

Will be talking about Daughters of Norway. Beginning of the Daughters was April 27, 1907 in Tacoma.

The Daughters decided to get a lodge. The Sons of Norway began in 1904. It was a good idea to get a ladies organization.

Daughters started first in Seattle. Then a few ladies came to Tacoma one of which was Mrs. Agnes Berndtzen.

There were fifteen original members of the Tacoma Daughters. Used to meet at the Danish Hall on Tacoma Avenue. Invited the Sons of Norway to their initiation ceremony.

INITIATION CEREMONY: There was a cake at the ceremony that wasn't eaten but was sold. This went with the entrance fees to get an amount of \$15, the first money of the Daughters.

Seattle's lodge started two years before Tacoma's. Tacoma was #2.

FIRST OFFICERS: President - Mrs. Laura Walstad, Vice-President - Annie Arntson, Counselor/Judge - Ethel Ekre, Secretary - Thea Foss, Financial Secretary - Josphine Ose, Treasurer - Lizzie Iverson, Chaplain - Elise Eide, Marshal - Marie Mangerud, Guards - Marie Solaas and Ellen Furseth.

CHARTER MEMBERS: Astrid Wennes, Katherine Berg, Sofia Hern, Lizzie Nilsen, Minnie Hilmes, Augusta Hanner, Carrie Westgrund, Carrie Scow, Anna Sennes, Olivia Dabore, Sara Holgerson, Hannah Hammer, Martha Hegelstad, Ida Jacobson, and Clara Johnson.

Ida knew many of the members and she lists these. Martha Hegelstad was the first Grand Lodge President.

REASONS FOR STARTING THE LODGE: Wanted a place where immigrants could come and talk with others who knew their Norwegian language.

This helped the immigrants. Made them feel at home. Helped them to be good citizens and keep their heritage from the old country. This is still the goal today.

Have come to PLU for May first exhibits on campus.

When the lodge started they had sick benefits for the members. All in all there were 29 lodges on the West Coast. Now there are 11 lodges. They lost many during the Depression in the 20s and 30s. She lists the lodges, which were lost.

Ida's granddaughter started a new lodge in Sparks, Nevada. It was founded in 1971.

She reads from a paper when some lodges were instituted.

In 1959 a lodge started in Hayward, California. People wanted to start lodges because they had Norwegian ties. There is more interest in heritage and roots.

LANGUAGE USE: For a long time immigrants were ashamed of the way they spoke English so they held back - "This isn't right."

Norway was a very proud country, particularly in the beginning of this century. Not well populated, mostly fishing and farming. There were few people who were well off. There was a lot of hard work.

Ida was never hungry and never had help in the early times of her U.S. experience. Ida was never afraid of work.

DEPRESSION: Ida stayed in the Daughters during the Depression. Ida's husband was out of work so she worked. She worked in California for three months and made good money.

Liked the feeling of being independent and standing on your own two feet. Schooling in Norway didn't do her much good here.

SCHOLARSHIP: The Daughters have a scholarship with the requirement that the student be going from a junior college to another college with good grades and some Norwegian background. They have given scholarships away the last couple of years.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Leif Erikson Group has eight scholarships or so. One to PLU, one to Tacoma Community College, one to the university at the North End (UPS), five others given out as needed. She talks some about the scholarships.

Education is important to the Daughters of Norway. Many of the members didn't have education opportunities.

OFFICES IN THE LODGE: President sees that the members are doing their work. Secretary does the correspondence work. Financial Secretary collected the dues. Treasurer takes charge of

the money. Judge who is the past president sees that things go okay. Chaplain reads the prayers, opens the meetings, and sees that there is entertainment when necessary. Marshall does the floor work.

The lodge still has a password. A little ritual in the meetings but not too much. Marshall assists with the new members and initiations.

OUTER GUARD: Visits with new members. They have three ladies who are trustees that look over the bills, the check inventory, and the books.

GRAND LODGE: Offices President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, three Auditors, and an editor for the paper. Just officers make up the Grand Lodge.355 Have your choice to move up to the next office position if you want. Mostly from Vice-President to President. Most officers stay for two years.

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Tells where today's officers are from. Two lodges in Seattle, one in Ballard, and one in Seattle proper.

Ida was in the Grand Lodge for ten years.

Ida has a picture book of the history of the Daughters. They talk some about this

The interviewee describes the pictures to the interviewer. They talk about some activities the lodge had done. They have had a Norwegian smoegeasbord since 1945.

LUTEFISK DINNER: Used to have big lutefisk dinners. Had 700 people one time. There wasn't enough food to serve everyone.

HEIRLOOMS: People who came to America after the war brought more keepsakes over.

They continue talking about the pictures and the time the king of Norway visited Seattle. Ida's daughter was in many skits in the lodge. They used to have various parties with home baked goods.

17th OF MAY: Had a children's parade, speeches, a little program and refreshments.

MISS NORWAY FOR THE LODGE: She had a picture of her youngest granddaughter in this role. Each lodge chooses one person, they alternate with the Sons of Norway.

DRILL TEAM: She shows pictures of an exhibit at the lodge and pictures of the drill team. Ida was on the team from 1922-1962.

A lot of women have daughters and granddaughter who join the lodge.

Ida continues speaking about the pictures in the book. "Every five years put on a big splash."

Could have joined with the Sons of Norway, but kept their independence as the Daughters of Norway because it was important to them. Back East they had trouble keeping the Daughters together so they had to go together with the Sons.

Talks about a mock wedding they had. She describes the people in it.

Pictures from skits. More pictures of the mock wedding. Talks about some skits.

Talks about a convention in 1976. All the costumes on. Participate in the Puyallup fair.

Ida is one of the oldest members in the lodge now. Continues talking about the pictures and making rosettes. Grand lodge gives out scholarships.

MUSEUM: The Daughters belong to a museum in Decorah, Iowa. Pictures from the 17th of May. The Daughters have secret pals.

CONVENTIONS: Have reports from different lodges. Do business. Take care of new things that come up.

Each year the lodge chooses princesses. They take pictures of the officers dressed in their costumes.

CHILDHOOD: Ida didn't do much spinning back home. Did a twisting of two or three strands. Spinning had to be perfect. Ida was 16 when she did babysitting for people in Trondheim. Was 19 when she left Norway.

MEMBERSHIP: Some members active and others not so active. They had about 228 registered members. Tacoma's lodge is the biggest.

What about members who pay dues and don't come? They feel they are still a part of the lodge. They come to some activities. She talks about the Sons and their insurance policy.

(It becomes difficult to make out the conversation. They may possibly be talking about her family.)

STORIES OF WOMEN IDA REMEMBERS: Many stories. Mrs. Buss (?) was very nice. She made drapes for Normanna Hall. She continues talking about more women (It is difficult to understand all she says.)

They used to teach Norwegian at Lincoln High School. Past President Mrs. Larsen helped to get Norwegian music on the radio. Many women helped with baking, cleaning, and sewing.

GROUPS WITHIN DAUGHTERS: Sewing, baking, and drill team. They have a cooking class usually on Thursdays in October or November. Ida has made pickled herring, fattigmand, and ginger spritz.

Meet people in the lodge who have had similar experiences. Ida had a scary experience on her way to America. Many have come from the same area. They knew friends and relatives here.

CLUBS: Women went to the Daughters of Norway and the men went to the Sons of Norway. There was also a Good Temperance club here. They don't have this anymore.

Ida didn't belong to the Daughters when she lived in Seattle because she worked.

MEN'S WORK: Many men were in the woods, fishing, or working on the railroad. The men wanted a place to go where they could speak Norwegian. Lodges provided this.

LANGUAGE USE IN THE HOME: They spoke English at home all the time unless they didn't want their children to understand them.

JOINING: Many women joined the Daughters as soon as they got here. Some were married, some were engaged. Some waited until they were settled in more.

Many friendships continued outside of the lodge. Ida met many friends this way. Ida came to Tacoma on April 10, 1920. Joined the lodge early in June of the same year. She heard about the lodge right away. Joined before her daughter was born.

Ida was invited to the lodge first by people she knew.

The Lodge was civic minded. They were interested in helping people. They helped people who were out of work. They had fundraisers especially in the 1920s and 30s.

Did knitting and sewing. Sent stuff to Canada for the soldiers.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Haven't done much with this. Some women's liberation is fine, some out of the way. Some jobs that women shouldn't be do like steelwork and long shoring. Women should have the same opportunity as men. Equal pay for equal work.

Didn't merge with the Sons of Norway because their independence is important. There are younger women involved in the lodge now.

WORK: Ida sees much opportunity for women. Ida used to work sixteen hours a day, scrubbing and cleaning. Her boss checked under the beds with a handkerchief to see how well she had cleaned. Ida made \$12 a month on her first job in Seattle. She learned to speak English at her first job. She took notes on the things the children said.

She describes taking a bus the first time in Seattle. She got lost on the bus once. Ida had every other Sunday off and Thursday afternoons. Lodge meeting were on Wednesday evenings so she couldn't join until she came to Tacoma.

Married in 1920 in Seattle. Before they moved to Seattle, she belonged to a mixed Norwegian group and choir in Seattle. Her husband also attended this.

Ida worked in a hotel in Seattle. There was a boy from Ida's hometown in Norway who lived in Montana who looked her up.