



Ted and Addie Thiede
Given by Erling Olson
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Addie grew up and attended school in the Almont area. Addie, as we know her, worked at the state capital and at the Gold Seal Company. She moved to California, where she was a high school secretary in Cerritos. Here she met Ted. She later married him in Japan; and as they say the rest is history. They traveled the world together.

Ted was born and grew up in the St Charles area in southern Minnesota. As a young man he entered the US Air Force; taking basic training at Lockland AFB in Texas and serving primarily in Japan. As a matter of fact he spent 7 Christmas in Japan both in the air force and for the Hughes Companies.

Following military service he went to work for Hughes Aircraft and Hughes Tool, spending 31 year there. For a while he wrote technical manuals. One of the manuals he wrote had no errors. This manual was the first a reviewer had seen with no errors. Ted commented later he should have put a mistake in as he wanted to be in a different line of work. When his supervisor was on vacation, the assistant supervisor told Ted now is the time to switch if you wish to which what he did is. Ted worked primarily in electronics and communications. As a matter of fact he worked on the first direct TV satellite. They built a dish in Missouri that was over 100 feet across.

Following this change he had an interesting career. He was in China when Nixon visited there. While the Chinese were in a line greeting Nixon, he was in a line where he got to shake hands with Chou Enlai. While in China he ended up in the hospital where Chinese higher ups wearing Mao suits came to wish him well. They also arranged for him to see the Great Wall of China.

In October of 1971 while working on the 2500th anniversary celebration of Persia, he and another were driving out to Shiraz near Persepolis, where Cyrus the Great had ruled.

They had to pull over as the Shah was passing. The person who had them pull over told them to stand and hold their hands where he could see them.

He spent time in Indonesia, Jordan, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil as well as many other interesting places. As an interesting tidbit he can order rice in many languages.

They moved to Bismarck 25 years ago on Syttende Mai in 1988. After moving to Bismarck, Addie established and ran Juniques for 22 years.

Even though they have been married 52 years, Addie is still only 39. They have one daughter, Laurie, who lives in Bismarck; two sons, Randy who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona and Robert who lives in Huntington Beach, California. They have 4 grandchildren.

Since joining Sverdrup Ted and Addie have been our lead folk dancers active both in the folk dance group and the Norwegian chorus. They are our Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancers. We attended the folk dance workshop in Rapid City in April, one of many Theides and we have attended. Watching Ted and Addie jitterbug convinced me that Fred and Ginger could do no better. Addie also was a cultural director for a while, helping bring many interesting programs to Sverdrup. They have been delegates to both District 4 and International Sons of Norway conventions.

As you can see, Ted and Addie have been a “God-send” as members. Ted and Addie remind me of Sig and Marge Peterson and Mel and Elaine Berg. Those 4 people, to me, were the epitome of what is the best in Sons of Norway members.

Congratulations Ted and Addie on having a tree dedicated in your honor.