

Marvin and Donna Evenson  
Tree Dedication  
May 18, 1997

Given by Al Steinke

Upon returning a phone call to the Evenson home a couple weeks ago, I heard Donna's voice telling me - loud and clear "you have reached the Evenson's. We cannot come to the phone now, but if you wish, you can leave a message".

What a pleasant surprise to hear Donna's voice! It made my day! Marv, I hope you can preserve that little message on your answering machine.

Writing this tribute to Marv and Donna has been a pleasure because of the experiences we have had with them.

About 10 winters ago, the Evenson's preceded us to Florida by maybe 4 weeks. However, we kept in touch and when we got to their apartment in Altamonte Springs we were greeted with open arms and treated royally.

Donna was so happy to see someone from home! Of course we were glad to see Marv and Donna. That evening they took us to Rosie O'Gradies' clear across Orlando for a fun time - doin' what Floridians do. Thank you again Marv for all the hospitality and memories.

We all know that Marv and Donna have been very active in Sons of Norway. Marv has held offices including: President of Sverdrup Lodge, Zone Director, District IV President, and International Director.

I am sure that Marv will agree that Donna has been a part of all this, that it was a team effort: working for Sons of Norway, recruiting new members, organizing new lodges, traveling to lodges and meetings, promoting, supporting educating, and the list goes on!

Truly it was a team effort - the Donna and Marvin Sons of Norway team. Fifty-nine years of marriage will attest to that.

The list of their activities also includes folk dancing. Donna and Marv were one of our stellar couples for a number of years. This white-haired couple held their heads high, kept in time with the music, learned the dances and the steps and in general added dignity and class to our folk dancing performances.

Donna lived life to the fullest! If life is a stage with all of us as characters in a play, Donna played her role to the fullest with flair and a flourish. May God bless our memories of Donna.

It is fitting and proper that we pay tribute to Donna and that we express our appreciation to Marv for his continuing contribution to Sons of Norway. Thank you Marv.



## **Recognition - Marvin Evenson**

May 17, 2002

by Audrey Solheim

Tonight we honor our friend Marvin Evenson. Marvin is known, affectionately, among many of us as Mr. Sons of Norway. Marvin is a lodge member who has knowledge about every aspect of the organization, a person who has provided leadership, not only to us in Sverdrup 107, but also to District IV, and to the International Sons of Norway. If you were a member of our lodge when Marv was Vice President, you will remember the energetic membership competition we had and the numbers of new members that came into our fold that year. As is generally the case, the VP continues on to be President. Marv continues, even today, to work for the goals that he had during his term as president in 1983 - that of membership, culture, and recreation.

During his term as president we took trips to Maplelag for skiing and to Decorah for the Nordic Fest. We entertained Norwegians that year too - the Njaard Gymnastics Team performed at the Mandan High School Gymnasium and the Rygge Pekkekor - a Norwegian girls chorus was at Trinity Lutheran Church - both events sponsored by the Sons of Norway.

Serving in many capacities on the District level, Marv started as Zone Director and continued to be elected as District IV President, and later as District IV representative on the International Board.

As important as these elected offices are, the things that stand out in our mind as lodge members are probably the great bus trips he has organized and guided within ND, SD, and Canada; the fascinating book reports he gives; his passion for genealogy and learning more about his family; the work he has done at the Sons of Norway Park; the many camping and ski trips he has been on; folk dancing and oh, so many more things.

Marv has always been very proud of his family and tonight his family is here at our Syttende Mai celebration to help us celebrate this special occasion.

There is Kay Gast - who is celebrating her birthday today, Kay's husband Dave, their daughter Anne and her husband Jeff Toy and their daughter, Marv's great granddaughter, Hannah; and last, but not least, Marv's younger daughter Pam who lives in South Dakota.

Ruth Olson, with the able help of photographer, Lorna Tyson, has prepared a panel displaying pictures of the many of the involvements Marvin has had with Sverdrup 107.

Ella Naves, Marilyn Campbell, and Lyle Schultz will be serving the special cake decorated in honor of Marv. This is part of your dessert tonight.

At this time I'd like to call Marv to the podium in order to present this special plaque - The top of the plaque has the Sons of Norway logo and the bottom an engraved bus. It reads:

Marvin A. Evenson

Mr. Sons of Norway

Presented by Sverdrup Sons of Norway 4-107

May 17, 2002

Congratulations Marvin!