

## **The Tradition of Thanksgiving Dinner at Sondreson Hall**

*by Pat Elliott  
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The tradition of Thanksgiving at Sondreson Hall began in 1975. We had just moved in August with our teenage children from Alaska to the Knutson homestead. Marlene and Johnny Mathison had moved to the Holcomb family homestead earlier that summer. As Thanksgiving approached we discussed how we could celebrate this first Thanksgiving with our many new friends. Mathisons joined us with a visit to Loyd and Ruth Sondreson where it was quickly decided that we would join together to host a community dinner. Marlene and Pat cooked turkeys, a prime rib was furnished by Ruth and Loyd, others brought traditional potluck dishes and desserts. We had a wonderful celebration.

According to my journal it snowed a foot the day before and it had been minus 4 degrees the week previous. After spending most of the morning getting the car started we were able to haul firewood, get the fire started, return home to pick up the turkey and get back again to serve dinner. My journal notes that we "had a nice dinner" and that Jon ate too much. Twenty-seven people attended that first year and we danced afterwards! The following year, forty people attended. We continued to host into the late 80's, assisted by others, until we passed the torch to Bergs. They have continued hosting until this date.