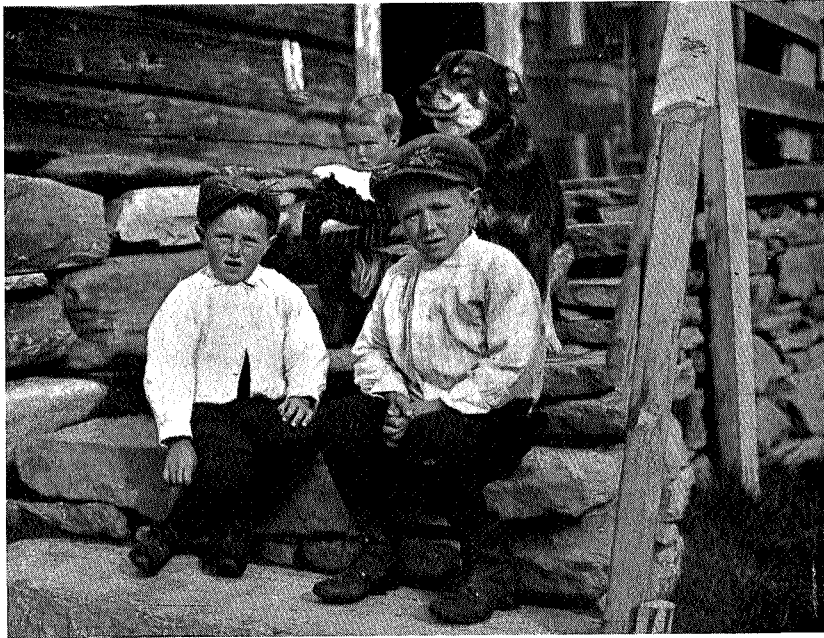


OSLO TO ØSTERSUND

By Dr. L. B. Cane, Suffolk, England



I solveggen på setra

Trygve Reidar

During the past twenty years my wife and I had travelled on foot and by fjord steamers through most of Western Norway, from Stavanger in the south to Narvik and the Lofoten in the north. Our pleasantest memories are of the mountains, the wonderful scenery of Nordland, and the beauties of the western islands.

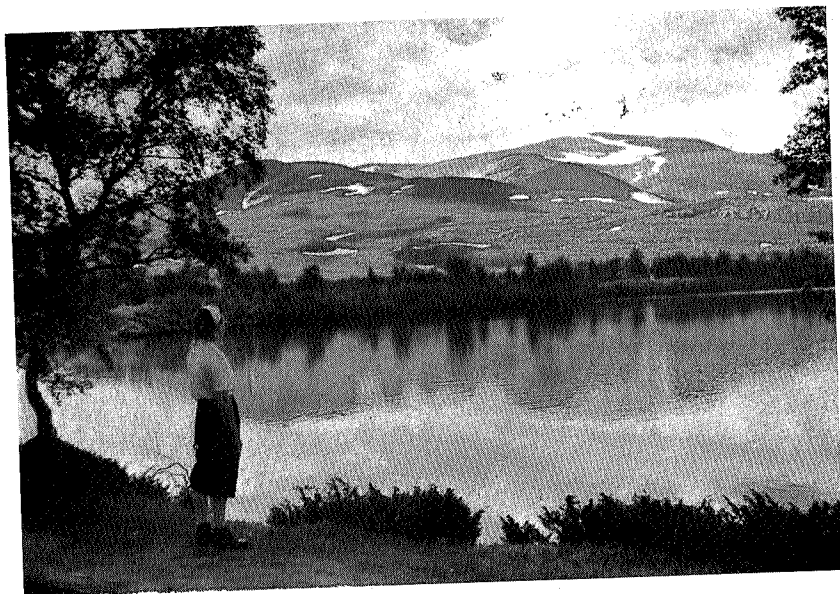
Much of this country would have been inaccessible to us without the facilities provided by Den Norske Turistforening and Trondhjems Turistforening, and we recall many happy nights spent in its comfortable huts in the mountains, especially in Jotunheimen and Trollheimen.

This year we decided to make first for the Sylene district, and to walk thence through the mountains into Sweden, returning eventually via Stockholm and Denmark, neither of which we had visited before.

We left London on July 3rd for Gothenburg. This enabled us to avoid difficulties with unaccompanied luggage at frontier Customs, as we could send off from there a suitcase containing articles not needed in rucksacks to await us in Stockholm.

From Gothenburg the night train brought us to Oslo, where we stayed again with friends, who amongst other places showed us the most interesting Kontiki exhibition and of course the magnificent new Town Hall. Another night in the train brought us to Støren, where we had breakfast before continuing by train to Reitan.

From there we began our walk which was to take us far into Sweden. On that afternoon we reached Kjøli Turisthytte, where as



Nedalen against Skardorsfjell

Olaf. M. Bjørgum

the only visitors we received a welcome from Fru Aas and her charming daughter Ingrid, who soon had supper ready and our room for the night. Looking through the register of visitors we found that during the past four years of 2675 visitors we were the first from England.

Kjøli now is very desolate, since the Germans wrecked the mine and removed most of the machinery.

Next day an easy walk, on which we saw some young reindeer, brought us to Stugudal.

There also we received a welcome, and for our supper delicious salmon trout, caught that day in the river by the lake. The house, built of huge wooden logs about 200 years ago, contains old painted furniture, including a grandmother clock dated 1783, old chests and cupboards with painted doors. It was here in Stugudal that Thor Heyerdahl had written «The Kontiki Expedition», a book that is being as widely read in England as in Norway.

Our third day's walk took us about twice as long as had been

expected. The first cause of delay was that the Sylene route map given to us by D.N.T. office in Oslo shows the path leaving the road at Væktarstua and does not show the new path leaving from the end of the lake. Other causes for delay were somewhat rough going, with several streams to wade, and inadequate red marks that had not yet been renewed this year.

The final 5 km. of path, however, were well marked, and provided charming views of the Sylene mountains across the river. This we crossed by boat, and at the T.T. Turisthytte received a welcome from Herr M. Haave and his wife.

Here two nights were spent in comfort before going on across the frontier into Sweden.

This route leads uphill, first through small trees near the river, and then on the open mountain side to a pass round the southern end of the Sylene group.

On the way up, the last small red-marked «varde» has on one side and on the other S. a most inconspicuous marking of the frontier. From there on, posts with cross pieces near the top mark the route for skiers, and we missed the welcoming red marks.

The way down from the pass, over patches of snow and very rough stones, provides good views of partially snow-clad mountains and several glaciers on the left.

Lower down a herd of reindeer was passed, and next day on the slopes of Sylene many more were seen. This frontier peak is more easily ascended from this side than from Nedalen, the route to the summit providing wide views of the glaciers and distant mountains.

Two nights were spent at the large Sylstationen hotel (1043 m.), befriended by the cheery staff and a large St. Bernard dog.

The scenery in the two countries is very different. In much of western Norway grand mountains predominate, and the long narrow salt-water fjords provide opportunities for restful voyages between periods of climbing and tramping the mountains. In the Swedish uplands the views are often wider, and in places more bleak. There is a greater predominance of lakes and watercourses. Also more mosquitos!



Reindeer in the Mountains.

Trygve Reidar

We enjoyed every day of our walk, and look forward to planning fresh routes for 1951. My wife will then be 70, and myself a year younger.

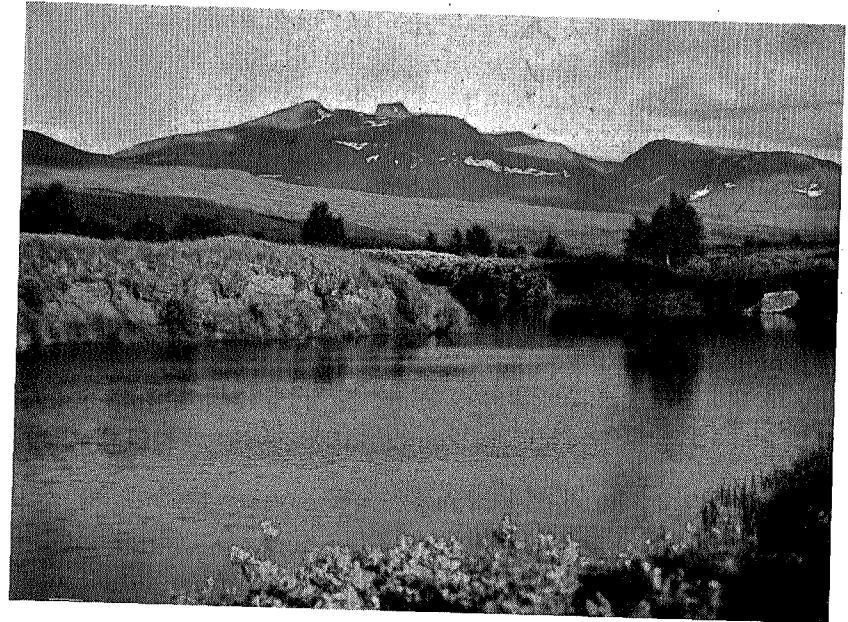
That we returned so often, and are already making preliminary plans for next year, may indicate the impression made on us by the wonderful scenery of Scandinavia, and the welcome always experienced wherever we have stayed.

Of the Norske Turistforening and other such foreninger I cannot write too highly.

Valuable assistance in planning routes etc. is given at all the Turistforening offices, and without their clearly marked routes and admirable turiststations and hyttes walking tours in Norway's wild mountain scenery would be indeed difficult for the ordinary travellers carrying all necessities on their backs.

Membership is strongly urged for all who plan even a short tour in the mountains.

Nor only does this contribute towards the cost of maintaining



Sylene from Djupholma

H. Rotting

the paths and rest-houses, but members are rightly given priority accommodation in the Club hyttes, and the moderate subscriptions (with reductions for families), are often recovered entirely from the reductions allowed to members in hut charges. This concession also extends to similar rest-houses in Sweden should their walks extend over the frontier.

This contribution in English for the Trondhjem Turistforenings Årbok was suggested by Herr M. Haave.

My impressions based on five visits to Norway in the past eighteen years are, perhaps, too detailed for your use.

To summarise, I give brief replies to your three queries:

1. *Visited* the greater part of western and central Norway, from Stavanger to the Lofoten.

Impressions: Norway the most enjoyable country in Europe for individual tours, especially amongst the mountains and fjords.

The welcome given everywhere to visitors from Great Britain is unsurpassed.

2. *Communications* excellent, in spite of geographical and economic difficulties, and the ravages of war.
3. *Hotels and service* admirable, notably in the country districts. A great variety of travel provided, by foot, road, and fjord transport. Valuable facilities for mountain tours provided for members of Den Norske Turistforening and other Turistforeninger.

Unrivalled assistance for all forms of touring provided by Bennett's Turist Bureau.

This article may perhaps lead some of your members to consider extending their walks over the frontier into Sweden, and also bring to the notice of your English members the many advantages of membership of the Turistforenings of Norway and Sweden.

I hope that this short account of our little walk may be the kind of thing you wish for. I send it as some acknowledgment of our gratitude to the Turistforening for many happy days spent in your mountains, and for the hospitality provided in your turisthytter. Last year we revisited Trollheimen, of which we had pleasant memories on a previous tour some years before the war. This is one of my favourite regions in Norway, perhaps largely because it seems to be comparatively little visited by tourists from our country and others overseas, and we are made to feel such welcome guests.

During the first war and on my way home from it I travelled in four continents and got all round the world. We climbed mountains in Africa, India, Kashmir, China, Manchuria and America. In peace times we have had experience of the mountains in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and the Pyrenees.

During the last war I had opportunities to ascend Kilimanjaro, nearly 20,000 ft. and volcanoes in Belgian Congo up to 14,000 ft. and higher.

Nowhere, however, have I found mountain huts better than those provided in Norway.

Without these it would have been very difficult for us to have explored so much of your beautiful country. So long as I am able to walk I hope to spend all my future holidays in Scandinavia. The mountains may not be so high or so grand as those of the Himalayas and some parts of Europe, but they provide a great variety and special charm of their own. Also one is sure of a warm welcome everywhere.

HVA KAN VI GJØRE FOR Å HINDRE SKIULYKKENE I FJELLET?

Av Claus Helberg

Mitt svar på et slikt spørsmål må tas for det det er: En subjektiv vurdering. Jeg er ikke noen større autoritet på området enn gjennomsnittet av leserne. For å gjøre oss opp noen mening om hvordan vi skal hindre ulykkene, må vi vite hvordan ulykkene inntreffes. Først bør vi vel slå fast at antall omkomne ikke er stort når vi tenker på den veldige påskeutfart.

Den første påskeulykke avisene forteller om, hendte i 1901, den første snøskredulykke i vår påskeskiløpings historie. En Oslo-gutt ble tatt av et skred ved Sikkilsdalsseter.

Det var i 1890-årene at påsketrafikken tok til, selv om ikke trafikken var stor de første årene. I 1895 forteller avisene at 3500 påskereisende dro til fjells med jernbanen. Trafikken økte med årene, men noen stortrafikk ble det ikke før etter første verdenskrig. En kan ikke si at ulykkene steg i takt med trafikken, tvert om. I 1913 omkom to engelskmenn på Hardangerjøkulen, men ellers var påskene fri for skiulykker.

Så steg trafikken betraktelig etter første verdenskrig, og nå viste ulykkene stigning, 8 personer omkom i fjellet i 1920, 1921 og 1922. Dermed begynte arbeidet med fjellsikringstjenesten, og de første skiruter i høyfjellet ble kvistet, riktignok mot mange advarsler. Kvisterutene ville trekke ukyndige skiløpere inn i fjellet, ble det sagt. 30 år er gått, og statistikken har vist at det var riktig å kviste eller stake skiruter i fjellet.

Påsken 1927 ble dramatisk. 3 skiløpere omkom, og det hadde nær gått galt med fem studenter fra N. T. H.