



Our monthly dinner will be held on March 12, 2005 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, **Robert Alsaker**, rings the bell to seat us for dinner.

Normennenes Singing Society and Swedish Glee Club entertain for Father/Son/Daughter Day!

We are honored to have the Normennenes Singing Society and Swedish Glee Club, Waukegan as entertainment for father/son/daughter day. We have enjoyed their music in the past and look forward to the program. These groups have links to our own klub, with some members belonging to each. Normennenes is 125 years old now, founded in 1870. It is the second oldest men's singing group in the U.S.; second only to the Harvard Glee Club. Its president is our own member **Thor Fjell**. Please reserve early for this dinner. By the way, all singers wearing their coats will be discounted \$5 for the meal, with our thanks for attending and performing.



You are cordially invited to bring your father or son or daughter for this meeting. Any age is invited for this meal and celebration of our Scandinavian traditions. For those sons and daughters under the legal age of 21, a soda equivalent will be offered for the aquavit pour by our stewards. Be advised this is not ladies day, that is in May.

For the few that noticed, we were originally scheduled to have Orion Samuelson of WGN and Broadcasting Hall of Fame, as our speaker for March. He had to send his regrets a couple months ago as he was assigned broadcasting duties that day. We hope to see him in the future.

Birthdays for March

The birthdays include the group of **Scott Solberg, Myron Tollefson, Thor Torger, Hugo Lanesskog, Roald Harr, Richard Peterson, Richard Nelson Sr. and David Bentsen** (to whom we send our best regards as he is recovering from his serious illness; at last report from brother **Ron**, he is recovering and out of danger) Gentlemen, we raise our St. Patrick day, shamrock monogrammed aquavit glasses to you and wish you a Happy Birthday. Notice that we left one off the list, not by omission, but rather for a special acknowledgement. We send out best wishes to our good friend and the best cod fish cook we ever had: **Barney Jacobsen**, in North Carolina. I don't think Barney would mind us noting that he is 95 years on March 1. He is our only charter and current member besides **Dr. Ray Newgard**.

Make Your November Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, March 8, 2005

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. This is especially important this month since we have special guests by the fathers, sons, daughters and singers attending. Space and fish dinner will be at a premium, if orders are not received promptly. Noon means noon. A call at 12:30 Tuesday is no better than a call on Friday evening; the fish order is already made.

Call 630-443-6839 at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. It will

ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call Ken's office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours.

For those with email, feel free to send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". We will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. We have reservations from member numbers 3, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 126. [We lost the advanced reservation list from last month-sorry, please double check] Remember that the guests of the members must be called in as well.

****TIP Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.**

For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839



One More Birthday: Knut Rockne

Although he was not a member of the Torske Klub, we acknowledge the birthday of Knute Rockne this month. Knute Kenneth Rockne was a football genius who put his own original stamp on the game with the exploitation of the forward pass, a move that brought finesse and a certain artistry to a game that had been, up to then, a thing of brute force. He did this at a small Catholic college in South Bend, Indiana, which grew, largely on the strength of its football program, into the great University of Notre Dame.

Rockne was born on March 4, 1888 in Voss, Norway, but landed at Notre Dame after his parents emigrated to the Logan Square area of Chicago in 1893. He attended Brentano Grammar school and later Tuley High. Certainly he had some familiarity with the Norway Center there (where our group had its origins).



Knute entered Notre Dame at the persuasion of friends and his interest in sports led to formation of football history.

Knute unleashed the forward pass in a game against the dominant Army team, at West Point, N.Y., in 1913. Knute was the quarterback, and Gus Dorais the sticky-fingered end, in a game that Notre Dame

won, 35-13. Rockne stayed on at ND as coach. In his 13 years as head coach, his teams won 105 games, lost 12 and tied 5.

Knute Rockne was also the man behind the Four Horsemen. They were introduced by Rockne in the 1924 season. This great backfield of Harry Stuhldreher, Don Miller, Jim Crowley, and Elmer Layden led Notre Dame to a 28-2 record. The Four Horsemen still stand unique as a backfield. Knute Rockne was the man who discovered and coached a most dazzling, dramatic, and idolized athlete, George Gipp. Gipp's running, passing, kicking, and generalship lifted Notre Dame to fame. Gipp also became Notre Dame's first All-American and famous for Rockne's motivating half-time locker room speech, "Win one for the Gipper".

Knute died in a plane crash in Kansas in 1931. ■

Advertising is Solicited for the May Anniversary Dinner

The Chicago Torske Klub is celebrating its 45th Anniversary in May. We are in the process of preparing an anniversary booklet/program for the attendees. To offset some of the cost and to offer the opportunity for well-wishers, we are offering some space for our members to advertise or place a message. We will accept full page ads (8" high x 5" wide) for \$20, ½ page (4" x 5") for \$10, or business card for \$5.

In March and April, we will circulate a well wisher signup page for \$1.

We are not circulating this advertising widely, but you are invited to offer this to those organizations or businesses that you are affiliated with. The Torske Klub Board of Directors has final approval authority on any advertising accepted. All advertising must be received by April 15, 2005 for insertion. ■

I Want to be Your Friend

I see you at the meetings but you never say hello. You're busy all the time you're there with those you already know. Yet I'm a lonesome body. The new members are as strange as I, and the old-timers are as strange as I. But darn it, you people asked me in and talked of fellowship. You could just step across the room, but never make the trip. Why don't you nod and say "hello", or stop to shake my hand. Then go and sit among your friends, now *that* I understand. I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps a nice day to spend. Do you think you can introduce yourself; I want to be your friend.

From Illinois VFW Magazine, submitted by Bill Skoien

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