



## **2022 Sons of Norway Park Tree Dedication**

### **Honoring Joyce Harden, by Jerry Saude**

It was my honor to nominate Sverdrup Lodge member Joyce Harden and I thank the members for supporting her nomination for recognition this year. Joyce joined Sons of Norway in March 2000.

As you know, sometimes plans don't go the way we lay them, but Joyce tried to instill pride in her Norwegian heritage to her children as they were growing up. She knew about Sons of Norway and was planning to join once she retired. As it turned out, one of her daughters who was working at a bank in Bismarck noticed a very nice older lady who came in every month for her banking needs. She always had something to say about Sons of Norway and how she enjoyed it. The lady was single and had no immediate family in town to help her. As it turned out, Joyce became her chauffeur to Sverdrup socials and other functions, and it was this kind, older lady who asked Joyce to join NOW and not wait for retirement. It reflects on our need to share our good experiences in Sons of Norway with others and for our lodge to get our name out in our community. This person who encouraged her to join Sverdrup was Marian Neibauer.

One personal story I want to tell you about is an earlier adventure that Joyce had with a horse. Joyce has always been interested in the North American Indian stories and history. She had read about the Nez Perce people and their encounter with the US Cavalry and their flight toward Canada in 1877. Their reservation was in North Central Idaho. The 1500-mile journey was started by 750 tribal members and their 3000 Appaloosa horses. They traveled east across Idaho, into Montana, down through Yellowstone in WY and then north across Montana again toward Canada. The historic route is memorialized by appaloosa owners each summer with a segment of the route. It's broken into 3 segments. Joyce and her nephew were discussing this several years ago and foolishly she said I'll go!

Joyce hadn't owned horses ever, and only rode with her family at Medora or other vacation spots. She bought a young Appaloosa (and later lamented that he might have been too green for her, but they learned a lot together). She took riding lessons and eventually completed the segments of the Chief Joseph Ride, before stopping that adventure. It was not without pitfalls and mishaps though. After a back injury her children persuaded her to try something else. That's when I learned about her bowling skills. Sometimes she bowls 5 days a week, but she is committed to it, none the less.

She even remembers Al Schultz being pretty persistent that she join the Sons of Norway. Joyce was a court reporter and she and Al crossed professional paths quite often.

Joyce currently serves as the Social Director and bakes and bakes cookies for our socials and events. She's been a reliable worker for the lutefisk dinners, serving the Banquet and attending the business meetings.

Thank you, Joyce, for all you have done over the past 22 years of membership to Sverdrup Lodge.