



Sondre Norheim was born in Morgedal in Telemark county, Norway, June 10, 1825. He immigrated to the United States in 1884 with his wife and five of their six children. After a brief stay at Oslo, Minnesota he came to what is now McHenry County and filed on a homestead near Villard Post Office. The land description from the Register of Deeds Office in McHenry County, Towner, North Dakota is S½ SW¼ and W½ SE¼ of Section 35 - Township 155 - Range 77.

He left Norway with a dream of finding a better living in America. Sondre was a modest man, so even his neighbors in North Dakota did not know that his name was a legend in Norway.

Sondre Norheim, recognized as the Father of Modern Skiing, invented a new ski binding and introduced the Telemark and Christiania turns. In order to take full advantage of his skis, Norheim decided they had to be firmly attached to his feet, so he took thin shoots from birch roots, soaked them in hot water, and twisted them together so they would fit around his heel. Now he could twist and turn on his skis and fly through the air like a bird. Thus was the humble beginning of ski bindings.

Norheim died in 1897. He went to his grave a virtual unknown. Although his place of burial is recorded in the Norway Lutheran Cemetery records, his grave went unmarked for many years. A granite boulder and a plaque were dedicated and placed on his grave in a memorial ceremony June 12, 1966.

Norway Lutheran Cemetery is only five miles west of where he homesteaded in North Dakota.



SONDRE NORHEIM GRAVESITE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

NORSK HØSTFEST 2007

Tuesday, October 9, 2007 - 9:00 a.m.

Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Luther Hanson

PROGRAM AT SONDRE NORHEIM GRAVESITE

Call to Assembly *Joan Haaland Paddock & Bob Gustafson*
Antiphonal Viking Lur Horns

Welcome *Rev. Luther Hanson*
Chaplain, Trinity Homes

Opening Prayer *Rev. Luther Hanson*

Viking Lur Fanfare *Joan Haaland Paddock & Bob Gustafson*

Laying of the Wreath* *Reidun Major Holm*
Great Great Granddaughter of Sondre Norheim

PROGRAM IN NORWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome *Lila Espeseth Heskin*
Former member, Norway Lutheran Church

Greetings from Skien, Minot's Sister City *Knut Einar Aas*
Leader of the Skien Delegation

Summary of the life of Sondre Norheim
in North Dakota, Varden, July, 2005 *Rolf Haugen*
City Attorney, Skien

Music *Suoni Wind Orchestra*

Closing Prayer *Rev. Luther Hanson*

*You are cordially invited to the Norway Lutheran Church Fellowship Room
for a reception hosted by the Espeseth Family, annual hosts
since the visit of Princess Astrid of Norway in 1984.*

**Wreath Courtesy of Lowe's Floral*

Our thanks to George Officer, Transportation Chairman