

**Arne and June Sakshaug
Tree Dedication
May 16, 2010**
Presented by Henry
Wisness



Arne and June Sakshaug joined the Sverdrup Sons of Norway Lodge on March 9, 1970 during the time when Gilman Storlie was president. The lodge was growing quickly and in April 1970 the lodge was discussing initiation of new members as there were at least 100 people who had joined but not been initiated.

In April of 1970 the lodge was talking about the 60th anniversary celebration of the lodge and decided to do a banquet at the Country Club, and now we are talking about the 100th anniversary.

Gil wanted the lodge to instigate projects – two were decided upon, 1) a language class; 2) a folk dancing class. It was Arne who made the motion to have a language class, or if there were enough people were interested, to have two classes. It was determined that Pam Bolt would teach the classes at BJC on Wednesday nights. As far as folk dancing, it was determined that Erling and Margaret Botnen would work with the folk dancing group.

In October it was Arne's suggestion that the lodge invite Pastor Raftshol to give a program on Norwegian culture. Also in October of 1970 Arne was elected Secretary of the lodge for 1971 and he did a newsletter that year, a tradition that has continued ever since. The next year he was elected vice president and the following year he served as president of Sverdrup. Now that was getting involved right away with the workings of the lodge.

By 1973 there were two language classes, one for beginners taught by Pam Bolt at BSC and one for advanced students taught by Norwegian born Arne Selbyg. (son in law of Adin and Doris Helgeson)

It was in 1971 that the lodge decided to have its first Lutefisk dinner. In 1975 Arne Sakshaug was chairman of that event, in 1976 Arne Sakshaug and Otto Bervik co-chaired the dinner, and again in 1985 Arne, along with his wife June and Vern and Doris Hansen took on the responsibility of chairing the Lutefisk Dinner.

Through Arne's term of office, membership continued to grow, projects such as the language classes and folk dance groups continued to grow, the Lutefisk dinners thrived, and meetings at the Country Club were well attended and had interesting programs with live music.

In June of 1980, Sverdrup hosted the District Sons of Norway Convention. Walter Ongstad was the chairman of the event and it was a busy, busy time for the lodge. Shortly before the convention, Walter suffered from a heart attack and was hospitalized so could not attend to the final responsibilities of the event. Arne Sakshaug was appointed to step up to the plate and take over, and he did a fantastic job.

During the years of Adopt a Highway project – Arne suggested the lodge take this project on and we were assigned the area on Highway 83 north of Bismarck. Arne was right there and making sure the job was done properly and that we had a good time in doing so, too. And – oh what interesting things we found in the ditches!