

Tribute to Otto Bervik
May 19, 1996
By Eugene D. Weekes

It is indeed an honor for me to pay tribute to Otto today for his years of service and dedication to Sons of Norway and the preservation of Norwegian heritage.

Otto was the third of five children, the oldest son born to Norwegian emigrant parents. Sven and Breta Bervik lived on a farm in the Westby, Montana area where Otto was raised.

June came out to the neighboring town of Plentywood to look at the school for a teaching job. She said she liked what she saw. I am not sure if she was referring to the school because it was then that she met Otto. These young bachelors were always anxious to see the new crop of teachers coming into these rural communities, so it was not surprising that June and Otto got together. Otto says he chased her until she caught him. June may have a different version of just how it happened.

Otto and June have three children, LeAnn, living in Bismarck; Loren who lives in Grand Forks with his wife Sarah and two children Jessica and Paul; and Larry who lives in Los Angeles.

In 1970 Otto and June took their first trip to Norway to visit Otto's relatives. They have since traveled to Norway four more times visiting friends and relatives.

Otto has served our Lodge well over the years, serving on numerous committees and offices including President of our Lodge in 1972. He has also served on the District level as Zone director for four years, District Treasurer four years, Vice President and President. Otto is now serving as International Director.

Today it is a please for our lodge to honor you Otto, by planting this tree. May its future years of growth be an ever reminder of your years of dedicated service to our Lodge, the District and the International Sons of Norway to preserve and further our Norwegian Heritage.

