



**Duane and Shirley Svanes**  
by Audrey Solheim, May 17, 2017

First let's talk about Duane. Two important things happened on January 30, 1933; Adolf Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany and Duane Carlton Svanes was born in Kintyre, North Dakota to Carl and Myrtle (Farness) Svanes. Duane has lived his entire life, up to this time, within four miles of the place where he was born.

He attended elementary school in Kintyre, attended and graduated from high school at Oak Grove in Fargo.

He has one brother Harold who was for years a partner in family farming operations. Upon Harold's retirement and moving from the farm, Duane's sons Dana and Alan have taken over the operations of the farm. Duane continues to assist in the farming operations as well as operating the Svanes Hunting Lodge, located on the yard of his current home with wife Shirley.

Duane was married to Frances Peterson and they had four children – Dana and Alan who live nearby and have a grain and cattle operation at Kintyre. Dennis is a C.P.A. and works for a Rural Electric Cooperative at Durango, Colorado. Daughter Diana and husband Randy live at Bismarck. Dana teaches at Fort Lincoln Elementary at Mandan. Duane is Papa to thirteen grandchildren.

Community involvement includes serving as church treasurer, participation in the board of South Central Grain, and has served as District 28 Republican Precinct Chairman.

Duane enjoys traveling and has visited Norway 10 times, beginning at the age of four. He enjoys hosting relatives from Norway and sharing with them hospitality and touring of our country. He has stayed in close contact with 13 first cousins in Norway, many of whom have now passed. He also has visited several Asian countries, Mexico, Caribbean Islands, Europe and Scandinavian countries. He has toured in 46 of the United States including Hawaii and Alaska.

His Sverdrup Sons of Norway involvements include membership since 1968 and a Golden Member since 1998. He has been Sons of Norway Foundation Chairman which includes facilitating drivers for Meals on Wheels in Bismarck during the month of May. He became co-chair with Vern Monger of the Lutefisk Dinner and has continued as Chairman of the Lutefisk Dinner for three years. These positions have involved many hours of phone time for organizing drivers and workers for the sponsored events.

Duane, although semi-retired from farming, continues to assist in family farming operations. His hobbies are Sons of Norway activities, organizing trips, hosting numerous hunters from a variety of states and making improvements on the lodge and their home.

## **Shirley Svanes**

Shirley McMaster Svanes was born February 14, 1937 at Barnesville, Minnesota to Helmer and Hilda (Stubstad) Johnson. She grew up on the farm, attended country school and graduated from Pelican Rapids High School. She attended Concordia College for one year, worked as a secretary and returned to college and obtained a degree in Home Economics Education at North Dakota State University.

She married James McMaster at New Town and was mother to two sons, Mark and Joel. Her husband Jim and son Mark died from cancer in 1990 and 1991, respectively. Joel and Cathy are parents to her two grandchildren, Rian and Lindsey.

Her entire teaching career was spent at New Town High School – 22+ years. She also worked for a time at the Fort Berthold Extension Service. Upon early retirement from teaching and with a home economics background, she was employed as dietary supervisor at the New Town Nursing Home.

Since the New Town News was a family owned business, she assisted with the News in a variety of ways, including taking photos of students at school, setting type, proof-reading, bookkeeping, writing news stories and in other ways they didn't hire people to do.

Shirley joined Thor Lodge, Sons of Norway at Minot in 1994, was in the singing and folk dancing group at Wergeland Lodge in Jamestown. She has been in the singing group at Sverdrup in Bismarck. While at Jamestown she was a delegate to two District IV conventions, one at Bismarck and the other at Great Falls, Montana.

Her vest sewing started with sewing vests for Teddy bears. Recently she, along with Ella Naves and Arlene Olson sewed adult Sons of Norway vests for lodge members. She has served as Social Director and currently assists with the Lutefisk Dinner as Co-Chair with Duane.

She met Duane at Sons of Norway, was engaged on Valentine's Day on her 70th birthday and married in 2007. When she said "I do", her family grew from 5 to 25. Duane, Dennis, Joel and sis Joyce planned a great surprise 80th birthday party in Mesa this February!

Shirley continues as area representative for Christian Women's Club and has served on the team leadership committee for a number of years. She has been a speaker for Christian Women's Clubs in the nearby tri-state area.

Her less serious side includes the "Lefse Lady" who has visited a number of times solo or with her sister "Yoyce" from "Minnesnowta."

Her hobbies include sewing, gardening and yard, quilting, decorating and baking cookies for grandchildren, now numbering fifteen in the blended family.

Sons of Norway is fortunate to have Shirley and Duane as members of our lodge and we are pleased to honor them with the dedication of a tree on our Sons of Norway Park.