

THE NAVIGATOR

A Publication of Roald Amundsen Lodge 6-48
Sons of Norway, Sacramento, California
December 2020 - Year almost over!

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“Surpassing even the New York Times
in Creative Journalism”



Merry Christmas

Covid pouring cold water....



2020: Christmas table with invited guests.



*(Photo taken last year at Sons of Norway
Minneapolis staff New Year's Eve party!)*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: NOT MUCH TO CHEER YOU UP.



THE MISSION OF SONS OF NORWAY is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

PRESIDENT NORM'S COLUMN:

December, 2020

Dear Lodge Members,

I am writing this letter after having a quiet, small Thanksgiving. I fear the Grinch (Covid-19) will steal the Christmas we are used to celebrating. I intend to remain optimistic despite the media sense of gloom. To

this end lights are going up, candles fill the house with pleasant scents, and the dogs are being fitted for antlers.

Once again, patience. I for one would like more patience and I mean right now. Vigilance in our safety protocols will get us through this period of trial. Reach out, (not literally) to friends and family to find and give good cheer. This month we celebrate the birthday of One who is the epitome of hope and peace. Thus, this month is the ending of a time of despair and the beginning of renewed hope that the end of this pandemic is in sight.

Focus on your memories of Christmas past to remind yourself what you have had, rather than what you have lost. FM 96.1 in December will play every Christmas song that you ever loved... or hated. Hallmark channel runs continuous holiday cheer programs. Remember that this current virus problem is just another of the difficulties that you have faced and overcome. You know how to weather adversity and push past it. Stay safe, stay optimistic, have faith in our ability to prevail, and in the words of Tiny Tim "God Bless us, everyone". -Norm



RAYE BROWN

We have been informed that, sadly, long time member **Raye Brown** passed away on October 12th. She had been a member of the lodge since 1998. Her husband, **Gary Brown**, is a current member of the lodge. We have no further information at this time. We will pass on any forthcoming information that we obtain in the next Navigator. We all wish that she will rest in peace.



*Raye Brown
(archival photo)*

He has met every President since Ike....

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN ORION SAMUELSON RETIRING AFTER 60 YEARS AT CHICAGO “FLAMETHROWER” WGN

His farm reporting and “Samuelson sez” commentary are heard over much of the United States....



Once you have heard the stentorian voice of Orion Samuelson, 86, you are not likely to forget it. He will give his last broadcast after 60 years (!) from WGN in the Tribune Tower on December 31st. Due to WGN’s “clear channel”* it will be listened to by farmers and other agricultural folks all over the Midwest, the plains states, southwest as far as Arizona, south into Florida, and probably even in Cuba.

Orion grew up on a dairy farm in western Wisconsin, started by one of his grandfathers from Norway. All his grandparents were from Norway; they spoke Norwegian as did his parents, who also spoke English. The pastor of their small local Lutheran church gave the sermon on Christmas and Easter in Norwegian. Orion was born in the farmhouse during a snow storm (1934) and

when of age attended a one-room school house. When he was young the family home did not have electricity. He was destined to inherit the farm and be a dairy farmer, but a childhood disease weakened him and he realized he would not be able to do the heavy work. A teacher got him interested in broadcasting.

After a stint in the Navy, he got his first broadcasting job at WHBY in Appleton, Wisconsin. Shortly thereafter, he moved to WBAY in Green Bay where, given his background, he was asked to do an agricultural program. As he became more known, he attended a lot of meetings and shows in Chicago at the stockyards, the famed Hilton hotel, the International amphitheater, etc. He was also dispatched to Washington, DC, where he met **President Dwight Eisenhower and Ezra Taft Benson**, the Secretary of Agriculture who later became the President of the Mormon Church.

While still in Green Bay, he attended a political speech by a young Senator running for President named **Jack Kennedy**. Orion asked him a few questions about dairy farming that Kennedy danced around but really could not answer. After the speech, one of Kennedy’s associates asked Samuelson if he would meet for a little while with the Senator. So, they met in the bar of the Northland Hotel, where Kennedy was staying, and Kennedy spent an hour with Samuelson getting educated on dairy farming while all at the table were drinking, not milk, but Scotch.

When **Reagan** was President, Samuelson met him and was on the shortlist for Secretary of Agriculture. In 1972, he was invited to White House for dinner with **Richard Nixon and Norman Borlaug**, who had just won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the Green Revolution. (Borlaug was also a farm boy, from Iowa, and also Norwegian.) Orion was good friends with **Bob Dole**, another ag expert.

*(See next page for asterisk * comment.)*

(Continued on page 4)

(Samuelson, continued from page 3)



SUPERSTATION

of his own opinions about farm topics, at the website for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. (Article compiled by the lodge's Minister of Culture.)

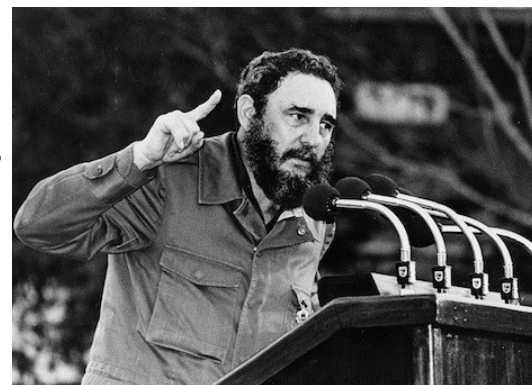
Samuelson has traveled all over the world on behalf of various trade missions. He has met with world leaders. Simply said, his life has just been fascinating. In his programs on WGN he tries to remain the interviewer so as to elicit the opinions of the interviewee. We cannot publish his whole biography here, but you can read the transcripts of many interviews with him, which include many

When your editor was a kid he would often listen to WGN, as it came in clearly in Madison Wisconsin, 100 miles from Chicago. He still sometimes listens to the station at night, as you can find it on the internet. Samuelson's broadcasts are always interesting.

*A clear channel AM radio station in the United States means one whose frequency was originally protected throughout the continental states (and still today in its primary service area). WGN broadcasts at 50,000 watts, the highest power AM broadcast permitted in the US. Some stations in other countries, like Mexico, broadcast at a higher wattage. KNBR in San Francisco and KFI and KNX in Los Angeles are clear channel stations, as is KFBK here in Sacramento. Samuelson, in an interview, had this to say about WGN and its clear channel franchise,

“As a matter of fact, the first one to come on our frequency was *Fidel Castro*, back during the missile crisis in '62. During that time, when we were blockading the Russian ships from bringing missiles into Cuba— a very tense time—*John Kennedy*, the president, asked four radio stations in the U.S. to carry him addressing the Cuban people in their language in a five-minute address every hour on the hour from midnight to 5:00 a.m. for four nights, and WGN was one of the stations he selected. We had a strong signal into Cuba. So for I guess five nights, from midnight to 5:00, every hour, we'd carry this five-minute message, where the president said, “It's not you we're against; it's your leadership, and we can't allow these missiles to come into your country.”

“Within six months, Fidel Castro had a 200,000-watt station on all four frequencies of the stations that had carried it. And at night, with that sky wave, if you lived on the south side of Chicago, you couldn't get WGN; you got Cuba. Because, you know, the limitation in this country is 50,000 watts. That's the maximum power you can have on a radio station. Well, he put a 200,000-watt on all four. It took until 1973, working through the Swiss embassy, to get that changed. Now he's ten cycles or so off our frequency, and so it helps it. But he was the first to start breaking down the radio station.”



Go to <https://wgnradio.com/orion-samuelson/orion-samuelson-audio/orion-remembers-the-jfk-assassination/> to hear Samuelson reporting Kennedy's assassination.

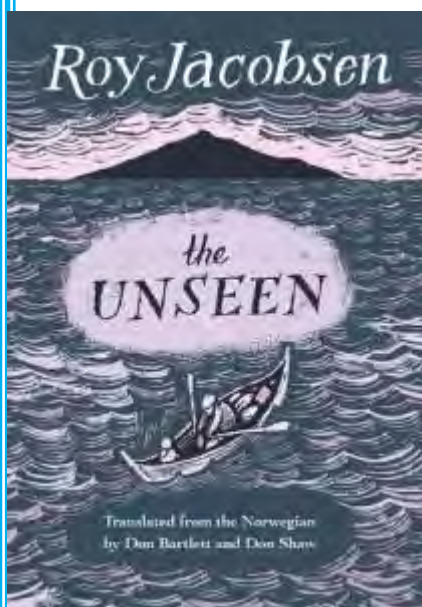
Covid not destroying this lodge activity...
LODGE BOOK CLUB THRIVES

After our thrilling run to the South Pole we chose a more sedate adventure—walking on winding paths through the Norwegian countryside, led by Thorbjørn Ekelund’s book, *In Praise of Paths: Walking through Time and Nature*. Unexpectedly beset by epileptic seizures, Ekelund had to give up driving. Turning tragedy into opportunity, Ekelund re-discovered the timeless joy of walking and deeply experiencing the world with all his senses. We walked with him, and in the process renewed our own commitments to getting out, on our feet, with eyes, ears, and noses open to discoveries, old and new.

(And in the past it thrrove? Thrived? Has thriven? Has thrived? The first records of the **word thrive** come from the 1100s. It comes from the Old Norse **word** *thrifask*, meaning “to grasp for oneself.” To **thrive** isn’t just to survive or get by—it’s to grow strong, to be successful.)



This fall the Book Club finds itself on a small, windswept island off the coast of Northern Norway, helping a poor, but plucky family survive by fishing the restless sea in small row-boats, grubbing potatoes from the rocky soil, and ferrying a small flock of sheep to crop the grass on one rocky islet after another.



Our ticket to this adventure is *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen, who not only takes us more than six thousand miles away from Sacramento, but transports us back in time a hundred years, before North Sea oil, when Norwegians struggled for existence in a harsh and unforgiving land.

If you wish to join our intrepid adventures, you need only email Noelle Buer (contact: speedynoelle@gmail.com), founder of the Sons of Norway Book Club, and take a quick trip to the Amazon or the nearest library to pick up our current reading selection. Noelle will add you to the membership list, and you will be invited to join our somewhat regular Zoom meetings and email chats. Our current selection, *The Unseen*, is available from Amazon for \$17, a travel deal even Southwest Airlines can’t beat. —*From Noelle and Stein Buer.*

Lodge Condolences to long-time member **Beverly Buel**, whose son **Larry Buel** recently passed away at his home in Prescott, Arizona, due to complications from Covid 19. Larry is survived by his wife, a son, and his sister **Pamela Roberts** who lives here in Sacramento. Beverly is a friend of lodge member **Gwen Lokke**, and she was a visitor to Norway some years ago as part of a travel group organized by lodge member **Carol Francis**.

A more extensive obituary can be found in the **Sacramento Bee** of November 29, or on the Bee's website. We are so very saddened by this tragedy.

Prominent Sacramentan and Norwegian-American ENLOW OSE, 96, PASSES AWAY



Mr. Ose was the son of Norwegian immigrant farmers from Aardal, Norway who settled in Iowa, where they also were farmers. He grew up on farms in central Iowa and then enrolled at Iowa State. His stay there was interrupted by service in the US Navy. He later returned to Iowa State and graduated with two engineering degrees in 1947. He met his wife, Melena, at the university.

Ose moved to Sacramento in 1955 and after a few years he began a highly successful career developing real estate. Over the years he and Melena have donated millions of dollars to charitable organizations in Sacramento and elsewhere. Some of the local beneficiaries have included the Sutter Medical Center Foundation, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Crocker Art Museum, Iowa State University Foundation, Sacramento State University Foundation, McGeorge Law School, KVIE and Capital Public Radio.

Mr. Ose researched his and Melena's roots extensively and with great success, publishing several books and enabling his extended family in the US to establish enduring friendships with family in Norway, a source of great pleasure for many, according to the Sacramento Bee.

Enlow Ose passed away on November 12th. His Son, **Doug Ose**, was a US Congressman for several terms representing parts of Sacramento.

FROM OUR ZONE 1 DIRECTOR AND LODGE MEMBER:

Dear Roald Amundsen Lodge Members.

Another year is coming to an end and what a year it has been. We tried to get some connection with you by having a drive by for some Norwegian goodies, but unfortunately we only had a few takers. We cancelled the "drive by", but are filling the orders in person. Thank you to the people that did place an order, hopefully you will enjoy your cookies and meat balls.

We miss you all especially at this time of the year when we usually have Viking Fest, Julebord and Children's Christmas party. Well I guess we all have to look forward to next years events and hopefully they will be fantastic.

I wish you all a nice Christmas with your closest relatives.

GOD JUL, Hilsen, Tove-Lise, Social Director.

SIDEBARS WITH THE EDITOR...



NORWAY DOING WELL COMBATING VIRUS

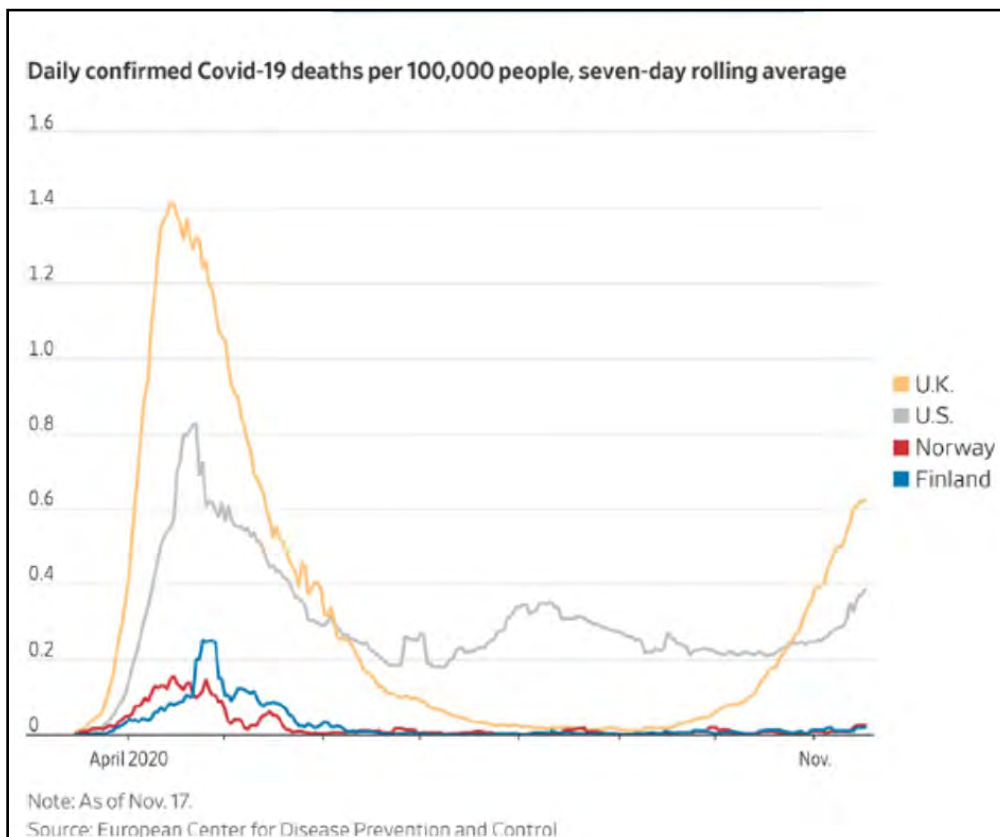
It was reported November 19th in the Wall Street Journal that Norway and Finland were doing better, by far, in combating the Covid virus than is all the rest of Europe. “Their recipe: a brief, targeting lockdown in March, followed by tight border controls with mandatory testing and quarantine for all travelers.” (See graph, below.)



On the other hand... NORWEGIAN AIR SHUTTLE SEEKS BANKRUPTCY REORGANIZATION

This low-cost Norwegian airline, suffering from the passenger fall-off due to the Covid virus and fleet complications due to ordering Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, has filed for examinership in Ireland, a process that allows a company to restructure its debts and assets over a five month period.

(Continued on page 8)



Daily confirmed Covid-19 deaths per 100,000 people, seven-day rolling average. Source: European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. Note: As of Nov. 17.

(*SIDEBARS, Continued from page 7*)

YOUR LODGE MAKES ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Last month we discussed how the lodge, with the help of the Sons of Norway Foundation, was helping Cordova High School. This month we would like to report that the following local organizations have recently received annual monetary contributions from the lodge:

Women's Empowerment

Mustard Seed School

WEAVE

Loaves and Fishes

Children's Receiving Home

Your lodge has also made contributions to:

District 6 Century Club for Camp Norge

Sons of Norway Foundation

Ski for Light

Camp Norge

If any member supports a charity that he or she thinks the lodge should consider supporting, tell a Board member. The Board will consider it and present its recommendation to the lodge at one of the monthly lodge meetings, once they resume.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." —Mohammed Ali

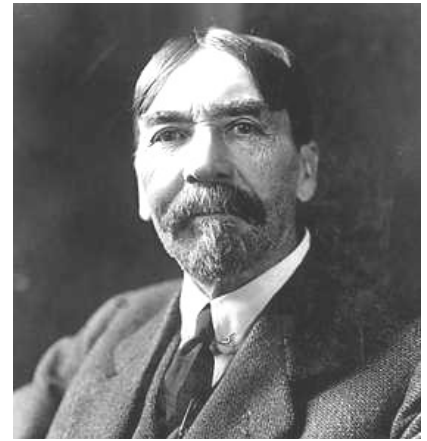
NEW VEBLER BIOGRAPY

Charles Camic, a sociology professor at Northwestern, has just published a 492 page tome on **Thorstein Veblen**, a somewhat forgotten Norwegian American observer of America in the early 20th century. (His parents were from Norway, and Veblen grew up in Minnesota communities where English

was often a second language.)

"Thorstein Veblen may be the most important American thinker most Americans have never heard of. A prolific economist at the turn of the 20th century, Veblen's groundbreaking work on the mysteries of inequality earned him the admiration of his academic peers, while his searing observations about the 'conspicuous consumption' and 'predatory' habits of the wealthy won him an audience far beyond the ivory tower."

(Zachary D. Carter, Wall Street Journal, November 28, 2020)



Veblen taught here in California at Stanford but was eventually fired over what today might be more of a trivial matter—a student lover and an enraged wife. This shows you that even economists can lead somewhat exciting lives.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM EDITOR

Your editor and his entire staff wish you enjoyable, Covid-free holidays. And we have a confession to make: Occasionally this past year we may have published some material where the truth may have been stretched a bit. It can't be helped, as our reporters have been trained in New York and Washington, DC.

We can't guarantee that this won't happen again in the future. Of course, we would not want to spoil the fun and tell you what is true and what may not be. In other words, most of what we publish is true most of the time.