

KRINGEN KLUB HISTORY
TEN YEARS OLD

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Someone had a dream sometime prior to 1975. "Dreaming dreams" and "an eye to the future" are expressions that are often quoted but the one person who truly did "Dream dreams" with an eye to the future on those days was Carrol Juven. His contagious enthusiasm was a real asset to the formation of Kringen Klub. He, more than any other member, was responsible for the purchase of the property that Kringen now has. The Klub has facilities that are unique and the decor is a tasteful expression of our Norwegian heritage. Thank you, Carrol.

1975 - This year is the birthdate of our Kringen Klub. The first lodge meeting of the year was held in our new Lodge home. Carl Hovey was our president. It was truly a banner year. In that year 1,418 new members were taken in. This was also the year when negotiations were completed where Fargo, North Dakota and Hamar, Norway became sister cities.

In 1976 Merlyn Valan was our president. This year marks the inauguration of our monthly newsletter.

Brother Carl Hovey was chosen as president of the year for 1975 for Zone 1 of the Sons of Norway.

Sister Olga Vigestad also won recognition for the Lodge by winning top honors in District Four for her scrapbook.

Sister Shirlee Valan was elected treasurer for District Four. 1976 also marks the year that our Sunday Brunch program was instituted.

In 1977 Phil Hanson was the president. Upon his resignation Brother Cliff Tingesdahl, our Vice-President, assumed the presidency for the remainder of the term.

Our own Brother Henry Martinson was named Poet Laureate for the state of North Dakota at age 93.

In 1978 Karsten Hordvik was our president. In this year Kringen Klub met serious financial difficulties. Our Klub was sold at auction due to the default in our mortgage payments to Sons of Norway International. Fortunately, Kringen Klub had a year of grace in which to redeem the property.

Brother Joseph Sether made a proposal that members contribute \$1.00 a week for a year to build a fund to pay for our building. His suggestion was adopted and thus our S.O.N. 52 Club was born.

1978 was also the year that Kringen Lodge was the Host for the International Convention of the Supreme Lodges.

Kringen was honored by a visit from Princess Sonja of Norway.

In 1979 Karsten Hordvik was again our president. Activities for the year centered mainly around social events and marked the beginning of our "Avslutnings Fests" for groups that visit us from Norway. This has become an annual affair.

In 1980 Helge Rommesmo was president. Scandinavian Weekend was instituted by the Fargo Park Board and, of course, Kringen participated. Another event that took place in October of that year was a "Trollfest" and a narration of troll legends was capably presented by Sister Leola Olson.

A program commemorating the 5th Anniversary of our club was held in April.

Our members were all saddened by the sudden death of Jackie Klokseth Røyrvik in June.

In 1981 Helge Rommesmo was again president. 1,100 Norwegians visited Kringen that year.

Many social events took place and Kringen's participation in the "Winter Fest" and the "Scandinavian Weekend" at Trollwood Park have become an annual affair.

With the assistance of Brother Karsten Hordvik shelves were built in our library. This was a major accomplishment in our facility that enabled us to place our books on the shelves in an orderly manner.

March of 1981 saw the beginning of the Kringen Card Club. This activity is still going strong and has proven to be another social function that has been very successful, both socially as well as financially.

1981 saw the death of 58 year member and historian Henry Martinson at the age of 95 years.

in 1982 Cliff Stadum was president. The major cultural accomplishment of the year was the organization of a mixed chorus which became known as the Kringen Kor. Their premier performance was on May 17th under the direction of Brother Bill Syverson.

A monumental time for Kringen occurred when Kringen Klub presented the required \$100,000.00 to the International Lodge for the redemption of the mortgage on the building. The announcement of this occasion was made at the Syttende Mai program.

His Highness, King Olav of Norway visited Fargo that year and members of Kringen served as ushers for the Kings appearance at the Civic Auditorium. The ladies wore their "bunads" and they all looked beautiful.

In 1983 our president was Dr. Fred Comstock. One of the activities of Kringen Klub that has not been mentioned is the Klubs food booth

at the Red River Valley Fair. This has been going on for several years and is continuing each year. It has been quite a profitable venture over the years. Of course, the operation of the fair booth as well as all other activities would not happen if it were not the willing volunteers we have.

This was the year that we built a new building on the fair ground for use during fair week. This is a fine facility replacing the old building that was destroyed in a severe wind storm. Frank Gronbeck spearheaded the move to get this accomplished and many volunteers helped.

Another activity that has flourished for many years is our Monday night bingo.

The major event of the year at the Klub was the 80th Anniversary observance of Kringen Lodge. Our members were honored to have Brother Egil Olson visit us for this occasion. Mr. Olson was International President at the time. His lovely wife, Marta, accompanied him.

In 1984 Frank Gronbeck was president of the Lodge. Helge Rommesmo was president of the Klub. This was a year of new innovations at Kringen.

We have a social night every Tuesday evening beginning with a light supper at 5:30, then we have entertainment in the lounge until about 10:00 o'clock.

Another new activity is the serving of soup and sandwiches at noon every day, Monday through Friday. Still another new function is called "Fun Nite". This activity is on the "off" Saturday nights. By "off" we mean every Saturday when there is no dinner and dance on Friday night. Dancing, eating and card playing makes up the fun.

Another big event that has been held the last couple of years is a "Buffalo Meat Dinner". This has been a big success.

An event of note that happened in 1984 was the visit to Kringen by Honorable Harold Lone, Royal Norwegian Counsel General for Norway in Minneapolis. A banquet in his honor was held in March.

During 1984 it became necessary to purchase a new heating system for our building. This was an expensive venture. But thanks to Kringen Lodge, it is all paid for and we as members are enjoying the comfort of the new system.

In conclusion, we feel that Kringen has made great strides forward in the past decade. True there were dark days at times but we hope the next ten years will have only good days. During the dark days of our club there was a generous member named Emelia Corneliussen who saved the club financially in addition to making this facility a financial success during its inception and construction.

