

Al and Bernice Steinke

Given by Marvin Evenson - 1999

Just four years ago, Donna and I were honored with a tree planted for us. It was a wet Sunday so we had to be in the school for our program and parade, just as we are today.

At that event, Al Steinke made some flattering remarks regarding our involvement in Sverdrup Lodge. Now, today, I have the privilege of telling you something about Al and Bernice and what they had done and are continuing to do for this great organization, our Sverdrup Lodge 4-107.

Al and Bernice both joined Sons of Norway on April 1st, 1971, so in a few short months they will be Golden Members. During these 28 years they have been active in many ways. I could go on for a long time about their involvement; I'll try to highlight a little of it for you.

As of today and for the past several years we see both Al and Bernice singing in the Lodge choir. We see them both dancing in the folk dance group and for several years now Al has been the leader and he's darn good at it.

They have also been active in sports and recreation. I think I first met Al when he was on the bowling team with Norm Peterson and others at the old alley near where the Rausch Furniture Store is now. They have taken active roles in winter skiing—at their home, at Metigoshe Park and Maplelog, trips which were fun times.

Also always helping at picnics and especially in connection with our Lodge's participation in local civic parades.



Framing floats, getting tractor power for pulling floats and for storage or our rigs.

They are good card players too, with bridge especially. Both are tough opponents as the Berviks and Sakshaugs and the Evensons well knew for a number of years.

I now want to emphasize their involvement in the development and maintenance of this Sons of Norway Park.

I'm not sure what year Al first became an officer of our lodge, I do know that in 1982 he was the President and that fall on September 12th this Park was dedicated. Al and Bernice were on a trip at the time so as his Vice President I had to do the honors for our Lodge.

The park sponsorship idea was 7 years in developing, but thanks to the persistence of Mel Berg and Rasmus Karlgaard it became a reality in 1982.

During 1983, the big trees by the tennis court were moved in and playground equipment installed. In 1984, when Al Schultz was president, various ideas of park development were being talked about.

At the June 30th business meeting in the Schultz's backyard, Al and others first discussed the idea of a stabbur for the park.

Al, along with Hank Wisness, proposed a campout trip to Devils Lake on August 3rd, 4th, and 5th. We had a great trip, took in the play "Carousel" at Fort Totten and visited the Sherman Quanbeck farm to see a new stabbur that had recently been built there.

That visit set in motion the development of and construction of the stabbur, to be dedicated on our 75th Anniversary in 1985.

During all of this Al was one of the prime movers and shakers that got the job done in time for our 75th Anniversary. He, along with Al Schultz, Gil Storlie and Anund Roheim's plans and many participating members made the stabbur a reality.

So, in my opinion, Al and Bernice deserve a lot of credit for their involvement in our Lodge. Al, as one of our foremost members in the evolvement of this Park; and Bernice for all her activity. As we dedicate this tree to Bernice and Al there is just one small factor that has me a little befuddled. However, I must admit it had to happen sooner or later.

Up until this year we have had 21 trees planted and dedicated. All of these trees are marked by Scandinavian names - now among them will be a German name and we will just have to hope for the best.