



SMÅ SNAKK SONS OF NORWAY

Volume 39 Issue 9

December 2013



ANNUAL LODGE JULEFEST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Reserve Your Seat Now!

**1-4 PM at the Omni Hotel
245 Water Street**

Julefest Menu

**Mixed Greens Salad with tomato, cucumber, onion,
croutons, & artichoke vinaigrette dressing
Artisan bread/butter**

**Sliced Turkey Breast with Gravy
Cane syrup Glazed Pork Tenderloin
Mashed potatoes**

**Roasted Broccoli & Cauliflower
Apple Spiced Cobbler or Lingonberry Cobbler for Dessert**

**Iced Tea, Water, Coffee, & Assorted Hot Teas
Cash Bar**

Price is \$30

RSVP to Kent Larson by December 5!

Park on street or garage next to Omni



RESERVATION FORM
SONS OF NORWAY 2013 SCANDINAVIAN JULE FEST
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
Reservation Deadline is Thursday Dec. 5

Names _____

Children _____

Telephone _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ \$30 per adult

Detach this form, complete and return with a check made payable to Sons of Norway.
Mail to Kent Larson, 4013 Moresburg Court East, Jacksonville, FL, 32257.
If you have any questions call Kent at 260-4064.





DECEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DESEMBER BESKJED FRA PRESIDENTEN



Greetings and Happy Holidays SON members and friends. The holidays are once again upon us. They seem to come faster and faster the older I get. We certainly had a nice pre-Thanksgiving dinner meeting Nov. 15 with a wonderful turkey meal, all the trimmings and fellowship with about 50 members and guests. Many thanks to the kitchen crew

of Sharon White, Bo Fosaaen, Christine Martinuzzi, Pete Hopkins, Natasha Petrovich and Larry Nelson who worked tirelessly to feed us; to Larry Nelson who shopped with me at Costco and prepared a delicious turkey with dressing; and to the folks who stayed late to clean up, handle the trash and turn out the lights.

Our Jul Fest Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Omni Hotel will close out our lodge year. From 1 - 4 p.m. you can enjoy the lovely ambience of the Omni ballroom decorated beautifully for the season, while savoring the buffet of holiday food favorites. Please see details/reservation form in the newsletter. This will be a great opportunity to view the Omni Hotel, site of the 2014 International Convention.

Since we have elected lodge officers for 2014-15, we will have both a lodge planning session and convention meeting Saturday, Jan. 4. We will discuss our lodge activities for the year and continue our convention efforts. The time is ticking away and as I write this column we are about 277 days from welcoming our first guests. More details will be forthcoming, but this planning day is open to all members.

Several SON members attended the annual Empty Bowls luncheon Nov. 19 at the Convention Center, sponsored by Second Harvest Food Bank. Our lodge has been supporting this cause which provides food to various organizations in 17 North Florida Counties. Did you know that one of four children and one of six adults are food insecure which means they don't know where from their next meal is coming? It's hard to believe in this land of plenty that millions are starving.

As we close out 2013, we have said good bye to long-time members and family friends and welcomed new members and friends. That truly is the circle of life. Enjoy your holidays and hope to see you Dec. 8.

Kent Larson
Lodge President

OMNI HOTEL DIRECTIONS AND MAP

The Omni Jacksonville Hotel is a warm, elegant oasis of luxury and superlative service. This four-diamond luxury hotel is in the heart of downtown and just steps away from the Jacksonville Landing Riverfront Marketplace. Cross Streets: Between S Hogan St/W Independent Dr and S Pearl St.

Driving Directions:

FROM I-95 SOUTH AND JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 18 MILES/20 MINUTES

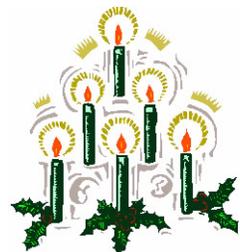
From I-95 South follow signs to Downtown / Union Street / Sports Complex (exit is on left hand side). Take exit 353B (Union Street) and turn left. Follow Union Street until you make a right onto Jefferson (2nd stoplight). Follow Jefferson until you make a left onto Water Street. The hotel is 3 blocks away on the left.

FROM MAIN STREET HEADING SOUTH

Turn right off Main Street onto Bay Street. Continue on Bay Street to Pearl Street and turn left onto Pearl Street. Go one block to Water Street. The hotel driveway is 1/2 block on the left.



Read news from District 3 at
<http://www.3dsofn.org/>



SAINT LUCIA DAY

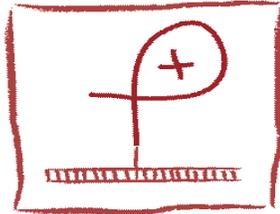
Luciadagen (Saint Lucia Day) is on the 13th of December. It is traditionally a feast day from the Calendar of Saints which comes from the early Christian custom of commemorating martyrs on the anniversary of their death (or birth into heaven). Even though Norway recognizes the other feast days in the Catholic Church, only St Lucia, St John and St Olavs days are celebrated nation-wide.

St Lucia Day was introduced to Norway when Christianity spread over the country in the late 1000s. This day became a mark

on the farmers primstav, a wooden calendar stick. With the elements from Catholic faith mixed with ancient traditions, the word Lucia became confused with Lucifer and the use of the Old Julian calendar, which made the 13th of December the darkest day of the year, created the tradition of Lussi langnatt (Lucy Longnight). As such, Åsgårdsreia (Asgard parade - a trail of unsettled dead souls) became a superstition tradition. The restless souls would travel from farm to farm seeing if people were preparing for Christmas. If the people weren't prepared enough the lost souls could vandalize the farm. Also, people who were not preparing for Christmas could be abducted into the trail. To protect themselves people would paint tar crosses above doors of houses and barns.

After the Reformation in the 1500s (when the Protestant Church became the State Church of Norway) and Norwegian national romanticism, St Lucia day was almost forgotten. It wasn't until after WWII that Norway re-adopted St Lucia Day largely from the immigrating Swedes.

Saint Lucia day is now a parade of light during the darkest time of the year. Lucia has reclaimed its former Latin meaning of light. Today the celebration is observed in schools and community organizations all over the country.



SAINT LUCIA

Black night is falling in stables and homes.
The Sun has gone away, the shadows are threatening.
Into our dark house enters with lit candles,
Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia!



The night is dark and silent;
suddenly a rush in all quiet rooms, like the waving of wings.
See, at our threshold stands, dressed in white with lights in her hair,
Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia!



Our lodge sponsored a table at the Second Harvest Empty Bowls luncheon Nov. 19 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Pictured left to right standing: Pete Hopkins, Franklin Morrison III, Marci Larson, Evelyn Hopkins, Julie Fisher, Marketing Director at Omni Hotel. Sitting: Rita Tweed/Morrison, Kent Larson, Anna-Rita Perkins.

Photo by Anna-Rita Perkins

'JUSTIN BIEBER OF CHESS' IS NEW WORLD CHAMPION

New Delhi. The world of chess has a new king, and it's a 22-year-old who is as much at home posing for fashion shoots as he is pushing pawns.



Magnus Carlsen of Norway won the chess world championship Friday, becoming the first Western player since Bobby Fischer to hold the title.

Carlsen, a former child prodigy who has already been on a list of the world's sexiest men and has moonlighted as a model, defeated defending champion Viswanathan Anand of India in a title match that was the game's most highly anticipated in decades.

A draw in Game 10 gave Carlsen the necessary 6 1/2 points to clinch the win, having won three of the previous games with no losses.

The victory fulfilled the lofty expectations that have been placed on Carlsen since he became a grandmaster at 13 - the second youngest in history at the time.

What remains to be seen is whether the Norwegian - who has been referred to as the "Justin Bieber of chess" - can fulfill an even bigger hope among fans: to bring the cerebral game back into the mainstream.

"I really hope that this can have some positive effect for chess, both in Norway and worldwide," Carlsen said after clinching the title. "The match was shown on television and I know a lot of people who don't play chess found it very interesting to follow."

Carlsen becomes the youngest world champion since Garry Kasparov, who was also 22 when he won the title in 1985.

Associated Press, The Times-Union Newspaper
Nov 23, 2013

LODGE KALENDER

Subject to Change

Dec 27	Newsletter Deadline for January
Dec 8 Sun	Scandivavian JuleFest, 1-4 p.m., Omni Jacksonville Hotel
Jan 4 Sat 2014	Lodge and Convention Planning Session 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. (tentative)
No board or convention planning meetings in December	
Feb 9, 2014	SoN Memorial Service
All Lodge Members are welcome!!!!	

SON MEMORIAL SERVICE

Suncoast Lodge has invited Gateway to Florida lodge members to the Sons of Norway Third District Zone 5 Memorial Service on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 2 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 455 Missouri Avenue North, Largo, Florida. The ceremony is to remember all members who departed this past year.

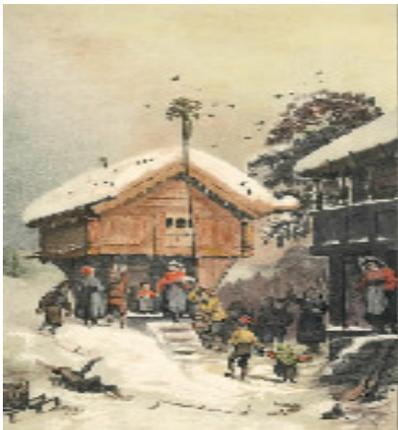
IN MEMORIAM

Our lodge has sent a \$200 memorial to the Sons of Norway 3rd District Charitable Trust to honor the memory of Bill Vogeley, Dr. Kristiansen, put David Fluker's brother Michael Fluker, Osa Mitchell, & Cesar Rivera.

The SON 3D Charitable Trust assists our members with financial assistance due to medical issues or other situations.

Marysia Witowski, former SON lodge member, 88, recently passed away. A prayer service was held November 9 at San Jose Catholic Church on November 9. Marysia escaped Poland during WW II to Norway and was educated there. All 5 of her brothers died during World War II. She was fluent in 5 languages including Norwegian. She is survived by her son, Richard, and daughter, Mysia. She lived next door to Kent & Marci Larson.

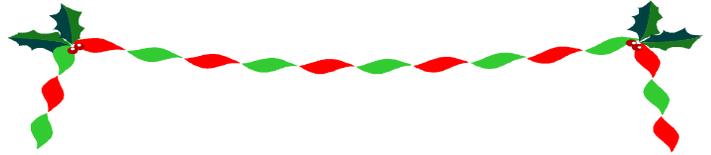
Former member and President Milton Gustafson recently passed away. He was Lodge President from 1986-1987.



VELKOMMEN NYE MEDLEMMERS
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carl Johnson, Carriage Club N-104, 9601
Southbrook Drive, 32256.
Phone 645-5250.

Christine Lynn Martinuzzi
10023 Belle Rive Blvd, Apt 1601
Jacksonville, FL, 32256-9582
(904) 434-4093
E-mail: c.martinuzzi@unf.edu

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The Sons of Norway Foundation offers college scholarships to current Sons of Norway members, children and grandchildren of current members. We have seven different scholarship categories for different types of college studies. Most have a application deadline of March 1, 2014. The applications are done entirely on-line. Students must include grade transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, essays and letters of recommendation with their applications. Winter break is the perfect time for students to gather this information to prepare to apply for scholarships. To view the scholarship guidelines and applications go to www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation and click on scholarships.

Takk!
Cindy Olson
Sons of Norway Foundation
foundation@sofn.com

CHRISTMAS STAR

The Christmas Star flower, more commonly called poinsettia, is found in nearly every Norwegian home during Christmas. Its star-shaped petals and deep red color make it a popular holiday decoration. It also thrives in low-light conditions, making it ideal for Norwegian winters.



Just like the Gulf Stream that travels from Mexico to warm up the waters and land in Norway, the Christmas Star is treasured as it brightens up the homes of Norwegians during the dark Winters.

MyLittleNorway.com



At the Nov 15 Lodge Meeting Veterans were honored. From Left to Right: William Large, George Prom, Kent Larson (NOT a Veteran), Jan Larson, Erling Larson, Franklin Morrison III, Pete Hopkins, Philip Pierce, Donald Pederson, Donald Drabek, Larry Nelson.



"When we were finished with the float, Charlotte made a great dinner for us all. We all met at the Fluker's for breakfast Monday morning and then went to the parade."
Anna-Rita Perkins



"The Lodge had another successful Veteran's Day parade. The weather was perfect and the crowds were huge! I want to thank Varun and Julia for painting the "We Remember" sign for our float. I also want to thank all the veterans for their service. We had members from WWII through active duty represented on our Lodge's float. We look forward to doing it again next year."
Charlotte Fluker



Gateway to Florida lodge members and friends decorated this float and participated in the Veteran's Day Parade in Jacksonville Nov 11.

**2014 SONS OF NORWAY GATEWAY TO JACKSONVILLE
SLATE OF OFFICERS**

President	Kent Larson
Vice President	Evelyn Hoplins
Counselor	Marci Larson
Secretary	Rita Tweed-Morrison
Assistant Secretary	Sharon White
Treasurer	Franklin Morrison III
Assistant Treasurer	Open
Financial Secretary	Peggy McCann
Assistant Financial Sec.	Dee Simpson
Social Director	Larry Nelson, Coordinator
Cultural Director	Open
Sports Director	Eugene Yerkes
Assistant Sports Dir..	Eric Nord & Rich Brew
Youth Director	Charlotte Fluker
Trustee I	Stewart Svendsen
Trustee II	David Fluker
Trustee III	Pete Hopkins
Publicity/Com Director	Marci Larson
Foundation Coordinator	Marty Iverson
Marshalls	Stewart Svendsen & Bo Fosaaen
Greeters	Gail Yerkes, Bonnie Hartman, Karen Ansell, Evelyn Hopkins, Gail Yerkes
Editor	Franklin Morrison III
Web Master	Sharon White
Historian	Open
Sunshine	Beverly Teigland
Tubfrim	Karen Ansell
Insurance Rep	Carol Scott
LIBRARIAN	Judy Silvey
Raffle Coordinator	Charlotte Fluker
Adopt A School	Tony Cruz
Musician	

ADVENT SONG

Advent is the Christian countdown to the celebration of the birth of Christ. Starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, a candle is lit and a hymn or poem is cited. On the following Sunday two candles are lit and so on, until the Sunday before Christmas. There are a few different songs and poems, but this one is the most famous in Norway.



Now we light the first candle
It must stand alone
We wait for the little child
who laid in a manger.

Now we light the second candle
Then we can see better
We wait for God, our Father
to give his Son down here.

Now we light the third candle
It is a sacred number
We wait for our King
to be born in a stable.

Now we light the fourth candle
and night turns into day
We wait for a Saviour
for all mankind.

MyLittleNorway.com



NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS WORDS

"It's a shame to dream of summer at Christmas time," according to the old Norwegian proverb. Here are some Christmas words in Norwegian and the English translation.

barn/barne	child/children
gløgg	gløgg - Norwegian mulled wine
grønn	green
hilsen	greeting
jul	Christmas
julaften	Christmas Eve
julebord	Christmas Table - a traditional meal
julegave	Christmas present
julegris	Christmas pig, slaughtered for dinner
julegrøt	Christmas porridge
julepynt	Christmas decorations
juletre	Christmas tree
kake	cake
rød	red
sanger	songs
slektninger	relatives
småkaker	cookies
snø	snow

VARIETY OF AMUNDSEN FILM PROJECTS UNDERWAY



Roald Amundsen will soon be joining fellow storied Norwegian heroes Thor Heyerdal and Max Manus in becoming immortalized in film. One of the world's greatest polar explorers, Amundsen will be the subject of several different film projects currently underway in Norway and Hollywood.

Known for beating rival British explorer Robert Scott to the South Pole in 1911, Amundsen's story is abundant with drama and excitement, a desirable combination to filmmakers. In an interview with NRK, Geir Kamsvåg, editor of film magazine, Cinema, explains, "There is always a need for heroes, and if one is looking for Norwegian heroes, there are a few who are known internationally. So Amundsen is someone they can do something with. There's been a huge international success with Thor Heyerdahl, and it's clear that Amundsen is also interesting."

Among those inspired by Amundsen's successful expedition are Hollywood A-listers Ben Affleck and Matt Damon as well as Oscar-nominated directing duo Joachim Rønning and Espen Sandberg of "Kon-Tiki" and "Max Manus" fame. Planning for Affleck and Damon's film, "The Race to the South Pole," is in the preliminary stages and Casey Affleck, Ben's brother, will be cast as ill-fated British explorer Robert Scott. Rønning and Sandberg's film is slated to cover the life of Amundsen, both highlighting his achievements and his personal relationships. Their production company, Motion Blur, is among three Norwegian studios facing competition in the Norwegian market to produce and fund their prospective Amundsen films. Among them are, Friland Film, producers of the thriller "Headhunters," and Norwegian Oscar-winning animation company, Mikrofilm, which is set to produce an animated film about the explorer.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS GRATÜLERER MED DAGEN

- 11 Isabella Ohnstad
- 12 Adolph Baste
- 12 Lilly Hartman
- 13 Cynthia Syverson
- 14 Katherine Barket
- 15 Christine Martinuzzi
- 17 Chloe Coleman
- 24 Judith Ganyo



JULENISSE (NORWEGIAN SANTA CLAUS)

The nisse is a figure, which, according to the Scandinavian folklore lived in the outhouses of farms. They are pretty small and wear a red hat on their head. He is often described as a little man (not bigger than a horse's head), with a long beard and grey clothes, generally knickers, and a red stocking cap dressed similarly to the farmers from the old days.



Up until the 1800's it was not uncommon that people truly believed the nisse existed, therefore the nisse was taken into account during daily life on the farm. He could be useful on the farm by tending animals, especially after he received good food and drink on Christmas Eve. But he could also be moody and unpredictable by carrying out mischief and damage to people and animals if not treated well.

The Christmas Nisse wants the farmers to be pleased with them, in return for their work they require Christmas porridge. Thus, for example, several places continue to not only place porridge out for the nisse on Christmas Eve night, but to also let the remains of Christmas dinner sit out overnight on the table so the nisse can help himself. One must not forget to leave out their porridge, because something can always go wrong on the farm as a payback. Some believed that the nisse had supernatural powers. If the nisse turned his hat inside out, so the grey was showing, he became invisible!

Stories, Christmas cards and more dating back to the 1800's have helped spread the idea of the nisse within Norway and more recently have linked the figure directly to Christmas.

litt på norsk...

Julenissen

Nissen er en skikkelse som ifølge skandinavisk folketro særlig holdt til i uthusene på en bondegård. De er ganske små og har på en rød topplue. Han er ofte beskrevet som en liten mann, «ikke større enn et hestehode», med langt skjegg og i grå klær, gjerne nikkers, og med rød nisselue slik de fleste bønder gikk kledd i gamle dager.

Opp til 1800-tallet var det ikke uvanlig at man virkelig trodde nisser eksisterte og man tok derfor hensyn til nissen i dagliglivet på gården. Han kunne være til nytte på gården, for eksempel ved å stelle dyra, særlig hvis han fikk god mat og drikke på julekvelden. Men han var også lunefull og uberegnelig og kunne utføre pek og ugagn og skade folk og dyr hvis han ikke ble behandlet godt.

Julenisser vil at husbonden skal være fornøyd med dem, og de krever bare julegrøt for arbeidet. Således var det for eksempel flere steder skikk ikke bare å sette ut grøt til nissen julenatta, men også å la restene av julematen stå framme på bordet natta over for at nissen skulle forsyne seg.

Men til gjengjeld må man ikke glemme å sette ut grøten, for da kan alt gå galt på gården. Noen trodde at nissen hadde overnaturlige evner. Hvis nissen vrente lua, så det grå var ut, ble han usynlig!

Fortellinger, julekort og annet fra slutten av 1800-tallet har vært med på å spre forestillingen om nissen i Norge og i nyere tid knyttet figuren til jul.

GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE HONORS:

District 3 Lodge of the Year 2003, 2007, 2009, 2010. Membership Lodge of the Year 2007-2008, Founders Award for Membership Achievement 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11. President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11, President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011; World of Nations First Place/Best Country 2006, Grand Overall Winner Jacksonville Boat Light Parade 2008, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade 2008, 2010, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade 2009, 2010, First Place Whitey's Fish Camp Boat Light Parade 2010, Grand Prize Best Overall St Augustine Holiday Regatta of Lights 2009. Winner of Fall Blitz Recruitment Contest in Large Lodge Category 2009. Third District Golden Newsletter Award for Medium Size Lodge Division in 2009. Newsletter Honorable Mention 2011.

Lodge Web site: <http://www.sonjax.com>. Third District Web site:<http://www.3DSofN.org>.
Sons of Norway Web site: www.sonsofnorway.com
<http://twitter.com/SonsofNorwayJax>, <http://goo.gl/cKc21>

JULEBRUS, A NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A Norwegian Christmas without julebrus (Christmas soda) is like a birthday party without cake. A seasonal favorite of Norwegian children (as well as many adults), julebrus comes in hues of red, brown, yellow-orange and even black. It is a sweet and fizzy drink that is bottled and labeled with festive Christmas patterns and pictures. The seasonal drink is often flavored with lots of sugar, vanilla, ginger, caramel, a variety of berry, citrus or pear flavoring.



It's a staple, which for many across Norway stimulates the julestemning (Christmas feeling) intended for the holiday season ahead. As cooler weather approaches and leaves begin to fall, julebrus begins its seasonal distribution, all while decorations begin to take their places in stores, homes, schools and city centers. There is a rush

of holiday spirit around Norway as businesses close down and families prepare to gather for their julaften (Christmas Eve) dinners.

Joining them on their julebord (Christmas table) is the traditional bottle of julebrus, next to a traditional shot of after dinner aquavit (for the adults). Each member of the family has their favorite flavor, color, taste or brand, but sometimes it's left up to a matter of loyalty, and where you're from determines that. For example, the reigning champs in the annual Julebrus taste test contest come from the Hamar and Lillehammer area. The Hamar and Lillehammer Julebrus brand is a product of Ringnes Brewery and has been voted the best based on varying criteria.

Around 25 tasty, and some not so tasty Christmas sodas are widely distributed across Norway. But these are not the only thing prompting holiday spirit in the stores as grocery stores fill with festive products and holiday spirit: apples are stamped with "god jul," small nisser are printed on milk cartons and Christmas calendars filled with chocolate are for sale in every checkout line.

MyLittleNorway.com

SMÅ SNAKK BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

Your donation is a voluntary act. At the Board Meeting on 3/5/2012, the Board made the following resolution: Små Snakk booster fee be increased from \$15 to \$20 effective 6/1/2012.

This donation helps pay for publication and distribution of the Små Snakk newsletter. Make your check payable to Sons of Norway and mail to Gail Yerkes, Editor. Tusen takk for your support.

BOOSTER NAME	DATE EXPIRES	
	Month	Year
Adolph & Jane Baste	11	2013 *
Johanna Davidson	10	2013 *
Lorraine Drummond	09	2013 *
Roy Hauge	06	2015
Jan Hilyard	11	2013 *
George W. Prom	09	2015
Carol Scott	10	2014
Jenny Spilling	06	2014
Rita Tweed	10	2014
Bill & Jay Vogeley	02	2014
Roger & Margaret Winslow	10	2016

May we add your name here?

A * next to your name means it's time to renew.

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 to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members



VINTER HUMOR

What do snowmen wear on their heads?
Ice caps!

What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Icebergers!

Where do snowmen go to dance?
Snowballs!

How do snowmen travel around?
By iceicle!

What sort of ball doesn't bounce?
A snowball!



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town
No noses were frozen and no snow fluttered down.
No children in flannels were tucked into a bed,
They all wore shorty pajamas instead.

To find wreaths of holly was not very hard,
For holly wreaths grew in every back yard.
In front of the house were Daddy and Mom
Decorating the crotons and coconut palm.



The sleeping kiddies were dreaming with glee,
Hoping to find water skis under the tree.
They all know Santa was well on his way
In a Mercedes Benz instead of a sleigh.

He whizzed up the highways and
Zoomed down the roads
In a snappy convertible, delivering his loads.
And soon he arrived and started to work
For he hadn't a minute to linger and shirk.

As he jumped from the car he gave a deep chuckle,
He was dressed in Bermudas with an Ivy League buckle.
There weren't any chimneys, but that caused no gloom
For Santa came in through the Florida room.

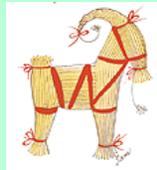
He stopped at each house, staying only a minute,
Emptying his bag of the toys that were in it.
Before he departed he treated himself
To a glass of papaya juice left on the shelf.

He turned with a bounce and leaped into the car,
Remembering he still had to go very far.
Turning the key and lighting the dash,
Up Interstate 95 he went like a flash.

But we heard him exclaim as he went on his way:
Merry Christmas Jacksonville, I wish I could stay!"

From Orlando's Dec 2011 newsletter *Viking Hjelm*

JULEBUKK



When young people in Norway say they are going (on a) julebukke, Norwegians know that the romjul or the days of Dec. 27-31 has arrived. The children are dressed in costumes and may be singing, dancing or telling jokes while they go from house to house asking for goodies or small gifts. Often a musician playing an accordion or harmonica may accompany the group. The julebukke parades travel to country farms as well as to city neighborhoods. It is one of the highlights of a Christmas party to have the julebukke appear at your house.

This tradition began many years ago and it is not known whether julebukke originated from liturgy or a pagan celebration. Another type of julebukke is done by "mummers," who entertain at parties totally in silence. Usually, one person in the parade dresses up like a goat with a mask or full costume to represent the devil. In present times, old clothing and Halloween type costumes are worn for julebukke activities.

KREMMERHUS

In Norway a kremmerhus was a traditional paper carry-bag given out by stores to carry your bits and bobs home. They were especially used for sewing materials, such as needles and cotton, and building materials, such as nuts and nails. The bag was made of paper rolled into a cone-shape the addition of the handle came later.

Today the kremmerhus is one of the favorite Norwegian Christmas decorations as they can hang anywhere and carry goodies. They can be made very elaborate with patterned material, lace and (fake) fur. However, the paper varieties are still made. It is usual for kremmerhus to hang on Christmas trees but I have also seen them on curtain ties, window hooks, a string along a wall and even in the trees outside. They can carry lollies and nuts, pine cones and decorative tissues or left empty waiting for julenisse to fill.

MyLittleNorway.com



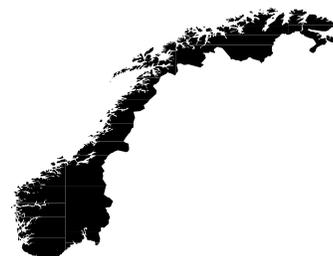
The Award Winning Gateway to Florida Lodge:

District 3 Large Lodge of the Year 2010
President's Gold Merit Award for 2010 and 2011
President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011
Founders' Membership Certificate 2010 and 2011

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