

# ◆ VESTLANDET ◆

Volume 177 Hardangerlag ♦ Møre og Romsdalslag ♦ Nordhordland/Sunnhordlandslag ♦ Rogalandslag ♦ Sognalag ♦ Sunnfjordlag ♦ Vosselag

Fall 2024

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## From your President

Fall is upon us. It has been so dry here in southern Minnesota. I've had to water my flowers many times. I've only had to mow my lawn a couple times in the last two months.

We have had to make a change for the dates of our stevne. The main hotel in Spicer couldn't save us rooms for Friday night. They have a wedding party booked there. Also the prices go up \$20 -\$25 more for Friday nights so we have decided to move our stevne up a day so we will leave on Friday. The dates are June 11, 12, 13th, Wednesday thru Friday. There is one hotel that will only hold rooms till January 1st. The accommodation options are listed in another part of the newsletter. Hotel rooms are on hold for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Other stevner have made the change to weekdays already to save on costs at the hotels. I hope this fits into most of your plans. It frees up weekend days to do other things. The change in dates is beneficial to Hope Presbyterian Church also where our meeting will be held.

Nancy Birkeland has graciously sent me a list of possible speakers. She has also arranged for musical entertainment both Wednesday and Thursday evenings. I have contact information from the Kandioyhi County Historical society to arrange a tour and /or possible speakers. I am looking forward to next years' stevne. We plan to have several speakers on immigration to celebrate 200 years from when the sloop ship "Restauration" came to America.

I have been busy sewing Christmas throws, 42 x 66 inches, to use while reading or watching TV. Our Rochester Sons of Norway is having a bake and craft sale November 9th and I plan to have 14-18 ready for then. I have been selling some to friends already (16) to use as Christmas gifts, and have given 5 to grandkids so I need to keep going on the sewing. Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas and New Year.



*President Ann Romo*

*Hilsen fra Ann Romo*

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# Stevne 2024

June 13-15,



**Hardanger Lag**  
Annual Meeting June 15, 2024  
Urland Lutheran Church  
Cannon Falls MN 55009



Front Row seated from left: Sue Eckert, Sue Nelson, Don Teigen, Janet Brandt, Kay Slinde. Back Row: Bree Monson, Kyle Monson, Shae Monson, Jill Monson, Mark Ashley, Sheryl Hove, Sonja Cotton, Carolyn Bondhus, Alan Olson.

**Annual Meeting:** Called to Order by President Donald Teigen.

**Membership:** Eleven of our paid members attended the Lag's Annual Meeting, Saturday morning, June 15, 2024.

**Secretary's Report:** Members in attendance received copies of the 2023 annual meeting minutes which were approved as presented by Secretary Susan Eckert.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kyle Monson presented the Report showing an ending balance \$1,575.83 for Lag's fiscal year ending June 1, 2024. Members generously contributed \$65 for this year's "pass the hat".

**Genealogist's Report:** Researchers found information in the Lag's books and added handouts of "genealogy helps" to their own collections. Sue is updating the inventory of Lag owned items. Two copies of Vestlandslag 2011, which included the 100th anniversary information of our Hardangerlag, were sold. We added a copy of the Roldal bygdebok, courtesy of long-time Lag member, James Oakland. Sue and Stephanie Benoit continue helping researchers throughout the year. Janet Brandt offered to help research our Lag Charter Members with the preferred completion for 2025, the Bicentennial of the Sloopers' 1825 arrival in America.

**Historian's Report:** Janet discussed what the Lag and individuals could do for long term placement of items. Consider NAHA at Northfield for papers such as lag records or family letters; maybe Vesterheim, Norway House, NAGA or local museums for larger items such as flags, furniture, and clothing.

**Future Change?:** Vestlandslag's Treasurer, has looked into an option for individual lags to avoid recent banking requirements which include producing a Lag's original organizational and operating papers, which may not be found, if they existed in the first place. Further research will be done and a decision made, probably a year from now.

**Election:** All officers agreed to continue in their offices and were re-elected. President- Don Teigen, V-President- James Oakland, Secretary- Sue Eckert, Treasurer- Kyle Monson, Historian- Janet Brandt. Fellesraad Delegates- Don Teigen & Sue Eckert. Alternate Delegates- two positions open.

**Thank-you:** Vestlandslag Board, Church members, speakers and entertainers for our successful 2024 Stevne at Urland Lutheran Church. Plan to join us in 2025 at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan Eckert,  
Secretary



We wrap up the 2024 stevne by sharing a few more photos of the stevne activities. Photos by Betty Hagen and Brit Eddy.

A highlight of the stevne was the Thursday afternoon tour. This year, we carpooled to the various sites.

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Above is a group of stevne participants outside of the Holden Church, where the Reverend Bernt Julius Muus served as pastor for 40 years (1859-1899). A memorial was erected in Muus's memory and in memory of the pioneers who settled in the area and founded the congregation.



Muus served as pastor for 40 years (1859-1899). A memorial was erected in Muus's memory and in memory of the pioneers who settled in the area and founded the congregation.

The genealogists were kept busy during the stevne.



*Denny Kalvig manned the Sognalag tables.*



*Nordhordland genealogy table*



Thursday evening we were entertained by Pati Kachel telling stories and illustrating her stories with artifacts she had brought along.

The lectures and performances were held in the sanctuary of the Urland Church. The photos above and below also give a glimpse of the inside of the host church.

After Friday night's banquet meal, we were entertained by "Down Home Bluegrass Band." The members of the band are local to the area.



# Stevne 2025

June 11—13  
Wednesday—Friday

Hope Presbyterian Church  
7730 N Shore Dr  
Spicer, MN 56288

## Hotel Accommodations

Please note that we are changing the days of the week for the stevne next year. We are planning the stevne for Wednesday through Friday. The stevne will be at Hope Presbyterian Church in Spicer, MN. Here are some options for hotels in the area. Be sure to mention Vestlandslag for the better rates.

### SureStay by Best Western (4-Star motel)

154 Lake Ave S.,  
Spicer, MN  
Phone: 320-262-0887  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Rates: \$157.52  
10 rooms held only till **January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Can cancel till a month before the stevne  
You may still try after this date, but no guarantees

### Little Crow Resort & Conference (5-Star motel)

Trademark by Wyndham  
15980 Hwy 23 NE,  
Spicer, MN  
Phone: 320-347-1450  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Rates: \$137  
Mention Vestlandslag  
21 rooms held till **May 11<sup>th</sup>**

### Hampton Inn Spicer Green Lake (3-Star hotel)

100 Lake Ave. No, Spicer, MN  
Phone: 320-796-2117  
Summer rates about \$199  
Ask for AAA, AARP or AMAC rates  
Will not hold rooms in the summer

### Holiday Inn Express (3-Star Hotel)

250 23<sup>rd</sup> St. SE,  
Willmar, MN 56201  
(about 12 mi. south of Spicer)  
Phone: 320-231-2601  
Rates: 2 queen - \$145.99 (10 held)  
King - \$139.99 (10 held)  
Rooms held till **May 11th**

## 200 Anniversary of the First Organized Emigration of Norwegians

With the 200th anniversary in 2025, we are exploring a few aspects of the first organized emigration of Norwegians.

### How much space do you need?

If you are going on a 3 month voyage with 51 other passengers, how much space would you need? You are also bringing belongings and the ship is carrying additional load. At the Norwegian Culture and Lan-



guage Camp in Spring Grove, MN, this summer, the kids asked the question of how much space the first emigrants had on board the ship, Restauration.

To get a visual understanding, the kids first drew the outline of the ship on the street just outside of the Heritage Center where the camp was held. The ship was 54 foot long and 16 feet wide. You are one of

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53 persons on board: 7 crew members, 26 adults, 19 children, and 1 baby born on the way to America. Ignoring the fact that the ship would have carried belongings and other necessities, we divided the ship lengthwise and gave each person 2 feet. That means each person would have had 2 feet by 8 feet of space during the voyage. To simplify, we ignored the fact that the ship would be narrower at each end and also that there were probably more than one deck.

The kids had fun occupying their allotted space for a while, though it is unlikely they would have found it as enjoyable for several months and during rough seas.

## Who were the Norwegian Quakers?

The first group of Norwegians that emigrated to America were Quakers and Haugeans. Both left Norway seeking the religious freedom they expected to find in America.

Norway has been a Lutheran country with a Lutheran State church since the king of Denmark and Norway declared the country to be Lutheran in 1537. So how do we get Quakers in Norway?

Norway had been in union or part of Denmark for 400 years until 1814. The Danish king sided with Napoleon Bonaparte during the Napoleonic War (1807-1814). That put the Norwegians at war or at the opposing side of Great Britain. Some Norwegians were captured and put in prison in England. The Quakers were the ones to visit the Norwegian prisoners. A few of the Norwegians were converted to the Quaker faith. After the war was over, the prisoners returned to Norway, keeping their new faith.

However, holding meetings in the Quaker style in their homes did not sit well with the Norwegian authorities. The Quakers were not to promote their faith. The ministers in the state church claimed the Quakers preached heresy. So, even though they were few, it did not take long before they felt the need for more religious freedom and started to consider emigrating to America.

Most of the Quakers lived in the Stavanger and Christiania area. One of the more influential men in the organization of the emigration to America was Cleng Peerson (1783-1865). He was born Klein Pedersen Hesthammer near the community of Tysvær in Rogaland. Cleng Peerson was not a

Quaker, but sympathized with them. He and Knud Olsen Eide was sent by the Quaker community in 1821 to research the opportunity for them to settle in America. Knud Eide died after arriving in America, but Cleng Peerson returned in 1824 speaking highly of the opportunities in America.

What else can be told of Cleng Peerson is that he went ahead to America and along with American Quakers welcomed the Quakers as they arrived on the Restauration. Their arrival was not without hardship, but that is a different story. Cleng Peerson settled in America. He eventually moved to Texas where he died in 1865. Cleng was married twice. His first wife, Ane Cathrine Saelinger (1749-1831) was 34 years his senior. His second wife was Martha Charlotte Dahlgreen (1809-1849), 26 years his junior. Both wives were Swedish-born.

If you want to learn more about Cleng Peerson, check out *The True Saga of Cleng Peerson*, novels by the Norwegian author, Alfred Hauge.

## Steerage Act of 1819

This was an Act passed by the United States federal government on March 2, 1819, effective January 1, 1820. The full name was "An Act regulating passenger ships and vessels." The act was also called the Manifest of Immigrants Act. This was the first law in the US to regulate the conditions of transportation of people either arriving or departing by sea.

The regulations stipulated:

- Section 1: A limit of two passengers for every five tons of ship burden
- Section 2: The master of the vessel was to pay a penalty of \$150 per passenger carried above the maximum capacity.
- Section 3 dealt with water and food requirements for departing ships and section 4 and 5 with the manifest requirements.

How did this law impact the first Norwegian immigrants? Their ship, the Restauration was in grave violation of the Steerage Act and was fined \$3,150! The captain was arrested and the ship confiscated. Now the emigrants did not intentionally break the law. They were just not aware of it.

With the help of Cleng Peerson and the New York Quaker community, the situation was resolved. Pres-

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ident John Quincy Adams personally pardoned the captain, released him and the ship and rescinded the fine. They had arrived on October 9 and the pardon was given the 15th of the following month. The emigrants had planned on selling the ship and using the profit to get established, but the ship sold for a mere \$400. Still, the story shows it pays to have connections in high places and a network of good friends.

## Grøt, Graut, Rømmegrøt...

Whether of Norwegian descent or not, most seem to like rømmegrøt, and in Norwegian food traditions, rømmegrøt and other types of grøt have a rich and long tradition. When the Norwegians arrived in this country, they brought their food traditions along, but adjusted their recipes based on the resources available. So we are bringing you a recipe with Norwegian roots, but Americanized. Along with the recipe, it might be fun to take a look at Norwegian grøt traditions.

### Rømmegrøt Bars

Grease 9x12 pan. Press 1 tube of Pillsbury Crescent Rolls on the bottom of the pan. Cream the following ingredients and spread over the crescent roll.

2 8-oz pkgs of cream cheese

1 cup sugar

1 egg yolk

1 teaspoon vanilla

Put 1 tube of Pillsbury Crescent Rolls on top of mixture. Beat 1 egg white until foamy and spread on top of the crescent roll. Mix 1/3 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon together and sprinkle on top. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 25-30 minutes. Cool and cut. Refrigerate to store. Bars can be frozen.

Grøt and graut both mean porridge. What you call it depends on the dialect. Rømmegrøt means a porridge made with “rømme” - sour cream that is cultured with a certain strain of bacteria. Rømme taste a little different from the American sour cream. But there are many more types of grøt: augagrøt, barselsgrøt, blandingsgrøt, neflöttargraut (buforgraut), dylle, floagraut, onnegraut, høygraut, kliningsgraut, melkegraut, nævagraut, slåttegraut, smørgraut, vassgraut, and a few more.

Some of the grøt names indicate the main ingredient such as rømmegrøt, smørgrøt (butter), havregrøt

(oats), vassgrøt (water). Other grøt names tell us the purpose or use of the grøt.

**Barselsgrøt:** It was a tradition throughout Norway to serve grøt to women who had just given birth (barselskoner, barsel = giving birth). They thought it was not good for the new mother to eat sour grøt, so the grøt was often made with half sour and half sweet cream. In some parts of the country they layered different types of grøt.

**Neflöttargraut** is the grøt served the last day they spent at the seter (mountain farm) before moving the cattle to the home farm. Usually this was rømmegrøt (ne or ned = down, flöttar = move).

The completion of the haying was celebrated with a meal and this was often grøt. In that case you called it slåttegraut (slått = haying).

Rømmegrøt has possibly been served as far back as the 9th century AD. It is the more festive grøt for special occasions. For your everyday meal, it was more typical to serve grøt made with barley and/or oats and water.

Barley and oats grew well and were readily available. To make the grøt better, they would swap out the water for sweet or sour milk.

Saturday is grøt day! At my granddaughter's folkehøgskule where she attended last year, they typically served risgrøt (rice

porridge) on Saturdays. If there was enough leftover risgrøt, this was turned into dessert the next day—riskrem (rice cream) with red berry sauce.

Growing up in Norway, 17. mai the community in my valley celebrated with rømmegrøt. Initially, each farm provided the rømme needed for their family. Someone drove from farm to farm to collect the rømme and then the rømmegrøt was made the morning of the 17. mai. It was hard work to make the large quantities, so it took 2 women cooks and 2 men. The men were there to do the stirring. This tradition has remained, but it changed over time so

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the rømme came from the grocery store and you bought your serving of rømmegrøt at the 17. mai celebration.

You can also find grøt in the Norwegian fairytales. Espen Askeladd features in many of the fairytales. In one, he enters into an eating competition with a troll. It is not known what kind of grøt they were eating. The troll expected to win, but Espen Askeladd was sly and placed his rucksack on his stomach and let the grøt slip into his sack. The troll eventually got full, but was amazed at how much Espen Askeladd could eat. The secret, Espen said, was to make a slit in your stomach so you could eat more. The troll took the advice and now the troll is history.

## Sognalag Farm Names Project

By Denny Kalvig  
Sognalag Genealogist

One of the things that Sognalag is doing is to revitalize their Farm Names Project. Some years ago the members were asked to provide information about the Sogn farms that were of interest to their ancestry. This was done via a survey letter and the results were compiled into a database. Problems with their website and other factors led to that information no longer being available and it become somewhat obsolete.

They have decided to refresh the information and use it in a slightly different way. The survey letter has been revised into a PDF document that will be emailed to all members. It asks each member to identify Sogn farms in their ancestry, including information about the last of their relatives to live on each farm. They expect many people will have multiple farms for providing information. This will be combined with the old data already obtained into a database that will be kept private and accessible only by leaders of the bygdslag.

Another aspect of this project is to update the Farm Names Project page of the website to do two things:

- Provide a link to the fillable PDF document with instructions for submitting additional data to supplement what is being solicited from the members.
- Provide a list of farms names for which someone has submitted information.

With greater concerns for privacy, they felt it would be better to not put provider names and contact in-

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formation on the web page. Instead, if anyone is interested in connecting with someone else with interest in that farm they will be asked to express their interest to the bygdslag president or genealogist. They will pass that information on to the data provider and it will be their choice whether or not to contact the person requesting information. It is hoped that this will become an additional tool to help people with common interest in particular farms to connect with each other and hopefully collaborate where possible. Being together in the bygdslag is one way to make such connections, but this additional data may make it a bit easier to reach out to either get help or offer help to each other.

# In Memory

**Mercedes “Ginny” Iverson (1932-2024)**, age 92, passed away on July 15, 2024, at The Alton Memory Care in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mercedes Virginia Hetland was born June 14, 1932, in Gonvick, Minnesota, to Reubin and Ruth (Odneson) Hetland. She graduated from Gonvick High School in 1950, and received a degree in nursing from the Abbott Hospital School of Nursing in 1953. Ginny received her Masters of Science, Phi Kappa Phi, from South Dakota State University in 1981, and worked as a Registered Nurse her entire career, retiring in 1993.



Ginny married Ralph B. Iverson on June 17, 1958, and they remained happily married until his passing in April 2022. They lived in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and finally settled in Sioux Falls in 1988. She was a strong, inquisitive and hard-working woman who greatly valued education, and was always striving to learn and grow. She and Ralph traveled extensively after their retirements in Europe, Asia, and North America. Ginny was always extremely active, and enjoyed gardening (particularly wild flowers!), numerous crafts, feeding her birds and squirrels, walking, berry-picking, genealogy, computers, and dragging her less-enthusiastic husband and family to various genealogical and historical lectures and entertainment events. She was generous to many with her time, treasure and talents and was a loyal and devoted friend. She will be missed.

Grateful for having shared her life are her two children, Nancy (Mike) McKnight and Marc (Katie) Iverson; seven grandchildren: Jessica (Josh) Butler, Ryan (Brittany) McKnight, Kelly (Nick) Purcell, Megan McKnight, Ingrid Iverson, Annika Iverson, and Thor Iverson; two great-granddaughters, Brynn

and Shay McKnight; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Ginny was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Wayne Hetland; and husband Ralph.

A private family graveside service will be held in the coming weeks at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Gloria Cathrine (Petersen) West (1933-2023)**, 89, of

Altoona, IA passed away Monday, March 27, 2023. A Celebration of Life service will be held 10:30 am Saturday April 1, 2023, at Hope Lutheran Church 3857 E. 42nd St. in Des Moines, with a visitation from 9:15 until 10:15 prior to the service.



Gloria was born September 5, 1933, to Eugene and Lydia (Nielsen) Petersen. Gloria graduated from Seneca High School in 1951. Gloria went on to go to Waldorf Junior College in Forest City and earned her 2-year degree in Business.

She met the love of her life, Howard West, while she was attending Waldorf. They were married on August 18, 1956, in Ringsted, IA. Gloria enjoyed scrapbooking, traveling and watching sports. She specifically enjoyed watching her grandchildren's activities and her Colorado Rockies. Over the years, Gloria spent countless hours creating scrapbooks for each of her 6 grandchildren. Gloria also loved spending her summers at their residence in Estes Park, CO where many memories with her children and grandchildren were made.

Survivors include 2 children: Mark (Anne) West, Jeff (Ann Marie) West, both of Pleasant Hill, IA, 6 grandchildren: Ashley (Jesse) Bryan, Amanda (Josh) Jones, Jazmyn (Josh) Baker, Jordan (Haley) West, Mackenzie (Kodi) Schroeder, and Matthew West, 8

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great grandchildren: Willow and Westlynn Bryan, Weston Jones, Aria and Mila Baker, Gavin and Jameson West, Eliana Schroeder and 1 sister-in-law: Ramona Holm. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Bob Petersen; sister-in-law, Virginia Petersen; and brother-in-law, Richard Holm.

*Gloria was a member of the Sunnhordland Bygdelag.*

**Norma L. Bakros (1934-2020)**, 86, died Nov. 25, 2020. Visitation was Friday, Dec. 4, at



Hamilton's Funeral Home, 605 Lyon. Funeral services was limited to family at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church at 10:00 AM, Saturday, Dec. 5. Burial at Glendale Cemetery followed.

Norma was born in Stanhope, IA, on July 28, 1934, to Julian A. and Myrtle M. (Phillops) Hove. She attended one-room country schoolhouse

Clear Lake #7 and graduated from East High School, Des Moines, in 1952.

Following graduation, Norma worked as a legal secretary at Holliday & Myers. For more than 20 years she worked in the Iowa House of Representatives as secretary to Keith Dunton, Ray Lageschulte, and Chuck Gipp, retiring in 2000.

Norma and Eugene M. Bakros were married on Nov. 21, 1959. Together, they visited the 48 contiguous states and Greece, and attended many Elder Hostels where they studied genealogy and went hot air ballooning and sailing and flew in a glider plane.

Norma was a longtime member of Capitol Hill Lutheran Church and was active with choir, handbell choir, Fellowship Committee, archives, Esther Circle, quilters, book club, pizza lovers, and Lunch Bunch. Proudly 100% Norwegian, she was a

member of Daughters of Norway, co-chairing the bake sale at the annual Taste of Norway, and Sons of Norway.

She was an accomplished cook, always trying new recipes at Sunday family dinners and sharing her talents with her church. Her cookbook of favorite recipes is treasured by her family.

Norma was predeceased by her husband, Gene, in 2017. She is survived by two children, Lee Ann and Peter; Peter's wife, Beth; and three grandchildren, Isabel (fiancé James Aglikin), Niko, and Victoria.

*Norma was a member of Sunnhordland Bygdelag.*

**Carol Jeanne McGuire (1940-2023)**, 83, Kansas City, Missouri passed away 12th, October, 2023, at Kansas City Hospice House.

A Celebration of Carol's Life was held Saturday, October 28th, at Mt. Moriah Newcomer & Freeman Funeral Home, 10507 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. Visitation was held before the service the same day at the funeral home.



"Jeanne" graduated from Bonner Springs High School in 1957 and got her B.A. in Special Education, E.D./L.D. in 1979 from Avila University. She married James McGuire Sr. in 1959. Jeanne retired from the Kansas City, MO School District after educating and enriching the lives of children for 24 years.

She was a member of various organizations throughout her adult life, including Sierra Club, Rice-Tremonti Home, PBS, Kansas City Zoo, and Shriner Ladies Greeters Unit. Jeanne helped various organizations her entire retired life, including Sons of Norway, Scandinavian Association of Greater Kansas City, Ararat Shrine Needle Guild, Kansas City Archaeological Society, Santa Fe Trails Association,

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and Trailside Center. She received Outstanding Community Service Awards from the South Kansas City Alliance and Trailside Center, earned her Sons of Norway 20 year pin, and received the J. Mett Shippee Outstanding Service Award from the Kansas City Archaeological Society. Jeanne also served as President of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority and docent for Leawood's historic Oxford schoolhouse. She furthered her education throughout her retired life at the SPARK Center for Lifelong Learning at UMKC.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Herma Jane Huseby, father Robert Milton Huseby, sister Roberta Trowbridge, and brother Raymond Franklin Huseby.

Survivors include husband Jim Sr., son Jim Jr., daughter Penny Johnson (Dan Ford), son John (Allie), brother Jim Huseby (Laurie), and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Paul Trygve Akre (1937-2023)**, 86, died October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Sioux City, Iowa. He was a beloved man by his family, friends, and co-workers.



Paul was born, April 30, 1937, and raised in Woodside Twp., Polk Co., Minnesota, and graduated from Erskine High School in 1955. He was the son of Ingebret and Lily (Hammer) Akre and was baptized and confirmed at Hitterdal Lutheran Church in Maple Bay.

Several members of Lily's family were charter members of Varnes Lutheran Church in Fertile. Ingebret emigrated from Norway in 1920, by the inspiration of his cousin, erstwhile local pastor J. E. H. Akre.

After Paul's father died in 1954 in Erskine, Paul's sister was in Oregon with a new family, and his brother Marvin left for the Air Force. Paul and his mother sold the family farm and moved to Oregon where Paul graduated from the University of Oregon.

Soon after, he served his two years in the Air Force and then began his long successful career with US Bank as a trust officer. He worked in Medford and Portland, Oregon; and Vancouver, Washington, before retiring as an Assistant Vice President in 1996.

For many years, Paul and Jean were actively involved in several Scandinavian organizations, particularly Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (Nordic Northwest) in Portland, Oregon.

Paul loved to travel domestically and internationally, having also returned several times for reunions in Erskine. After retirement, he and his wife Jean, whom he married October 17, 1971, traveled for many years to many places around the globe. Adventures included both visiting family members on their travels as well as safaris, cruises, and other tours.

One of Paul's hobbies was also shared by his son, working on tracing the family tree and forming many new connections with family over the years. He also enjoyed collecting coins, stamps, and books, as well as fishing for salmon, halibut, and other species. Paul had kept subscriptions for decades to the Erskine Echo and Fertile Journal, staying updated on his childhood communities.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, sister Alfhild, two older brothers, and by several cousins in Canada, Norway, and the USA. He is survived by his wife, son Kris, daughter-in-law Laura, daughter Deanna, son-in-law Bill, two grandchildren, Thea and Lucas; his brother Marvin (Carol), four nieces and nephews, and cousins in Norway and Australia.

Services were held at their church in Sioux City on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. His burial is at Hitterdal Cemetery in Maple Bay, alongside his parents and brothers.



*We are bringing you several obituaries in this issue. They are put in the newsletter as we learn of them. We want to recognize when our members pass away. So if you know of any pass them along to the editor or Ann Romo. We also like to know which bygdelaag they belonged to, so pass this information along also.*



*From the Editor:*

Many years ago, I remember reading Alfred Hauge's novels about Cleng Peerson. I got the impression he was quite a colorful man. It was fun doing a little research on the first organized immigration from Norway. I am thinking we will learn quite a bit about them and how they fared in their new country as we enter into the 200th anniversary year. If you are in Decorah, IA, check out the Vesterheim Museum where they have they have the outline of the Restauration as part of their landscaping.

I am as always looking for material for the newsletter. This includes material in both English and Norwegian. I can translate the Norwegian. If you have a suggestion for a topic we should research, let me know that as well.

With that, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

*Beste Hilsen  
Brit Eddy*

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### News Submissions

Send to:  
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### Deadlines:

**January 15**

March 15

July 15

October 15

VESTLANDET is a quarterly publication by Vestlandslaget, a non-profit organization and the umbrella organization for 8 lags with roots to the west coast of Norway. Membership in the Vestlandslag includes the subscription to the Vestlandet Newsletter.

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June 11—13, 2025

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