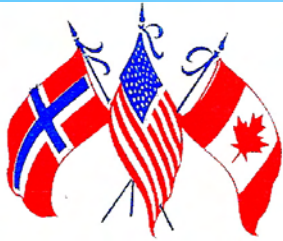


TeleNews



**News for Descendants of Emigrants
from the Telemark region in Norway**

Volume XV, Number 1
May 2008

Published by
Telelaget of America

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Special points of in- terest:

- New TeleNews format
- Stevne 2008 to be held in Steven's Point, WI on July 16 -19
- Twelve New Members
- Telelaget 100th Anniversary book for sale
- Varden recognizes new president
- Memorial marker for Rannei Norheim
- Tips on Norway travel
- 2008 Stevne registration material

Greetings from the President

One of the goals that Telelaget has set for this year is to modernize our publications. Many survey respondents suggested that *TeleNews* would be more appealing to readers if its layout, use of pictures, etc. were more up-to-date and similar to commercial newsletters. It was felt that if we are to appeal to younger Telemark descendants, we should improve the "image" of our publications. As we know, the younger generation is into cell phones, iPods, YouTube, blogs, text messaging, etc. Printed materials in general, much less "old fashioned" newsletters, are of less interest to them.

TeleNews co-editor Pete Christianson, the Board of Directors, and I have discussed the situation and have agreed to make some changes to *TeleNews*. Please note that this newsletter is printed in a new format accomplished through computer-based electronic publishing. Hopefully, the "new look" will be more appealing and easier to read. Since this is a work in progress, we welcome your suggestions.

The most significant news in this edition of *TeleNews* relates to this year's

Seven-Lag Stevne to be held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin from July 16 to 19. Detailed program and registration information is included in other pages of this edition. For the first time, members will also have the option to register online via Telelaget's website, www.telelaget.com.

I encourage you to attend this year's Seven-Lag Stevne in Stevens Point and to make plans for attending the 2009 event hosted by Telelaget.

Mange hilsner,
John Haugo
President of Telelaget



Landingsleiken, children's dance group to perform at the 7-Lag Stevne in Stevens Point, WI.

2009 Seven-Lag Stevne Planning Committee

Telelaget will be responsible for sponsoring the 2009 Seven-Lag Stevne. Planning will include site selection, program planning, and event coordination. Lorna Anderson, Perham, MN; Mary Keenan, Golden Valley, MN; Alice Kirn, Wappinger Falls, NY; and Joran Olson, Sioux Falls, SD have agreed to serve on the Seven-Lag Stevne Planning Committee. In addition, Elaine

Nordlie and John Haugo will serve as ex-officio members of the Committee, representing the Board of Directors. The Committee is currently evaluating possible sites for the stevne. The decision will be made soon. Please contact any of these individuals if you have suggestions or wish to participate in planning for the 2009 Seven-Lag Stevne.

Ny president i Telemaget

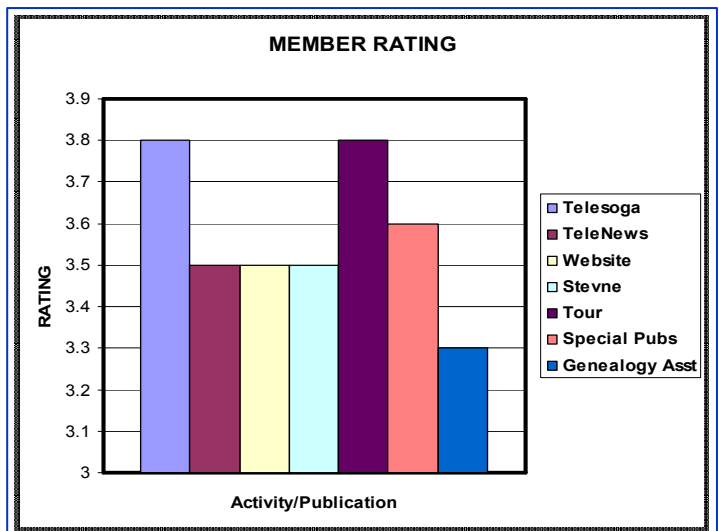
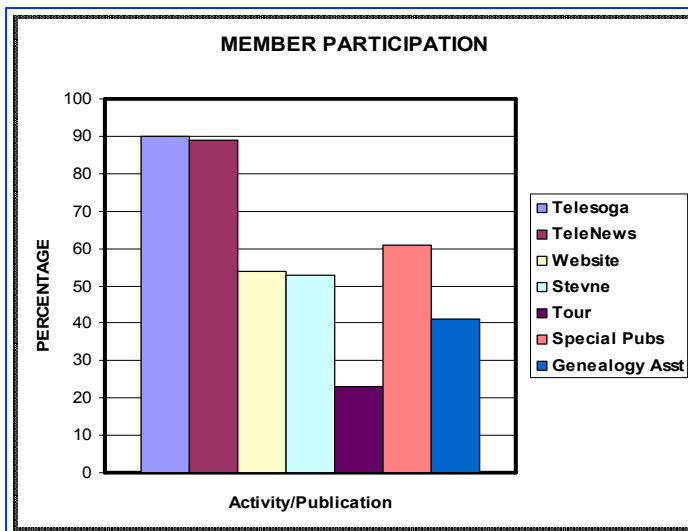
A Norwegian-titled article about the "New President of Telemark" appeared in the Telemark Varden newspaper. The article which appeared in the weekend (Tidend) edition on November 24, 2007 was written by Anne Haugen Wagn, one of our Norway Directors. It tells about the election of John Haugo as president of Telemaget of America. The article contains information about John's Telemark ancestors from Lårdal, Mo, Rauland,

Vinje, and Nissedal. Also discussed, were John's career experiences, his participation in the 2002 and 2007 Telemark tours, and the 2000 Haugo family reunion, attended by 92 Norwegian-Americans that he organized. Pictures of the Haugo farm, and of John and Past-President Elaine Nordlie with U.S. Ambassador, Ben Whitney, were also shown.



John Haugo, Ambassador Ben Whitney, and Elaine Nordlie at the U. S. Ambassador to Norway's residence in Oslo.

Telemaget Receives High Marks from Members



Last November, a survey was mailed to all members of Telemaget. Members were asked to rate and comment on our publications, our website; the Telemark tour; the Seven-Lag Stevne; and the genealogical assistance that they have received. Nearly one-half of the members responded to the survey. As shown on the graph entitled, Member Participation, the highest level of participation by member

was reading our publications. Nearly 90 per cent of Telemaget members indicated that they regularly read *Telesoga* and *TeleNews*. The graph entitled, Member Rating, shows that all of Telemaget's publications and activities were rated highly by survey respondents. On a four-point scale they all received rankings from 3.3 through 3.8 with *Telesoga* and the Telemark tour being rated the highest.

New Members

Dale and Delores Byboth	Hudson, WI	Marcene & Richard Asleson	Rogers, MN
Kelly McCartney	Aurora, CO	Mary Borchard	Sonora, CA
Olaf & Dianne Haugo	Hawley, MN	Gary & Pamela Knudtson	LaCrosse, WI
David & Jean Haugo	Waubun, MN	Marilyn & Peter Gandrud	Bemidji, MN
Don Haugo	Bloomington, MN	Ingrid Skjotskift	Rauland, Norway
George & Mary Haugo	Fargo, ND	LeRoy & Bonnie Boe	Larsen, WI

100th Anniversary Tour Book

Alice Kirn, editor of *Telesoga*, has published and edited an 116-page book about the 2007 Telemark tour headed by Elaine Nordlie. The book is dedicated to the tour organizers Elaine and Anne Haugen Wagn, Harald Omnes and Ingebjørg Sperre from Telemark and in appreciation of the many people in Norway who made the tour a special experience. Forty-one people participated in the tour which included visits in Oslo and a number of Telemark towns including Bolkesjø, Rjukan, Morgedal, Seljord, Ulefos, Vrådal, Dalen, Eidsborg, Bø, and Kviteseid. Various historical sites, churches, and bygdemuseums in these communities were also visited. Many participants

found the most meaningful part of the tour were visits to their ancestral homes. The Tour Book includes an overview of the tour and stories written by tour participants of their experiences related to visits to their ancestral homes. Even those who didn't have an opportunity to participate in the tour will find the accounts and many colored pictures of interest. Copies have been sent to tour participants. Others may order the book directly from Alice Kirn, 6 Top O Hill Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Send her a check for \$22 made out to Telemark of America.



Cover of 100th Anniversary Tour of Telemark book.

2008 Telemark Goals

The following goals were set by the Telemark Board of Directors:

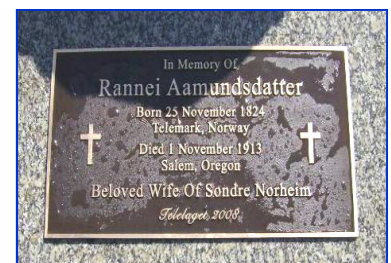
1. Select site and select planning committee for 2009 7-Lag Stevne.
2. Publish and begin sales of 2007 Telemark Tour Book.
3. Summarize 2007 member survey and implement recommendations.
4. Publish and begin sales of Telemark to America, Volume II.
5. Make Telemark "image" enhancements to publications.
6. Increase Telemark membership by 20%.
7. Complete inventory of all Telemark property.
8. Evaluate Telemark's organizational and fee structures, and implement changes.
9. Coordinate Telemark's events and activities with other Norwegian-American organizations.
10. Begin development of a long-term strategic plan for Telemark.

"Coordinate Telemark events and activities with other Norwegian-American organizations."

Memorial Marker for Rannei Aamundsatter

Telemark agreed to pay a major portion of a memorial marker for Rannei Aamundsatter Norheim, the wife of Sondre Norheim, the father of Telemark skiing. Born and raised in Morgedal in Telemark, he rose to local fame for his skills. He also made innovations in skiing equipment. In 1868, he won the first national skiing competition in Christiania (Oslo). In 1884, Sondre immigrated to North Dakota with most of his family. He continued to ski, though the Dakota

prairie offered few opportunities. He died in 1897 and was buried in the Norway Lutheran Church Cemetery in Denbigh, ND. After Sondre's death, Rannei moved to Oregon where most people lost track of her. David Gunderson of Fergus Falls, a Telemark member and great-grand nephew of Rannei, discovered her death certificate. He coordinated preparation of the marker and is organizing a dedication at Sondre's grave.



Rannei Aamundsatter (Norheim) Memorial Marker.

History of Stevner

At the risk of providing redundant information for those who have been regular attendees, an overview of *stevner* (plural for *stevne*) is in order. A *stevne* is an annual conference or reunion where Norwegian-Americans, who are descendants of Norwegian ancestors from various rural communities (*bygds*), gather to celebrate their culture and history. At the *stevne*, genealogists and historians help attendees trace their ancestry and learn about the immigrant experience. In addition to genealogical assistance, there is entertainment including folk music and dance, classes to attend, and opportunities to purchase Norwegian wares from a variety of vendors.

During the early years of Telelaget, from 1914 to 1950, the emphasis of the annual *stevne* was primarily on socializing and renewing acquaintances. Many of the original members were immigrants. After Telelaget was reorganized in the late 1970s, genealogy became a major focus of the *stevner*. This was reflective of the national interest in our "roots" and the availability of

computer data bases and microfiche records. At the *Seven-Lag Stevne*, Telelaget will have an extensive library containing Telemark farm history books (*bygdeboker*), which can help family researchers trace their roots in Norway, often back to the 1600's and sometimes beyond. Various Telelaget publications will also be available for research and/or purchase.

Because of common interests and for cost considerations in 1984, Telelaget joined with three other *bygdelags* (societies from a particular Norwegian community or home district) to hold their annual *stevne*. Since 1986, Telelaget has joined with six other *bygdelags* (Hadeland, Toten, Land, Numendal, Ringerike, and Sigdal) to sponsor a *Seven-Lag Stevne*. Under this arrangement, each *bygdelag* shares in programming, social activities, and banquet. However, each retains its own identity and has its own annual meeting. This year's three-day *stevne* will again involve socializing, conducting genealogical research, touring, and learning about Telemark's history and culture.

Telelaget of America is a 501(c)(3)

Telelaget of America is registered in Minnesota as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contributions help us to maintain our www.telelaget.com website, publish our semi-monthly *Telesoga* magazine, this *TeleNews* newsletter, and our [Telemark to America](#) series of publications. It also enables us to provide ge-

nealogical assistance to our members and to promote our Telemark heritage.

To donate money mail a check to Telelaget of America to our treasurer: Shelley Jerviss, P.O. Box 292, Houston, MN 55943. A tax-exempt form recognizing your contribution will be mailed to you. Thanks for your support.

Norway Day

Various Norwegian-American groups are active in the Midwest. There are over twenty *bygdelags* such as Telelaget. Sons of Norway is a well-known Norwegian cultural organization with chapters throughout America. Also, a number of special interest Norwegian-American societies exist. Each of these groups has a somewhat different focus with many individuals belonging to more than one group. One of Telelaget's goals is to coordinate our activities with those of other groups.

The Norwegian National League of Minnesota is sponsoring its seventy-seventh annual NORWAY DAY on Sunday, July 13, 2008 in Minnehaha Park

in Minneapolis. An open-air Christian worship service opens the day at 10:30 a.m. The entertainment begins at noon with the fun-loving *barnetog*, a children's parade. Music, song, and dance follow for the remainder of the afternoon. Several groups of musicians and dancers from Norway including the Norwegian Glee Club will entertain attendees. Norwegian and America picnic foods will be available throughout the day.

Contact Shirley Evenstad at (612) 861-4793 or Russ Susag at (612) 259-2927 for more information.

Travel in Norway

This is a new column that I have written specifically for people who are thinking about a first trip to Norway. I welcome your comments and will include them as possible.

In this column I will discuss a specific aspect of the trip. It is not possible to address all of the travel considerations in this one edition. Some of the topics I plan to include are: lodging (this issue), traveling in Norway, handling money, transportation, language, customs and climate.

Hotels can be exceptionally expensive, especially in Oslo. There are the very old and glorious hotels that have been around for many years. Many have wonderful stories about them and are designed to cater to your every whim. They are and try to be like other three and four-star hotels in Europe and in the U.S. The menus and the wine lists are extensive.

Besides being expensive and old, they are frequently downtown and on busy, noisy streets. Quite often there is a celebration going on and, even with the windows closed, the party comes to you. It seemed like Norwegians celebrate a great deal. We have witnessed weekends, end of the semester celebrations, family gatherings and loud music from pubs.

A general note here: "Accessibility" has other meanings in Norway. None of the places we visited were "wheelchair friendly" and the older hotels were the worst. In one, there was an eight-inch step up to the bathroom.

There are a lot of hotel/motel chains in the big cities, many of them American. My experience with them is from a quite a few years ago on our first visit and I wasn't looking for accessibility then. For the early 1990's it seemed very expensive (\$90 with a tour), but they offered a discount for every year of your age over 65.

We have had our best luck with "Bed and Breakfasts." Even with our poor command of Norwegian, we found the conversation around the table to be a real treat. We learned about local history and sights. Our hosts have always made us feel welcome and answered our questions. The other guests can be from anywhere and have much to offer.

As we go from the best to the least expensive forms of lodging, the bathroom facilities, as well as the English, get more and more interesting, by the way. Sometimes, B&B's advertise as such and at other times as "ROMs" which just means an empty room in a farmhouse let out by the night with a sign on the road. Breakfast is usually included, a bathroom is shared.

The "hytte" comes next on the scale and these too are advertised from the side of the room. I am sure that the root word is "Hut" though some are as nice and as new as many hotel rooms. These do not usually have bathrooms and many are associated with campgrounds. They tend to be near water and/or recreation. You will have to bring your own bedding, as it is not provided. It should be noted that some rural hotels don't either, or charge for it. We spent a night in a *hytte* where the only source of heat was the large hot plate used for cooking. But the view and the clean air were to die for!

Finally there is camping. While I have never tried this in Norway, there is evidence of it everywhere. Americans in the know buy used tents and sleeping bags at a thrift store, use them and sell them back. Or they can be rented. Campgrounds are well marked both on maps and roads. There are trails everywhere and camping is frequently permitted. Please check first! Or if you will be staying for a while, the best bet may be to rent a car and a light camper

By Peter Christianson
Co-Editor, *TeleNews*

Land, Logging, and Legends

Seven-Lag Stevne

July 16-19, 2008

Ramada Stevens Point and Convention Center Stevens Point, Wisconsin



Landingslag is pleased to welcome you to the 2008 7-Lag Stevne in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The theme is "Land, Logging, and Legends." It will be held at the Ramada-Stevens Point and will offer area tours, skilled genealogists, excellent speakers, and a variety of entertainers.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramada-Stevens Point.

\$84.00/room single or double \$92.00/room triple or quad

Call 1-800-998-2311 and tell them you are with "Norwegian Stevner"

The Stevens Point area provides these additional lodging options:

[America's Best Value Inn](#) 715-341-8888

[AmericInn](#) 1-800-634-3444

[Blue Top Motel](#) 1-866-377-9707

[Comfort Inn of Plover](#) 715-342-0400

[Comfort Suites](#) 1-800-228-5150

[Country Inn & Suites](#) 1-800-456-4000

[Elizabeth Inn](#) 1-800-280-0778

[Fairfield Inn](#) 1-800-228-2800

[Hampton Inn](#) 715-295-9900

[Holiday Inn Hotel](#) 715-344-0200

[Holiday Inn Express](#) 715-344-0000

[La Quinta Inn](#) 1-800-301-0200

[Point Motel](#) 866-344-8312

[Royale Inn](#) 715-341-5110

[Stay Inn & Suites](#) 715-341-9090

The closest campground to the Ramada is Jordan Park County Campground. It is about a 10 minute drive from the convention hotel. For information on Jordan Park and the other area campgrounds contact the parks department at 715-346-1433 or email them at parks@co.portage.wi.us

For questions about area offerings contact [Stevens Point Visitor Center](#) at 800-236-4636.

You will receive a list of [area restaurants](#) in your registration packets. You can view them online at <http://www.spacvb.com/wheretodine.html>

A complete rundown of *stevne* events is posted online at <http://www.landingslag.org>.

Wednesday Bus Tour departs at 1:00. Tour participants should gather in the hotel lobby at 12:30. The tour includes stops at the Century Farm, South New Hope Church, Rising Star Mill, Reflections Antiques, and ends with a meatball supper at the Nelsonville Lutheran Church.

Registration and the genealogy open house will both begin at 7:30 on Wednesday. You will find additional registration hours listed in the full *stevne* schedule. Registration will take place in the hall next to genealogy, called Pre-convene II.

Thursday begins with the Opening Session starting promptly at 8:30. This session will feature music and comedy by "Aslak og Engebret", followed by a visit to the 1870's Pineries of central Wisconsin with Lumberjack Louie. The Thursday bus tour to Waupaca County sites leaves immediately following the session.

Hospitality Room is back by popular demand; the hospitality room will be open during most *stevne* hours. It will be closed during the opening session and the banquet. Stop by for a cup of coffee and a cookie. This will be a good place to renew old friendships and make some new ones.

The Genealogy Room will be open during the Wednesday evening open house, and then from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Thursday and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Vendors will be set up in the salon next door to genealogy and across from registration.

Our Banquet will once again feature the ever popular parade of bunads, so if you own one be sure to bring it to the *stevne*. The evening program will feature "Landingsleiken", a children's dance group from the Hov Culture School in Sondre Land, and members of the Twin Cities Hardingfelag. This will also be the venue where we will be recogniz-

2008 Seven-Lag Stevne Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 16th

1:00pm	Portage County Tour	Lobby Entrance
7:00PM-10:00PM	Hospitality Room open	Room 148
7:30pm - 9:00pm	Registration	Pre-convene II
7:30pm - 9:00pm	Genealogy Open House	Salons K&L
8:00PM	Movie: "Sweet Land"	Salon G

Thursday, July 17th

8:00 AM - 8:30AM	Registration	Pre-convene II
8:30 AM - 10:30AM	Opening Session	Salons E, F, G
10:30 AM - 5:00PM	Registration	Pre-convene II
10:30 AM - 10:00PM	Hospitality Room open	Room 148
10:45 AM	Waupaca County Tour	Lobby Entrance
11:00 AM - 10:00PM	Genealogy	Salons K&L
11:00 AM - 5:00PM	Classes	
7:30 PM	"Our Vines Have Tender Grapes"	Salon G
9:00PM	NSI Board Meeting	Board Room

Friday, July 18th

8:00AM - 10:00 AM	Registration	Pre-convene II
8:00AM - 3:00PM	Genealogy	Salons K&L
8:00AM - 4:00PM	Hospitality Room open	Room 148
9:00AM - 4:00PM	Classes	
5:00 PM	Banquet	Salons E, F, G

Saturday, July 19th Individual Lag Meetings & Activities

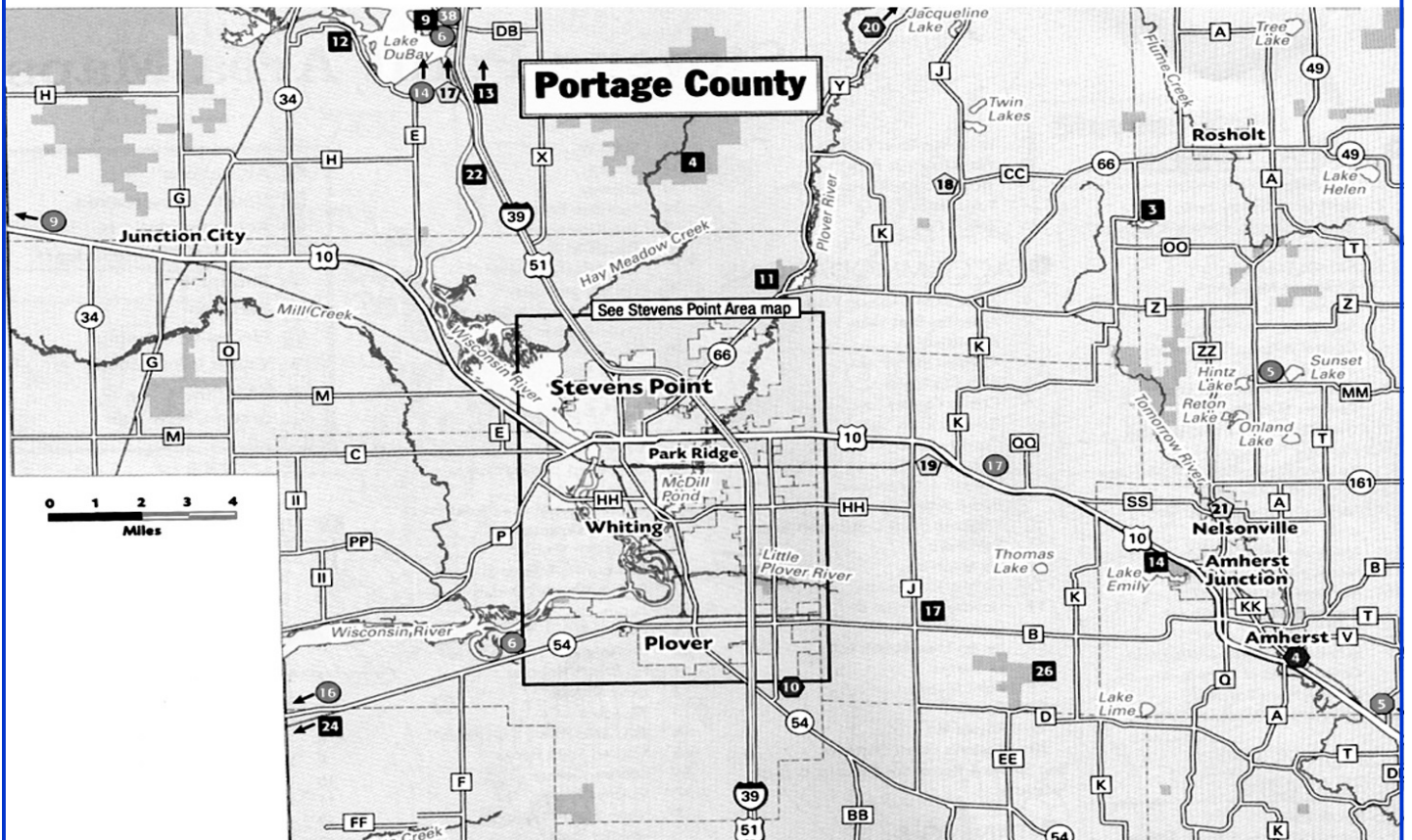
Class Schedule (Thursday, July 17, 2008)

Time	Salon A-B	Salon C-D
11:00	Beginning Genealogy <i>Barb Horn</i>	
1:00	Norway's Digital Archives <i>Dale Hovland</i>	It's All Online, Or Is It? <i>Lori Bessler</i>
2:30	Examples of Norwegian Records <i>Art Paulson</i>	
4:00	Norway's Digital Archives <i>Dale Hovland</i>	Writing Family History <i>Lloyd Svendsbye</i>

(Friday, July 18, 2008)

Time	Salon A-B	Salon C-D	The Deck
9:00	Knute Rockne <i>Marv Lang & Don Johnson</i>	Norwegian Folk Dance <i>Marit Hultman</i>	Beginning Hardanger Embroidery <i>Betty Knutson</i>
10:30	Early Lumbering in Wisconsin <i>Larry Wold</i>	Organization and Documentation <i>Jerry Paulson</i>	Beginning Hardanger Embroidery <i>Continued</i>
1:00	1880's Rift in the Lutheran Church <i>Verlyn Anderson</i>	From Scandinavia to the Upper Midwest <i>Jerry Paulson</i>	
2:30	Norway America Letters <i>Arvid Sandaker</i>	The Scottish Invasion of Norway <i>Marv & Lois Lang</i>	

2008 Seven-Lag Stevne Maps



SEVEN-LAG STEVNE REGISTRATION FORM

July 16-19, 2008, Ramada Stevens Point & Convention Center Stevens Point, WI

Phone _____ Email _____

PRINT FULL NAME/s for badges

Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Stevne Registration Fee: Before July 4th \$25 per person X ____ person(s) = \$ _____
After July 4th \$27 per person X ____ person(s) = \$ _____

Admission to *stevne* sessions for one day or the entire *stevne*, genealogy rooms,
all classes and presentations

Friday Evening Banquet and Program: \$25 per person X ____ person(s) = \$ _____
Pork tenderloin dinner with some Norwegian specialty items

Lodging and Meals: Please make your own arrangements.

Portage County Tour: 1:00 PM, Wednesday. \$28 per person X ____ person(s) = \$ _____
Bus tour to area sites via air-conditioned motor coach
Includes meatball supper at Nelsonville Lutheran Church

Waupaca County Tour: 10:45AM, Thursday. \$32 per person X ____ person(s) = \$ _____
Bus tour to area sites via air-conditioned motor coach
Includes box lunch at Hutchinson House in Waupaca

TOTAL = \$ _____

Hardanger Embroidery Class: 9:00AM -12:00 Friday
Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.
Please contact Betty Knutson to sign up.
The cost is \$5, payable at the time of class.
Phone 320-222-1613, or email blknutsn@en-tel.net.

Area Research Network: If interest is shown, a tour of the UWSP archives can be arranged.
There is no charge, but please indicate interest.
Number of persons interested in a tour of UWSP Archives _____

Mail this form with check, payable to: Telelaget of America.

Shelley Jerviss

Box 292

Houston, MN 55943

Please mail no later than Wednesday, July 9th

No refunds after July 5th

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