

NORSK MUSEUM

Norwegian Center Incorporation Newsletter

April 2024



**Norsk Museum 2023
year in review**

In this issue:

- 2023 year in review
- 2024 what's coming up
- Docents— We love you!
- Events



Off to a late start getting this year-end review out, but it's important that you have a chance to see what's coming up this year too!

Save the Dates:

2024 dates to save:

- ◆ May 17 Syttende Mai
- ◆ May 19 Park Ridge Parade
- ◆ June 1 Opening Day / Breakfast
- ◆ Geneva Library Viking Exhibit, all year
- ◆ Friends of the Viking Ship, all summer
- ◆ Sept 8 Vasa Park
- ◆ Sept 9-16 Lars Idar Waage Photo Exhibition [Stavanger]
- ◆ Oct 6 Annual Slooper Meeting and Smorgasbord



NORSK MUSEUM

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Help Support the
Norsk Museum Opening Day &

Taste of Norway Breakfast



Sat., June 1, 2024 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

After Breakfast, join us at
the Norsk Museum [9am
to 2pm]

- ◆ Rosemaling sales and demonstrations by Lynn Sove Maxson
- ◆ Hardanger by Linda
- ◆ Polar Star Lodge
- ◆ Norwegian Food Sales
- ◆ Cultural demonstrations

Right in Norway — 3656 E 2631st Rd Sheridan, IL 60551

Enjoy delicious home cooked
Norwegian Frokost (Breakfast)
at the Norway Community
Building. Serving fried kumla,
ham, scrambled eggs with
chives, fruit cups and coffee!

No Advance Tickets
Donations ONLY
Support our museum



Phone (815) 343-5070 (text)

See all the new exhibits
Visit Norsk Museum
www.NorskMuseum.org

NORSK MUSEUM

2017 Most Endangered

In 2017 Landmarks Illinois added the Norway Temperance Association Hall to their 10 Most Endangered Historic Buildings in Illinois. The Norsk Museum endeavored ever since to gain ownership of the building for two reasons, to save the building from collapse and to restore it to its original 1909 glory. The Norsk Museum will be celebrating its 50th anniversary as a museum this year. Every year more Norwegian family keepsakes and heirlooms are donated. The NTA hall will provide the much-needed space for new exhibits. The NTA has great historical value itself and should eventually be added to the National Register of Historic Buildings. Thanks to the generosity of the Borchsenius family, of the Norway Store, the Norsk Museum has claimed ownership of the NTA hall. In 2017, historic architect, Michael Lambert evaluated the structure for the purposes of restoration and estimated the cost to be \$250,000. When we were notified that the building was being donated, Mr. Lambert was invited back for a second evaluation. Inflation now increased the restoration to \$500,000! First the rear wall must be stabilized, then the roof and the windows. After the exterior work is completed, the interior restoration will be addressed



Before views of the NTA



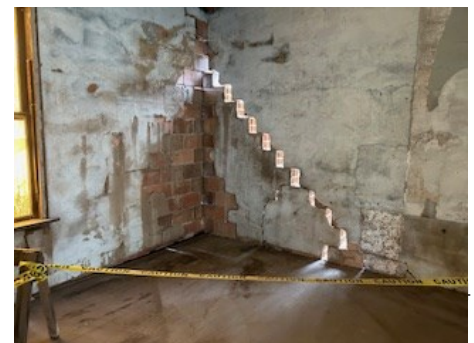
NORSK MUSEUM

**Newest Donation, thanks
to the Norway Store!**

The Norway Temperance Association was organized in the late 1870's by the Norway Methodist Women who believed our nation's ills could be attributed to the drinking of alcoholic beverages. Every year during the 1870's, 1880's and 1890's, the small village of Norway had reports in the newspaper of riots, stabbings, rock throwing and even attempted murder. It was reminiscent of Matt Dillion and Gun Smoke, but without the sheriff. The women of the town took charge to put an end to this Norway war zone. On August 12, 1880, of the first NTA hall was dedicated. At the time they were called the Norway Red Ribbon Reform Club. This new building seated 200 people, at a cost of \$378. Most every town in the country had their own Red Ribbon Club and semi-annually representatives would meet at conventions to promote abstinence and closing bars. Even Susan B. Anthony came down to this area, to support the cause.

During the glory days of the NTA, from 1909-1956, it was the social epicenter and heart of the community. During its 47 years of use, this building was used for 63 meetings, 47 wedding showers and celebrations, 147 parties and dances, 66 fundraisers, at least 9 graduations, numerous basketball games, and 55 stage plays. In 1909, their first fundraiser was an Oyster Supper and by 1939 they were fundraising a new furnace. In June 1941, the NTA was the meeting place for all the area townships, to learn about the new Rural Electric program. In 1954, square dancing was introduced, along with square dance classes.

**Now to raise
\$500,000!!**



Jun 2023

NORSK MUSEUM

Opening weekend in June



Jun 2023

NORSK MUSEUM

Polar Star Sons of Norway Lodge is a major supporter of the Norsk Museum as docents, fundraising and financially. Our museum is 100% volunteer operated, Mange takk Polar Star!



**Opening Day
Norwegian Breakfast
Norwegian Cultural
Experience!**



Jun 2023

NORSK MUSEUM



**Cleng Peerson
Lodge Sons of
Norway
Strong partners
for the museum**



Jul 2023

NORSK MUSEUM

Norway Car Show



16th annual Car Show coming in 2024.
Always the last Saturday in July

from 3-7. Great fun!

Norsk Museum is open too, just park in
the back. Antique Cars everywhere.



Jul 2023

NORSK MUSEUM



Annual parade circuit.
This year at
Newark, Yorkville and
Marseilles



NORSK MUSEUM



**Busy
throughout
the summer.**



Oct 2023

NORSK MUSEUM



**VASA
Park
Fun**



Jan 1958

NORSK MUSEUM

Papa is a Sloopier

Original Musical by

BJ Muus and Keith Clark

Ottawa High School

COMMUNITY PLAYERS, INC.
PRESENTS
"PAPA IS A SLOOPER"
Thurs. Fri. Sat., Aug. 25-26-27
Curtain Time is 8:15 p. m.
ENGLE LANE THEATER
S. Columbus Rd., Streator
All Seats Reserved—Adm. 90c
Phone Reservations Accepted
Streator 4-7241—7 to 9 p. m.

Came across these articles while researching the Sloopers. Someone out there has a copy of the original script and music! Wouldn't it be great for the bicentennial next year?!

Barn Players To Stage An Original Play

The Barn Players have started rehearsals on an original musical called "Papa Is Sloopier."

The play's setting is laid in this locale, and is about Norwegians, their customs and traditions.

It was written by Keith Clark of the Ottawa High School faculty, and music was composed by both B. J. Muus, also of the OHS faculty, and Clark.

Director of the play is Merle Dielon. Louis Olmstead is musical director. The set designer is Norwegian Folk artist Johnny Johnson, assisted by Elizabeth Revell.




REAL SETTING — A converted loft provides a real "barn theater" setting for the Barn Players as they rehearse for their show. Beverly Olmstead and Dick Wallem go over some of their lines.

July 1960



DANCE SCENE — Rehearsing for one of the dance scenes — at the Sloopier picnic—are Rose Schwartzbach and John Lynch. Original play includes many original songs and several dance numbers.



Community Players
present . . .

"Pappa Is A Sloopier"

A MUSICOMEDY IN THREE ACTS
by
Keith Clark and B. J. Muus
directed by
James Smith

ENGLE LANE THEATRE
August 24 - 27, 1960
Eight-fifteen in the Evening

NORSK MUSEUM



Norsk Museum

Open June-October
Saturday-Sunday
1-5 pm

Oldest Permanent Norwegian Settlement in America

(Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway)
3656 E. 2631st Rd Sheridan, IL 60551

 NorskMuseum.org

Feb 2024

NORSK MUSEUM



This was a promotional weekend, in cooperation with other LaSalle County museums. It turned out to be a big hit, with over 200 visitors that weekend. We are already discussing President's Day Weekend in 2025, as a bigger 3-day event.

**2025 Bicentennial
Zoom meeting with
committee members
from around the
world.**

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

CHECK OUT THE MUSEUMS OF LASALLE COUNTY!

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2024

10-4PM*

*Hours may vary at some locations

- Earlville Historical Society
- Hegeler-Carus Mansion
- LaSalle County Historical Society
- Mendota Museum & Historical Society
- Norsk Museum
- Ottawa Historical & Scouting Heritage Museum
- Reddick Mansion
- Sheridan Historical Society
- Westclox Museum

\$1 per person, more details below




Mar 2023

NORSK MUSEUM



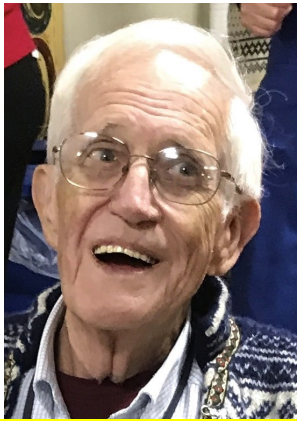
Marseilles National Guard was called in to control a couple berserk Viking docents.



Last month, the Norwegian Embassy authorized the second annual Marseilles National Guard, 18.5 mile Norwegian Road March.

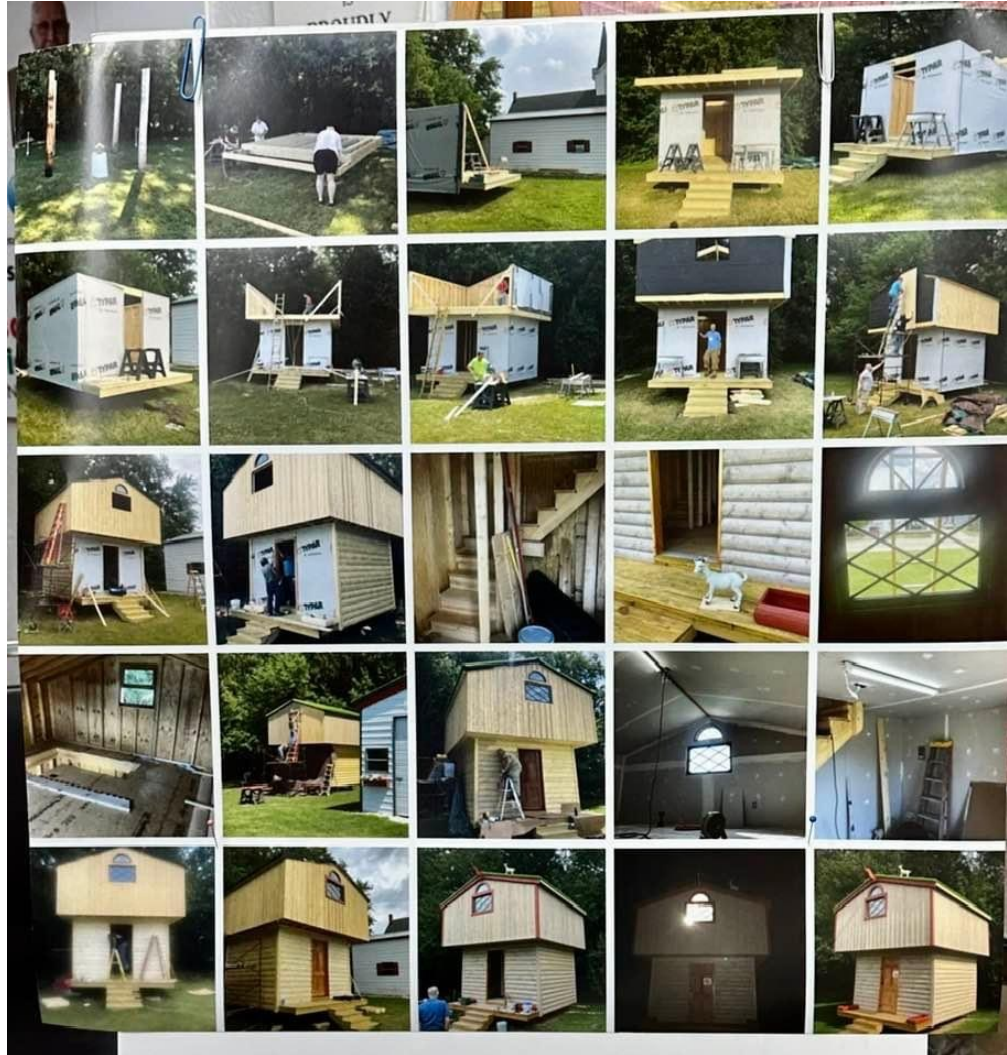
30 competitors and sponsors visited our museum the evening prior, to see what Norway was all about.








NORSK MUSEUM

Wonderful turnout for the dedication!
Roald Berg Memorial Stabbur



 **Roald Berg Memorial Stabbur** 

 Throughout the country of Norway the stabbur with its traditional sod roof is a common sight. They are used on farms as a storehouse where the family keeps their valuable commodities. Trunks with clothing and keepsakes are stored on the upper floor; food and grain on the ground floor. Water and rodents are the biggest enemy in the storehouse. Therefore, sturdy stilts raise the floor level and the wooden steps do not come into contact with the structure to reduce the possibility of rodent infestation. Meats and cheeses are hung from the rafters as well as shocks of grain for drying purposes.

It was long the dream of our beloved Norsk Museum board member Roald Berg to build a stabbur replica on the museum grounds, and what you see before you today is the fulfillment of his vision.

NORSK MUSEUM

2023 plans / wish list

- ◇ Restoration project for the 1909 Norway Temperance Hall
- ◇ Recruit more docents
- ◇ Get article published in Viking magazine
- ◇ NTA Dinner theatre (3rd meeting of the Norway Temperance Association)
- ◇ Teresa's Nordic documentary puts us on the map!!
- ◇ Strengthen ties between Stavanger Norway and our community
- ◇ Preparation for the Sloop 200th Anniversary
- ◇ Get the Cleng Peerson children's book published



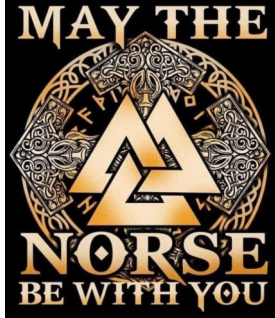
Donations

- ◇ Polar Star lodge \$100 + volunteer hours = priceless!!
- ◇ Cleng Peerson Lodge (\$20,000 to date) + volunteer hours = priceless!!
- ◇ Verdandi lodge \$1,250 (\$7,7000 to date)
- ◇ Constelation volunteers \$1,000 (\$5,500 to date)
- ◇ Gjovik auto sales (\$2,000 to date)
- ◇ Don Harsted donate \$50 ancestry (\$100 to date)
- ◇ Dennis Beckmann \$100 (\$300 to date)
- ◇ Petra Luke \$500 (\$1,000 to date)
- ◇ Linda Anderson \$200 (\$500 to date)
- ◇ Norway Cruise \$100 (\$700 to date)
- ◇ Jerry & Carole Johnson \$100
- ◇ Tom & Lynn Sove Maxson [too much to list here]
- ◇ Art & Nancy Andersen [too much to list here]
- ◇ Plus many more in membership donations.....

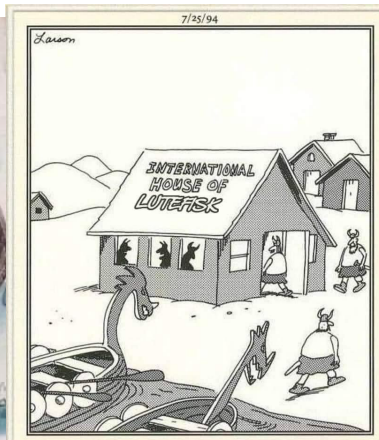
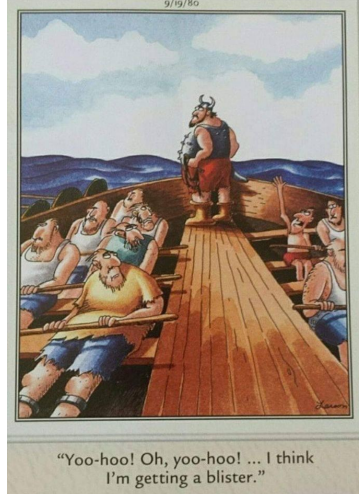
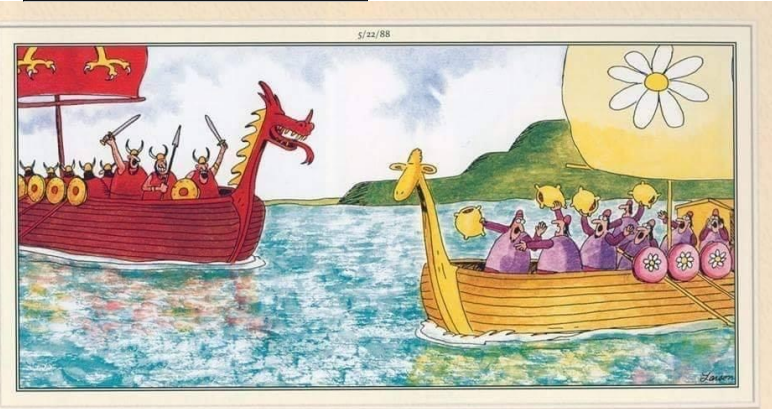
Mange takk!



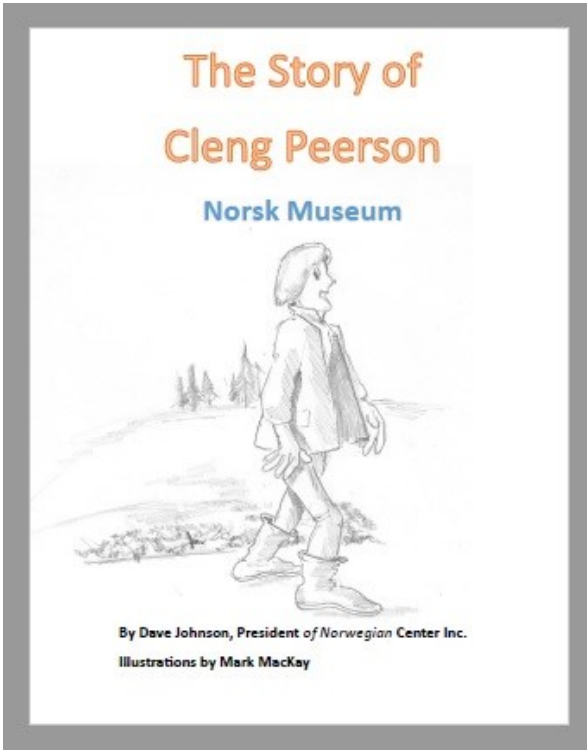
NORSK MUSEUM



Norsk Museum on Facebook.
 3,821 likes and growing. Sharing news from the past and present, honoring Notable Norwegians, learning language and fun.



NORSK MUSEUM

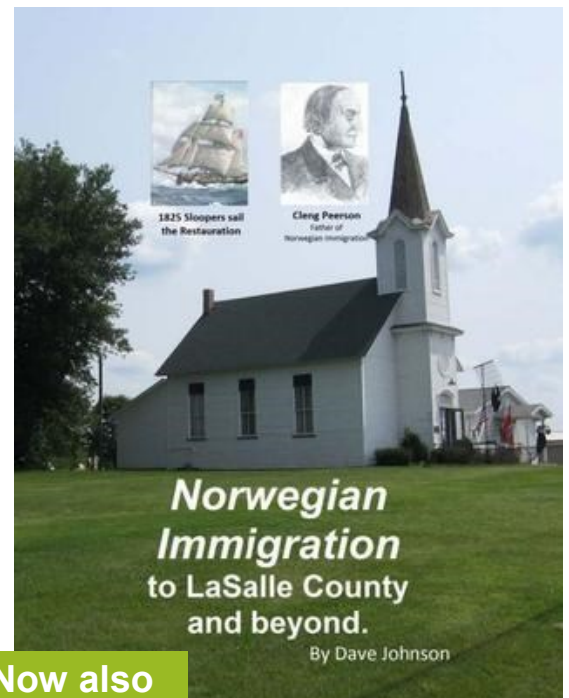


Most visitors, when they first see our museum have never heard of Cleng Peerson or the Sloopers, especially if they are visiting from out of state. Most everyone who comes from Norway, Europe to visit us, want to see what we have on Cleng Peerson. This book is geared toward the younger reader. **Local illustrator, Mark MacKay, has created 50 wonderful drawings, to help the reader better understand and enjoy the journey of Norway's greatest explorer since Leif Errickson.**

The expected release is late 2024!



**Mark & Jan
MacKay**



In its' forth printing! Now also available at the Norway Store.

NORSK MUSEUM

Board members:

Dave Johnson [President]

Rich Gunderson [Treasurer]

Linda Anderson [Secretary]

Lynnette Johnson

[Membership]

Rob Borchsenius [plus NIL
President]

Steve Tanda [plus NNL & Polar
Star]

Laurie Gage [plus Cleng Peerson
Lodge]

Ed Hatteberg [plus Polar Star]

Sheila Gunderson [plus Cleng
Peerson Lodge]

Amanda Beck [plus Cleng Peer-
son Lodge]

Gone but not
forgotten



Ralph
Johnson



Wayne
"Buck"
Borchsenius

Mange takk to you our members, supporters who serve as docents throughout the summer, all the volunteers who man our fundraisers.

Special thanks of Sons of Norway lodges:

Cleng Peerson Lodge

Polar Star Lodge

NORSK MUSEUM

Get involved! Sons of Norway and serving as a Docent.. What a great way to honor your parents, grandparents, your children!



SONS OF NORWAY

Become a Member!

- + Discover your heritage
- + Learn about language, books, games
- + Rosmaling and dance
- + Food and music
- + Genealogy
- + Meet new friends with a shared interest!



Cleng Peerson Lodge

- + Meets monthly in Norway, IL

Polar Star Lodge

- + Meets monthly in Montgomery, IL



Pick up your member application here

Become a Member of the
Norsk Museum

Membership Benefits:

- ◆ A free private tour of the museum
- ◆ 10% discount at our gift shop
- ◆ Annual member dinner and meeting
- ◆ The satisfaction of helping to preserve the oldest Norwegian church in America

Annual Memberships:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Bronze Corporate \$100
- Silver Corporate \$250
- Gold Corporate \$500

Your additional donation supports continued restoration and enjoyment of this historic landmark.

- Cash \$ _____

⇒ all contributions are tax deductible

I/We have included Norwegian Center Incorporated [Norsk Museum]

- In my/our will/trust
- In other estate plans



Personal Contact Information:

Name/Business _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please send this form and your membership donation to:

Norwegian Center Incorporated
415 Lewis St.
Marseilles, IL 61341