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Research Team from Norway Visiting America, Also Ulen

By David G. Evans
Staff Writer

A group of five Norwegians visited at the Ulen Museum Tuesday, November 8. Their visit to Ulen was one of six places on their agenda this time.

David Hilde, former Ulenite, is the contact person for the Norwegian research project here in Ulen.

Janne Bondi Johannessen is Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, at the University of Oslo, Norway. She resides in Baerum, Norway, and was the spokesperson for the group, and emphasized the object of their research here in America.

The study, Norwegian American Dialect Syntax (NorAmDiaSyn) is a Norwegian research project closely linked to the Nordic research network Scandinavian Dialect Syntax, where linguists study various aspects of dialects in Scandinavia. Under the auspices of ScanDiaSyn, they collect

new speech material from the Nordic countries, and under this will collect the speech of Norwegian Americans. In the Norwegian part of the project, during the years 2007-2012 speech material was collected from 100 different locations in Norway. At each location they picked four informants who participated – two women and two men, two of which were to be over fifty years and two under thirty years.

One recording tour was carried out by the University of Oslo in March 2010, in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and South and North Dakota. Another recording tour was later that year in connection with a workshop held at the University of Wisconsin, and a third trip was arranged in the Midwest in June of 2011. In the study, relevant informants were well over fifty, in most cases well over eighty. One of the requirements is that they should be descendants of immigrants, the relevant immigrant cohorts would



Norwegians who visited Ulen last week from the left are: Yvonne Van Baal, of Amsterdam; Alexander Lykke, of Trondheim, Norway; Kari Kinn, of Askim, Norway; Arnstein Hjelde, of Inderøy, Norway; and Janne Bondi Johannessen, Of Baerum, Norway.

have arrived in America before 1920.

In Ulen several informants were interviewed, including Owen Braseth, Gisle Hilde, David Hilde, Donald Hilde, Arvid and Aaron Swenson, and recorded an interview with each one, by each of the four Oslo students. Their questions were like “can you tell about a funny experience from childhood” or “what you used to play at recess.” They would have them read an article in English and either write or tell how they would say it in (their) Norwegian. The interview contained more questions that relate to the attitude of the Norwegian language and the context of its use, given the situation that most or all of our Norwegian-American informants learned Norwegian as their first language in a Norwegian-speaking community, used English at school, continued to speak Norwegian with neighbors and family, but rarely transferred Norwegian to their own children.

The collected material will primar-

ily be used for research and development. For example, in academic areas such as syntax, dialectology, sociolinguistics and language technology.

The research is to see how some words were added to immigrant’s vocabulary mostly because certain objects weren’t either invented yet or were Americanized. Their study on this trip was conducted at Athens, Georgia, Westby, Wisconsin, Iola, Wisconsin, Hendricks, Minn., Ulen, and Fargo. Their tour was to be fifteen days before returning to Norway.

Others in the research group are: Yvonne Van Baal, Of Amsterdam (NL), Alexander Lykke, of Trondheim, Arnstein Hjelde, of Inderøy; and Kari Kinn, of Askim, Norway, who said “We are collecting Norwegian language and data, and said she is a research associate at the University of Cambridge studying for a post doctorate degree. Four of these folks are students seeking PhDs.



100% Norwegian Americans attending the language study group from Norway November 8 are in front – Owen Braseth and Gisle Hilde. Back row: David Hilde, Arvid and Aaron Swenson, Dave Evans, Don Hilde, and Gordy Fevig.

Area Hunters Had Good Luck



Matt Boman, Flom, shot this nice buck with a 270 short mag on opening morning. This buck is a 13 pointer but should be a 16 pointer, 3 times broken off.



Jennifer Klemetson of Flom with an 8 point buck she shot west of Flom.

