

## **Memorial for Ingrid Thune**

Ingrid Thune died April 3, 2020, aged 73 years. She was born in 1946 at Gran on Hadeland as the daughter of Mina and Leonard Wøien. Mina and Leonard were farmers at Vøien and also had the sons Halvor, b. 1933, Olaf, b. 1936 and Magne, b. 1939.

### **Childhood and youth**

As a little girl in an active rural environment, Ingrid was allowed to unfold freely. With more boys than girls in the group of friends, the game consisted just as much of taking part in boy toys as of holding puppets in the playroom. She was as daring as the boys in skiing and an avid fisherman in the river and creek. Like other active children, she suffered scrubs and injuries, and she later carried the scars with proud dignity. Leonard's aunt, Kari Bråten, was a firm cowshed worker on Vøien. This was also a dear role she had at the summer pastures of the lake Øyangen. Here Ingrid was with her since she was quite small, and she lived her whole life on the bright memories of the summer life in the woods by the lake. The stories of perch fishing and berry picking were recounted endlessly.

### **Ingrid started working early**

Ingrid joined Romholt school in 1954. After seven years of primary school, she took three years of secondary school at Gran. Then there was one year of business school at Lunner. In 1965, she was hired as an accounting officer at the advertising agency Pran and Torgersen in Oslo and lived at a lodge in Smestad. Here she left in the summer of 1967 to take a six month course at Bondelia housewife school in Gjøvik.

In 1968 she was back in Oslo and then worked at Cappelen book publishers. Here she stayed for a year before joining the airline company Widerøes Flyveselskap in 1969. She quit in the fall of 1970 when she was expecting her first child. At that time there was never any talk of Ingrid having leave from Widerøe to return after the descent.

### **Her own family**

Ingrid Wøien married in 1970 Arve Thune from Gjøvik. He was educated as an engineer from the new technical school at Gjøvik and got a job in a construction company in Oslo. Ingrid had her own apartment in Treschowsgate at the Palace Park, and the newly married couple lived there. When they were expecting their first child, there was a need for a larger apartment. The solution was to move to a condominium on Stovner, to a block apartment on the 8th floor. Conveniently, Ingrid's brother, Olaf and his wife Kari lived at Ammerud, a short bus ride away.

Ingrid and Arve had their son Pål in the fall of 1970. In January 1973, Geir came to the world. During this period, Arve was very busy as construction manager for the basic work on demanding assignments. This included the Oslo Concert Hall and the SAS hotel. The work often had to be based on two daily shifts so that the working days could be long. In 1966, Ingrid's father, Leonard, had entrusted the farm to eldest son Halvor. Leonard was not yet a pensioner, but still a busy worker. He took up work at Felleskjøpet in Oslo and helped more than happy with the care of grandchildren at Stovner and Ammerud. Mina was also invaluable support for Ingrid and Arve with childcare, clothing and sometimes financial contributions.

### **Establishing in Gjøvik and building their own house**

Life in the apartment building at Stovner eventually became unsatisfactory for the young family. Ingrid and Arve both grew up on farms and missed contact with greener surroundings. In the summer of 1974, Arve got a job with a construction company in Gjøvik. After a bit of mapping the housing market, they found it right to hit an apartment in Kopperud. The house in Singelvegen was a small detached house on one level and with a flat roof. It became a happy house choice as the nearest houses

were inhabited by young families with children of appropriate age for Pål and Geir. The boys could unfold in a safe environment, and the local hiking opportunities in the woods and fields were used extensively.

These families became lifelong friends for Ingrid and Arve. However, everyone chose to build a house and therefore moved from Kopperud within 3-4 years. The Solvik family moved to Biri, while the Skoglund family built a house on Bøverbru. Ingrid and Arve even had the opportunity to build a house on the Tongjordet, near center of Gjøvik, where they could move in late autumn 1978.

In June 1978, Ingrid and Arve had their third son. He was named Sverre after Arves father. The first winter on Tongjordet was a bit strange for the Thune family. From living close to families with children in Kopperud, they now lived in a detached house on a large plot of land with older people as neighbors. Missed after social contact for parents and playmates for the children was great. When the snow disappeared in the spring of 1979, it turned out that there were many children on Tongjordet as well. Especially the Petterson family, with their sons Geir and Trond, became important friends.

### **Miljøbygg became their common working arena**

Arve had worked in the construction company Vei og Bygg AS at Raufoss, but chose to quit in 1980. The reason was that he, together with his comrades Esben Hveem and Erik Munkelien, would start his own contracting business. This became a reality in May 1980, and the company was named AS Miljøbygg. Ingrid had been at home with the children since the family moved to Gjøvik. The only job she had with working life outside the home was a temporary job at a local brewery, Holmen Brænderi. Ingrid came in from the first moment in Miljøbygg with knowledge of accounting and her general management experience.

### **Miljøbygg was sold to BackeGruppen**

As Miljøbygg developed, Ingrid became the very hub of the administration. She used her social skills and human knowledge to the benefit of all employees and became the one that everyone could deal with problems of all kinds. The company developed rapidly and soon became a significant size. This peaked in the late 1980s when the economic boom swept across the country. The company had invested heavily in the acquisition of land and own development of housing. Due to a demanding liquidity situation and uncertainty related to the business cycle, the owners decided in 1991 to sell Miljøbygg to the Elverum based company Martin Bakken AS, which was incorporated into the BackeGruppen in Oslo.

Arve Thune had been Managing Director of Miljøbygg since its inception and continued in this position after the sale. Ingrid also continued with her tasks, but received considerable support for the development of accounting systems from BackeGruppen. At the time of the sale, the owners had four rising companies, namely AS Miljøbygg, the housing company Nordbohus Gjøvik AS, the building product supplier Dokka Bygg AS and Byggtjenester AS which took on special assignments for the construction industry. These last three companies were all sold to senior executives and further developed into solid businesses.

For Miljøbygg, sales became a happy solution and in the next 10 years the company was developed into the leading local contractor. In 2000, Arve decided to quit and start working for the parent company AS Backe in Oslo. Ingrid continued with her duties as before, and her appearance and being were of great benefit to Miljøbygg. Her concern for the staff included a birthday greeting to everyone. This she practiced for many years even after she quit.

BackeGruppen developed common functions within payroll and accounting which were gradually adopted in all companies. This required collaboration and meetings where Ingrid participated and

contributed significantly to good atmosphere and good solutions. She did not spare herself and was constantly prepared to take on the heaviest tasks. This was bad for health, and in 2008, as a 62-year-old, she had to realize that working life was over. At the departure she was greatly praised and was rightly given the unofficial title of "Mother of the Company".

### **The children's friends became friends for the parents**

The great efforts for her employer did not prevent Ingrid from taking good care of the children and the home. Her inclusive nature ensured that the home was always open to friends of all ages. As the children attended elementary school, Ingrid introduced a springy custom of inviting the whole class to an afternoon of play and treats. Gradually, groups of boys' schoolmates formed their regular visits to Kallerudbakken. Ingrid and Arve always enjoyed being able to call their sons' friends as well.

Pål, Geir and Sverre got to try what was relevant for sports over the years. Eventually the field narrowed to football and skiing. With three active boys in an age span of 8 years, parents often had to travel to arenas separately to reach everything. It was most demanding to follow up the ski careers. Just as Ingrid had experienced at home on Gran, ski lubrication was an essential and often crucial exercise. There the nest of Fyklakk, Skipolin and Recordvoks hung heavily in the kitchen during the ski season. However, the methods of the past no longer met goals, nor for cross-country skiing. There were often some demanding lubrication exercises in the arenas, and the results varied.

The sports activities led to many trips to distant football fields and skiing arenas. The families who went there together built in this way a lasting friendship. Especially in recent times, Ingrid and Arve had great pleasure in exchanging memories with their sons' sports friends who had grown up.

### **Sons chose career as their parents**

With both parents in a construction company, it is understandable that the sons chose the same industry. In the 1980s, the rules were not stricter than that children down to the age of 12-13 could engage in incidental work on a construction site. For Pål, Geir and Sverre, there was always such an opportunity during holidays and on holidays. There was never talk of more advanced work than clearing, but it provided welcoming paychecks. There was also valuable work practice out of this even though the boys did not always experience participation as a volunteer.

Pål chose to take vocational studies and later became an apprentice in the concrete field in Miljøbygg. Later he took education at the Technical School at Gjøvik and the Grimstad University College. After high school, Geir started at Gjøvik University College. He then received an 18-month residency at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, USA, in the field of organization and management. Sverre was an avid ice hockey player and went on to high school at Norway's Top Sports Gymnasium at Lillehammer. He then worked as an unskilled laborer at Miljøbygg until he in 2006 was able to take a journeyman as a carpenter. Prior to this he also spent one year at the vocational school and one year of business studies.

### **A lot of people benefited from Ingrid's social abilities**

Where Ingrid appeared in social contexts, she often became a central figure. She did not like to take formal leadership roles, but always took responsibility for getting things done. The friends from Hadeland and Oslo were exceptionally durable. Although the course at Bondelia only lasted a few months, it became the basis for lifelong friendships. In Singelvegen on Gjøvik, the most important group of friends established the "Syklubben uten en tråd". It consisted of Ingrid's next door neighbors and adjoining friends Laila Skoglund, Britt Solvik, Oddrun Larsen, Solfrid Johansen, Ragnhild Lunde, Kari Øksne, Gerd Tellum and Siri Ødegaard. Oddrun chose to retire after a short while, while the others stayed in good days as bad days. Unfortunately, Laila died prematurely, 58 years old. After her, Grethe Bøe came in. Nor did this membership last long as she died in 2014.

With Ingrid as the hostess, the home in Kallerudbakken was open to parties and gatherings of various kinds. For many years, a coffee party for friends and celebrities on Constitution Day May 17 was a regular feature. Equally safe was the rakfisk party in the fall.

### **Grandparents at last**

Although the potential grandparents seemed delayed, the sons eventually took responsibility for passing on their genes. Residing in Oslo, Pål became cohabitant with Mette Viberg Henriksen, a specialist in data organization for oil drilling in 2002. They got their daughter Astrid in 2003 and chose to marry in 2005. In 2007 they moved to Gjøvik. Geir cohabited with Tonje Berland while both lived in Oslo. Tonje took a degree in nature management at the Trøndelag University College in Steinkjer. After the studies were completed, they moved south again and stayed at Gjøvik. They had their son Balder in 2014. Tonje and Geir chose to dissolve the partnership, but maintained a good friendship and cooperation on Balder. Sverre lived in Gjøvik and in 2004 became cohabitant with Mari Helene Gulbrandsen who is a hairdresser. They had sons Even in 2005 and Erik in 2007. Mari and Sverre got married in 2015. Eventually they got the opportunity to buy the home in Singelvegen which Ingrid and Arve had moved in in 1974. Here Arve's mother, Margrete, had lived in the meantime. .

Ingrid had no robust physique, yet exhibited a working capacity that few others. The course at Bondelia had laid a good foundation for her efforts in the home, and above all, the work had to be done thoroughly and solidly. She had of course experienced this at home at Vøien. Therefore, bread was baked at home and half animal carcasses were purchased and processed in the kitchen. Bondelia's cookbook was used for as long as cooking could be done. For Christmas, beer had to be brewed as well. When it comes to taking care of the house and washing clothes for four guys next to the job in Miljøbygg, it is understandable that the day got too few hours. In 1982, it was then that mother-in-law Margrete Thune took the job as maid and provided ready-made dinner for the five hungry family members who came home.

### **Retired but no unemployment**

As a young pensioner from 2008 there was no shortage of tasks for Ingrid. In particular, the three oldest grandchildren occupied her, and there were set routines for pickup in kindergarten and serving at home in Kallerudbakken. It was also good time to nurture the relationship with old friends who also gradually got better time. Together with Arve, Ingrid had the opportunity to travel to, for them, unknown and exotic places. Weddings in Brazil and Poland, river cruises on the Danube and the Nile, the 2006 Turin Olympics and two great weeks in Thailand are highlights. Retirement life also provided good opportunity for Ingrid to cultivate her keen interest in books.

### **A lot of relatives in USA**

Ingrid had many relatives in the United States, descendants of seven emigrants from the farms Tveten and Vøien. Many of these have kept in touch with the ancestral homeland, and regularly larger and smaller groups have visited Norway. For Ingrid and her family, it was the Lorentz family in Seattle that mattered most. Lena Wøien, b. 1889, married Swedish August Conrad Westerberg, who worked as a builder in Seattle. They had the children Ann Marie, b. 1920, Milton Leon, b. 1923, and Bernice Lorraine, b. 1925. Ann Marie married Paul Lavay Lorentz, who was of Swedish descent. They had the children Donald Paul (Don), b. 1942, Sharon Ann, b. 1946, Sandra Kay (Sandy), b. 1951, and Douglas Wayne (Doug), b. 1954. These were then Ingrid's second cousins, and all have paid visits to Norway. Don and Doug, especially with families, visited their grandmother's homeland and Vøien several times.

Around 1900, four of Mina Wøien's uncles emigrated from Tveten: Anders, Erik, Hans and Torvald Tveten, or Tweten as they became known in the USA. Anders changed his first name to Andrew. Andrew, b. 1883, married Syverine Jensen, b. 1888, from Romedal. They had five children. The

oldest, Anne Marie, b. 1914, married Grundy Aakhus, b. 1907, who was of family from Setesdal. They had four children: Mary Diane, b. 1947, Jane Anne, b. 1949, Edward Grundy, b. 1952, and Daniel Lee, b. 1958. Mary visited Norway in 1970 and then met Ingrid on Vøien. In 2019, Mary, Jane, and Edward came with family members to Vøien. Ingrid was then too ill to meet them.

For Ingrid, this contact was of great importance, and she was given the opportunity to visit her relatives in Seattle several times. The best experience was the trip she took in 2000 with the whole family. They then had two wonderful weeks in the state of Washington and in Canada. It was all topped off with a "family reunion" with American standards. Geir was given the opportunity to study in Tacoma, not far from Seattle. He had good support from his American relatives during his studies. As the children of the American second cousins have grown up, they have in turn visited Norway, and Ingrid always became a priority relative.

### **A mountain cabin**

After having the pleasure of visiting friends in their respective mountain lodges, Ingrid and Arve in 1999 rented a cabin in Ringebu. In 2009, they were given the opportunity to buy their own cabin nearby. This recreation possibility on the mountain was a great pleasure for the whole family. Eventually, Ingrid's illness made the use of the cottage less relevant. Therefore, it became a happy solution when Mari and Sverre in 2018 chose to take over the cabin.

### **The illness strikes**

In July 2015, Ingrid was diagnosed with malignant tumor of the brain, glioblastoma. After surgery, cerebral infarction occurred, leading to impaired speech ability and reduced right arm and leg mobility. This was a disability she had to live with, but her mood and her social abilities were well maintained. After the operation, she was predicted a period of 2-3 years before a relapse had to be expected. Only in June 2019 did the relapse come, giving her 4 good years. The family had planned and booked a joint trip to Spain in July. In doubt, Ingrid and Arve traveled with the others to Almunecar, not far from Malaga and Granada. Housed in a mansion, the whole family had a great week together, and Ingrid was able to participate in all the activities with the others.

When Ingrid's illness was a fact she was reimbursed for her sacrificial relationship with her many friends. The support she received was of great importance to her and to the whole family. As the illness worsened over the past year, friends' helpfulness and care showed how much they valued Ingrid as a person.

At the beginning of September 2019, the effect of the relapse was clearly visible, and Ingrid was significantly reduced. A new type of chemotherapy was tried, but the trend was still only negative. Within a few weeks at the turn of the year, she had to go through three hospital stays. After these she was bound to the bed, but could still live at home with Arve. The prerequisite for this was the fantastic effort made by the municipal home service in Gjøvik. Ingrid's old friends did not fail either, but kept coming.

### **Ingrid died at home**

Friday, April 3, 2020 life was ending for Ingrid. By then her 10 closest relatives had gathered for a family dinner. As if by fate, they could be with her when she died peacefully. The next day, Arve, Pål, Geir and Sverre could carry Ingrid's coffin from what had been her home for 41 years and accompany her to the burial chapel. The funeral ceremony was held April 16. Due to the restrictions caused by the virus epidemic, only those closest to the grave could be present. Nevertheless, there was a fine ceremony led by parish priest Ole Jacob Nyhus. At the burial site, a large crowd of family and close friends had gathered to make the final farewell.

Ingrid died prematurely but she lived a rich life with good experiences with family and friends. She will always be remembered as good wife, a caring mother, mother in law and a grandmother. Her friends will be telling about her as an excellent hostess and her care and thoughtfulness. The people she worked with will think of her as a hardworking person who tried to help everyone. Above all the memory of her loyalty and commitment will remain in every heart.