

May 2002

A Little in English

Congratulations Princess Märtha Louise and Ari Behn!

Norway will celebrate yet another royal wedding this month. This time, it will happen in the old city of Trondheim, as Princess Märtha Louise marries well-known Norwegian author Ari Behn.

The Princess and Behn will wed in Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim May 24. While the scale of the event will not match the Crown Prince's wedding last August, it is sure to be a big event for residents of Trondheim and Norwegians around the world.

From *The Royal House of Norway*
www.kongehuset.no



Syttende Mai Program Help

Looking for ways to celebrate or present Norway's National Day at a lodge meeting or other event, or would just like to know more? The Sons of Norway Office can help. Here are some materials available at no charge to members, under the name "Syttende Mai":

- | Mini-Presentation 12
- | Information Bank 1
- | Idea Bank 36
- | Slide program (limited availability)
- | Various video segments of 5-15 minutes in length (limited availability)

Call 1-800-945-8851 or e-mail culture@sofn.com for more information. And remember that a list of all materials can be viewed at www.sonsofnorway.com

Mai 2002

Litt på norsk

Gratulerer Prinsesse Martha Louise og Ari behn!

Norge feirer enda et kongelig bryllup denne måneden. Denne gangen holdes vielsen i Trondheim, der Märtha Louise gifter seg med den kjente norske forfatteren Ari Behn.

Vielsen blir holdt i Nidarosdomen 24.mai. Selv om feiringen ikke blir like stor som Kronprinsbryllupet august 2001, kommer det sikkert til å være en stor begivenhet for både trondheimerne og nordmenn verden rundt.

Fra *Det Norske Kongehus*

Syttende Mai Trivia

Can you answer these questions about Norway's Constitution Day?

1. What year was the Norwegian Constitution written?
2. With what country did Norway enter into union the year the Constitution was written?
3. What city hosts the barnetoget, or Children's Parade, that marches past the Royal Family as they wave to onlookers?
4. What are the secondary school graduates called that have their own march in Norwegian towns on May 17?

Answers: 1) 1814 2) Sweden 3) Oslo 4) Russ



Syttende Mai

Norway's Constitution Day

Perhaps the most important non-religious day of the year for Norwegians is the 17th of May. Celebrations commemorate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814 at Eidsvoll, Norway. Although Norway technically remained in a political union with Sweden for another 89 years, May 17th represents the first proclamation of Norwegian independence from her neighbors.

From Sons of Norway Mini-Presentation 12

Hurra, Hurra, Hurra!

Today's Norway

Norwegian Travel Tips

Traveling in Norway worry-free requires you to remember a few important things. Beforehand, it is a good idea to pack clothing appropriate to the Norwegian climate. No matter what time of year you travel, always take rain gear. Norway's climate is mild, but not warm. The weather can be unseasonal at times, so be prepared.

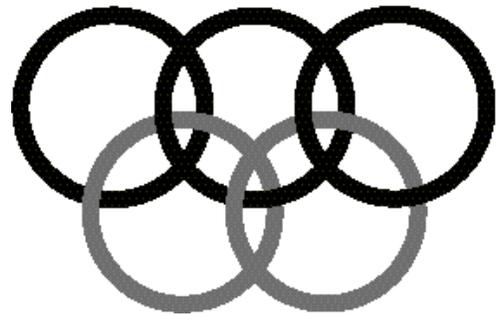
Also, at many hotels and in Norwegian homes, it is common to make something called a matpakke (pack of food) at breakfast, especially if the rest of the day involves a great deal of traveling. Matpakker consist of all that is necessary to make smørbrød (open-faced sandwiches), wrapped in wax paper or foil. Matpakker are especially handy for train and bus travel, as food can be difficult to get on the long rides, as well as expensive. Of course, you should ask hotel staff or your hosts if this is acceptable, but be assured that this is not an unusual question.

God tur!

Celebrating Norway's National Day May 17th in Norway and North America

In Norway, children and adults alike look forward to May 17. The holiday represents Norwegian national identity, as well as the coming of the sunny, warm summer months. In cities and towns, residents dress up in bunader or their very best outfits complete with sløyfer, pins of red, white and blue ribbons. Parades of children, rurs, or secondary school graduates, and other community groups march through Norway's streets singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs.

In Norwegian-North America, May 17th is also an important day. Coast to coast, Norwegians in cities and towns turn out to show their pride. Larger festivities typically include parades of flags and bunader, the Norwegian national anthem, delicious foods from Norway and America, and demonstrations of Norwegian culture. For a list of May 17th events around North America, be sure to check the May issue of the Viking, or visit www.sonsofnorway.com or www.nor-am.org



2002 Norway's Best Olympics

This year, Norway celebrated the most gold medals ever won in the Olympic Games. Norwegian athletes took home 11 gold medals, 7 silver and 4 bronze. The first gold medalist of the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City was Norwegian Kari Traa, who had her victory skiing the moguls. In all, Norway has won 94 gold medals in the Winter Games, more than any other single nation.

From Aftenposten

June 2002

A Little in English Progress Party Wants Floating Prisons

Norway's conservative Progress Party wants floating prisons built on the sea to alleviate the growing number of prisoners waiting to be incarcerated.

The Progress Party's Andre Kvakkestad made the suggestion, noting the success of similar projects in places like Great Britain. Today there are more than 2,000 waiting to be incarcerated in Norway.

From *Aftenposten*

Skiers in Canada set Guinness World Record

Eighty skiers in Ottawa, Ontario, set the world record for the greatest number of people on a single pair of giant skis. The feat was achieved in conjunction with Keskinada Loppet, a winter sports event founded to celebrate Canada and Norway's common love of winter sports, and to honor Norway as the birthplace of all types of skiing. Among the 80 participants was the Norwegian Ambassador to Canada, Ingvar Havnem. The entire group skied 120 meters on a 250-foot pair of skis.

From *Western Viking*



Juni 2002

Litt på norsk Frp vil bygge flytende fengsler

Frp (Fremskrittspartiet) mener at Norges lange soningskøer kan kortes ned ved å bygge flytende fengsler på sjøen.

Det er Frps Andre Kvakkestad som har kommet med forslaget, og han viser til gode erfaringer med slike prosjekter i blant annet Storbritannia. I dag står mer enn 2.000 personer i soningskø.

Fra *Aftenposten*



Today's Norway Shopping in Norway

Norwegian shopping habits are quite different from those of North Americans. Although it is becoming a common sight to see indoor shopping malls filled with fjortiser, or young teenagers on cellular phones, shopping the day away, this is by no means the norm.

Many Norwegians continue to do their shopping at smaller stores and at open-air markets. If looking for deals, many seek out a loppemarked, or flea market, usually open on Saturdays in town centers. Also, many Norwegians tend to buy their groceries for one or two days at a time rather than stock up on a week's worth of food at once.

For North American tourists in Norway, it may seem that many Norwegian banks, offices and shops keep inconvenient hours. Most shops close by 6 or 7 p.m. weekdays, and earlier on weekends, with banks and post offices closed even earlier. Travelers should plan accordingly.

Sankthansaften Midsummer's Eve in Norway

Sankthansaften, the Norwegian term for the celebration of summer solstice, is an enjoyable event for many Norwegians. On the evening of June 23, or the closest Saturday to that date, bonfires small and large can be seen on hilltops and coastlines across the country. It is a festive occasion to gather round the bonfire and celebrate summer. In Northern Norway, this time also represents the time of the Midnight Sun, or midnattsolen, when many stay awake the whole night, as the sun never sets.

Originally, this day was a pagan holiday honoring the sun at summer solstice. However, when Norway became a Christian country, the traditions became mixed with a celebration of the birth of John the Baptist. Today, the holiday is an occasion for togetherness and fun.

From *Sons of Norway Mini-Presentation 24*

Sons of Norway Tours Høstfest and special tour to Italy

Høstfest 2002 dates have changed. Mark your calendar for October 8-12 and reserve your place on the Sons of Norway tour arranged through Utopia Tours, and reservations should be made soon. Call 1-800-821-8687 (Utopia Tours) for reservations.

Sons of Norway is also offering a "Highlights of Italy" tour September 20-28, 2002. The stay is based in the quaint, popular towns of Chianciano and Fiuggi, with wonderful optional excursions available. Prices start at \$1,249. Mark your calendars and reserve your spot today by calling Global Holidays at 1-800-842-9023.



Famous Norwegian Artist Vigeland Birthday April 11

See if you can find the names of some towns in Norway in the puzzle below:

K R I S T I A N S A N D
T A S Æ T I M T R O T I
B Å U Ø B A G R Å S R A
E M Q T T S V N T L O S
R T P T O Å T A S Å N T
G R L R H K P R N A D S
E O T O R G E V Æ G H Ø
N Æ B M W T S I R E E P
Å L E S U N D K N N I R
O T S Ø M D O S L O M T

City names to find:

Oslo – Norway's modern-day capital

Trondheim – Ancient Viking capital in central Norway

Bergen – Second largest city, "the fjord capital" on the west coast

Tromsø – Beautiful, lively city north of the Arctic Circle

Kristiansand – On southern coast, founded by Christian IV

Stavanger – "The oil city" in south Norway

Kautokeino – Main city of the Sami people, in northern Norway

Narvik – Northern Norway town, destroyed in WWII, rebuilt again

Ålesund – Beautiful west coast city

Church and State May Separate

The Norwegian Church Council has recommended cutting the 500-year old tie between the Church of Norway and the state. While this would mean no more government support, the Church would remain a national church. If approved, the change won't take place for another five-eight years.

From *Norway Times*