



SONS OF NORWAY

HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#55

**INTERNET NEWS FROM NORWAY
FOR LODGE NEWSLETTERS**

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Normonden 424
Missoula, Montana
2004

Internet News from Norway for Lodge Newsletters

Reason For Idea: This is another attempt to focus Sons of Norway on current affairs in Norway as well as our heritage.

Persons Needed: One person with access to the Internet

Materials Needed: Internet news releases from the Norwegian government under Norway Daily found at <http://www.norway.org> Each day the news from Norwegian newspapers is summarized on this web site. Any person with access can then choose items of interest to Sons of Norway lodge members and compile them for a newsletter column (see attached samples).

Ideal Time: Compiled by the newsletter deadline

Preparations: News can be gathered each day or at one time

Other Important Information: The news releases are brief but give insight into the current issues of the day in Norway. These issues help us understand Norway and the Norwegian people. Many issues are similar to those in North America, but others are unique and fascinating to North Americans, such as whether Norway should abandon its state church and adopt separation between church and state. The only problem is limiting all of the interesting material to a short column.

NET NYTT FRA NORGE

News from the Internet:

Norway Daily, <http://www.norway.org>

As compiled by Betty Wing

March and April:

On March 13 Norway expelled two Russian diplomats who were attempting to recruit informers. The visit to Russia by the King and Queen in May seemed in jeopardy. By March 26, however, relations were again normalized.

The controversial appointment of a former political party chairman as Bishop in Oslo has raised the issue of separation of church and state. The Christian Democratic Party is calling for full separation.

Norway is re-evaluating its care of the mentally ill following four murders by mental patients; two policemen were shot and an older couple were killed with an ax. Beds in psychiatric institutions have been reduced 70%.

Furor over the railway to the new Gardermoen airport in Oslo, cost overruns and likelihood of operating at a loss.

A TV station found a legal loophole in the law prohibiting paid political advertising on TV. The Storting is acting quickly to plug that loophole as such advertisements are not wanted by Norwegians.

Debate over whether Norway should join OPEC in lowering oil production to raise prices ended with a 3% reduction, or 100,000 barrels per day.

Hot issues are the raising of salaries for teachers and nurses to attract more applicants to fill the shortages and a "cash benefits" program to pay parents to stay at home with young children.

20% of Norway's military officers were Nazi party members after the invasion. Another story revealed that the U.S. secretly took two tons of heavy water from the plant in Rjukan in 1945 to keep the Soviets from getting it.

Heavy snowfall led to chaos on the Easter holiday.

The State Railway is being privatized.

Former officers of the Oslo Labor Youth League were found guilty of embezzling money and received jail sentences.

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April/May:

A new government commission started work to study relations between church and state. The commission has 4 years to conclude whether ties should be severed.

Turkey is using a 112 metre long "waterbag" made in Norway to ship 10 million litres of fresh water from Turkey to Cyprus.

Union members no longer are interested in the May Day parades – they would rather take a long weekend. Gardermoen railroad tunnel for "plane train" still leaking – opening may be delayed.

The government endorses letting the krone follow the value of the euro so Norway isn't left out of business in Europe.

Disposable income rose 6% in 1977.
Norwegians are saving and investing more.

On May 13 Gro Harlem Bundtland took office as World Health Organization Director-General. She "took the organization by storm" and her 'elegant, challenging' inaugural address won her a standing ovation.

3,000 bus drivers went out on strike on May 14. Chaos reigns on the highways of Oslo, Akerhus and Soer-Trondelag. Drivers seeking raises.

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Happy Birthday

The following members celebrate their birthday in the Months indicated below;

May:

Robert Seim 01 Vjck Liane Kertiing 09

Lee Tvedt 02 AlexJohnson 10

Jenny Mane Fullton 02 Marjorie Mathison 11

Ingrid Crymes 03 James Denny 12

Robert Mathison 05 Cathy Tvedt 12
July:

Iver Rostad 06 Larry Larson 01

Cherie Garcelon 11 Ralph Michaelson 02

RayGibbs 13 Orville Lovaas 04

Betty Rude 15 Ruby Fulton 05

June: Norma Gibbs 07

Caren Reaves 01 Mathew Gooley 08

Martha Peterson 02 Bamford Dodge 08

Christopher Lowman 04 Hazel Crerar 12

Thelma Hogan 04 James Olson 13

Gregory Strombo 04 Nelda Anderson 14

Lowell Hanson 04 August:

Lila Hoerner 05 Billie Leigland 03

Obert Seim 05