



Ruth and Erling Olson
May 17, 2014
Presentation made by Ted Thiede

Ruth is currently the Sons of Norway District IV Treasurer. She is a past Sverdrup lodge treasurer and recreation chairman leading excursions to Sioux Falls, Devils Lake, and Alaska. She is a member of the Sverdrup chorus and folk dancers, having been a folk dance instructor. She has been a delegate to numerous Sons of Norway conventions. In Maddock she was the financial secretary for the Mollargutten S/N lodge

Erling has been an officer in Sverdrup since 1999 including that as President. He has been a bell ringer, and a “meals on wheels” driver. He was tubfrim chairman for 10 years. He also has been a delegate to numerous Sons of Norway conventions. He is a member of the singers and folk dancers. In Maddock he was a president of the Mollargutten lodge and a Sons of Norway field representative.

Ruth and Erling have two sons: Larry, a security supervisor in Fargo, ND, and Gary, a computer guru for national hotel chains in Atlanta, GA.

While in Maddock, Ruth served as city judge, a substitute rural mail carrier, a first aid instructor, a CPR instructor, an ambulance EMT, Sunday School teacher and treasurer, cub scout leader, a band mother, a PTA member, a square dancer, and a bowler.

In Bismarck she worked for a psychiatrist and then 20 years for a law firm. In Bismarck she was a square dancer. She is a bowler, and a member of Newcomer’s Club. Being partly of Transylvanian descent, she is also a member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society.

While in Maddock, Erling established and operated GOA ENTERPRISES, featuring ideas, products, and services.

In Bismarck Erling worked for the State Child Enforcement Agency and then for Lee Enterprises as an ad salesman.

In Maddock Erling, an EMT, and was the first manager of the ambulance service. He was a Sunday school teacher and church treasurer. He served as president of the Lake Region Life Underwriters, the Maddock PTA, and the Maddock Uffda Square Dance Club.

Erling is a member of the Bismarck American Legion, Bismarck Lions Club, the North Dakota State Genealogical Society and the Scandinavian Heritage Association in Minot.

Since both Ruth and Erling are interested in family history, they are members of three Norwegian lags. On a trip to Norway Ruth visited relatives in Trondheim who pointed out where her great grandfather, Peter Wærness, a stonemason, had worked on the cathedral.

When an 18 year old high school graduate, Erling attended Minot State for 8 weeks and then taught school on a reservation living and 'batching' in the school house.