



SONS OF NORWAY

**FJELL-LJOM.. (MOUNTAIN ECHOES).. BLÅ FJELL LODGE 3-646
DEC 2020 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER**

This is our Bla Fjell Lodge Christmas Newsletter. There are three sections:

1. pg. 1: Greetings
2. pg. 2-3: Use Term Julefest or Jultrefest?
3. pg. 2-4: Family Memories and Traditions at Christmas
4. Pg. 5-6: Christmas/Jul Traditions by Country
5. Pg. 6-9: NORDIC Legends and Stories
6. Pg. 10-11: Lutefisk Lament Poem

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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Sons of Norway is to preserve and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and the other Nordic countries.

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GREETINGS TO ALL

God Jul og Godt Nyttår til alle. Ta være på hverandre.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



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SECTION 2: USE TERM JULEFEST OR JULETREFEST?

(In January 2019, Sharon asked Third District and Bla Fjell Cultural Directors)

Response from Kathy Dollymore:

I believe they are used interchangeably now

Julefest is the Christmas party. (no dancing around a tree)

Juletrefest is the Christmas Tree party.(a tree to dance around)

Response from Cheri Johnson from link www.norwegian.classes/norwegian-traditions.

"Juletrefest" is a Norwegian party tradition that usually takes place in "romjula", i.e. the period between Christmas and New Year's Eve. Some "juletrefester" will also run into the New Year.

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Section 3: FAMILY MEMORIES AND TRADITIONS AT CHRISTMAS

From Kathy Clark: The Christmas I realized I was not a Sonja Heinie. When I was about 10 yrs. old in cold Minnesota, ice skating was very popular. I wanted to be a famous ice skater like Sonja Heinie. I had been skating on the kind that clamped on my boots, so skating was not hard to do. When I got my beautiful white figure skates for Christmas I was elated. I quickly put them on at a small pond by our house to make my first figure 8 on the ice. Oh, my was I in for a surprise, I could barely stand up because my ankles were so weak. It was very painful, but I kept trying with no improvement. So much to my disappointment I did not become a famous ice skater.

From Lucy Hochstein: Santa's Magic. I've always wondered if my parents did this because it is a Danish tradition, as my grandfather was from Denmark. When I was young and living in Charleston, SC, we went to midnight mass Christmas Eve. It was beautiful and exciting to stay up so late. Santa came after we had gone to bed Christmas Eve night. When we came downstairs Christmas morning Santa had brought the decorated Christmas tree and presents underneath and filled our stockings, which we had hung the night before. Busy Santa! For a child it was magical.

From Bob: Christmas gatherings in Lancaster, PA.

The following is strictly a family tradition; it had nothing to do with my German heritage. On Christmas Eve each year my mother's side of the family would get together for a social evening. The men played cards, the women would socialize and catch up on the news, and we four cousins would watch TV and play games. Earlier in December we would draw names and then each of us would purchase a gag present for another member of the family which would be presented at our Christmas Eve socials. I remember this practice continuing until after I was in the Navy. As a matter of fact, I was in Lancaster one Christmas season while on leave, and I was given a gag gift that said it was a naval award. When I opened it there was a card with a red stone attached, and the card said, "You have a lovely navel".

From Joann Barfield: Memories of Christmas in North Dakota

Happy memories of Christmas in a simpler time and place .. beginning with the highlight of the season, the school Christmas program, which included the only appearance of Santa Claus .. he was not on every street corner or in every store in town .. however, one year Santa Claus (my dad) did come down Main Street in a horse-drawn sleigh! No Midnight Mass services in rural North Dakota; Christmas services were held, weather permitting, the Sunday before Christmas.

Our family Christmas celebrations were two-part .. Christmas Eve with my mother's Icelandic family in our hometown; Christmas Day with my dad's Norwegian family in his hometown, some 30 miles away.

Christmas Eve was usually held at my aunt's little house, with toasted cheese sandwiches as we waited to begin until my uncle, the Postmaster, completed putting up the evening mail. Since a large part of Mother's family (two aunts and their children) lived "away", this was a small gathering .. in addition to aunt and uncle and children, Avi (grandfather in Icelandic), an uncle, my parents, brother and I .. with a small number of gifts, one per person!

Christmas Day was the long drive up to my dad's hometown. One record-breaking winter, when our car was "snow bound" most of the winter, the four of us made the drive in my dad's Standard Oil gas truck! The Christmas festivities would be held at one of four large homes of Dad's sisters or brothers (either in town or farm homes), with a house full of some 25-30 people around several dining tables full of lutefisk and lefse and rosettes, beginning with the **table prayer in Norwegian!** The gift exchange was done by "drawing names", so it was just one per person, but still a grand process .. **still no Santa Claus!** That was a marked contrast to the Barfield Christmas of these days, with gifts piled all around the Christmas tree, halfway across the living room!

Despite the comparative "spartan" celebration of those days, they were the ultimate of what is known today as "hygge", with the most important part being the gathering together and family and friends .. whether in school, homes, or church. Warm memories of Happy Days!

From Sharon Rohrback: Both Christian and Secular celebrations well-remembered.

In Gary, MN, my mother's family and relatives always celebrated a true Christian Christmas. When I was about 13, we joined them for one Christmas after a 10-hour drive in fog and snow. On Christmas eve, an older member would read the Christmas story from book of Luke. On Christmas day, gifts were opened and were always from a relative --never from Santa Claus. Then there was a "white meal" of lutefisk, lefse and mashed potatoes.

At home in Waterloo, IA, we had both a Christian Christmas and secular Santa Claus tradition. We would worship at Advent and Christmas Eve services, and open family-and-Santa Claus gifts Christmas Day. Our family has never spent a lot on Christmas presents. When all of us kids were home, my parents bought one main gift for family use and put fruits and nuts in our stockings. We children each were given \$1.00 shop downtown for family member gift. We would then gather with my paternal parents and relatives, who lived in the same town. We'd each receive a couple dollars and when someone was 10 years old, he/she would get an umbrella.

Early in the week before Christmas Eve, the church youth performed in a half-hour stationary Living Nativity manger scene with live donkey and a couple sheep. People watched from their cars, listening to a reading from Luke read over a loudspeaker. Brrr- it was cold. Especially when we ran after two sheep who got loose into 10" snow. After I left home, Mom helped by being Mary and the donkey was chewing on her veil.

From Cheri Johnson: St. Lucia Celebration at home Dec. 12, 2020

(note from Sharon: At St. Andrew Catholic Church St. Lucia concert, children from our lodge plus several others Cheri gathers, lead the procession at the beginning. Cheri's granddaughters also do a procession at our Bla Fjell lodge Julefest gathering.

Today we celebrated St. Lucia in our home with our family. That was a lot different than last year with 500 people at St. Andrews Catholic Church. This year Makenzie and Victoria wore nightgowns as if they just woke up and served Lucia buns to the family. In Sweden and Norway, we would have had coffee too. Each girl got to wear a crown.... gold for the oldest and greenery for the youngest. They both carried 3 kinds of Lucia buns. It was fun to do something different! These girls are so willing to participate in heritage activities. They are both members of the Sons of Norway and also Adrian! We all have Norwegian genes!

St. Lucia buns:

St. Lucia (Cheri's granddaughters Makenzie and Victoria)



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Section 4: CHRISTMAS/JUL TRADITIONS BY COUNTRY

(not alphabetic order; I had to adjust spacing to avoid splitting an article across pages
(from sources such as web search and Cheri Johnson Dec 2017 program to our lodge)

DENMARK: Merry Christmas – Glædelig Jul

Danish enjoy advent calendars, the advent wreath, TV series with 24 episodes, and buying special Christmas cards at the Jule market because the money is given to charities.

Dec. 23: The Christmas tree has a gold/silver star on it and is decorated right before Christmas Eve, and everyone enjoys dancing around it.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: 1) **Julemanden comes in with his sleigh and nissers.** The animals and birds are always given wheat/nut treats. 2) **The big meal is on Christmas Eve.** It consists of roast pork/duck/or more rarely roast goose; caramelized potatoes, red cabbage and plenty of brown gravy, cranberry jam/sauce. For dessert, risalamande, a cold rice pudding dish, is served with a hot cherry sauce, traditionally with a whole almond hidden inside. The lucky finder of this almond is entitled to a small gift, which is traditionally a marzipan pig. In some families, it is tradition that the rice pudding dessert is made with the remaining rice porridge from the previous evening, a meal served on the 23rd, Lillejuleaften (Little Yule Eve), with cinnamon, brown sugar, and butter. It is eaten warm with a fruit drink or sweet malt beer. 3) **after the meal** (some families dance BEFORE the meal) the family will dance around the Juletræ and sing Christmas carols and hymns like "Nu er det jul igen" (Now it is Yule again) and "Et barn er født i Bethlehem" (A child has been born in Bethlehem). When the singing is complete, presents from under the tree are handed out by the children or in turn. After they have been opened, there are more snacks, candy, chips, and sometimes the traditional Gløgg.

FINLAND: Merry Christmas – Hyvää joulua

Everyone tries to be home for Christmas, even the fisherman. Cleaning the whole house is very important. The tree is put up the day before Christmas. Animals are always given treats. It is common to visit the cemeteries to remember family/friends. Candles in hanging lanterns are left there.

Dec 24. Christmas Eve: Joulupukki gives the children presents in person while parents watch. Santa Claus actually lives in the Northern part of Finland in a Christmas Village called Korvatunturi. He rides with a Christmas goat and a reindeer. It is a tradition to have a Sauna on Christmas Eve.

Dec. 25. Christmas Day: is quiet. Christmas food is lutefisk, pork, mash potatoes, rutabaga, carrots, salmon, rice pudding with plum jam/juice.

Dec. 26, Boxing Day: everyone goes skiing or skating. The name comes from a time when the rich used to box up gifts to give to the poor. **Boxing Day** was traditionally a **day** off for servants, and the day when they received a special Christmas box from their masters. The servants would also go home on **Boxing Day to give Christmas boxes to their families.**

NORWAY: Merry Christmas – God Jul or Gledelig Jul

Huge Christmas trees grow in Norway and are sent to other countries like England and the USA as gifts. In Norway, a huge heap of wheat is left outside for birds to eat during the winter. Everyone likes to go caroling dressed as Wisemen and Shepherds. Norwegians light a candle every night from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day. Making 7 kinds of cookies is traditional in Norway.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve: Traditional paper heart baskets are on the trees with candles in them.

It is a fun tradition to write notes on each present and read them before opening the presents.

Julenissen (Nisse) is **Santa Claus**. The Nisse are small gnomes, who have a goat pulling a cart.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day: Christmas dinner is pork/mutton ribs, red or white cabbage with caraway seeds/vinegar, potatoes, carrots, rice porridge with butter, cinnamon, sugar, and an almond.

Julekake with raisins, cardamom, fruit candies is popular.

ICELAND: Merry Christmas – Gleðileg jól

The Icelandic Christmas period is an intriguing mixture of religious practice and traditional folklore, beginning on 23 December and ending on Epiphany, 6 January. It is a tradition to visit the cemeteries to honor the dead.

Dec. 12 to 24th: unlike most countries that have a single Father Christmas / Santa Claus character, Icelandic children are fortunate enough to be visited by 13 Yule Lads of Iceland come from Dec. 12 to the 24th. They have been doing this since the 1600's. These guys are playful elves who love to eat and play tricks. (see longer article in Legend section).

Dec. 23: Icelanders eat skate (a fish) and decorate their tree right before Christmas. Christmas trees are evergreens with a star or crown on top.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Gifts are open. Everyone has new Christmas clothes and books.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day: The big meal is on Christmas Day with family and friends.

Christmas dinner is always smoked roast lamb, rock ptarmigan, rotten skate (a fish) and leaf bread made of dough cut in patterns and fried. Fish is also popular to eat.

Epiphany and New Year's Eve: Bonfires are lit.

SWEDEN: Merry Christmas - God Jul

Straw ornaments fill the Christmas trees. They remind the Swedes of Jesus in the manger. Goats of straw in the house guard the tree.

Dec. 13 - St. Lucia: St. Lucia is celebrated. St. Lucia awakes early in the morning and serves coffee and “Lussekatts” buns made with saffron and raisins, to her parents. She wears a crown of candles and lingonberries, a white gown with a red sash, and sings the Lucia song. Other maidens and star boys follow behind her. **Monks told the story of the real St. Lucia who served bread to the starving Christians** in catacombs of Rome. She was killed and became a saint for her love of God and the people. It is an honor to be chosen as a Lucia.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Jultomten is the Christmas gnome. He is often left porridge to eat. Presents are opened on Christmas Eve. Everyone watches Donald Duck.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day: People go to church on Christmas Day. Christmas dinner might be lutefisk, herring, pork, ribs, salmon, red cabbage, roast beef, ham, meatballs, sausages, pickles, and salads... a real smorgasbord. Dessert would be pepperkakor cookies, rice porridge, and raspberry jams.

Jan. 13 - end of Christmas.

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Section 5: NORDIC (and one German) LEGENDS AND STORIES

1. NORWEGIAN NISSE AND SWEDISH TOMTE

(from Ingebretsen marketplace site, article dated 11/10/19)

Overview about the old domestic nisse or tomte: nisse (usually Norwegian) and a tomte (usually Swedish) are similar characters. They are both solitary, mischievous domestic sprites responsible for the protection and welfare of the farmstead and its buildings. Tomte literally means “homestead man” and is derived from the word tomt which means homestead or building lot. Nisse is derived from the name Nils which is the Scandinavian form of Nicholas. A tomte is described as an older, little man about the size of a young child. He wears old often ragged clothes, usually gray or navy, and sports a bright red cap on his head. He resides in the pantry or barn and watches over the household and farm.

NISSE/TOMTE ARTICLE CONTINUED--

He is responsible for the care of the farm animals, especially the horses. The tomte or nisse has an enormous capacity for work but will not tolerate anyone's interference. It is believed that a clean and orderly home or farm is an indication that this domestic sprite resides there.

Tomtar and nisser require very little of the humans they work for. They demand only the respect and trust of the farmer and a bowl of julegrøt (Christmas porridge) with butter on Christmas Eve. These spirits will not remain in a home where respect is lacking and thus the farm will not thrive and the farmer will be reduced to poverty.

About present day julenisse: the julenisse is very different from the legends of the domestic tomte or nisse. The julenisse is portrayed as an older, good natured, adult-sized man (not surprisingly the size of an *uncle* or father) with a long white beard and a red hat and suit. He carries a sack of toys on his back, visits children in their homes on Christmas Eve and always asks, "Are there any good children here?" ("Er det noen snille barn her?") Many Scandinavian children also believe he lives at the North Pole where he has a workshop.

The Norwegian julenisse is very much like the American Santa Claus and is based upon the German legend of St. Nicholas (nisse is a derivative of Nicholas), who was the patron saint of children and seamen. He was known for his many kind acts toward children.

NORWEGIAN NISSE LEGENDS:

1. When the Nisse Got No Butter on His Christmas Porridge

A nisse considers porridge his due and is greedy for butter. The legend illustrates the consequences of tampering with his porridge. One Christmas Eve a servant girl decided she would play a trick on the nisse. She hid the butter for his grøt at the bottom of the bowl. When the nisse saw there was no butter on his Christmas porridge, he went to the shed and killed the best cow. He wanted to show them he did not appreciate them begrudging him a little bit of butter. He returned to the barn to eat the porridge anyway. When he discovered the butter at the bottom of the bowl, he felt so bad that he walked to the neighbor's farm, took their best cow, and led her back to the stall of the cow he had killed.

2. The Nisse Who Stole Fodder

According to legend, domestic spirits often steal from a neighbor to increase the prosperity of the farm where they make their home. This is demonstrated in this legend.

There once was a farmer who had no hay left for his farm animals. He sat one day and complained about it when he heard a voice say, "I will help you." The farmer looked around but couldn't find where the voice came from. After a few days he noticed his animals were thriving although they had no food. One day the farmer decided he would take his chances and cross the ice to a neighboring village to buy some hay. When he was in the middle of the ice a small man appeared and asked where he was going. The farmer replied that he was going to buy hay. The little man said not to worry because he would help him, so the farmer returned home. One night the farmer noticed by moonlight a little man leading one of his cows across the ice to a neighbor's farm. When they returned the cow was loaded down with hay. Then the farmer realized the little man was a nisse and he had been fetching hay for the animals.



2. SWEDISH JULTOMTE LEGEND: In Sweden, the jultomte is accompanied by the Christmas goat who pulls his sleigh as he delivers gifts to the children's homes. In pagan times, the god Thor was believed to ride across the sky in a chariot pulled by two goats. Christians adopted the goat as a Christmas symbol. The chained figure of a buck is a representation of Lucifer who was conquered by the good Saint Nicholas and is destined to accompany his master on his journey to distribute gifts to the children. Today the goat is a benign straw figure but still a very well-known Christmas symbol.

ST. LUCIA -- In Scandinavian and Other Countries

(note from Sharon: before COVID, Cheri Johnson gathered children from Blå Fjell lodge and the area to process in the Dec. 13th concert at St. Andrews Catholic Church. Children from Bla Fjell lodge also processed at our lodge Julefest.

General Information: Saint Lucy's Day, also called the Feast of Saint Lucy is celebrated most widely in Scandinavia and in Italy, with each emphasizing a different aspect of her story. It is a Christian feast day observed on 13 December. The observance commemorates Lucia of Syracuse, an early-4th-century virgin martyr under the Diocletianic Persecution, who according to legend brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, wearing a candle lit wreath on her head to light her way and leave her hands free to carry as much food as possible. Her feast day, which coincided with the shortest day of the year prior to calendar reforms, is widely celebrated as a festival of light. Falling within the Advent season, Saint Lucy's Day is viewed as a precursor of Christmastide, pointing to the arrival of the Light of Christ in the calendar on Christmas Day.

In Norway, Sweden, and Swedish-speaking regions of Finland, where Lucy is called Santa Lucia in Norwegian and Danish, and Sankta Lucia in Swedish, she is represented as a lady in a white dress symbolizing a baptismal robe and a red sash symbolizing the blood of her martyrdom, with a crown or wreath of candles on her head. **On St. Lucia feast day,** as songs are sung, girls dressed as Saint Lucy carry cookies and saffron buns in procession, which symbolizes bringing the Light of Christ into the world's darkness. In both Protestant and Catholic churches, boys participate in the procession as well, playing different roles associated with Christmastide, such as that of Saint Stephen. The celebration of Saint Lucy's Day is said to help one live the winter days with enough light

In the Italian regions of Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino-Alto Adige, in the north of the country, and Sicily, in the south, as well as in the Croatian coastal region of Dalmatia; and in Hungary and Croatia, a popular tradition on Saint Lucy's Day involves planting wheat grains that grow to be several centimeters tall by Christmas Day, representing the Nativity of Jesus.

ICELAND - Celebrating Christmas with 13 trolls (picture of next page)

(from Sharon: in my opinion, this would be very scary to tell children)

Grýla - their mother

From a relatively young age Icelandic children are told the story of Grýla, the ogress living in the Icelandic mountains. She is a dreadful character, described as part troll and part animal and the mother of 13 precocious boys (the Yule Lads). Grýla lives in the mountains with her third husband, her thirteen children and a black cat. Every Christmas, Grýla and her sons come down from the mountains: Grýla in search of naughty children to boil in her cauldron and the boys in search of mischief. She can only capture children who misbehave but those who repent must be released.

The Yule Lads

Icelandic children place a shoe in their bedroom window each evening in the 13 days before Christmas. Every night one Yuletide lad visits, leaving sweets and small gifts or rotting potatoes, depending on how that particular child has behaved on the preceding day. Each Yuletide lad has a specific idiosyncrasy and will therefore behave in a particular manner.

The Christmas Cat

Old Icelandic folklore states that every Icelander must receive a new piece of clothing for Christmas or they will find themselves in mortal danger. An enormous black cat prowls Iceland on Christmas Eve and eats anyone who doesn't follow this simple rule. This obnoxious feline is known as the Christmas Cat.

The Icelandic Yule Lads



Stekkjastaur (Sheep-Cote Clod)
Harrasses sheep, impaired by his stiff pig-legs



Giljagaur (Gully Gawk)
Hides in gullies, waiting for an opportunity to sneak into the cowshed and steal milk



Stúfur (Stubby)
Abnormally short. Steals pans to eat the crust left on them



Þvöusleikir (Spoon-Licker)
Steals þvöur (a type of a wooden spoon) to lick it extensively due to malnutrition



Pottasleiki (Pot-Licker)
Steals leftovers from pots



Askasleikr (Bowl-Licker)
Hides under beds waiting for someone to put down their 'askur' (a type of bowl), which he then steals



Hurðaskellir (Door-Slammer)
Likes to slam doors, especially during the night



Skýrgámur (Sky-Gobbler)
A Yule Lad with an affinity for sky!



Þjónnaskreikr (Sausage-Swiper)
Holds fire in the left hand and snatches sausages that were being smoked



Gluggagaglr (Window-Peeper)
A vagabond who looks through windows in search of things to steal



Gáttaþefur (Doorway-Sniffer)
Has an abnormally large nose and an acute sense of smell which he uses to locate his doorway



Ketkrókur (Meat-Hook)
Lives a hook to steal meat



Kertasnikr (Candle-Stealer)
Follows children in order to steal their candles (which in those days were made of tallow and thus melting)



Grýla
The mother of the Yule Lads. Icelandic parents did scare their children from misbehaving by telling them that Grýla could come and abduct them



Leppaláði
The husband of Grýla. Not that evil, but a lazy one.

GERMANY - THE CHRISTMAS PICKLE (husband Bob's heritage. Text is on the label of a Roman, Inc. from a tree decoration: a jar with shredded paper and a small pickle barely visible inside it.)

In Old World Germany the last decoration placed on the Christmas Tree was always a pickle, carefully hidden deep in the boughs. Legend has it that the observant child who found it on Christmas Day was blessed with a year of good fortune and a special gift.

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Section 6: LUTEFISK LAMENT

(shared by Kathy Clark, who used it for a skit in last year's lodge Julefest)

'Twas the night before Christmas, with things all a hustle,
As Momma got set for the Christmas Eve tussle,
Aunts, Uncles and Cousins were all coming here,
To fill up their stomachs with Christmas eve cheer.

I sat alone with a feeling of dread,
As visions of lutefisk danced in my head.
The thought of the smell made my eyeballs start burning,
The thought of the taste set my stomach to churning.
For I'm one of those who Norwegians rebuff - - -
A Scandihoovian boy who can't stand the stuff!

Each year, however, I play at the game,
To spare Momma and Papa the undying shame.
I must bear up bravely; I can't take the risk
Of relatives knowing I hate lutefisk!
I know they would spurn me, my presents withhold
If the unthinkable, unspeakable truth they were told!

Soon from the kitchen an odor came stealing,
An odor that set my senses to reeling.
The smell of lutefisk crept down the hall and wilted a plant,
in a pot on the wall.
The others reacted as though they were smitten,
While the aroma laid low my small helpless kitten.

Uncles Oscar and Lars said, "Oh, that smells yummy!"
While Aunt Olga just beamed as she patted her tummy.
The scent skipped off the ceiling as it came through the door,
And the bird in the cuckoo clock fell on the floor.

Momma announced dinner by ringing a bell,
And they rushed to the table with a whoop and a yell.
I lifted my eyes to heaven and sighed,
And a rose on the wallpaper withered and died.
With unhurried pace I went to my chair,
And sat down in silence with an unseeing stare.

Most of the food was already in place,
There only remained the lutefisk space.
Then in it came - - - you could just hear the drools,
You would think that the bowl held Norway's crown jewels!
Then Momma lifted the cover on that steaming dish,
And I was face to face with that quivering fish.
Uncle Sven action: Me first!", I heard Uncle Sven call,

While I watched the paint as it peeled from the wall.
The plates were passed for Papa to fill,
I waited, in agony, between fever and chill.
He would dip in the spoon and hold it up high,
It oozed on the plates - - - I thought I would die!

Then came my plate, and to my fevered brain,
There seemed enough lutefisk to derail a train.
It looked like a mountain of congealing glue,
Oddly transparent yet discolored in hue.
With butter and cream sauce I tried to conceal it,
But wouldn't you know, the smell would reveal it!

I drummed up my courage; I tried to be bold.
Momma said, "Eat it before it gets cold."
I decided to try it - - - "Uff da", I sighed.
"Uff da, indeed", my stomach replied.
Then I summoned that courage for which Norskies are known,
My hand took the fork with a mind of its own.
With reckless abandon, that lutefisk I ate,
Within twenty seconds, I cleaned up the plate.

Uncle Oscar then flashed me an ear-to-ear grin,
While butter and cream sauce dripped from his chin,
Then to my surprise, he said in my ear,
"I'm sure glad that's done for another year!"

It was then that I learned a wonderful truth,
That Swedes and Norwegians from young men to youth,
Must each pay their dues to have the great joy,
Of being known as a good Scandihoovian boy!
And so, to you all, as you face the test,
Happy Smorgasbord to you, and to you all my best!