

### 36th Re-union Picnic.

The thirty-sixth Annual Re-union of decendants of Nels K. Ranum, and of his brothers and sisters, was held at the school house in Daleyville Wisconsin, on Sunday June 28 1970.

It seemed to be most convenient to hold it in-doors and out-of-doors. The food and most of the tables were in-doors, while a few of the tables remained out-of-doors. Thus, the overflowed out-of-doors.

Following the dinner, it was time for "the silent MINORITY" to speak. And, so, I spoke.

Our gratitude was expressed to Mrs. Gertie Ranum and family, and to the Maurice Ranum family for their efforts in serving us as hosts.

The account of the 1969 Reunion-Picnic was read.

The report of the treasury was made.

During the past year, two of our group had passed away.

Herman E. Smesrud passed away at the Good Samaritan Center at St Ansgar Iowa. He was approximately 88½ years of age. He had attended a few of these re-unions, and had said that he had enjoyed them very much.

Martin Almer Tollund of Mt Horeb Wis. passed away at his home. He had a blood clot that moved to a vital organ, and that was the end. He had been in poor health for about a year. He had been one of the big boosters for these re-unions. In fact, if our memory is correct, he had attended all of them.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Josephine Ranum, wife of the departed A. Sherman Ranum, and to Mrs. Myrtle Ranum, wife of the departed Peter Ranum. They are the sole survivors of that generation of the Nels K. Ranum Family. As usual, Aunt Josephine was present.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Julia Jyland who is one of four survivors of that generation of the Rev. Knute Hagaseth family.

Recognition was given to her daughters Mrs. Esther Beran with whom she is living, and to Mrs. Ruth (Jyland) Carstensen, and husband. It was the first re-union that Esther and Ruth had attended.

Recognition was given to Lyle Ranum and wife and children from Isanti Minn. Lyle is the son of the departed Hubert Ranum, and the grand-son of the departed Eddie O. Ranum. It was the first time that they had attended one of these re-unions.

Recognition was given to Lyle's sister Fay. She and her husband Roger Carlson and children live at Minnetonka Minn. It was the first time that they had attended one of these reunions.

Recognition was given to Mr. & Mrs. Casey of Cambridge Minn. Mrs. Casey (Eleanor) was the wife of cousin Hubert T. Ranum until his death. And, of course she is the mother of the above mentioned Lyle and Fay. It was the first re-union that Eleanor had attended. It is rather interesting that Mr. Casey, her new husband, had lost his wife, and Eleanor had lost her husband. They were acquaintances and neighbors. So, it was rather natural that they should have at least some interests in common. The result was their marriage.

Recognition was given to Mrs Nora Olson and her husband Loyd of Goldfield Iowa. Again, this year, Nora had charge of distribution of copies of Our Heritage, and of receiving contributions thereto.

Recognition was given to their daughter Betty Lou and her husband Richard A. Young M. D. of Clarion Iowa. It was the first

re-union that he (the doctor) had been priveleged to attend.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Stella (Ranum) Faville of Madison Wis. Again, this year, she served us as Registrar.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Adele S. Goodnight, daughter of the departed Ben J. Ranum. Adele had made the trip from Sedalia Missouri to be present.

Recognition was given to her son Charles Goodnight & wife and family, who had, that morning, drove from Bricelyn Minn. to be present.

Recognition was given to Adele's daughter Doris, who is Mrs. Ernest J. Hovda of Forest City Iowa. She told us of her PLANNED trip to Norway.

Recognition was given to William D. Ranum (son of Vivian and Vera Ranum), and to his wife Patricia, of Winslow Illinois. It was the first time that they had attended.

Recognition was given to his sister, Mary (Ranum) Seigel and to her husband David of Browatown Wis. It was the first re-union which they had attended.

Recognition was given to Mrs. Inga Ranum of Monroe Wis. She is the wife of Thomas D. Ranum who is serving on the police force of that city. Because of duties, he was unable to come. This was the first such re-union that she had attended.

Recognition was given to Joe and Helen Knutson of Westminster Colorado. Joe is the son of Sever Knutson (deceased) of Livingston Wis, and the grand-son of Ole Knutson (brother of Nels K. Ranum). It was in the latter part of May or the very early part of June that Joe called the writer on telephone from his home in Westminster. The objective was to learn for certain the exact date of the re-union. Because the date had been changed from the third Sunday in June to the fourth Sunday in June, Joe thought that they would have to miss attending the re-union, this year. However, they were successful in effecting the necessary changes. And, on picnic morning, there they were, in Daleyville, camper and all. It was interesting to hear Joe tell about how his wife (Helen) had fried hamburgers for the picnic dinner while they were traveling en route to Daleyville. This is the first time that we have known of such a thing happening,

Recognition was given to Mrs. Constance Houghton of Rockford Ill. She and her lady friend (Cora Brauer) had driven up from Rockford, that morning. Constance is the daughter of Knute and Mary (Maanum) Loe. Knute Loe was the brother of Nels K. Ranum. And, Mary was the daughter of Knute Maanum.

During the past winter, Mrs. Ella (Ranum) Johnson had taken a course in study of the Norwegian language. She was asked to demonstrate her ability to speak both languages by speaking to us first in the Norwegian and then by telling us the same thing in the English language. This was quite interesting.

Milton Ranum was asked to speak. He told us that, on this occasion, it was necessary that his wife, Helen, go to Chicago to pick up some of their children. For that reason, he was the only member of his family who could be present. He, also, told us that we were holding the re-union, this year, on the exact day of his father and mother's wedding anniversary. They were married in 1905. He reminded us of the fact that, in Baraboo Wis. we held re-union and wedding anniversary COMBINED. It was the 21st Annual re-union picnic. And that was held in 1955. It was their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and his father's 80th birthday. In fact, it was a day that many of us remember very well. And, it was nice to be reminded of it, by Milton.

Many of the people, to whom recognition had been given, spoke briefly.

However, there was one person present, who because of a stroke, could not speak as freely as he once had spoken. We take pleasure in congratulating him on his ability to be present in spite of his misfortune. He is cousin Reuben E. Hilden of Sauk City Wis.

June 28 is the birthday of Mrs. Donna Ranum (wife of Robert Ranum). So, we sang Happy Birthday for her.

The following persons had requested that "Greetings", from them, be expressed at the re-union.

(1) Mrs. June Erickson of Brainard Minn. She is the great grand-daughter of Nels K. Ranum's sister Barbro. She stated that she hopes, some day, to be able to attend one of these re-unions.

(2) Russell Hanson of Marshall ~~Wis.~~ He stated that he would like to attend the re-union, this year, but that he is scheduled to start on that day on a trip that will take him as far away as California.

(3) Myron Neckar of Glen Ellyn Ill. would like to be present, again this year, but a re-modeling job will prevent him from coming.

(4) Sherry (Ranum) Allison of Williams Arizona. She and her husband are employed at a Motor Court, and will not be able to "take off" for Wisconsin at this particular time.

(5) Darcia (Olson) Christensen of Eagle Grove Iowa stated that, because of her duties with the School Board, she would not find it convenient to attend.

(6) Knute Knutson (son of Carl Knutson) of Antioch Calif. stated that his business of providing "eats" for his customers would prevent him from traveling that great distance to attend the re-union. He operates Dairy Queen #41, in that city.

(7) Edith (Ranum) Wilcox of Jacksonville Florida stated that her husband's family were scheduled to hold their re-union on that same day in the State of Georgia. Her husband is from a family of Wilcox's that came to America (from England) in 1699. They plan to be present at HIS Family Re-union, this year.

(8) Elvirya (Knutson) Peterson wrote that they would be starting on a Vacation Trip and would not be able to attend.

(9) Ruth Ann (Ranum) Golackson of Argyle Wis. wrote that her young son would be speaking at their church that morning and she doubted that she could come. However, they did come.

(10) Mrs. Alma (Munson) Lund of Pennimore wrote that they were scheduled to take their children to a new Bible Camp at Ferryville, on that day, and they would not be able to attend.

(11) Gilbert Eugene Knutson of Livingston Wis. wrote that they have reservations in Louisville Kentucky for the National Square Dance Convention on the week-end of the 28th, and that will prevent them from attending.

(12) Mrs. Lorraine (Smesrud) Iverson of Epping N. Dak. wrote a nice letter in which she stated that she had retired from 29 years of teaching. Also, that her mother had had her 32nd birthday. She enclosed a color photo of her husband and herself. This photo will be found in the Family History.

(13) Sheldon Smesrud, of Spokane Washington, wrote that he hopes to be able to attend one of these re-unions, someday.

(14) Mrs. Vivian (Smesrud) Carder, of Hazel Crest Ill, wrote that had the re-union been on the previous Sunday (the third Sunday in June), she would have found it possible to attend.

(15) Daniel Ralph Lewis (son of Lucille (Ranum) Lewis) wrote that because of his work in aviation and because of the fact that his wife is "expecting" he (or they) will not be able to attend. Nevertheless, they wished to send greetings to those we could attend.

(16) Mrs. Lela (Hanson) Saether of River Falls Wis. wrote that she was, that day, leaving for Blanchardville Wis. to take care of her mother (Mrs. Clara Hanson) who is in her upper 80's and confined to her bed, except for eating. She suggested that some of those at the re-union might like to come to visit her mother. When the afternoon turned to evening, that is what the wife and I did. We found Lela to have been a very attentive to her mother. Her Mother (Clara) lives in a nice new home. She was very alert. And, she was well cared for. I was delighted to find her so immaculate and so perky and so interesting.

Orville Gilbertson and his wife Lola, of Avoca Wis., were given a special invitation to attend the re-union. They are of the Gilbertson Clan who married into the Ranum Clan. (Marit Gilbertson married Nels K. Ranum). The purpose of this invitation was to give them an opportunity to become acquainted with us and to publicize the coming Gilbertson Re-union that is to be held in Lancaster Wis., on the 9th of August.

Then, the meeting was open to any who wished to speak.

It was hoped that many would have something to say about the manuscript entitled "Our Heritage". But, in that, there was disappointment.

Along about 5 or 6 o'clock, Maurice Ranum showed, on the screen, the pictures which he and wife Evelyn had taken on their trip to Norway. This was a real opportunity for those who remained to see those wonderful pictures. He had the picture of the site on which our grand-father Nels K. Ranum lived when he was in Norway.

When we returned from Blanchardville, we found a few of the relatives still there. That was at about 7:30 P. M. From 10:30 A. M. until 7:30 P. M., is a FULL day, for a re-union picnic. And, it was an INTERESTING day.

A couple of weeks later, the writer received a letter from his cousin Mrs. Esther B. (Ranum) Tollund of Mt Horeb. She said, "You were such a busy person at the re-union that I did not as much as get a chance to talk with you."

A few days after that, cousin Mrs. Stella (Ranum) Faville of Madison wrote, "We really had such a nice picnic." "There was such perfect weather, a good crowd, and so many people who had not before attended these re-unions".

They expressed my feelings, too.

100 persons were present.

Ray D. Ranum, Sec.

P. S. The writer feels impelled to tell you about his experience at the Norway Day Celebration which was held in Minnehaha Park Minneapolis Minn on July 12 1970.

There were two groups of Folk Dancers who were there direct from Norway.

The one group was from Valdres. I made it a point to shake hands with three of the men in the group, and to tell them that my(our) grandfather (Nels K. Ranum) came from Valdres.

Altho their English was as poor as my Norwegian, I THINK that they may have gotten the message.

I wished that cousin Ella (Ranum) Johnson had been there to have spoken for me (for us).

See newspaper clipping attached on reverse side.

*Herman, Ben Ranum and his daughter & son-in-law "the Europeans" passed us with inkblotter and peafowl mirror. That was, most exciting, no disorganization.*