

## **BORDER FESTIVAL HISTORY**

In 1947, a group of dedicated Sons of Norway members from the Pacific NW and British Columbia met at the Peace Arch Park on the U.S.- Canadian border at Blaine, WA. Their purpose was to share food, enjoy games and a good time of fellowship. At a meeting previous to this day officers were elected and committees formed for the various duties.

Committees established were: Sports, Entertainment and King/Queen contest. Bellingham was given the responsibility of always seeing to the rental of the park, the provider of coffee and other house duties. The other three committees rotate their duties yearly.

Sports consist of games for adults and children.

Entertainment varies depending on what is available but usually some Scandinavian music or Dancing is involved.

Lunch is a bring-what-you-want, which usually winds up as potluck at each table. Following lunch at 1:00 pm there is the flag ceremony. The 3 flags representing, U.S., Norway and Canada are brought to the platform and the national anthems are sung followed by the introduction of special guests.

Raffle tickets are sold to help cover expenses. During the program tickets are drawn for prizes which vary in amounts ranging from \$15.00 -\$100.00.

Last on the program is the King/Queen contest. Each lodge that has a candidate will escort the candidate to the front and make a few comments about the candidate.

When all are in place each candidate will draw an envelope and upon opening the envelopes, one will say “runner up” and one will say “King/Queen”; the other envelopes are blank.

A planning meeting is held in March each year to elect officers for the coming year and assign the duties to each group for the Border Festival that year.

The Border Festival continues to be a vital link between the two countries, Canada and U.S. Hopefully, the spirit of unity and harmony will continue for generations to come.

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