

My Story

Bud Helstad



HAYDN



TRYGVEE



BJORN

Our Helstad family has always been proud of its Norwegian heritage. I grew up in a rural, Norwegian enclave in the coulee region of Wisconsin where pride in our background and traditions was almost second nature, and Norwegian was our primary language. But, as the younger generation moves on and marries into different nationalities and cultures, I have been concerned that much of the interest and pride in our Norwegian connection is being lost.

I now have three great-grandchildren ... all boys. The oldest is Haydn Rader, who just celebrated his fifth birthday. And, how about the two youngest? They are Trygvee Rader, age 2, and Bjorn Helstad, age 1½.

As the saying goes, "hope springs eternal". And I can hope that with names like these and with a little encouragement from great-grandpa, an interest in things Norwegian may continue well into the future.