



Scandinavian Winter Scene

Scandinavian Club of the Southeast Valley

Meeting at the Sun Lakes Country Club, Arizona Room

January, 2013



WHAT THINGS DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF THE SOUTHEAST VALLEY'S DINNER MEETINGS?



“There were quite a few people coming from our church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and they told us about it. I like the friendliness of the

people, and we get to meet a lot of new people. And we find out that some of them maybe live right near us in Minnesota, and so we have that connection. We live in Stillwater, near the Twin Cities. And I bring my husband along to these dinners even though he’s not a ‘Scandiwhovian.’ I met him at a college, a Swedish school in Minnesota, on a blind date. His name was Rome, his hair was black, and he had brown eyes. And I thought, ‘Hmmm, I’ve got a lot of work to do’.

Connie Rome

Jeff Arneson captured these thoughts for us.



“Being Norwegian and being Scandinavian, it’s a joy for me to come out here and be with other Scandinavians. It’s pretty interesting, especially when you’re sitting around the table eating to ask, ‘Where are you from? We get a lot of people from North Dakota. We’re the only ones, I think, from Illinois.’”

Brian Jacobsen

“I like the fellowship, the knowledge I gain about the Scandinavian heritage, and the FOOD! I’m not Norwegian, so I married into the Scandinavian heritage. There isn’t anything I’d change about these ‘get-togethers.’ I think it’s very well run, we’re a very good group, we get along, we accomplish a lot, we raise money for the kids, so it’s really nice!”

Carol Jacobsen, Membership Chairman

What a treat it was to be entertained by the Dobson High School Madrigal Choir at our December Dinner meeting. Visit our website at <http://www.scandiclub.org> for a link to YOUTUBE to view the sing-along.

While the choir isn’t allowed to charge a fee for their performances, they are in need of money to offset expenses. Those who attended the December event were generous in contributing some \$300 to the choir.



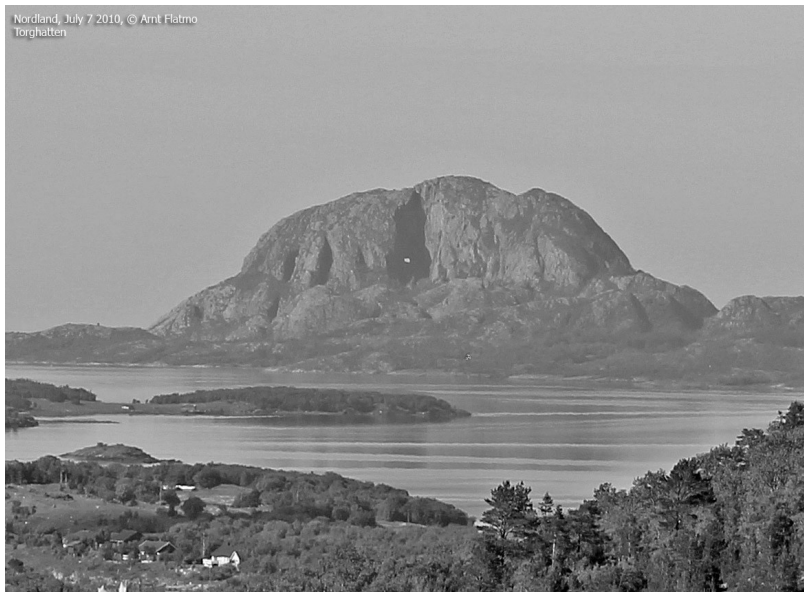
TORGHATTEN **(Torger's Hat)**

South of Brønnøysund, on the west coast of Norway is a legendary natural landmark. Dominating a small, but inhabited island named **Torger** is a mythic mountain with a hole in the middle.

Legend has it that the King of Lofoten called *Vägekallen* had a son who was a lustful maniac named *Hestmannen* (the Horse Man). Inland lived the king of the *Sulis* with his seven lovely daughters. One time when the seven of them — this was when they still had the beautiful *Lekamøya* among them — were visiting a woman who lived by the sea, they decided to bathe naked one evening. The lecherous *Hestmannen* caught sight of them, and *Lekamøya*, who was incredibly beautiful, was too much of a temptation for this boy from Lofoten. At midnight he saddled his horse and galloped across the fjord to capture her.

When the sisters saw him coming they ran as fast as they could down the channel toward the south. At Brønnøysund lived the king of the *Sømna fjellet Mountain*, who was awakened by the commotion. When he saw the raging *Hestmannen* lift his bow and send an arrow after these fleeing beauties, he tossed his hat in the path of the arrow. And at that very moment, the sun rose.

Thus it has become a tenant of Norwegian folklore that trolls cannot survive in the sun. The moment the sun appears, a troll will turn to stone. Today, *Vägekallen*, *Hestmannen*, *Lekamøya*, and several others have taken the guise of popular landmarks along the coastline.



Nordland, July 7 2010, © Arnt Flatmo
Torghatten

Just south of the port of Sandnessjøen, live the beautiful sisters — seven mountains all in a row — remembering their days in the world of trolls. The hat belonging to the king of the *Sømna fjellet* at Brønnøysund, complete with the hole the arrow made in it, is now a mountain called “*Torghatten*.”

[Note: The “hole” is 520 ft. long, 115 ft. wide, and 66 ft. high. It was formed during the Scandinavian ice age. Ice and water eroded the looser rocks in the center, while the harder ones in the surrounding mountain top resisted erosion].

Our thanks to Howard Baumgart for providing this article

Bruce Brown's AUTHENTICATION OF HIS NORWEGIAN HERITAGE

I was born and grew up in a predominately Norwegian community and became aware of my roots quite early in life. There were three Brown brothers with their families, ours among them, living in Lima Township just east of the Village of Remer, Minnesota. We lived neighbors to the Boe, Sorum and Halverson families. They all conversed in Norwegian as well as English in the course of their visits together.

My concern over our heritage grew out of the fact Brown didn't fit. To make matters more confusing, I was named Bruce. This led people to suggest that I must be of Scottish and/or English decent. How did I end up with the name Bruce Brown?

So the quest for finding the original family name began.

My heritage search found that Erick Boe, my maternal grandfather was born to Gotstock Ivarsson Rockne in Voss Norway in 1872.

His parents bought the Bo farm but kept the name Rockne. The children all took the name Bo, which turned into Boe here in the U.S. In 1892 Erick Boe and an older brother Andrew traveled to the U.S. intending to stay only about three years. Instead in 1902 he homesteaded the land that would become his farm in Lima Township.

Grandpa loved to tell us about his beloved Voss, and the Voss church where he was baptized and confirmed. Carolyn and I had the privilege of visiting Voss in 2001, and it was as beautiful as Grandpa had described it. He was able to go back for a visit in 1931, and again in 1955. He wanted to be buried there but that was not to be. (Continued on back page)

**It's time to mark your calendar for
the annual heritage dinner on
February 17th !!!!!!!**

Once again, Scandinavians' will be displaying some wonderful treasures of theirs with us. In addition to artifacts, consider photos you might share. And, you might be interested in the authentic Swedish dress to be auctioned off.

After time to socialize with fellow Scandinavians' we will be treated to a buffet dinner consisting of chicken cordon bleu or lemon crumb cod served with twice baked potato and green bean almondine.

Be sure to pick up your tickets at the January meeting. Tickets can also be purchased at the Sun Lakes, Phase One concierge desk. Watch for information in your e-mail on how you can purchase tickets on-line or at Ace Hardware You can also arrange for tickets by calling Ken Egertson at 480-883-9301.

The cost for dinner and a special evening honoring our Scandinavian heritage is \$20 per person (\$22 on-line).

On January 20th we will have some great entertainment from Mike and Gayle Rigert-Harris and their very special music using the harp and steel drums.

We will also hear from Gordon Roen as he shares his Norwegian heritage and memories of a trip to Norway.

On March 17, we end our monthly gatherings until next November. For some this is the last opportunity to "meet and greet" with others until next fall.

COME JOIN US AT

Sun Lakes Country Club, Phase I
25601 N. Sun Lakes Blvd.-Arizona Room

**Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00,
Programs at 7:00**

Happy New Year! Yes, we got through another Holiday season, despite the hustle, bustle, traffic, crowds, etc. – and yet we have much to be grateful for, and even more to look forward to...

Looking back on our Fall meetings, we saw a surge of new members and guests. Current membership in SCSEV is approaching 90 and our treasury has a healthy balance of nearly \$800! VP Ken Egertson's programs have been well received, starting with the patriotic program in November, and the Christmas celebration at the December meeting.

Oh, and the food! Ooftah. it just keeps getting better (I was STUFFED, after just sampling the December smorgasbord)! Our thanks to all who brought food for the Christmas feast – and that, I have been reminded, includes men as well as women!

We welcome our new members from the surrounding community, including the six members of **the Bola Society of Arizona**, who attended the December meeting. One of them, Chuck Hughes, brought his grandmother's Swedish dress, which he has generously donated to the Club. We are planning to auction this artifact at the February Heritage Dinner.

In December, you again showed your generosity in support of youth – you contributed more than \$300 to the music program at Dobson High School! This is a fitting tribute to the excellent performance by Choir Director Ron Anderson and his Madrigal Singers. The money will help the students attend the Madrigal competition held in Flagstaff. Also, you contributed over 100 lb. of food for the needy. Thank you for your generosity!

A sign in a national museum read, "The past is prologue..."; when asked what that meant, a guide said, "You haven't seen anything yet!" We are having a good year, thanks to the work of the Board and membership; however, I believe that we have yet to see the best of Club activities. Stay tuned...and invite your neighbors, friends and relatives to join us! Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2013!

Maynard J. Iverson, Chief Viking (President, SCSEV)

Not too many states can claim to have Official State Neckware. But Arizona has that distinction, and the bola tie has the honor. The bola tie became the official Arizona state neckwear when Gov. Jack Williams signed House Bill 19 on April 22, 1971. The Bola Tie Society of Arizona was formed in 1966.

A bola tie consists of a braided leather cord held about the neck by a pendant, which can consist of anything from an elegant turquoise stone to a scorpion encased in plastic. The word "bola" is a shortened form of "boleadoras," the name for strands of weighted braided rope. Best known for use by South American Gauchos.

Bruce Brown's Authentication of his Norwegian Heritage (continued from page two)

My paternal grandfather Erik Olson Broen,, the son of Ole Erikson Broen was born in 1851 near Ovre Rendalen north of Oslo. He and an uncle immigrated to the U.S. in 1881. Erik settled on a farm at Kimberly, Minnesota, just north of Atkin. Somewhere along the way to that farm, the "e" was removed from his name and replaced with "w" becoming Brown instead of Broen. My father was William Brown, born on that farm in 1897. He was the youngest living child of the family.

Tragedy struck the family; grandfather had become an invalid, from what I'm not sure. Some say he was kicked by a horse, and one uncle thought he had MS. He died in July of 1903 leaving behind a wife and seven children with no means of support.

In October my dad's little two and half year old sister died of diphtheria, and on Oct 28th of the same year my grandma Bertha died of a broken heart.

The remaining family of six siblings was orphaned. Two brothers ended up in a home in Remer. Dad and his sister were taken in by the Torstein Paulson family, south of Aitkin. The remaining two boys went with a family in Bennetville. The family all got back together in their adult years.

I grew up exposed to my Norwegian roots in a manner to make me proud of my heritage. Of course I asked my dad how the name was changed. He thought the name was Sogard. In fact one of the uncles married a Sogard lady, and moved to the Sogard farm. He did take the name of that farm, and became Lars Sogard. He thought the name must have been changed at Ellis Island. But being orphaned and separated from the rest of his siblings, dad really didn't know.

A break came in 2002 from a cousin that was working on family genealogy. He had been to Norway and met family there. He returned with pictures of the family farm and relatives that had remained in Norway. The name was "BROEN" which means little bridge. The bridge provided a crossing to get to the farm. Now I can tell those who say I have a Norwegian accent that it is legitimate.

I AM AN AMERICAN NORWEGIAN. Bruce

Note re: the map on the right. The Green A balloon is Ovre Rendalen, birthplace of paternal grandfather Erik Olson Broen. The green B balloon is Voss, Norway, birthplace of maternal grandfather Erick Boe. The distance by highway is some 390 miles (630 km), about a eight and 1/2 hour drive.

SOME PEOPLE WE MET AT THE DECEMBER DINNER MEETING



Dave and Joan Anciaux



Joy Petersen



Robert and Nancy Sjolin



Chuck Hughes, (note the bola tie).



Jean Ahnmark and daughter Nancy Roberts

We hope you take advantage of the opportunity to share some time with those who are new (and with those who aren't so new) to our Club. Too often we find ourselves at the table with those we are familiar with.

If so, you are missing out on one of the really great benefits of the Scandinavian Club. Be sure and look for a table with a less than familiar face. You will surely be rewarded.



Bruce and Carolyn (Broen) Brown

