

HUXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

Website: www.huxleyhistoricalsociety.org

SPRING 2020

2020 Officers

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Nels Nord

Vice President

Delila Roberts

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Jolene Lettow

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Richard Sydnies

Newsletter

Janet Stoll

Webpage

~ We Need You ~

2020 Calendar:

*Meetings are the 4th
Monday of the month
at 6:00 pm*

"The Hub" museum is
located at **515 N. Main** in
the 3C's building.

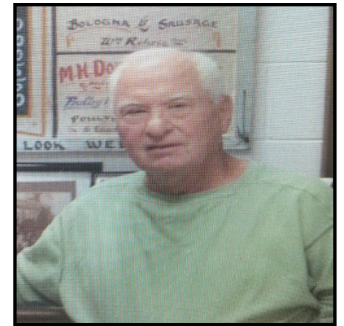
Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 - 10:30 am
or call Nels to set up a
visit 515-231-9174

Nord's Notes

"UFF DA" Day

On August 22, 1985, a celebration committee for Huxley's first annual "Uff Da Day" was organized and the goal of the committee was to provide a family-orientated day of entertainment, sponsored by local clubs and merchants, without involving a large monetary expenditure for anyone involved. Jim Doeden and Sue Stoner were the contact persons for organizing the event.



Huxley welcomed its first "Uff Da Day" on June 21, 1986. Uff Da Day was a salute to the Huxley Community's Norwegian heritage. A big parade began at 10 a.m., featuring a wide variety of floats. It was a sunny day during the parade with about 600 attending, but it turned to several rain storms by noon.

The Huxley V.F.W. sponsored a well-attended breakfast from 6 to 9 a.m.

Des Moines Register reporter Chuck "Iowa Boy" Offenburger was the judge of the kringla contest at 8 a.m.



Winners were:

- 1st place – Helen Kepler
- 2nd place – Jean Saveraid
- 3rd place – Daisy Fjelland

Afternoon festivities were held, but crowd attendance was bad due to the rain and lightning. Most of the events were moved to the bus barn on West 3rd Avenue. Scheduled appearances by Life Flight, Andrew's Sister, Huxonian Dulcimers, and Duane & Floppy of WHO television were held.

A street dance with KASI's Al Weltha was also held in the bus barn with around 250 people attending. Drawings for prizes were held with a lot of donations by Huxley Merchants. A lot of craft booths and exhibits were in the park and was well attended.

The reason the celebration was called "Uff Da Day" was because of the slang Norwegian word "Uff da". It was used throughout the Huxley community as long as I can remember.

Cont'd page 2

MISSION STATEMENT : *To engage the Community of Huxley, Iowa in the preservation, education, and celebration of our heritage and ancestry. To preserve for research and education, the artifacts, information, and verbal histories about the lives of the people of Huxley from its pioneer origins to the present day and into our future.*

Cont'd from page 1

So for you non-Norwegian people, I will repeat an article written by Carrie Lande in the Tri-County Times in 1972. Carrie was a retired school teacher who was born and raised in the area.

Whenever there were several Norwegians together, sooner or later, usually sooner, you'll hear someone say "Uff Da". Recently, several of my non-Norwegian friends have asked what the expression means and I have said it's pretty much the equivalent of "Oh Dear" or OK, my goodness.

For a more expert translation of the meaning of the term, Professor Erinor Haugen lists the word "Uff" in his Norwegian-English dictionary and quoted the way he uses it: "Uff: oo, off, ugh, oh dear (often combined with da, ja, jo, nei) expresses unpleasant feelings, e.g. alarm, uneasiness, aversion, disgust, irritation, regret.

One of my Norwegian friends objects to what she calls the abbreviation, claiming it should be "Uff da meg", which would be "ok, dear me". Generally though, just "uff da" seems to be a common exclamation in this and other communities.

Recently several newspapers we know have printed an article on appropriate times to use it. The Viking magazine lists several and in September, the Radcliff Signal carried a longer list they said was reprinted from the Lake Mills Graphic and the Roland Record.

The newspapers used the more English way of "Uff da". Anyway, here goes:

"Uff da is running out of butter while eating lutefisk and lefsa.

"Uff da is getting out of bed in the morning with a headache.

"Uff da is waking yourself up in church with your own snoring.

"Uff da is sneezing so hard that your false teeth end up on the bread plate.

"Uff da is eating a delicious sandwich and finding out that you used cat food.

"Uff da is getting swished in the face with a cow's wet tail.

"Uff da is forgetting your mother-in-law's first name or your wife's birthday.

"Uff da is having two steady girlfriends find out about each other.

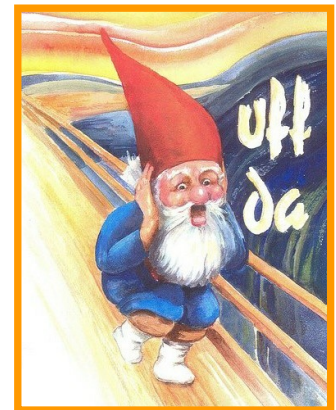
"Uff da is trying a modern dance to a polka tune.

"Uff da is eating hot soup when you have a runny nose.

"Uff da is walking way down town and wondering what you wanted to buy.

"Uff da is spending two hours cleaning up your room and having your mom say, "Uff da".

"Uff da is being any other nationality but Scandinavian.



So this is Carrie's explanation of the expression "Uff Da" and when it can best be used.

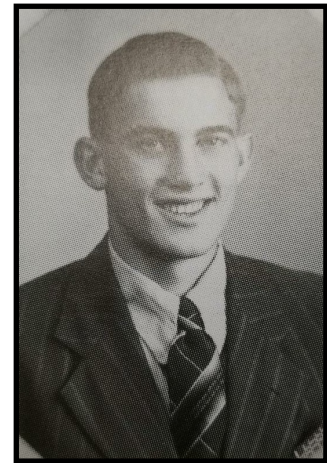
I hope this newsletter column will help explain to people that weren't raised in a Norwegian community the proper way to use "Uff Da" or "Uff Da Meg". Uff Da Days was only held a few years and was replaced by Prairie Fest.

Nels A. Nord

President, Huxley Historical Society

If you have stories and photos you would like to share, please send them to the Huxley Historical Society.

You can either send them by email to hhs@huxcomm.net or by mail to HHS, 515 N Main St, Huxley, IA 50124



Owen Morrell Newgaard was born in Roland, Iowa, August 20, 1925, to Olaf Carl August Newgaard and Pauline Jorgene Ostrem. Owen graduated from Cambridge High School in 1943. He enlisted in the army on October 26, 1943.

Owen was killed in action on March 2, 1945, in Kainfield, Germany, two months before World War II ended. He was buried in the Roland Cemetery, Roland, Iowa.

Owen was a Purple Heart recipient. He served in the U.S. Army, Company 13, and 701st tank battalion. Owen was survived by his father, Olaf Newgaard, mother, Pauline Newgaard, sisters, Odelia Lantz, Arlett McKee, Helen Wells, Evelyn Weichers, and one brother, Eugene Newgaard. Evelyn attended Huxley High School until her senior year and moved to Missouri. Gene graduated from Huxley High School in 1948.

The Newgaards lived on N. 3rd Avenue in Huxley. Many years later, Evelyn Weichers, Owen's sister, told me that my father, Dr. D. H. Nord, M.D. and my mother came to their residence to give the notice of Owen's death to her mother, brother and herself. She was so appreciative of my parents' compassion.

Nels A. Nord



Donald Brendeland
U.S. Army



Sean Stoll
U.S Army - Iowa National Guard

1984 Page 4



CLASS REUNION—The Huxley High School Class of 1934 held a reunion recently. Those present to enjoy the occasion included (left to right) front row seated: Javerna Maland, Ellen Veland,

Margaret Lande, Leverna Heggen, Mary Hally and Esther Brown; back row: Gordon Hennick, Charles Ritland, Gareld Jones, Eugene Sheldahl, Sherman Steensland and Glen Tesdall.

Huxley High School 50th Reunion - 1984

Huxley High Alumni Some Have Left Us

Class of

1953	d: 1-18-19	Joan (Dueland) Richardson
1954	d: 4-3-19	A. Elaine (Christopher) Schwartz
1951	d: 5-19-19	Arthur Saveraid
1944	d: 5-21-19	Kenneth Dobbe
1945	d: 6-6-19	Edith Ann (Ryerson) Wessel
1949	d: 7-7-19	Bonita (Erickson) Erickson
1960	d: 8-17-19	David Stensland
1948	d: 8-28-19	Beverly (Hanks) McMahon
1941	d: 11-19-19	Ruby Fjelland
1949	d: 11-21-19	Valerie (Fjelland) Brendeland
1948	d: 12-22-19	Ireta (Wee) Trusheim
1956	d: 12-30-19	Earl Dobbe
1951	d: 2-20-20	Ralph Kalsem
1934	d: 3-20-20	Gordon Hennick (oldest alumni)

Farvel vår venn! (Goodbye our friends)

Spring's Song

As gentle rains
Come in the Spring,
Flowers and trees
Begin to sing

White blossoms appear
On trees in the night
Dripping with raindrops
Which glisten in sight!
Spring comes for us
And all the earth
As a wake-up call
With the song of new birth.

New birth in our soul,
Where sunshine and rain
Combine for a rainbow
New life is again!
Listen quietly and
See and hear
The song of Spring
Unfolding is near!

By Mary Lou Berhow
~ Huxley High Alumni ~ class of 1955 ~

Wee traditional Bunad costumes

A bunad is a traditional folk costume that you find all over Norway. Although much more popular with women, men wear theirs proudly as well.

It is customary to wear a bunad from an area the wearer has a genetic or residential connection.

The late Huxley Historical Society Lifetime member Arlene Wee donated the bunad costumes that belonged to herself and her late husband Keith Wee.

Arlene and Keith spent a month in Norway during the summer of 1986 visiting relatives. During that visit, Arlene's distant cousin, Orlairg Mage, was asked to make the handmade bunads. Orlairg is from Omastrand, Norway which is the county of Hordaland in the western part of Norway.

It took about six years before Keith and Arlene received the bunads.

They wore them several years in the fall at Palestine Lutheran Church's annual kumla dinner.

Authentic jewelry was also purchased in Norway to make the bunads complete.



On display outside the entrance of the Huxley Historical Society "Hub" museum which is located in the 3C's building, 515 N Main Ave.



2019 Huxley High Reunion

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Lifetime member Harriet Sheldahl in her bunad & HHS V.P. Delila Roberts

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Power + Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, this exhibit will explore national and local movements that furthered women's rights from the suffragist movement through today.

"Power + Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County" features stories of women's suffrage, along with seven groundbreaking women from Story County communities who had significant impact locally and nationally.

The exhibit consists of four retractable banners and will be traveling to six communities in Story County this year.

May 1-28: Huxley Public Library, 515 N Main Ave, Huxley

June 1-28: Carriage House Museum, 619 Grand Ave, Story City

July 1-28: Colo

August 1-28: Heritage Hall Museum, 318 First Ave, Slater

September 1-28: Nevada

October 1-28: Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave, Ames

*Contributors: Ames History Museum, Colo Historical Association, Huxley Historical Society
Nevada Community Historical Society, Story City Historical Society*

This exhibit is sponsored by Altrusa International of Ames

Esta Freeland Cox

One of the many remarkable women of Story County

Esta was a poet and writer. She's had numerous articles printed in the Tri-County Times throughout her later years. She wrote 5 books, four of which were published. She donated a signed copy of all 5 books to the Huxley Public Library.

Bits & Pieces, published in 1984

Memoirs of Raising my Three Sons, published in 1998

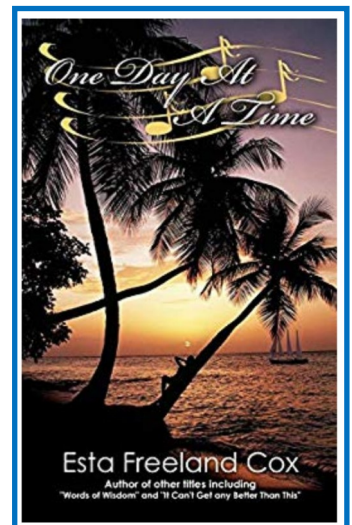
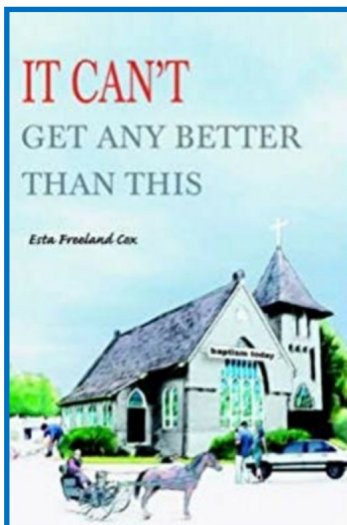
It Can't Get any Better Than This, published when she was 91 years old

Words of Wisdom, published in 2006

One Day at a Time – daily devotions, published in 2008 when she was 95 years old

Esta wrote most of her books from memories of her life. In doing so, she captured her strong religious and philosophical thoughts.

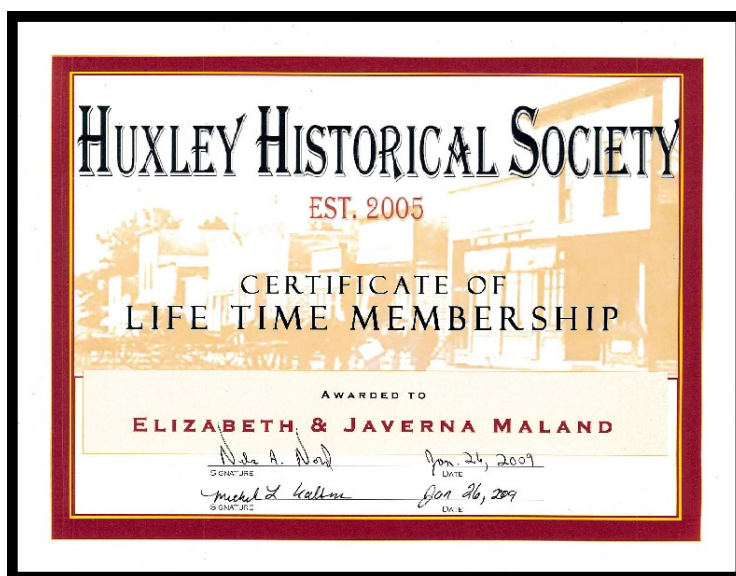
Throughout her life, Esta always enjoyed reading, writing, and drawing. And, while she lived in Huxley, she volunteered as a senior citizen for many community tasks. She also benefitted the Ballard Community School with her time and talents.



ATTENTION ~ ATTENTION ~ ATTENTION

Huxley High Alumni

~ The 2020 banquet in June has been cancelled ~



~ **New for 2020** ~ Huxley Historical Society has issued membership cards. All members that have renewed their annual membership for the 2020 year have received their cards in the mail already. Membership cards for Lifetime members are currently being processed and will be mailed before June.

2020 Memberships >>>

Please Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

This year, the Huxley Historical Society changed the membership calendar to a fixed year renewal running from January to the following December. All memberships received between October and December will be applied to the following year.

It is never too early to renew! So, stop in and see us, or fill out a membership form and mail it along with your payment. You'll find the membership form on the last page of the newsletter.



2020 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting has been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once this crisis is past us, we will send postcards out to our members with the new date.

We hope that all of you and your family members are staying healthy during this trying time.

HUXLEY**HISTORICAL****SOCIETY**515 N. Main Ave
Huxley Iowa. 50124

Name in Blue?
[Take a Moment to Renew!](#)

**SPRING 2020
HHS NEWSLETTER**

2020 Membership Form—Clip or Copy and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

2020 Annual Membership \$ 20.00

Lifetime Membership \$ 500.00

HHS donation \$ _____

Maland Home donation \$ _____

The Fjord recipe booklet \$ 5.00

S&H for booklet \$ 2.00

2nd ed. DVD / 1939-1955 events \$ 20.00

S&H for DVD \$ 2.50

Total \$ _____

Check# _____ Date of check# _____

Mail To: **HHS-515 N. Main Ave-Huxley Iowa. 50124****Office use only:**

email _____ label _____ member list _____ tax letter _____

******* SAVE THE DATE *******

Huxley Historical Society ** Covid-19 **

Annual meeting postponed until further notice

Huxley Public Library - Power + Pluck display

Remarkable Women of Story County

Visit the display from May 1-28



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

436 likes so far!