

**Jeannette and Marcus Radig
Tree Presentation
May 16, 2010
By Wilma Melstad**



Jeannette Radig has been a member of Sons of Norway, Sverdrup Lodge since 1976 and has served our organization in several ways.

She was lodge president in 1981. The Sons of Norway Park was started during her tenure. She was a member of the executive committee for several years, cultural director for three years and lutefisk dinner chairman once. She has also served as a delegate to the District IV Convention.

Jeannette and Sylvia Watson took a class at BSC to learn Norwegian Rosemaling and Jeannette in turn taught Rosemaling classes at Bismarck High School. She was also a part of the watercolor painting classes that were taught by Florence Nelson and Sylvia Watson.

Jeannette was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the fourth child of Joe and Mabel Hektner. They lived on a farm 15 miles west of Wahpeton, ND. This land was homesteaded by her grandparents in 1887 when they came from Norway. Jeannette owns that farm now. The farm has been in that family for 123 years.

Jeannette started school in a little country grade school and graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1944. Her first job was as a clerk in a small town grocery store. She worked six-days a week and got \$40.00 a month.

She went to North Dakota School of Science in Wahpeton for two years, took a break when she and a friend went to Seattle to work at Boeing Aircraft to help with the war effort. She graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead in Home Economics and biology. She also became certified for as a Special Education instructor later.

She began her career as Home Extension agent for Ransom County where she worked for three years as leader of the 4-H Clubs and Homemaker Clubs. She attended a national conference in West Virginia and was elected secretary. It was in this position that she discovered her love for travel.

Mark was born June 7, 1923, in Barney, to Herman and Alma (Kressin) Radig. After he graduated from Wahpeton High School, he farmed near Breckenridge, MN. He worked as a farmer near Breckenridge until age 40, when he attended Wahpeton State School of Science.

Jeannette and Mark were married on May 13, 1950. They enjoyed 59 years together. Mark died last year on May 9, 2009.

They started their life together on the Radig farm near Wahpeton, but have lived in Pierre, SD, Fargo, ND, and Milnor, ND. Jeannette worked extensively with Native Americans at these locations. They finally settled in Bismarck. Jeannette taught Home Economics and Special Education students at Bismarck High School for 19 years.

For 20 years, Mark was employed at the North Dakota State Capital as Purchasing Agent in Accounts and Purchasing. He is best known for his countless hours of volunteer work with the Trinity Lutheran Newman's Club, Heritage Center, Sons of Norway and Flickertail Woodcarvers.

Jeannette also volunteered at the ND Heritage Center and has been a docent there for 20 years.

Mark and Jeannette traveled extensively. They visited all fifty states and 37 countries on six continents. They also enjoyed Elderhostels – and attended 16 of them all around the country.

Jeannette is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck where as a very talented, artistic person, a gourmet cook and gracious hostess she is very involved, but she says there is one area where she has no talent – they do not let her enter the music room.

Of all her accomplishments Jeannette says her greatest pride and joy are in their four children, (two boys and two girls) that she and Mark raised together. They are all good Christian citizens and have interesting careers and nice homes.

I am proud to give this tribute to Jeannette and Marcus Radig as Sons of Norway dedicates a tree in their honor in our park today.