

January 2003

januar 2003

A Little in English

Donuts stop thieves

Twenty-five fresh doughnuts halted two burglars on the prowl in Trondheim one Saturday evening in November. The tasty temptations were impossible to resist for the two burglars in the Trondheim doughnut shop.

They comforted themselves with doughnuts when they could not find any money in the shop, says Security Chief Jon Eivind Schefte of the Sør-Trøndelag Police Department.

The two men, in their twenties, had to spend the night in jail. Without any doughnuts to munch on.

-Nettavisen

Hollywood Whale Sparks Controversy

The star of the *Free Willy* films, male killer whale Keiko, sparked a great deal of controversy recently when he showed up in the Skálvik Fjord in west-central Norway in early September, 2002. Up to that point, the Free Willy Keiko Foundation had been the caretaker for the whale, attempting to help Keiko readjust to living in the wild.

Despite the foundation's efforts, Keiko seems to prefer human companionship to the company of his fellow killer whales. Since September, he has been at the center of a tug-of-war. The Free Willy Keiko Foundation and the city of Halså, where Skálvik fjord lies, as well as the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Miami Seaquarium, have all been vying for custody of the whale. All seem eager to do what's best for Keiko.

-Western Viking

Litt på norsk

Smultringer stoppet tyver

Tjuefem ferske smultringer stoppet to innbruddstyver på tokt i Trondheim en lørdag kveld i november. De runde fristelsene var helt umulig å motstå for de to mennene som gjorde innbrudd i en smultringbu i Trondheim.

I skuffelsen over at de ikke fant kontanter i bua, trøstet de seg med smultringer, sier vaksjef Jon Eivind Schefte ved Sør-Trøndelag politidistrikt.

De to mennene, som er i 20-årene, måtte tilbringe natten i arresten. Uten smultringer å gumle på.

-Nettavisen

Norwegian School Trivia

Test what you know about school children in Norway:

1. Minimally, how many years must a Norwegian child attend school?
2. Maximally, how many hours per day does a young Norwegian child (age 7-10) spend in school?
3. Norwegian children have free dental care. True or false?
4. Norwegian children get free breakfasts in school. True or false?
5. Name five compulsory subjects in Norwegian schools.

Answers: 1) Nine years 2) Five hours
3) True Oslo 4) False 5) Religion, Norwegian, math, English,
social studies, music, crafts, gym, history

Sons of Norway Sports Medal Program Keeping in Shape

If you live in more northern climates, this time of year can mean great opportunities for skiing. If you live in warmer climates, then you probably have more activities available to you. Either way, if you want encouragement and recognition for doing athletic activities, try the Norwegian-inspired Sports Medal Program. The medals offered are:

- | *Gangmerke* (walking)
- | *Idrettsmerke* (sports and fitness)
- | *Skimerke* (skiing)
- | *Sykkelmerke* (bicycling)

Four levels of each medal can be earned by completing a certain amount of activities within a one-year time span. Participants can choose to follow the guidelines given by Sons of Norway headquarters, or work out an individualized program with their Lodge or District Sports Director. To obtain the forms for this program, or to find the contact information for your Lodge or District Sports Director, call 800-945-8851. All forms are also available at www.sonsofnorway.com.



Wolves Still a Major Problem

Wolves in Norway continue to be a major challenge for sheep farmers and Norwegian authorities. According to predator experts, the wolf population in Norway has dropped by 50% between 2001 and 2002. However, four times as many sheep were killed in that same period. Experts are now a little uncertain as to how many wolves exist in Norway.

-*Western Viking*

Today's Norway Norwegian Drinking Tastes

Compared to North America, the selection of beverages in Norway is quite similar, but the preferences of Norwegians are somewhat different. On a sunny, summer day, many Norwegians enjoy a cool glass of *pils* (light beer). Throughout the year, *øl* (beer) and *vin* (wine) are both popular, and for more festive occasions, a little *aquavit* (potato whiskey) may be appropriate.

Almost every kind of alcohol must be purchased at the local *Vinmonopol*, the officially designated "wine monopoly." To purchase wine and beer, Norwegians must be 18 years of age, and to purchase stronger beverages such as aquavit, they must be 20.

Over the last century, many new beverages have been introduced to Norway. One that has reigned supreme is coffee. Norwegians are among the world's biggest coffee drinkers. Black coffee, for most Norwegians, is the only proper way to drink your coffee. More recently, tea has gained a strong following in Norway, but coffee is still number one.

For children and adults alike, two other favorites are *kakao* (hot chocolate) and *brus* (soda pop). It is not uncommon in Norway for a one-liter bottle of Coca-Cola to be placed on the dinner table. To be sure, the drinking habits of Norwegians were not the same one hundred years ago, and they are bound to continue changing.



A Little in English

King Harald Caught Speeding

HM King Harald V was caught speeding at 70 km/h (approx. 45 mph) in a 60 km/h zone on a mountain road near Gol in October 2002. He was immediately let go without a fine, because Article 5 of the Norwegian Constitution grants the king immunity from such violations.

Despite such events, the king is hands-down the Norwegian people's favorite in the royal family, according to an October 2002 survey.

-Norway Times

Royal Baby on the Way

One of the hottest topics in Norway at the moment is the royal baby that is on the way. Newlywed Princess Märtha Louise and her husband Ari Behn are expecting their first child, and the first grandchild of King Harald and Queen Sonja. The child is due in late April or early May, and is sure to be the event of the year for Norwegians. Although the Norwegian Royal Family has its share of native critics, their enormous popularity with most of the Norwegian people is sure to make this birth a momentous occasion for the entire country.

-Western Viking



Litt på norsk

Kong Harald tatt i fartskontroll

HM Kong Harald V ble tatt i fartskontroll for å ha kjørt på 70 km/t (ca. 45 mph) i en 60 km/t sone på en fjellvei utenfor Gol i oktober 2002. Han ble umiddelbart vinket videre uten å få bot. Ifølge paragraf 5 i Grunnloven har kongen immunitet fra slike handlinger.

Tross alt er kongen folkets soleklare favoritt i kongefamilien, ifølge en undersøkelse fra oktober 2002.

-Norway Times

How the Viking Magazine Can Help Tracing your Ancestors

As a member of Sons of Norway, you can receive many benefits. One such benefit you are entitled to is placing an entry into the *Lost Branch* page of the *Viking* magazine. *Lost Branch* is where members doing family research can submit a description of an ancestor they cannot otherwise find information on. This will then be printed in the *Viking* magazine to be read by some 60,000 Scandinavian-Americans.

To post to *Lost Branch*, submit as much as possible of the following about the relative you are trying to research:

- | Name of relation
- | Names of their parents, children, spouses, etc.
- | Date of birth
- | Date of emigration
- | Last known address
- | Date of death

Also provide us with your name and return contact information. Send your submissions to:

Lost Branch
c/o Sons of Norway
1455 W. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408-2666

Norway Geography Trivia

Test how much you know about Norwegian geography:

1. Norway has the deepest lake in Europe. What is its name and where is it?
2. What is the North American equivalent of a Norwegian *fylke*?
3. Norway has the lowest population density in comparison to the rest of Europe. True or false?
4. In what cities are the four universities found in Norway?
5. How many thousands of lakes are there in Norway? a. 50,000? b. 200,000? c. 450,000?

Answers: 1) Lake Hornsandsvatn - 1981 ft. 2) Counties or provinces 3) true 4) Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim og Tromsø 5) b

Thousands of Norwegian Farms Stand Empty

According to Harald Milli of the Norwegian Farmers' Union (*Norges Bondelag*), 34,000 houses on Norwegian farms now stand empty, and one in four farms is permanently uninhabited. Farmers do not think it is a result of excessive government regulation and control, but rather "the problem is that the residency rules are not enforced strictly enough." Especially in recent decades, there has been a significant increase in the number of Norwegian farms either being sold or abandoned, and sometimes changing the name in the process.

-*Western Viking*

Today's Norway Skiing Still a National Pastime

Skiing, in all its many forms, is a major part of the culture of modern Norway. How could it not be in the country that invented skiing? Even the word *ski* is Norwegian.

At this time of year, no Norwegian has to go very far to find good ski slopes and trails. Having access to skiing areas is important to most Norwegians; they are said to be born "med ski på beina" (with skis on their feet), ready to hit the snow.

Today, new rivals to the ski have lured away many Norwegian youth. The best example of this would be the snowboard. This popular sport was invented in North America, and imported to the land where skiing began. Despite new winter sports such as this, skiing continues to reign supreme in its homeland.

In many ways, skiing in Norway today has changed from the way it was done many years ago, yet it still remains a vital part of Norwegian life.

