

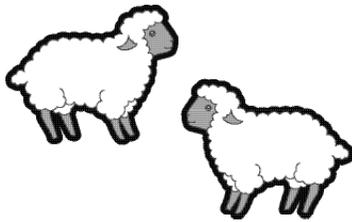
A Little in English

Lambled twice in three weeks

Sheep number 7029 on Åsheim farm in Høylandet, Nord-Trøndelag caused quite a stir among the locals this spring. When the ewe gave birth to triplets, the farmer could not believe it was the same ewe that had had twins just three weeks before. The gestation period for sheep is five months.

But a stunned farmer Knut Arne Almås checked his papers and found it to be true. Almås presumes what happened was that the ewe had been mated twice. Almås decided that the triplets would be bottle-fed to make it easier on the mother.

-Nettavisen



Norwegian Travel Trivia

Most traveling to Norway this summer will use the trains. Try out these questions on Norway's trains:

1. What is the name of Norway's national railroad company?
2. What two places in Norway are connected by a famous railway that descends 2,900 feet in just 12 miles?
3. What is the Norwegian word for train?
4. How long does the scenic daytime train from Oslo to Bergen typically take?
5. When did the first Norwegian railway open? a. 1880? b. 1854? c. 1878?

Answers: 1) NSB (Norges Statsbaner) 2) Myrdal and Flåm 3) Tog 4) 6 1/2 hours 5) b

Litt på norsk

Lammet to ganger på tre uker

Sau nummer 7029 på gården Åsheim på Høylandet i Nord-Trøndelag skapte furore blant lokalbefolkningen i vår. Da sauen fødte trillinger kunne ikke gårdbrukeren tro det at det var samme sauen som hadde fødd tvillinger bare tre uker før. Drektighetstiden hos sauer er fem måneder.

Men en forbauset gårdbruker Knut Arne Almås sjekket opp i papirene og fant at det stemte. Almås antar at det som skjedde var at sauen ble paret to ganger. Almås bestemte at trillingene skulle bli kopplam for å gjøre det lettere for moren.

-Nettavisen

Royal Baby to be Baptized on King Olav's 100th Birthday

The selection of a baptism date is highly symbolic for Scandinavian royalty. That is why Princess Märtha Louise and husband Ari Behn's newborn baby girl, Maud Angelica, will be baptized on the 100th anniversary of the now deceased King Olav V, which falls on July 2nd. Maud Angelica, born on April 29th, will be baptized in the same baptismal gown sown in 1920 for Norwegian royalty and used by all born since, including Maud's own mother. The ceremony will take place at the palace chapel, and is sure to be attended by much of Europe's royalty.

-Aftenposten



Today's Norway

Why Norway is Europe's Best Country

Today's Norwegians continue to enjoy a friendly rivalry with the Swedes and other Nordics, always looking for ways to one-up the others. Based off a playful article in *Nettavisen*, here are some ways Norway is superior to their Scandinavian and European peers:

Sports

Norway has won more Winter Olympic medals than any other country, with 264. Next is Russia, with far more residents, having won 194. Sweden has only 110, and poor Denmark has, well, one.

Income

Leaving out the small fry nations of Monaco and the Vatican, Norway has the highest per capita GDP, ahead of the Swedes, and with the Danes at eleventh place, according to the CIA World Factbook.

Foreign Debt

According to the CIA World Fact Book, Norway is one of only five nations with no foreign debt as of 2001. Sweden has the world's fifth-highest per capita debt, while Danes are at fifteenth.

Mobile Telephones

Leaving out Asian countries and for some reason Slovenia, Norway is at the top of the list for the use of mobile phones, beating Finland and Sweden, who make the big name cell phone brands Nokia and Ericsson.



The Resource is back!

In response to feedback received from officers throughout the organization, Sons of Norway is happy to announce the return of the officers' *Resource* publication, with a new name and a new format. *Viking Resource* will now be a quarterly publication for making officers more aware of exciting new programs and services, important upcoming deadlines, and success stories and ideas for programming and lodge operation from fellow officers.

Unlike the earlier version of *Resource*, the *Viking Resource* will now be made available exclusively online, at www.sonsofnorway.com, with an e-mail sent out quarterly to all officers who have provided Sons of Norway with an e-mail address. The message will alert officers that the latest edition is online.

In addition, while officers who have not given Sons of Norway an up-to-date e-mail address will not receive notification when a new edition is posted online, any officer may access the *Viking Resource* from the website. If you are interested in receiving notification of a new issue of *Viking Resource*, please provide us with an e-mail address.

From a home or public library computer, simply go to the website, click on the red "Members Login" button, select "Viking Resource" and when prompted, type in your SON member number for the "user name" and the first five letters of your last name for "password." Otherwise, you may ask a fellow officer to print a copy for you.

The next issue will be out in mid-July, focusing partly on the Adopt-a-School initiative and local lodge partnership grants. Officers with ideas or suggestions for content are encouraged to contact Sons of Norway at 1-800-945-8851 or lnelson@sofn.com.

VIKING RESOURCE

August 2003

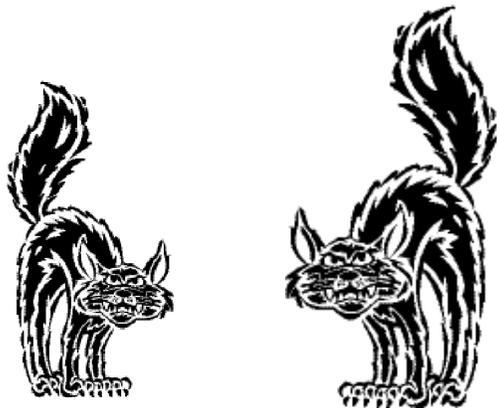
A Little in English UFO Was a Cat

Late one March evening came reports of UFO sightings in Lardal, Vestfold, Norway, after residents had seen a fireball explode in the night sky and slowly drift towards the Earth. The UFO was most likely an unfortunate cat.

Charred feline remains were discovered near a high-voltage tower in Lardal. According to Sheriff Lars Helge Sogn of Lardal, a cat had most likely climbed up in the tower, got caught in the wiring and soon both the cat and the tower had caught fire.

As the tower burned for half an hour, some thought it was perhaps a meteorite or UFO on its way to Earth.

-Aftenposten



Children's Media Library Enlarged

The Sons of Norway Heritage Library is pleased to be able to offer an expanded collection of children's video materials available for lodge meetings and other Sons of Norway related events and activities. The collection now includes such items as Norwegian-language versions of Bugs Bunny and Sesame Street, as well as the Norwegian blockbuster adventure film Flåklypa. Complete video listings are available to lodge officers and other members at www.sonsofnorway.com, and reservations can be made by calling 612-821-4640 or e-mailing culture@sofn.com.

August 2003

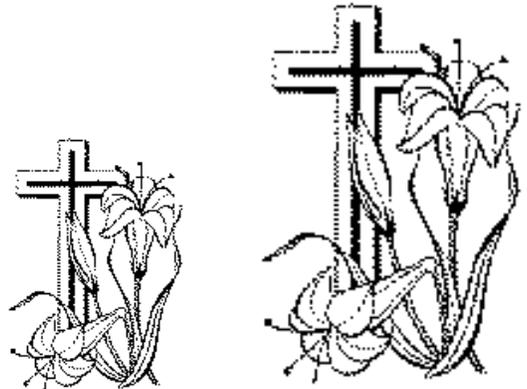
Litt på norsk UFO var katt

Sent en kveld i mars kom det meldinger om UFO-observasjoner i Lardal i Vestfold, etter at folk hadde sett en ildkule eksplodere på nattehimmelen og falle langsomt mot Jorden. UFO'en var trolig en uheldig katt.

Et forbrent kattelik ble oppdaget i nærheten av en høyspentmast i Lardal. Ifølge lensmann Lars Helge Sogn i Lardal var det visst nok en katt som klatret opp i mast, kom borti ledningene og snart hadde både katten og masten tatt fyr.

Da masten brente i en halv time, trodde folk at det kanskje var en meteoritt eller UFO på vei mot Jorden.

-Aftenposten



Norwegian War Hero Dies

Decorated and celebrated war hero Claus Helberg passed away March 6 at the age of 84. Claus was an expert mountain guide who helped lead a party of nine Norwegian Resistance fighters in raiding and destroying the Nazi hard water factory at Vemork in Rjukan, Norway in February, 1943. The attack delayed the Nazi development of atomic weapons, playing a key role in the ultimate triumph of the Allies. Helberg had participated in a commemoration ceremony at Rjukan, Telemark the week before to mark the 60th anniversary of the attack. He died of heart failure at a Rjukan hospital.

-Aftenposten

Norwegian Collegiate Trivia

With school soon in session again, test what you know about Norwegian colleges in the US and Norway:

1. What is the oldest US college founded by Norwegian-Americans?
2. Norwegians pay tuition at their universities. True or false?
3. In what cities are the four universities found in Norway?
4. What American educational institution had the most students from Norway in 2002?
5. What is the only Norwegian college conducted in Sámi, an indigenous language of Norway?

Answers: 1) Luther College in Decorah, Iowa 2) False 3) Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø 4) University of North Dakota - Grand Forks 5) Samisk høgskole - Sámi College in Kautokeino, Finnmark



Today's Norway

Genealogy's Growing Popularity

By some accounts, genealogy is today Norway's largest and fastest-growing hobby. The development of the hobby in many ways mirrors its development in North America, with the advent of the Internet and digital resources, but unique to Norway is the wealth of resources available.

For the 25,000 organized genealogists in Norway, as well as the innumerable part-time genealogy enthusiasts, places like the National Archives in Oslo, www.riksarkivet.no, the Norwegian Emigration Center in Stavanger, www.emigrationcenter.com, and genealogy organizations like the Norwegian Genealogical Society, www.genealogi.no, can be very helpful in finding ancestors and relatives on both sides of the Atlantic. The Norwegian Emigration Center in particular specializes in helping Norwegians connect with living relatives within Norwegian-America.

In the computer realm, the Digital Archives, www.digitalarkivet.uib.no, provides Norwegians and others access to census records from 1660, 1801, 1865, 1875 and 1900, as well as records on Norwegian-Americans primarily from the US 1880 Census.

Courses offered by groups like the 2,000 strong Norwegian Genealogical Society are increasingly popular because most sources that Norwegians use in their research require not simply Norwegian skills, but knowledge of Gothic script, ancient Nordic naming traditions and varying designations for kith and kin.

Profitable Parking

In 2002, Norwegian parking meters gobbled up nearly 300 million kroner (US \$45 million), and that was just the figure for the largest cities of Norway. Of this massive sum, the central government collected 71 million kroner (US \$11 million) via an extra tax the Storting, Norwegian Parliament, tacked on two years ago.

-News of Norway