

Ralph and Ione Leet

Tree Dedication

May 20, 2007

(given by LeRoy Naves)

Ralph and Ione are both of Norwegian descent and have been members of Sverdrup Lodge for 31 years. They have made two trips to the Scandinavian countries to visit relatives and to see the ancestral homes of their grandparents.

Ione grew up in the Northwood, ND community where she graduated from high school. She attended Mayville State Teachers College for one year and later two years at Bismarck State College.

Ralph was raised in Starkweather, ND where he attended high school, and one year at the University of North Dakota, and then transferred to Fargo where he completed his studies and graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo.



They met in Fargo, ND and married in 1952, living in Fort Benning, GA, and Fort Ord, CA while Ralph was in the military, later living in several North Dakota towns during his 30 plus years with Farmers Home Administration. Ione also worked for the Federal Government several years, at the Great Plains Research Center and the U.S. Geological Survey. They have been in Bismarck approximately 43 years. During these years they raised four children: Karen, Jon, Terri and Doug. They have 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Ralph has served as President of the Lodge and worked as chairman of the potato crew for the annual lutefisk/lefse supper for many years. Ralph and Ione served as co-chairmen of the social committee two years in the mid 1990s and two years in the early 2000's. They also worked two years as co-chairmen of the lutefisk/lefse supper and one year as chairmen of the supper. They also work with lefse sales. Ione is active in the Hardanger Group.

They've enjoyed the dinners and programs, and the many activities, the road trips and the fellowship of the Sons of Norway members.