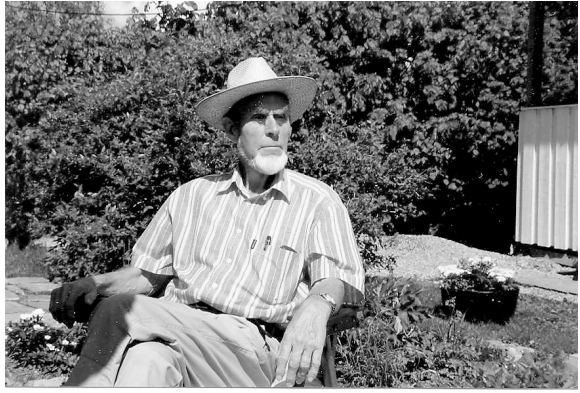


## Sven Skjenneberg celebrates his life of four score years

Sven was NOR in the years from 1981 to 1994. As chairman of the Nordic Council for Reindeer Husbandry Research (NOR), I will on behalf of the organisation extend many congratulations and the best wishes to Sven on his day of birth 14<sup>th</sup> December.

*Inge E. Danielsen*



On 14 December 1923 Sven Skjenneberg, like most of us, entered this world ill prepared for the life that lay ahead of him. He was destined, however, through his emerging interests in life and its processes and motivation to understand the world around him and the people who he shared it with, to be a leader in whatever his chosen field might be. He chose to study veterinary science, and fortunately for those of us that have shared many of his interests, by 1955 he had begun working with reindeer at the State Veterinary Laboratory for Northern Norway. Reindeer remained his focus throughout his long and productive professional career. Based in Harstad from 1968-1978, he was director of the Norwegian Reindeer Research Station at Lødingen where he initiated a program of research on the nutrition, physiology, and growth of reindeer. His research during that decade at Lødingen, in collaboration with biologists from throughout Norway and from several other countries, resulted in major advances in understanding of the physiology, health, and practical management of reindeer. Those who did research with Sven visited him at Lødingen recall the warm hospitality extended by Sven and his wife, Ragnhild, and being made to feel like “one of the family”. The resulting publications from research carried out at Lødingen have often provided the basis and stimulation for the continuing rapid advances in understanding of the biology and ecology of *Rangifer tarandus* that has continued through the 1980s to the present.

With the founding of the Nordic Council for Reindeer Research (NOR) in 1980, Sven assumed the duties of Secretary and continued in that capacity until he retired in 1994. Since 1981 and until retirement, he served as scientific editor for the journal *Rangifer* that has now become recognized as the international scientific journal with focus on the biology, management, and husbandry of reindeer, caribou and other arctic ungulates. His second book on reindeer and their ecology and husbandry, coauthored by Lars Slagsvold, has been translated and published in English. Sven's contributions to the advancement of knowledge on reindeer biology, husbandry, and health through his research, publications, editorial work with the journal *Rangifer*, and efforts toward establishment of an international data base on reindeer at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umeå were recognized in 1993 through conference of the degree of Veterinary Medical Doctor Honoris Causa at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala. Later he was appointed the same degree in his own home country.

Sven Skjenneberg, in his long and illustrious career and through his continuing efforts in support of the advancement and dissemination of knowledge regarding reindeer and caribou extending well beyond normal retirement age, has built a wide bond of friendships throughout the northern world. We extend our best wishes on this occasion of his 80th birthday.

*David R. Klein*