



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank44

HOW TO PLAN A FAMILY REUNION

Prepared by Jerome Formo

July 1990

How to Plan a Family Reunion

Reason/Need for the Program Idea:

This is a valuable and doable way to maintain contacts between relatives and preserve cultural heritage of our ancestors who emigrated from Norway.

Persons Needed:

One member of the family who will recruit help and make arrangements for site location and program.

Items Needed:

A camp facility such as a Bible camp where members of the family need not be concerned with meal preparations and other housing details. A theme is helpful to concentrate attention of the family members. Properly-marked T-shirts, for example, are helpful in making the extended family feel more like one. Cameras, recorders, etc. are essential to providing long-lasting remembrances of the event. Make certificates to give as recognition for as many things as possible—such as: person who came the greatest distance—persons who won the tennis matches—person who recently passed some sort of milestone, such as graduation, birthday, wedding anniversary, etc.

Ideal Location:

The location should be one that is convenient to the person planning the event—but even more important, it should be where the largest number of family members can most economically access it.

Ideal Time:

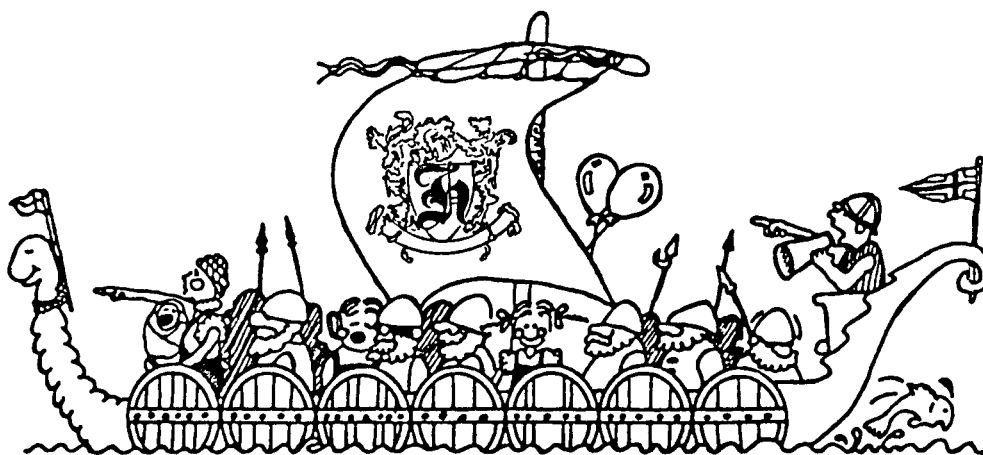
The best time for such a reunion is when the majority can be away from work, such as vacation time, but not harvest time if farmers are in the group. In our case, we have found that a schedule beginning on Friday afternoon and concluding Sunday afternoon has been successful. Even so, some of our family would like to extend their stay, particularly if longer distances must be traveled. Other members would prefer mid-week days to allow for travel to the site one weekend and travel from the site the following weekend. This allows working members to be gone for only one work week instead of parts of two weeks.

Preparations:

Planning for such events in our family has generally begun about three years in advance. This was established because a three-year interval between reunions was considered most practical. Some families find one or two-year intervals appropriate. The lead time of more than one year is often necessary to even locate a facility with open time. Church and Bible camps with adequate facilities to provide housing, food, recreational facilities, playgrounds, etc. are often booked far in advance by their own support groups. Some will not be available for family groups at all.

Other Important Information:

We have found it important to have a schedule of events developed in advance. Such events can include talent shows, concerts, family choir, devotional services, athletic games, swimming and/or boating time, demonstrations of crafts, etc. In our 1990 Fling, we had help from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. which supplied maps, information folders, musical records, and Norwegian food recipes to help the organizers. A Family Cookbook was developed in advance by soliciting family members for favorite recipes. These were added to the Embassy recipes and put together for sale to members at a modest price.



Formo Family Festival

Friday, August 10, 1984

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6:00 p.m. | Getting settled and re-acquainted |
| 7:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 8:00 p.m. | Old slides, pictures and movies |
| 9:30 p.m. | Snacks |
| 10:00 p.m. | Devotions |

Saturday, August 11, 1984

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m. | Choir, guitar, violin rehearsals |
| 10:00 a.m. | Game time, free time, etc. |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | R & R |
| 3:00 p.m. | Coffee Break |
| 3:30 p.m. | Water sports and games |
| 6:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7:30 p.m. | Formo Festival Concert |
| 9:30 p.m. | Snack time |
| 10:00 p.m. | Devotions |

Sunday, August 12, 1984

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 10:00 a.m. | Festival service |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Pack-up and checkout time |

Hope you had a great time! Keep in touch!

Formo Family Fiesta

Friday, June 17, 1987

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5:00 p.m. | Getting settled and re-acquainted |
| 6:45 p.m. | Dinner and announcements—Dining Hall |
| 8:00 p.m. | Old slides, pictures & movies—Lounge |
| 9:30 p.m. | Snacks—Dining Hall |
| 10:00 p.m. | Devotions—Lounge |

Saturday, July 18, 1987

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast—Dining Hall |
| 8:30 a.m. | Rehearsals |
| 10:00 a.m. | Art fairs—Lounge |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch—Dining Hall |
| 1:00 p.m. | R & R |
| 3:00 p.m. | Snack break—Lounge |
| 3:30 p.m. | Water sports and games |
| 6:00 p.m. | Dinner—Dining Hall |
| 10:00 p.m. | Devotions—Lounge |

Sunday, July 19, 1987

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast—Dining Hall |
| 9:00 a.m. | Festival service in Chapel |
| 10:00 a.m. | Pack-up and checkout time |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch—Dining Hall |

Hope you had a great time! Keep in touch! Drive carefully!

Formo Familie Fjellene Fling Favorite Foods

Our Formo Familie Fjellene (mountain) Fling is an event to be remembered by everyone present! The Jon W. Formo leg of the family thanks each and every participant. This collection of favorite foods is our gift to you. Hopefully, this small token of our appreciation for your dedication and sacrifice to attend will instill the essence of how unique our family really is! Let's remember that the Formo Familie is the epitome of happiness, joy, talent and love.

A special thanks to Jean Formo for the beautiful cover design. Yet another example of skill and talent with the Formo name!! Thanks, Jean!

And thank you to all who sent their favorite recipes! This book reflects the variety of tastes and flair for the unusual found in our family!

The recipes that do not have names beside them were attained from our Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. They are copies directly from the old country.

Pat Formo Culley
Editor
July 1990

The Norwegian philosophy about food and eating may be summed up as follows:

Set an imaginative and pleasant—or fun—table, arrange the food beautifully and temptingly, and never hurry a meal.



GOD APPETITT!!
A Recipe for Happiness

One cup of love
to share with each other
one cup of kindness
for each sibling, father and mother.

One pinch of salt
to leaven each life.
One-half cup of sugar
to sweeten the strife.

A measure of shortening to help ease the way
along life' highway to
a much better day.

One cup of pride
for a family so grand.

Two cups of faith
that may always stand
for our love of God, family and friends
that will keep us together
'til we gather again.

*(A recipe for happiness for the Formo Family Reunion on this date in time
—July Nineteen hundred and ninety)*

Formo Family Flyer

JEROME & WINNIE—grandparents again! Orion Charles Whitaker IV—8—5-89 to Kay & Orion—congratulations!

Feb.–Mar. '88—Flew to Phoenix, San Diego and back from Los Angeles, visiting friends in the areas, plus spending some time with Ann and Ric Hein, Chris & Dawn Formo, George & Peggy Anderson, and Ray & Carol Rosales.

June-July '88—Flew to Helsinki, Finland, to begin a 3-week Elderhostel in Finland, Denmark and Norway. Very interesting! Then we traveled to Oslo where we saw Linda & Jorgen & family, Gabriel Eikli & Martha, then to Hamar to visit Gunnar & Else Eikli, to Ringebu to see the land on which Grandpa Insdahl lived and to meet other relatives, to Vikhamar to be with Magnhild & Rolv Eggen & family, to Borsa to meet Anne & Johan Sodal (Ann is a sister of Gabriel Eikli), then to Fannren to stay with Odd & Kristi Fossum while visiting several of the other Formo relatives. Then we drove down to Bergen to visit Winnie's relatives, both in Bergen and down on the island of Aga near Fitjar. Finally, back to Oslo where we used Linda's house for two nights even though she and her family were in McHenry just then, and then flew home from Oslo. A great experience all around!

October '88—We were asked to go to Guatemala to help a small company try to get into the business of molding plastic housewares. We spent four weeks there and had many interesting experiences (too numerous to list here). In brief, I helped the company get started after they had been completely shut down for one year. By the 4th week, the plant was operating around the clock and producing cups, dishes, etc.

KATHLEEN ROSALES—Graphic artist—January–April '88 at Civil Engineering Firm. April–November '88—“Maverick” and Graphic Artist at Holden Village (a maverick is someone who does a little bit of everything: from chopping wood to clearing trails, painting cabins, etc.) December '88–April '89—Moved back to Minneapolis to work part-time at a market and part-time free-lance artist. There are more jobs here than I thought!

New Interests: Organic Gardening—I will go west again this summer to check out some farms that farm in bio-intensive mini-farming techniques. Would like to raise most of my food someday and teach others to do so! Organically.

Future Goals: Decide where to settle down for a little while at least, set up a studio and garden. My conflicting interests are in Minnesota and Washington.

Kathleen Rosales—2301 25th Ave. S.,
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BETTYE REPORTS: Retirement—February 3, 1988. 63rd birthday—March 10th. Sewing at home, trying to get to some writing, poetry, short stories, family history.

White Family Reunion—July '89 in mountains of North Carolina at birthplace of Eleanor (Elgin's widow). Beautiful home by Andrews, NC. Hope to have relatives come from as far away as Washington state, Florida (criss-cross the U.S.). Plans family history trip to Florida. Should tie all loose ends together—hope to go in June.

Mother's Day will be celebrated at Nancy's, has become an annual trek. Easter was here in Columbia. Big Day!

Love, Bettye