



Tree Dedication for
Harvey and Wilma Melstad
May 17, 2015
Presentation by Ted Thiede

It is my honor today to do the Tree Dedication presentation for Harvey and Wilma Melstad.

Both Harvey and Wilma were born in Kingsbury County, South Dakota. Harvey is the son of Louis and Gertrude Melstad. He was raised near the home of Laura Ingalls Wilder of Little House on the Prairie fame, near De Smet. He received his education in South Dakota and graduated from a university in South Dakota with a degree in civil engineering.

Harvey is a veteran of the Korean War. He is very proud of his military service and to this day is an active member in the VFW. He serves as a member of the Honor Guard helping to provide military services for veterans, particularly at the Veteran's Cemetery south of Mandan.

Harvey and Wilma were married in 1954. They are the parents of four daughters: Stephanie, who is married to Pastor Steve Olson, son of lodge member Arlene Olson. Stephanie and Steve live in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Jeanine Melstad is married to Bruce Senti. They live in Grand Forks. Gretchen Melstad is married to Henry Gertje. They live in Olympia, Washington and Eileen Melstad who is married to Jeff Holm. The Holms live in Minot, ND.

Harvey was employed as an Engineer for the Federal highways and his office was based in Bismarck. They joined the Sons of Norway lodge in Bismarck in 1982. Harvey served as Foundation Director of the lodge from 1989 to 1992, and as Vice President in 1995. The following year they sold their home at 1323 Meredith in Bismarck and moved to Washington to be near family – a family was growing with twins in the immediate future. They spent a few years helping with Gretchen and Henry and then decided it was time to move back to Bismarck and bought a home on Linden Lane.

They continued their activities with Sons of Norway when they relocated. They were involved with the Folk Dancers, and the S/N Chorus. After several years of singing with the group, Wilma was asked to direct that chorus, and did so for many years, until health issues caused her to step down in 2012. She passed away January 24, 2013.

Wilma's parents were Wilbur and Ruth Kalvig. Wilma was active in the Sons of Norway Knitting Group as well as the Sons of Norway Hardanger group. It was common for them to entertain Sons of Norway groups in their home through the years. They worked on the Lutefisk Dinners in various capacities, and particularly enjoyed our many bus trips, and even guiding one to NE ND where we attended Frost Fire Theatre, the Pembina Gorge, and Icelandic community.

Harvey and Wilma were active in church activities at 1st Lutheran in Bismarck. These activities included choir and Bible Study functions.

We honor the memory of Wilma with this tree dedication and honor and thank you Harvey for your dedication to our lodge. Thank you Harvey.