

July 2002

A Little in English

Increasing the speed limit to 100 km/h

Making big news earlier this year in Norway was this exciting development. Authorities are experimenting with a 'new' plan to increase the speed limit on two stretches of highway near Oslo from 90 to 100 kilometers per hour, or approximately 60 miles per hour. The new limits are to be implemented in two stages, first in Buskerud County around June 20, 2002, then the rest about a year later. Currently there are two stretches of highway with the new limit: one heading southwest from Oslo to Østfold County, and the other heading north from Oslo to the Gardermoen Airport.

From Aftenposten

Sons of Norway Map Services

New County Maps Available

A new series of *fylke*, or county, maps are now available through Sons of Norway. Maps include both a detailed topographic map of the county and an array of historical and other information about the county and the individual communities within. The cost, including shipping and handling, is \$23 for members and \$31 for non-members.

You can also learn more about specific counties or areas of Norway by taking advantage of the free, members-only slide and video loan program, which includes a number of programs on various parts of Norway. Call 800-945-8851 or email culture@sofn.com for more information.



Juli 2002

Litt på norsk

Øker fartsgrensen til 100 km/t

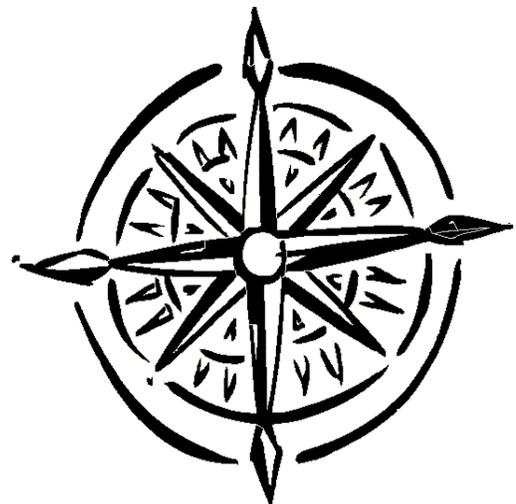
Som en prøveordning skal fartsgrensen på enkelte strekninger i Oslo området økes til 100 kilometer i timen, som er omtrent 60 engelske mil i timen. En strekning i Buskerud fylke får ny fartsgrense rundt 20. juni i år, mens de andre blir skiltet med 100 km/t om ett år. Fra før er to strekninger på E6 - fra Horgenkrysset utenfor Oslo til Østfold fylkesgrense og fra Oslos bygrense til Skedsmovollen sør for Gardermoen - omfattet av prøveordningen.

Fra Aftenposten

Thieves Steal Stale Biscuits

Thieves broke into Nes Church near Vormsund, Norway, and cracked open the church safe. The church silver was removed from the safe but then left behind. The thieves' only bounty appeared to be some old, stale biscuits.

From Western Viking



Today's Norway Norwegian Summer Vacation

When the clouds roll back to the mountains and the sun starts to shine down over Norway, Norwegians eagerly emerge to take advantage of it.

Children of all ages can be heard begging mom and dad for a *pølse* (hot dog) and some *is* (ice cream) for dessert. Young people flock to soccer fields, others relax at a sidewalk café or go for a hike in the woods. Few Norwegians stay indoors for very long this time of the year.

Norwegians, much like North Americans, travel much more in the summer months than any other time of year. According to Statistics Norway (www.ssb.no), 64 percent of Norwegians traveled for four nights or more over the summer in 1997. In July, the busiest traveling month for Norwegians, some 70 percent chose to travel within Norway, and over 30 percent also included other countries. Most summer vacations within Norway are to coastal resorts and cottages.

Norway Helps Satellite Project

As a shining example of globalization, a new venture called Sea Launch has brought American, Norwegian, Russian and Ukrainian companies together to create a new location for satellite launching in the South Pacific Ocean.

In recent years the demand for satellite launches has increased dramatically, but with only three sites in the world to launch from, all on land, there was a need for something new.

So in 1995, Sea Launch was founded by Seattle-based Boeing, Norwegian shipbuilding giant Kvaerner Group, and two firms from the former Soviet Union. For their part, Kvaerner has taken an old North Sea oil rig, refurbished it and floated it off to the South Pacific. They also contribute ships and maritime expertise. Despite cultural and language barriers between the partners, Sea Launch is sure to be a success in the lucrative satellite business.

From *US News & World Report*

Summer Tourist Trivia

See what you know about some of the most popular attractions in Norway for tourists

1. What is the name of the road, found in Romsdal, known for its hairpin turns?
2. What is the Norwegian name of the ferry journey that takes seven days to bring you from Bergen to Kirkenes?
3. In what park in Oslo are Gustav Vigeland's statues found?
4. What beautiful coastal city is known as Norway's "Fjord Capital"?

Answers: 1) Trollstigen 2) Hurtigruten 3) Frognerparken (Vigeland Park) 4) Bergen

Happy 4th of July!!

Fourth of July in Norway

Although it is not a Norwegian holiday, there are many who celebrate America's Independence Day each year in Norway. According to Statistics Norway, there were nearly 15,000 Americans living in Norway as of 2001, making this one of the larger groups of immigrants in Norway, after Swedes and Danes. Each year, the American Embassy in Oslo holds a parade and picnic for Americans and others interested in America's national holiday. If you find yourself in Oslo over the Fourth of July, and you want to celebrate the holiday, call the US Embassy at 22 44 85 50 or visit them. The address is Drammensveien 18, 0244 Oslo.

Happy 4th of July!!

August 2002

A Little in English

Donald Duck More Important than Politics

A leading linguist in the Sami language wants to use public funding to produce a Sami edition of the weekly comic series Donald Duck. It is all right with him if this means less funding for translating political documents to Sami.

According to Statistics Norway, there are 25,000 Sami in Norway, but only 10,000 that speak Sami as their mother tongue.

From *Western Viking*

New Restaurant Smoking Ban

Thanks to Norwegian Health Minister Dagfinn Høybråten, legislation is in the works in Norway to prevent the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. The new laws would ban smoking in all restaurants, pubs and dance clubs nationwide, giving Norway the most restrictive anti-smoking legislation in the world. Somewhat less restrictive laws now exist in several US states, Australia and New Zealand. Despite Minister Høybråten's efforts, however, nearly a third of Norwegians today are daily smokers.

From *Western Viking*



August 2002

Litt på norsk

Donald Duck viktigere enn politikk

En ledende språkforsker i det samiske språk vil bruke statsmidler til å lansere en samisk utgave av den ukentlige tegneserien Donald Duck. Det er helt greit med ham om dette betyr færre midler for å oversette politiske dokumenter til samisk. Ifølge Statistisk sentralbyrå finnes det 25 000 samer i Norge, men bare 10 000 med samisk som morsmål.

Fra *Western Viking*

Seafood Word Find

Norway is famous for its export of fish, namely salmon and trout. According to Statistics Norway, Norway exported over \$3 billion worth of seafood products in 2000. See if you can find the names of some Norwegian seafood in the puzzle below:

B L P O R S K Ø R
J L A K S T L V K
Æ S Å V R B K T V
N T T S E A R S E
Ø O Ø I K I B L I
S R R L E J Å B T
T S R D U Ø E T E
A K T E K S T L P
D R Q R T E E L L

<i>Laks</i>	-	Salmon
<i>Ørret</i>	-	Rainbow Trout
<i>Torsk</i>	-	Cod
<i>Blåskjell</i>	-	Mussels
<i>Reke</i>	-	Prawn
<i>Sild</i>	-	Herring
<i>Krabbe</i>	-	Crab
<i>Kveite</i>	-	Halibut

Julie and Markus Most Popular Names in Norway

Of the children born in Norway in 2001, the most popular girls' name was Julie and the most popular boys' name was Markus/Marcus. Overall, the most common female name in Norway is Anne, and the most common male name is Jan.

If you or someone you know wants to give their child a Norwegian name, Sons of Norway members can ask for a free Information Bank brochure of Norwegian first names. Just call 1-800-945-8851 or email culture@sofn.com. If you have Internet access, you can find out how popular your name is in Norway, visit www.ssb.no/english and select "Search for Names"

From *Statistics Norway*

Church Registries Soon Available Online

Before May 2003, the National Archives of Norway plans to have all *kirkebøker*, or church registries, digitalized, cataloged and available on the Internet, at www.digitalarkivet.no. The project entails transferring over 1.75 million pictures from microfilm to computer.

This will make family history research much easier for everyone, because the archives will be searchable from anywhere that has an Internet connection. It is also planned to make tax records available dating back to the 1600s. Currently, the National Archives has both census records and emigration registries available online.

From *Aftenposten*



Today's Norway Genealogy and Norway

Interest in family history and in tracing those hundreds of thousands who emigrated from Norway to come to North America is not just limited to Americans and Canadians. Many Norwegians are also very interested in genealogy, both for ancestors in Norway and to find a "lost branch" of their family in America.

Norway has some excellent genealogical resources as well. *Riksarkivet* (The National Archives) in Oslo is one of the world's largest underground storage facilities, and houses extensive genealogical records. Their internet page is www.riksarkivet.no/national.html.

The Norwegian Emigration Center (www.emigrationcenter.com) in Stavanger, Norway, founded in 1986, seeks to assist both Americans and Norwegians in researching family history. The center also partners with various travel companies to provide *slektsturer*, or heritage tours, in the United States for interested Norwegians.

Sons of Norway Map Services provides a series of topographic maps printed by the Norwegian Mapping Authority that includes most farm names in the given area. The cost, including shipping and handling, is \$16/members and \$18/non-members. If you know the name of the farm your relatives came from, or you have a particular area no bigger than 100 square miles, Sons of Norway will look up which map(s) you would need. Call 1-800-945-8851 or email culture@sofn.com for more information.

Bergen Named "Cruise Capital" Once Again

The west coast city of Bergen, Norway's unofficial cruise capital, has won a prestigious cruise line industry award for the third year running. The Magazine, Dream World Cruise Destination deemed Bergen 'the most responsive port in Northern Europe'. For the 2002 season, experts forecasted some 190 cruise ships would dock in Bergen, only five less than last year.

From *Norway Post*

