



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#43

ELLIS ISLAND EVENING

April 1991

Ellis Island Evening

Social Committee:

Virginia Paulson, Bud & Vernie Fletcher, Stephanie & Eric Krystad.

Welcome

Table Prayer

Introduction of Guests

Dinner:

(Potluck with a lot of Norwegian food. Dessert served following the program.)

The evening started with members and guests arriving, using ONLY one entrance and, as they did enter, we had an immigration officer (in uniform) to greet all guests and give them a Certificate of Immigration for their signature. Our president had signed them ahead of time with the seal of the lodge on each certificate, to make it look like the real thing. As all the guests arrived and entered through the door, there was a sign made that read “Immigration Office” and then stationed on a table next to the door was a replica of the Statue of Liberty which was made by one of our members and which created a lot of conversation.

The Social Committee asked that all members and guests come dressed as their grandparents or parents might of come over to America as such, and there were around 20 guests who did just that. There were two prizes given for the “best dressed”—awarded to one woman and one man. Everyone seemed to like this, and it was one of the last things done (giving the “best-dressed” prizes) before we had our dessert.

Following our dinner, there was:

- 1) A language lesson.
- 2) A genealogy lesson.
- 3) An Ellis Island talk by one of our members, wearing her mother’s clothing worn when she came over to America.
- 4) Singing by two of our guests, who sang and played the piano.
- 5) A new Norwegian song taught to the audience.
- 6) Norwegian folk-dancing, which was a big hit. (The dancers were our guests, too, coming from a distance).

7) Judging of the “Ellis Island” costumes (two prizes given).

We also had a good display of old family pictures (grandparents and parents) which received a lot of attention.

A great evening was had by more than 100 adults and children and everyone returned home with more of an idea of our heritage to talk over for some time.

We also had some tapes of Norwegian music played during the dinner, which helped to make it a fun evening.

The committee had planned more to do, but time just did not allow it.

Below you will find a sample of the Certificates of Immigration,.

Good luck!

Social Committee
Edvard Grieg lodge

Certificate of Immigration

*Sons of Norway hereby officially grants
permission to enter this land of
Edvard Grieg Lodge 74
Glendale, Calif. U.S.A.*

to~ _____

Signed and sealed this 24th day of March, by-

chief immigration officer