

Biography - Audrey Solheim - May 2000

Presented by Alfred Steinke

Audrey was born and raised in Manfred, ND. She graduated from high school at Fessenden in 1963, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Minot State College in 1967 and did graduate work in Office Education at University of North Dakota.

Ole Onstad, Audrey's grandfather was the charter president Fagerlund S/N Manfred in 1920. Her dad, Helmer Solheim was president of the S/N lodge in Manfred several times and her mother, Annie Solheim served as financial secretary at Fagerlund for many years. Audrey joined the Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge in December 1969 and transferred to Sverdrup in November 1972.



Audrey taught 1 year at Beach High School, 2 years at Drake High School in the Vocational Business and Office Education field. She moved to Bismarck in November 1970, and worked for Legislative Council during the session. When the session was over she took a position with Vocational Education and worked there until June 1978. She is currently employed by Legal Assistance of North Dakota as Administrative Aide.

In 1973, she took her first office in Sverdrup, when Arne Sakshaug was president. This was the job of publicity director, and she has been an officer in the local lodge every year since 1973. Those offices included secretary, newsletter editor, recreation director, vice president, president, trustee and now back she is back to being editor of the lodge newspaper. It was in 1991 that she served as President of Sverdrup Lodge. In 1990, when Sverdrup's celebrated their 80th anniversary celebration, she chaired the event and for the 85th anniversary in 1995 she gave the history for the anniversary celebration.

In 1974, she attended her first District Convention - it was in Fargo. She also attended the International Convention in Banff that year and has attended all of the district conventions and nearly all of the International conventions since that time with the exception of one in California and one in Norway. She was not always a delegate to the international conventions but always served as a delegate to the district meetings. Audrey served on many district and international convention committees including sports, youth and culture. She was on the sports committee the year the sports medal program was established and brought the program back to this lodge to be implemented. Many, many people have participated in this program through the years.

She was elected as District IV Secretary for the 1982 -1984 term and re-elected Secretary for the 1984 - 1986; she was also elected as District IV Publicity Director for the 1988-1990 term.

In 1977 she Co-Chaired Lutefisk Dinner with Ella Naves and worked the dinner each year generally serving as chair of the hostess committee.

Audrey organized many bus trips. Among them was the trip to Minneapolis to see the Norwegian Display; to Decorah for the Nordic Fest a couple of times; to Calgary and Kalispell for district conventions to name a few.

She was in charge of ordering the red windbreaker jackets in about 1977 that continue to be an

identifying factor of Sverdrup members today.

Travel to Norway is important to Audrey. In July 1972 she and her mother took their first abroad and spent most of their time in the Valdres Valley with relatives on her mother's side. In July of 1989, Audrey and Ella traveled together and Audrey had the opportunity to visit in Stavanger and meet her father's relatives. This August (2000), she will attend the International Sons of Norway Convention and be in both Stavanger and the Valdres Valley.

As far as hobbies are concerned, many, many hours each week are spent researching data on the Internet and making contacts with people on her family tree!

Folk Dancing - Assistant mentor, serving as Master of Ceremonies for performances. She has attended all district folk dance workshops. (10 years)

She is part of the S/N Norwegian Chorus, serves on the music committee and fills in director when director is not available.

She has been a regular on the Adopt a Highway Cleanup project.

She has been an active participant in the Book Study group since its inception.

Hardanger - not such an active participant, but occasional attendance has helped to get one more piece of Hardanger completed.

Audrey is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church

In Sons of Norway we all know Audrey as being: energetic, friendly, wholesome, active, and knowledgeable and in appreciation -

It is fitting that we

- 1) make her "queen" for the day;
- 2) that we dedicate a tree in her honor and
- 3) that her name, Audrey Solheim be etched in the plaque

Ladies and gentlemen - Audrey Solheim

We say thanks.