies from Lodge #1 prepared open-faced sandwiches.

The business meetings were held August 13 at the Holiday Inn Central. This included a joint session to begin the afternoon meetings. Jennifer Denning-Kock, National Fraternal Director, and Erik Hansen, Nebraska Zone Director of District #9 of Sons of Norway, answered a number of questions concerning the merger between the DBIA and Sons of Norway. The Brotherhood meeting ended with election of officers for the coming year as follows: Past President, Glen Haselbarth, #16, Minden; President, Edward Krause, #1, Omaha; Vice President, Quentin Johnson, #84, Lincoln; Secretary-Treasurer,

Jim Christiansen, #1, Omaha; Chair Trustee, Herbert Nielsen, #16, Minden; Second Trustee, Flo Hansen, #1, Omaha; Third Trustee, Faye Petersen, #177, Cordova; Conductor, Duane Hansen, #1, Omaha; Inner Guard, Gayle Miller, #84, Lincoln; and Outer Guard, Del Battles, #211, Grand Island.



Nebraska Zone Officers seated: Sec.-Tres. J. Christiansen, V. Pres. Q. Johnson, Pres. E. Krause, Past Pres. G. Haselbarth; standing Chair Trustee H. Nielsen, 2nd Trustee F. Hansen, 3rd Trustee F. Petersen, O. Guard D. Battles, I. Guard G. Miller and Conductor D. Hansen.

A banquet was held Saturday evening.

Erik Hansen, #84, Lincoln, was selected to receive the Outstanding Nebraska Dane Award. Other nominees for this award were Ruth Nielsen, #1, Omaha, and Glen Haselbarth, #16, Minden.



Lyle Thomassen (l) and Quentin Johnson (r) congratulate Nebraska Dane Award recipient Erik Hansen (c).

The Nebraska District Scholarship winners were Douglas Kosmicki, #211, Grand Island, and Melissa Pesek, #16, Minden. Doug was present at the banquet to receive his scholarship.

Jerome Christensen, CEO/National

Secretary-Treasurer of the DBIA, installed the Brotherhood officers.

The Gulizia Brothers provided music for dancing to close the evening.

This year's convention featured a Youth Program. We were happy to have nine youth, ages 5-18, involved. Friday evening they took a field trip to Neale Woods Nature Center and Observatory. This included a night hike and telescope viewing. Saturday was spent at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The evening ended with a poolside pizza party at the motel. Jerry and Jenny Christensen and Jim Hansen chaperoned the group.

Sunday morning the Omaha Sisterhood Lodge #6 hosted a champagne breakfast at the National Headquarters building.

**Jim Christiansen, Sec-Treas.**

**Lodge No. 1, Omaha, NE**--On Friday, August 12, our lodge, under the direction of Annette Andersen, hosted the state convention guests at a smørrebrød. About 55 guests were in attendance. The fish pond was drained dry and the fellowship was warm and lively.



Nebraska District Convention guests (left) enjoy sandwiches as Flo Hansen and Annette Andersen (right) look on.

Our lodge received the Nebraska Visitation and Activity plaque at the state convention.

Our lodge members will be involved in preparations for the Scandinavian night at Western Heritage Museum on December 8. We will be working on Christmas decorations for the tree at Western Heritage Museum. This ac-

tivity will be shared with other Danish groups in Omaha. We will also be coordinating the Christmas plans with the Swedish and Norwegian clubs, and hope to locate Omahans of Finnish and Icelandic ancestry to join us.

The Scandinavian Christmas night at Western Heritage Museum two years ago had the largest attendance of ethnic groups, 750 people! There were demonstrations of klejner, rosettes and lefse making; bobbin lace work and rose maling, making of Christmas decorations and folk dancing. We also had people available to translate letters from Scandinavia for the guests.

**Flo Hansen, Cor.**  
**Ruth Nielsen, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 84, Lincoln, NE**--We helped Sisterhood Lodge #90 celebrate its 89th birthday with a catered dinner at the lodge hall on Saturday evening, September 10. "Happy Birthday" was sung to the Sisterhood.

Sister Heartha Olson entertained us with a book review of "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum. Thank you Heartha for a great job.

Thanks to the Sisterhood for an evening of good food, birthday cake, fellowship and entertainment. The birthdays of those sisters and brothers having birthdays in September were read and we sang "Happy Birthday" to them.

Our meeting in October will be a bus outing with details in our next quarterly letter. Reservations will be required.

**Gayle Miller, Pres.**

**Lodge No. 161, Ruskin, NE**--Twenty-four members enjoyed our annual steak fry at the Ruskin Community Center on August 6. President Madsen opened the meeting and led the Flag salute.

Secretary Schultz read minutes of the May meeting and also the report of our State Picnic at Ruskin on June 12. The treasurer's report was read and

approved. "Den Little Pioneer" was read which included a thank you from Soren and Grace Thomsen.

Delegate Eugene Schultz gave a brief report on the Special National Convention. Kenny and Loetta Pedersen, who also attended, helped in giving an interesting report.

President Madsen thanked the committee for the delicious meal. Those serving included Kenny and Loetta Pedersen, Deb and Dave Autrey, and Vernon and Liz Kaldahl.

**Geraldine Schultz, Sec.**

**Lodge No. 211, Grand Island, NE**--Attending the Nebraska District Convention held at the Holiday Inn Central in Omaha on August 12-14 were lodge delegates Susan Kosmicki and Del Battles. Other lodge members attending were Douglas Kosmicki and Dee Battles. Douglas was honored at the banquet on Saturday evening for receiving a state scholarship. Del Battles was elected Outer Guard for the district.



Left to Right: Susan Kosmicki, Doug Kosmicki, Dee & Del Battles, Joan Tomlinson-White, Joyce Nielsen and Marge Miller.

**Susan Kosmicki, Cor.**

**Missouri**

**Lodge No. 56, Kansas City, MO**--The lodge again participated in the 1994 Annual Ethnic Enrichment Festival at Swope Park in Kansas City. The lodge booth featured Danish æbleskiver, Danish cookies and coffee. Danish t-shirts and caps were sold as well as Danish gift items. Information about

the new Danish Immigrant Museum was distributed to the many festival visitors.

The festival is sponsored by the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. More than 30 ethnic organizations were represented and many thousands attended the festival enjoying the many varieties of food and entertainment.

The lodge traditionally distributes profits from the festival to several local and national charity organizations. Details concerning the distribution will be discussed at the October meeting.

Lodge #56 members are looking forward to working with the newly established district and zone organizations of the DBIA-SON. The Denmark lodge sends its greetings to the new association.

**Bob Wallace, Cor.**

## Heartland

### Heartland District

Danes from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arkansas, and Oklahoma gathered on September 9-11 at the Best Western, Albert Lea Inn in Albert Lea, Minnesota, for their annual district convention. Lodge #75, Albert Lea, hosted in conjunction with their 100th anniversary.

The joint memorial service for all departed brothers and sisters since our last convention was conducted by Dav-  
enport Sisterhood Lodge #3.

Dennis Nissen, from the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, spoke about the museum. The museum received great coverage over Danish radio, TV and newspapers.

Work done by a "special committee" to update the new bylaws to coincide with the bylaws of the International Sons of Norway has been completed.

Donations of \$261.00 was collected for the scholarship fund.

Our district's Super Lodge Rug

Award, the highest honor a lodge can receive, went to Lodge #15, Des Moines, Iowa. Runners-up were Lodge #263, Askov, Minnesota, and Lodge #144, Dike, Iowa.

The district voted to offer two \$300 scholarships for the 1994-1995 school year.

Our district youth program is getting a good start and on the "road of progress".

Eleven out of thirteen lodges in the district sent delegates to this convention.

The 1994 "Certificate of Merit - Great Dane Award" went to district secretary, Deloris Ross. She has been secretary for the past 12 years.

A special certificate was presented to Lodge #75, Albert Lea, Minnesota, on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

Lodge #15, Des Moines, Iowa, received a national Gold Award and Lodge #144, Dike, Iowa, received a Bronze Award as part of the Lodge Rating and Awards Program sponsored by the National Headquarters.

On Saturday afternoon, all lodge delegates and members attended the dedication of the mermaid in Fountain Lake Park in the area known as "New Denmark".

Election of officers resulted in the following: Past President, Steven Sorensen; President, Judie Nealon; Vice President, Harvey Andersen; Secretary, Deloris Ross; Treasurer, Harlan Johnsen; Trustees, Ed Melzark, Eileen Jensen and Flor Johnsen; and Conductor, Karl Koch.

The convention closed with the joint installation of officers.

The next district convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa, with Brotherhood Lodge #15 and Sisterhood Lodge #102 of Des Moines jointly hosting.

**Deloris Ross, Sec.**

**Lodge No. 15, Des Moines, IA--** Our delegates to the Heartland District Convention in Albert Lea, Minnesota,

on September 9-11 included Svend Christensen, Ed Harris, Doug Lary and Edith Paulsen. Guy and Marquerite Lary were present as alternates. Doug and Rae Ann Lary and daughters Christina and Amanda helped with youth activities. Harvey Andersen attended as district trustee.

Svend was chairman of the Nominating Committee.

A committee was established to initiate a zone newsletter with Kathy Sonsalla of Lodge #219, Clear Lake, and Harvey Andersen as co-chair. Svend Koch of Lodge #144, Dike, and Ulla Wall of Lodge #347, Cedar Rapids, are also on this committee.

Harvey Andersen was elected Zone Vice President.

Our lodge was the winner of the Super Rug Award for 1993-1994.

The Des Moines Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges will be hosts for the 1995 joint district convention. The spring Board meeting will be held in Des Moines on Saturday, April 22, 1995.

Five members joined representatives of other Scandinavian organizations and President Puotinen of Grand View College on August 29 in preliminary discussions surrounding the All-Scandinavian Festival for 1995. For information, contact Ed Harris, Ray Burkett, Edith Paulsen, Marilyn Gift or Harvey Andersen. Your thoughts and ideas are needed.

We will meet on October 10 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Urbandale. We will play bingo so bring white elephant items.

We will have election of officers at our November 14 meeting. The annual Christmas party is planned for December 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Urbandale. Remember, there is not a regular meeting in December.

**Harvey Andersen, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 219, Clear Lake, IA--**A potluck picnic was held at Central Park in Clear Lake on August 6. Before the

meeting, President Sorensen completed some unfinished business and presented Kathy Sonsalla with a certificate for her nomination for the Howard E. Christensen Award. Reports were given by the secretary and treasurer.

Information on the Heartland District Convention was distributed. We discussed the amount to be donated to the district scholarship fund. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50.

President Sorensen reported on the Special National Convention held in Omaha which Thorvald Sorensen, Jerry Sonsalla, Helen Bergman, Edith Skene and Frances Miller attended.

**Kathy Sonsalla, Sec.**

**Lodge No. 347, Cedar Rapids, IA--** We held our last outdoor meeting for this year on August 20. The brunch, attended by many members, was held at Noelridge Park.

Ulla Wall and Lee Thornbloom made æbleskiver and many other delicious goodies. Thank you for being such gracious hosts.

Our guest speaker was Susan Fokken, a newscaster from KCRG TV, Channel 9, in Cedar Rapids. She was very entertaining and informative. She explained what goes on behind the scene in a newsroom. After her presentation, she had a question and answer period.

**Alice Gorsch, Cor.**

## Midwest

**Lodge No. 4, Racine, WI--** We all had a great time at the annual picnic which was held at Armstrong Park. A special thank you to the following people: Chairman, Glen Nyboe who coordinated everything and brought most of the ingredients, Lance King for the permit and prizes, Erv Johnson for all of the cassettes he donated, Jack Christiansen for picking up items, and the Danish Sisterhood members who

provided potato salad, baked beans, cucumbers and sauerkraut. We had 58 people in attendance and it was a great success.

The Torsk dinner is scheduled for October 8 at D.D.R. Pub. Reservations are a must.

**Jeff Christiansen, Pres.**

ÞÞÞ **Lodge No. 14, Kenosha, WI--** Two bus loads went to Arlington Race Track on July 31. Refreshments and snacks were served on the bus. We had reserved seats and programs with great weather. We came back to the hall for a wonderful meal prepared by Chef John Mikus. Thanks to General Chairman Todd Bernhardt and bus leaders Bob Ibsen with help from Tom Nelson and Louis Andrea. Dan Greenwald and Donovan Wuolo had the other bus. It was a great day and lots of fun.

Our softball team finished with a record of 3 and 11 this year.

The Midwest District Dart Extravaganza will be held October 22 in Kenosha beginning at 9 a.m. Kringle and coffee and lunch will be served. Call Todd Barnett for further details.

A men's Smoker Night with card games galore is planned for Wednesday, October 26, from 7-11 p.m. Beer, soda, food and coffee will be available for \$4.00.

Our big Halloween party will begin at 7:30 p.m. on October 29. Dancing begins at 8 p.m. and costume judging begins at 8:30 p.m. Call Rudy Bernhardt, Jr. or Jim Bohn for more details.

**Robert Ibsen, Cor.**

ÞÞÞ **Lodge No. 34, Dwight, IL--** We held our August 8 meeting at the American Legion Hall. The meeting was conducted by Vice President James Lauritsen in the absence of President Dick Perschnick. We didn't get a report on the Special National Convention in Omaha as Ken was not present and neither was the party he left his report with.

Due to the baseball strike, our trip was cancelled.

Don Klehm reported that there is a pistol and rifle range and a trap house at Warner Bridge Road. It is open all year round.

Midwest District convention delegates were Rick Kelly and Shirley Holzhauser. Alternates were Leo Pedersen and Ray Holzhauser.

We will have a float in the Harvest Day Parade. Dorothy Dawsen is in charge.

We are planning a fall æbleskiver breakfast for November 27 at the V.F.W.

Following the meeting, bingo was played. Lunch was served by the August committee.

**Marge Lauritsen, Sec.**

ÞÞÞ **Lodge No. 36, Milwaukee, WI--** At our August 22 meeting, the membership voted to publish the newsletter bi-monthly.

The membership voted to again give support to Sojourner Truth House, a refuge for battered women and their children. Members may donate miscellaneous items and/or cash. Delivery to Sojourner will be in December.

We thank Al and Carol Larsen for refreshments served after the business meeting.

**Albert Larsen, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 343, Waupaca, WI--** We met on August 25 at Trinity Lutheran Church. President Vivian Jensen called the meeting to order.

Correspondence from the National Headquarters was read. There was a general discussion on the merger with Sons of Norway.

Member Dale Bonikowske gave an update on the recycling program for Waupaca County, specifically the cost and the disposition of the recycled items.

The Rasmussens and Marge Darrow served a very delicious lunch following the business meeting.

**Gladys Petersen, Sec.**

**Lodge No. 172, Philadelphia, PA--**  
Our October meeting will be an old fashioned andespil (bingo). We will serve røde pølser med alt tilbehør.

**Niels Malmquist, Cor.**

**Lodge No. 314, Hartford, CT--**  
Brother John Sivertsen was presented with a certificate of merit by Secretary Jim Elliott on the occasion of his 96th birthday. John was very honored to receive this award.



Secretary Elliott presents John Sivertsen with certificate.

**Waldo Elliott, Sec.**

**Lodge No. 325, Nassau County, NY--**  
We had the pleasure of hosting the 1994 annual convention of the General Committee of Eastern Lodges. The convention was held over Labor Day weekend, September 3-5. About 100 DBIA members and guests were in attendance. Among the dignitaries present were Barry Edmonds, recently elected President of the newly formed District 9 of Sons of Norway; Erling Braumann, First Vice President of the National Board of the DBIA; and George Jacobsen, National Past President of the DBIA and recipient of the 1993 Howard E. Christensen Award.

The Saturday business meeting was

opened by Helen Kofod, District President. The main subject discussed was the merger of the DBIA with Sons of Norway. Other necessary items were settled and the meeting concluded with the election of officers resulting in Rick Trust, Lodge #342, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, as president. Rick held a cocktail party to celebrate the occasion which all members and guests enjoyed.

Saturday evening started with some parlor games, directed by Eleanor Hjulmand, which both children and adults enjoyed. This was followed with the showing of a video with pictures from many past GCEL conventions and a banquet with Walter Erickson, Jr.'s dance band playing both Scandinavian and modern music. The evening was a pleasant combination of dining, talking and dancing.

Sunday's main event was a bus trip to New York City harbor to see and visit the Statue of Liberty Island and the now famous Immigrant Museum on Ellis Island.

On Monday, the convention met at Lodge #325's meeting hall at which time the newly elected officers were installed by Barry Edmonds and Erling Braumann. This was followed by Lodge #325's famous "Danske Kolde Bord", a gourmet's dream of delectable "agte danske" foods, accompanied with Carlsberg beer and iced Aalborg akvavit. This was unanimously enjoyed by all. The convention was closed by Rick Trust.

**Helen Kofod, Pres.**

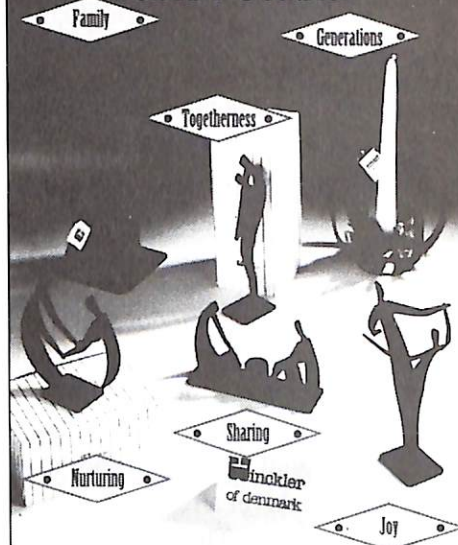
**Lodge No. 342, Bucks County, PA--**  
By request, we will resume with a short Danish history excerpt at every meeting. Somehow this feature disappeared from our agenda several years ago, but will now be resumed by Niels Malmquist.

**Niels Malmquist, Cor.**

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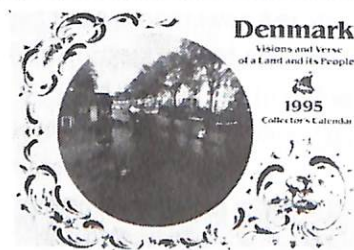
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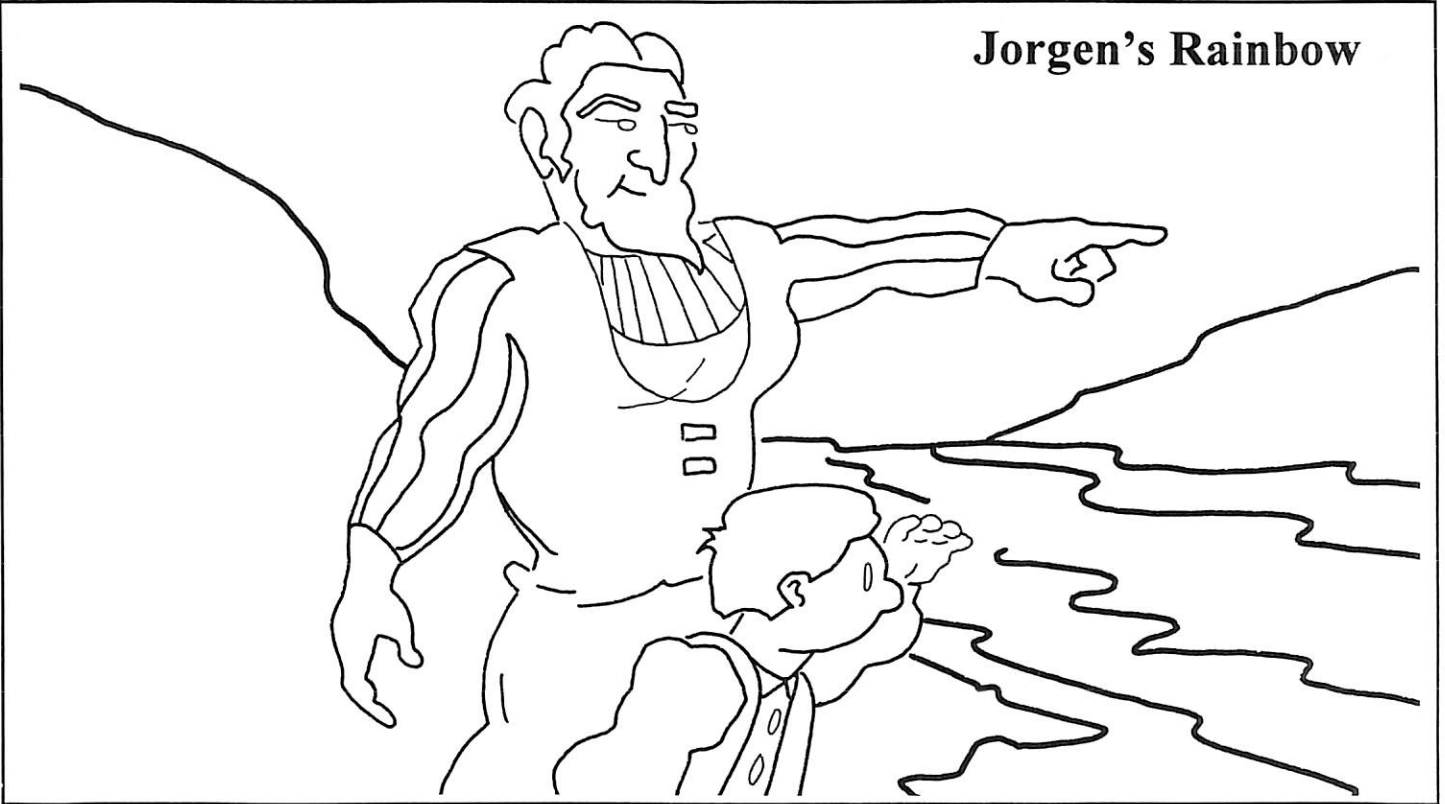
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## Jorgen's Rainbow



In 1618, Jorgen once more meets King Christian IV. Christian has just founded Christianshavn (Christian's Haven) on the island of Amager. This quarter of Copenhagen, the Danish capital, will be the responsibility of superb Dutch architects and builders under Christian. Eventually its canals and houses will decay. In our times, Christianshavn has offered a retreat for artists, poets and the homeless and, through their efforts, is starting again to shine. **September winners: Gene Hans Andersen, Mike Boring and Nancy Nicole Kent.**

### Letter to the Editor

As the era of the **American Dane** comes to a close, I would commend the Brotherhood for the quality of our publication. Lodge members have kept in touch across the country in an interesting format. Informative, historical and personal articles have dealt with our heritage in a way that has helped each of us appreciate our Danish ancestry.

I look forward with anticipation to some form of publication which will be more than a page in the **VI-KING**.

Thanks to Jennifer and the editors before her for a job well done.

MANGE TAK!!!  
Ruth Nielsen

## Grandma's Kitchen



Gunild Ostergaard

### Hot Potato Salad (Varm Kartoffel Salat)

- 5 medium potatoes, boiled in jackets
- ½ cup vinegar
- 1 beaten egg
- ½ tsp. sugar
- ½ lb. lean bacon
- 1 medium onion
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Fry bacon until crisp; crumble. Peel skins from hot cooked potatoes, cube or slice potatoes, chop onion fine; add vinegar, salt, sugar, pepper and egg. Combine with bacon and grease; pour over potatoes. Mix well. Allow to marinate in refrigerator over night. Before serving, heat through thoroughly. Once it has been heated, it is also delicious cold.

