



EMBLA NYHETER

EMBLA LODGE NO. 2

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY

DECEMBER 2001

VOL. 14, NO. 4

Editor — Marie Hayden

Photos - Dagny Vaswig

EMBLA CALENDAR

All meetings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, south 38th unless otherwise noted. January 3rd - 6:15 Mini-Norsk Class, Regular Meeting 7:00. Program: Dan Conrad, See a "real" Viking up close and personal!

January 17th - 7 PM - Installation of Officers, program by the Leikarring.

February 7th - 7 PM - Regular Meeting.

March 7th - 7 PM - Regular Meeting.

April 27th - Norwegian Heritage Festival at Scandinavian Cultural Center, Pacific Lutheran University.



New Members initiated November 1, 2001
Left to right: Marilyn Mahnke, Hazel Neely, Judith Roush, Wendi Falk, Laura Anderson, Diane Christine Nelson, and Dianne M. Herbert.

2002 Dues for Embla

Please send your dues of \$20 for the new year to:

Kari Stackpole
Financial Secretary
607 North G St
Tacoma WA 98403

Any questions? Please call
Kari at 627-7806



Also honored at the November Meeting were the **Past Presidents of Embla**. Left to right: Emilie Pedersen, Esther Carlson, Olive Rudsdil, Florence Buck, Esther Van Noy, Janet Ruud, Mardy Fairchild and Iona Dhaese.

REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS' PAST

by Christine Anderson, daughter of Elaine Anderson, and niece of Aggie Thoreson, all three Embla members.

Born in the early 1950s in Corvallis, Oregon, Christine Anderson grew up in a number of towns in western Washington with a Norwegian-American mother and a Swedish-Danish-American father. Her Norwegian roots are in the southeastern portions of Norway. Christmas time is shared with a large extended family.

When I was growing up in Tacoma everyone gathered at my aunt's and my mother's brother's house for Christmas Eve. We have done this for the last 30 years to or. My grandparents, other uncles and their families would get together and there would be up to 40 people for Christmas Eve. Everything would be set out picnic style on tables in the living room with an adults' table and a kids' table. The packages would be mounded around the Christmas tree. You can imagine packages for 40 people. Those packages went out to the middle of the room.



I always made a kransekake, my dad made the krumkaker and goro with my mother and they brought that with my mother's extremely popular gravlaks, and other people brought things, too. We had turkey and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy and whatever kind of cooking my uncle happened to be

into that year. One year it was Cajun and that was a little hot for me.

My aunt read the Christmas story, When I was little, all the cousins would get up and give a musical or dramatic show for the grown-ups, and now that the cousins have children, the tradition continues. Then everyone opened the presents. Everyone received a little something. It might be homemade jelly or a small Christmas ornament. My cousins drew names so their gifts were a little more substantial.

After all the singing, visiting, and eating, my family attended Christmas Eve services at Emmanuel Lutheran. Everyone used to be given candles when they arrived at church. Near the end of the service, the

light would be turned off. We would start singing Silent Night. As we started the quiet, but moving melody, the young people in the church would form a cross down the center aisle; the pastor would light his candle from the altar candle. His was the first candle at the head of the cross. He would turn and pass the flame onto the candle of the person in front of him. The church would get brighter and brighter as the light was passed down the cross. Then the young adults forming the cross would light the candles of the closest people in the pews next to them. Each person would light the candle of the person next to them. It was so beautiful! Everyone's faces were glowing from the small flame of the candles. After doing this for years, the fire department or the insurance company said we could not do it anymore. Too much of a fire hazard, they said. Now there is just a cross down the center aisle with the young adults holding the flickering candles. It is still beautiful, but I miss the warm glow of hundreds of candles.



We always had Sunday School Christmas programs when I was small. I remember practicing for one program. Our leader had us sing "Glory in 'Eggshells' Deo" instead of Excelsis because that was the best way to sing the word. I thought it was pretty funny. I still sing it that way though!

When my family moved to Indiana in 1962, things were quite different. It was just our little family of five. We went to church and had a tree, did all the baking, of course, and kept our traditions. I liked Christmas and winter time in Indiana because there was so much snow. We three kids could ice skate in the back yard and build tunnels and igloos in the high drifts.

It has been a long time since I was very young, but Santa still comes to our house Christmas Eve to leave my family small packages. There are no young children at home, but the surprises of Santa still arrive. Santa now has many helpers bearing gifts. Our Santa may not even know what he is bringing, but in the morning he is as surprised as everyone else.

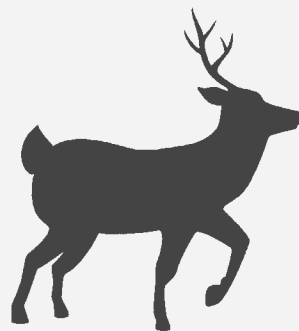
Even though we kids are all grown, I faithfully put out my stocking. We always have an orange, tanger-

ine or Mandarin orange in our stocking to eat when we open our presents. Along with this, usually comes our new toothbrush and perhaps a small tube of toothpaste. In the past, after we learned to drive, our stockings were filled with window and lock defroster. Eventually Santa had given us so much defroster our shelves were full. Finally Santa got the message we couldn't use all the defroster during our mild winters, so for several years we haven't received any. I often wonder, "What is the shelf life of defroster?"

Christmas Day morning is spent quietly at home with my immediate family. Later on in the day my aunts, uncles and cousins come over and we open even more presents from them if they haven't been with us the night before. Sometimes friends drop by, too, for a casual Christmas buffet with a standing rib roast, an assortment of vegetables, potatoes, an abundant supply of potato lefse, and leftovers from the night before with new additions, including more holiday cookies and such. Perhaps a little bit of koldtbord has come down through the generations.

The fabulous popcorn balls my dad's mother made were memorable, and nowadays we put the popcorn balls in the microwave to make them soft and gooey in grandma's style and we eat those throughout the day. My mom and dad work together before Christmas to make potato lefse and holiday cookies. They don't make sandbakkelser, rosettes and fattigman so much anymore. We only have those on Christmas Day if someone else makes them.

I have collected ornaments for my tree from friends and family, and I love to have lots of lights on the tree. I also have a Scandinavian scene with a tomte and other Swedish and Norwegian figures. Some of my friends believe I collect horned animals, especially different types of reindeer and sheep, so they are all out at Christmas. My aunt from North Dakota worked in a florist shop, and she always sent us ornaments at Christmas, like bells one year and a group of angels which I still have to this day. Lately I've been collecting angels, made out of porcelain shells and crystal ornaments. My brother gave me a tiny little Santa which I always put near the top of the tree. I am very fond of hearts also. I usually have a friend over to help deco-



rate the tree and have a little dinner and a glass of wine. It is so much fun every year to open the Christmas ornament boxes. I think about and remember the friends or family associated with each ornament.

The Christmas that stands out most in my mind was when I was in the fourth grade and found out about Santa Claus. That year my mother had given me a doll she had when she was the same age. It is a really large doll, about three feet high. Mom had it refurbished as it was made of some type of clay. It needed a new leg and it also needed new hair. She made two new dresses for it. She even gave me some of the clothes her mother had made for the doll.



Another vivid Christmas memory I have from that same year was I loved to play the same SORRY, but my grades weren't very good in math. My grandfather said for every game of SORRY we played, I needed to recite my multiplication tables. The sevens, eights and nines were always the worst for me so we practised them the most. By the end of that Christmas I knew my tables! My grandfather never grew tired playing SORRY with me, but he always made sure I did my tables for another game. In my mind, I can still see us playing in the corner of the living room by the window in the house on Winnifred Street.

I like Christmas because I get to visit with relatives I don't see except at these family holiday gatherings. I associate Christmas with lots of family and lots of fun. It's really important to me that the family stays connected through these holiday gatherings, and I hope the next generation will continue the traditions.

These vivid Christmas memories are from are from *Christmas Time and Juletid: traditions from the United States and Norway with songs, food, decorations and stories for the season*. Written and edited by Christine Anderson, Theresa Bakken and Noel Bruzzichesi of the Leikarringen of Leif Erickson Lodge No. 1, Sons of Norway, Seattle, Washington.

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TAKK FOR MATEN III

Recipe corrections:

page 8 - Rosy Punch, should be 3 tsp. honey and 3 tsp. lemon juice.

page 13 - Chihuahua Cheese Dip, should include 8oz. shredded Velveeta Cheese.

page 325 - Orange Cookie Batons. After the sentence, "Combine flour, baking powder, and salt in a small bowl," Insert the sentences: "Beat together butter, sugar and egg yolk in a bowl until smooth. At low speed, beat in the flour mixture and Orange rind just until combined."



Our speaker in November was Andreas Udbye, born in Norway and a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University. He is currently Director of the World Trade Center in Tacoma. He gave a very interesting program and was off to Vietnam and China the next morning. So great to have such an accomplished Norwegian representing Tacoma in the world.

December 6th Christmas Party with Lyle Schaeffer

What a delightful time we all had with wonderful food and the great accordion music of Lyle Schaeffer at our December meeting.

