

1965 in Review

The year began with bitter cold weather and plenty of snow that lasted much too long, but we recognize it as a year filled with blessings and much happiness.

The work of Home Missions never really knows a slack time and Curtis Sr. was on the road a lot with preaching assignments and Mission supervision. It was during these cold trips that the V.W. gave increasing evidence that it was getting "too tired" for such demands. On December 15, 1964, for instance, the weather got to a record 33° below and a 45 m.p.h. wind which gave a wind chill of 92° below zero. On that day Curtis drove from Golden, B.C. to Calgary where the R.C.M.P. stopped all traffic because of the dangers involved. A whole year without an accident or illness is cause enough for thanksgiving.

In May we were privileged to have the Board of American Missions meet in Canada. What a privilege to have these leaders in our Church see the work we are doing and to visit several churches in Calgary, Innisfail, Red Deer and Edmonton.

All went well until the day we got these guests all the way to Dore Lake where we guaranteed them fish. By noon we were in doubt and by 3 P.M. we were worried and at 6 P.M. we were licked. I bought some fish from the Indians and we drove 200 miles home without a nibble. I was never out with a group of men who were better sports and Rev. Ray Olson from Saskatoon, the only other Canadian, kept us all laughing.

By July our anticipation was really rising as we thought of our great trip to Europe. We were sorry Tom and Randi (Gertrude's sister) couldn't make it, but then they were here to make it easier for us to leave the four younger children behind. Everyone helped us all they could. Friday, July 16, was a lovely summer day and even at 8 A.M. the Airport was full of people. The big bird taxied in and the people hurried to give farewell instructions and gather their bags in the right order.

Right on time, 10 A.M., we took off into the wild north country, and within half an hour had left all inhabited land behind and were looking down on endless lakes and rocks and wilderness. We all recognized Hudson's Bay which looked like the ocean and then the utter loneliness of Baffin Land and Greenland where the ice is a mile thick. All of a sudden we saw houses, the first since we left Prince Albert area and we landed at an American Air Base at Stromfjord, Greenland. While the plane was being repaired (leaky fuel line) we held a service in the Airport. It was our first service in a non-English speaking land, the first one that began after midnight, though still daylight, and surely the first time people didn't care how long it lasted! Rev. Haugen spoke in Norwegian to prepare us for the days ahead. On board at 3 A.M. Saskatoon time we had a big breakfast and slept to within sight of Norway. There it lay -- mounds of rock in the vast North Sea, then snow covered peaks, and soon green valleys, hay on the drying fences and beautiful little fields. We still thought of it as being 7:30 A.M. but we discovered people on the Oslo beaches as we came in low to land. Our first shock was to set our watches ahead to 3:30 P.M. It was time for Coffee!

The first to greet us was Oskar Steffenson, then Steinar Bruun and our neighbour across the street, Bjørg Hedemann. Curtis Jr. was all excited when he caught sight of Tom and Lloyd Hedemann who had already spent a month in Norway, but he was taken aback a bit when they greeted him, "Kan du snakke Norsk?" Here in order are reactions written on July 17: 1. What funny money -- looks like Monopoly money. 2. Beautiful day and luscious lawns and flowerbeds. 3. What a wild cab driver - 70 m.p.h. in the city. 4. Door handles like on an old model car. 5. Light switches that you twist. 6. Cobblestone streets. 7. Balmy clear air. 8. Feather ticks that would stay on!

Next day was Sunday so up early for breakfast of smorgasbord proportions. The Bible School where we stayed was right next to the Palace Gardens, clean and reasonable, and the food was good. We worshipped at The American Lutheran Church and later saw Oslo with Per and Liv Raasok. The weather that day was the hottest of our entire trip so the swim at Frogner Park was much enjoyed.

Monday morning we tried Norwegian electric trains. They're small but fast and we were at Bø before dinner. There we caught a bus where the scenery was even more fantastic than our trip by train. J.B. Stolee's were with us and we laughed as we bounced over detours, leaned in the tight curves and hung on where the narrow mountain roads forced bus and oncoming car to stop dead and back up to a more suitable place to pass. It took all day ... over mountain ranges where tourists in bathing suits were tobogganing down snowbanks on air mattresses and down to the breath-taking beauty like the valley at Roldal. By midnight our bus deposited (all unannounced) three tired Canadians and six bags on a highway in the south end of Karmøy. Gertrude led the way -- she had been

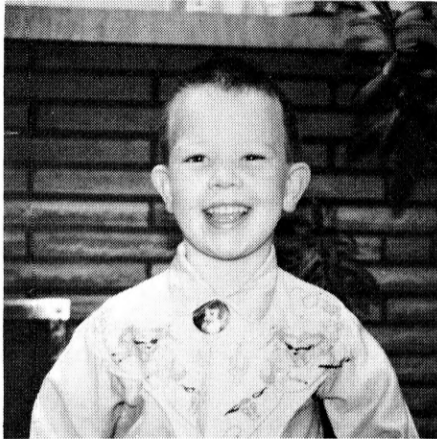
"REJOICE, FOR CHRIST IS COME"

613 Quance Ave.,
Saskatoon, Sask.
Christmas, 1965.

Dear Relatives and Friends,

It's a month until Christmas Eve and we have lots of snow to give us that Yuletide feeling. We count it a privilege now to visit at your house and tell you how good the Lord has been to us this year, and how happy we are to serve Him in our beloved Church.

Our year centred around our trip to Scandinavia which was a new and delightful experience for Curtis, though Gertrude had been in Europe in 1949. Curtis Jr. was privileged to go along. The younger children had a fine time nearer home -- maybe we should let them introduce themselves and visit a bit first:



I am Jacob - five years old. I go to Kindergarten this year and have got stars for learning to tie my shoes, doing the zipper on my coat, saying the morning prayer and singing "O Canada" by myself - things like that you know.

I do a lot of talking and can keep Mommy occupied for hours. Sometimes she thinks I'm a lot like Dennis the Menace but I really am a good boy. My folks think they had a terrific summer but you know I could hardly wait to get going on my holidays. First I went to Prince Albert and stayed with Daryl Njaa. After that I was with John and Ralph and then they took me to Stromberg's.



I'm Ruth and this is my doll with a Hardanger National dress I got from Marit in Norway. I'm in grade three and like my teacher. I like Sunday School and Jr. Choir and going with Dad on trips when I can. This summer when Mom and Dad were in Norway, Jacob and I sure did go a lot of places. We went to Christopher Lake with Harry & Hilda. In Calgary with the Stromberg's we went to Vacation Bible School and at Auntie Eunice's we got to see my godparents from Vancouver, Uncle Bob and Aunt Stella Thomas and their girl Laverne -- and is she ever pretty! She told me about when I was little and stayed with them.



I'm Ann-Mari and my new doll has a Rogaland Dress that Aslaug Birkeland made and sent over from Norway. My folks say I am a dreamer but I'm pretty busy too. I swim at the Y, take a Drama Class, sing in choir, and really enjoy shopping. I'm in grade 4 and think school is O.K. I really like new clothes and to make Christmas cookies.

I sure had fun with Jo Ann this summer. I wish they could always be in Saskatoon. Or best of all I wish they would live at Irma, and we could live at Irma -- I think it's the best place in the whole world. Grandpa and Auntie Eunice's live there too.



I'm Randi. My doll has a Rogaland Dress from Kristense Satre in Haugesund. I sure hope I can go along to Norway sometime and meet her. My Dad says she is just as good at cooking as sewing and I'd like to taste some fresh-cooked crab like he talks about.

I'm eleven now and in grade six. I help Mom a lot and can bake pie and clean up the kitchen. I sing in the choir, belong to a bowling team and we all do a lot of skating. I learned to row a boat at camp this summer and passed the Boatman test for my watercraft award. At Auntie Eunice's we went to Vacation Bible School and were so excited to find out that Faith Wright from Calgary was the teacher.