

NORWAY

Never underestimate the Norwegians. Met by a host of AFS connected people- men, women and fair-haired babies., more flowers, warm greetings etc. Before going through customs, one gorgeous blonde collared my gorgeous husband, plopped him before a poised and ready-to-go TV camera, and told him to talk about AFS in 2mins, 20 secs.! A tall order and a bit swift. This was transcribed on the 8 p.m. news nationwide that eve. Much curiosity on the part of passengers waiting for their luggage. He was once taken for Fred MacMurray!!!!???? How about Rock Hudson???? That over and done with, Maria Hogetveit, head of the Oslo/AFS office, and her fiance, Hallgrim Berg (AFS #63) took us on a drive, in and around the University, then up the mountain to and beyond their large ski jump. It gave us quite a feel of the beauty of the land, and a fantastic view of the Oslofjord- small boats by the hundreds. Back into the city, and a brisk walk through Vigeland Park, famous for its monumental, nude figures of "man", depicting life's cycle in all its stages, emotions and daily life situations. You're swept from the wrought iron gate, across a bridge, to the sculptural climax-the Monolith, made up of over 100 figures shown in their struggle to reach the light. The entire lay-out an almost superhuman feat. Left to our own devices that eve. which was enormously appreciated, as the next six nights were hectic and late.

No one ever told me about Norwegian breakfasts! I guess Elsa felt it was hardly polite, after the simple fare we used to put before her in the a.m. She never let on! This is the real smorgasbord meal of the day- herring of several kinds, onions, pickles, cold meats, cheeses, biscuits, rolls, salads, fruit- and all so colorfully presented.