

**Rich and Belinda Fadness
Tree Dedication
May 20, 2018
Biography Presented by Tim Faller**

It is a real privilege to be able to say a few words about two people that have been a part of our life for years. When I asked Rich for additional background information he was a little resistant, said it sounded like the obituary section in the tribune.



Rich and Belinda are both North Dakota natives; Rich was a twin being born last he was known as the baby of the Fadness family even if Roger was only a few minutes older. The oldest Fadness sibling (Nancy) lives in San Antonio and twin Roger lives in Salt Lake City.

Belinda was born in Williston and lived in Watford city until moving to Lisbon in 1953 with her siblings Beverly, Renae and Becky. Rich and Belinda see that everyone in their families gets lefse from our lodge lefse sale every year to keep up the Norwegian Heritage.

Rich grew up on the family farm near Lisbon, ND about four miles from the farm that I (Tim) grew up on and seven miles from the farm my wife Kathy lived on. Belinda was a town girl. Rich worked on the farm and went to school at Wahpeton and NDSU until he was out of money; he then joined Melroe Manufacturing at Gwinner. Later they moved to California to manage and eventually own an equipment dealership there, selling Melroe, Kubota, and New Holland equipment. Belinda graduated with an associated degree and joined the banking industry as an operations officer.

Growing to school and graduating in 1953 with Rich and Rog was a lot of fun. We jokingly had convinced a number of people in the Bismarck community we were valedictorian and salutatorian of our class – that is until some other classmates visited Bismarck; then the jig was up.

Rich attended and graduated from Reisch School of auctioneering in 1964. Prior to that he was known as being a quiet, reserved person; auctioneering school caused him to spring a leak which has never been plugged.

Belinda loves to shop and became a professional shopper when they moved to Bismarck, with the help of her sisters Renea and Becky. She enjoys Christian women's clubs, Bible study groups and Sverdrup social events. She is part Norwegian, but not enough to eat lutefisk, Rich says.

Another excitement for Rich and Belinda is the presence of their daughter Ashley Cohen, her husband Ryan and their three grandchildren Keira, 11; KoKo 3 and JoJo age 1 all living in Bismarck.

Rich and Belinda have been on numerous travels together including Switzerland, France, Spain and Hawaii three times. A few years ago Rich sold my wife Kathy and I a winning ticket for a trip to Norway sponsored by the Sons of Norway. He said he was part of the deal and that he was going too. He surely made our trip much more memorable with his excitement and his Norwegian heritage. He got to cross that off from his bucket list, though we all missed Belinda not being with us on that trip.

Their experience with the Sons of Norway began in California when Red Langerud from Fargo signed them to the Ulebrand Lodge at San Pedro. Red was their chief Lutefisk cook. They moved to Anaheim Hills and transferred to the Solbakken Lodge where Swede Swensen was president. Later they moved to Bismarck where a German was president of Sverdrup. When you asked him to be Assistant Social Director he didn't know that meant lots of calls for cookies, but he said it was a great way to meet the members. This started his path through the chairs eventually becoming president, which was an honor for him. He said the campaigning was effortless.

The Fadnesses feel that being involved with the Sverdrup Lodge was a gift and to be honored along with Lawrence and Ethel Thompson for the tree ceremony just put icing on the cake.

I don't know Lawrence and Ethel personally, but am sure they are very much as deserving as well. Thank you for the honor you have given these couples, it is well deserved! Mange Takk!