

# Flekkefest 2020, one day, one word: 'Smol'

by Anne O'Flynn, Grant County Herald

This year is a challenge... to say the least!

For the past 43 years, the months of June, July, and August have been filled with a flurry of planning of activities for Flekkefest. The first full weekend of August usually means a weekend of fun events like bouncy houses, pony rides, Flekkefest, dances, and much more. This year will be very different.

A very small (smøl in Norwegian), one day, family-centered event has been planned for this year on Saturday, August 8. Safety for everyone is the most important thing. Social Distancing will be enforced, and everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. Nothing is 'written in stone' this year. But this article is accurate as of Monday, July 27.

First of all... be sure to buy a Flekkefest Button! You'll be entered in a drawing for \$300, \$200, and \$100, plus you'll get a bunch of coupons from local merchants for great discounts. You'll also have a very collectible button (the first one with Flekke in a facemask) and help support the festival.

One of the traditional events for Flekkefest, The Great Snoose Box Hunt, will be held virtually this year. How does that work? Just pay attention to the clues in the July 29 and August 5 *Herald*. The FINAL CLUES will be in the August 5 *Herald* Snoose Box clues page. Think about where the elusive Snoose Box is 'hidden' (no actual box will be hidden), and then submit your guess starting anytime, until noon on Saturday, August 8. You must submit your guess in writing by putting it in the mail slot in the *Grant County Herald* door on Central Avenue - (main street). The winner of the \$100 in Chamber Cash will be chosen by a drawing of all the correct entries. You need to be VERY specific in your guess! Winner will be notified by phone so be sure to fill out the entry form completely.

So what IS happening? Check the ad in the paper today for the entire list. Here's a quick rundown of events planned at this writing. These are all scheduled for Saturday, August 8.

The day starts out at 7 a.m. with the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Safe shopping at Farmers Agency lawn.

Enjoy more shopping with city-wide rummage sales and downtown bargains. The Grant County Museum and Veterans Memorial will be open from 9 to 4 for safely-spaced tours. The museum has procured a wonderful exhibit, "Rightfully Hers" - commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. The Veteran's Hall will also be open, please take time to enjoy the historic displays.

The theme for this year was chosen in February: "Honoring the Veterans of World War II." This was chosen because of the 75th anniversary of end of World War II. There are three veterans locally who have been chosen to be Grand Marshals. (See article in this issue). There will be a 'reverse (drive-by) parade past the museum where the three veterans will be sitting under tents. Please line up near the Fire Hall and down Division Street between 4-4:15 p.m. At 4:29 Paul Brutlag will honor the veterans with a Fly-Over in his vintage T6-G airplane. At 4:30, the fire trucks will lead the parade past the Veterans Hall so we can whoop and holler our 'thanks' to them. Jerome Hanson will be at the museum grounds with his WWII Harley Davidson motorcycle, "Duke," and Paul Anderson will also be there with his WWII style truck. Take some time to go see them!

Enjoy meals throughout the day with local restaurants, take-outs, convenience stores, or plan a family picnic at your home and come back for the fireworks. In fact, the *Herald* cheerfully invites you to submit photos of your family having fun this weekend. See the ad in this issue for details.

We know this much... THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS! Watch the sky over Flekkefjord Lake as night falls on Saturday evening. This tradition will not be broken by COVID-19!

Hopefully 2021 will bring back all the fun activities that Flekkefest is famous for providing. This year, let's just be safe, wear a face-covering, keep social distance, and enjoy your family group. "Mange takk". (Thank you).

Watch next week's *Herald* for a special section featuring your local merchants, and a recap of the last four months in our communities. It will be a keepsake edition for sure. (All events subject to change.)



Local auctioneer, Jerome Hanson, (at right) will be bringing his WWII Harley Davidson motorcycle 'Duke' to Elbow Lake's Flekkefest, Saturday, August 8. He will be set up near the Veterans' Hall from 2-5 p.m. You can sit on Duke for a photo, and make a donation if you desire. Funds raised will be used for veterans' projects in our community.



Paul and Mary Anderson, rural Alexandria, will bring their WWII style truck to the Veterans' Hall in Elbow Lake. It was hoped that the three Grand Marshals could ride in it during the parade, but this year there will not be a traditional parade, but a drive-by 'reverse' parade past the Museum and Veterans' Hall.