

Pins and Awards for October 2008

by Gerry Rowe

Membership Service Pins are awarded at regular Business Meetings each month to those who attend. For those who have earned a pin but have not received it, I can mail it to you upon your request. Call or e-mail me, Gerry Rowe, (818) 346-8393, roweurboat@aol.com to request your pin. Proudly wear your colorful ribbons and pins in honor of your dedicated service to Sons of Norway.

The following Norrona members earned pins in October:

10 year member (Joined 1998)

Joy Brooks October 23, Simi Valley, CA

Bill Brooks October 23, Simi Valley, CA

25 Year Member (Joined 1983)

Lars Heske October 28, Toluca Lake, CA

50 Year Member (Joined 1958)

Alice Iverson, October 11 Mesquite, TX

Vice President's Message by Gerald Rowe

The Fall Membership Drive will again be conducted in conjunction with the Norrona Lutefisk and meatball Dinner and we have some special incentives for both new members and current members that renew for 2009 (see separate article). I will be working hard on promotion along with Gary Thorpe, Ole Olson Jr., and Lars Heske to make it as successful as last year.

I attended the S/N International Convention in San Diego in August and it was a leap forward in technology, strongly supported by the Home office staff. I was honored to be an International delegate to take the place of LaVonne Kerfoot who was ill and could not attend. I will be preparing a report on the Convention to the Norrona membership.

Election of Officers for the next 2 years is coming up and I hope that you all are thinking positively about what you can do for Norrona.

And, of course, the Lutefisk Dinner is fast approaching so soon we will need help for Lefse baking, meatball rolling and other preparations to feed about 800 people that show up each year.



Peer Gynt-22 Lodge 28th Annual Heritage Faire

Saturday, October 4, 2008

12:00pm-5:00pm

Admission \$2.00

Children under 16 free, with parents.

Norwegian Refreshments

Cultural Demonstrations

Heritage Information

Scandinavian Imports

Peer Gynt Hall

3835 Watseka, Culver City

Information: 323 634-7605

Location: Watseka is between Venice and Washington Blvd., several blocks east of Overland, and just east of Brotman Medical Center. From 405, take Venice/Washington exit. Drive east on Venice to Watseka.

Free parking available in City lot across the street.

Join in this festive celebration of Norwegian Heritage.

Primstav

The Norse knew a year consisted of 365 days. They had their own calendar, called Primstav. This was a wooden, flat stick with symbols on each side. The symbols are pretty basic, and open to interpretation. The Primstav had two sides, one for the summer and one for winter. Summer-side started with the vernal equinox and ended the day before autumnal equinox. The winter-side started with autumnal equinox and ended the day before the vernal equinox

The Primstav had marks on special days like when a farmer should sow, harvest, etc. Given the short growing season, it was imperative to know the best time for the sowing of seed, or the time when cattle might safely be let out to graze. It also had marks for winter solstice and summer solstice as well as for special days related to Nordic Gods.

This separation of the year still existed well after Christianity was introduced in Norway, and can be illustrated by people's way of telling the time. The Primstav gives us insight into how important tradition and customs were to these people who lived so closely with one another yet isolated from the rest of the world.

In Norway they have found many Primstavs from Christian time, but none from before 1000. Understandable because wood tends to decay. The oldest primstav still in existence was made in 1457. The primstav probably remained in use in isolated parts of the country until well into the 19th century.

You can make your own "Primstav". They can represent special activities representing a month or a week. Using a felt tip marker and a long piece of paper, add symbols to represent what you are doing this month.

