

Photo by Tom Hintgen

Pastor Stan Satre has, for many years during the summer months, called nearby lake cabin dwellers to the outdoor Sunday morning worships by ringing this bell at Camp Nidaros near Walker Lake.

Pastor Stan again serves worshipers at Walker Lake

From 40 to 50 people attend worship at Camp Nidaros

By Tom Hintgen
Otter Tail County Correspondent

During the summer of 2021 Stan Satre, 89, was the pastor for all four outdoor Sunday worship services at Camp Nidaros near Walker Lake, just down the road from the city of Ottertail.

Most of the pastors who used to fill in for Stan have passed away or are in unstable health.

Satre has been the main

chaplain at Camp Nidaros since 1982, heading many of the 10 a.m. Sunday worship services himself and also lining up other speakers.

He rang the bell at 9:30 a.m. and again at 9:55 a.m. as a final reminder for worshipers prior to the start of the service.

From 40 to 50 people attended scheduled outdoor worship at Camp Nidaros on any given Sunday during the summer of 2021.

Camp Nidaros near Walker Lake, north of Otter Tail Lake, is in a sense an old neighborhood at one of Otter Tail County's more than 1,000 lakes.

This lake neighborhood has its roots in the purchase of property back in 1909 by the original founders of Camp Nidaros. They were mainly involved with the ministry, built cabins and formed an association.

Of the 16 cottages, 14 are

SATRE SERVES AT WALKER LAKE
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LOOKING FOR A COLLECTABLE

traveling and playing with the team for a month, until the regular player's injury healed.

Today, Strand is putting his knack at being in the right place at the right time to a new use, as he helps a friend collect records.

Collecting records

For the past 25 years Strand has been buying and selling records, mainly for a friend who collects them in Fergus Falls.

"He has a huge record collection and he also sells his duplicates and sells records to get money to buy the records he collects," said Strand. "He enjoys them a whole lot more than I do. He is a huge music fanatic."

Always one who is up for a challenge, Strand began helping out his friend to find collectable records. He hung up bright pink signs in grocery stores, gas stations and just about anywhere where people gather.

Strand has vague guidelines to follow when purchasing a record for his friend, typically older stuff like jazz, rock and roll, music from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Even with those guidelines, it isn't very often that Strand finds a very valuable record mixed in with a person's collection. Most times he ends up selling a record that he purchased for just \$.50 or \$1, for as little as a dime apiece to someone else.

"A lot the times, because I am not the record collector, I don't even know that it is worth \$100. It's something

I never had seen before so I bought it for \$.50 or \$1. Most of the time it is worth less than what I paid for it," he said. "But the times it is worth \$500 or \$100, that really gives you a thrill to spend a dollar and sell it for \$500. It doesn't happen very often but it gives you a thrill."

While it can be disappointing to learn that a record that was purchased for a buck was less valuable than a piece of Laffy Taffy candy, Strand said the thrill of the chase of finding the next valuable collectable, and opportunity to learn about the story behind the record, keeps him going every day.

While Elvis and the Beatles may have ruled the land during the peak of vinyl records, their overall value for collectors is not nearly as sought after as the music itself.

"As opposed to public opinion, the best rock records are not Elvis Presley and the Beatles. They sold a million records and everyone still has them," said Strand. "They think they have a fortune if they have a 1970s Elvis album. They think it is great, but it is really not (for collecting)."

There are exceptions of course, like an obscure early record for one of the legendary rock bands, or an album cover with some different markings. Typically, Strand said the most valuable records are those that are either autographed or from a little known band that makes a record more

valuable.

"It's more of the obscure records or bands that make a record valuable," said Strand. "People say 'huh who is that.' That is what it is more expensive than an Elvis one."

Autograph collection

Prior to helping his friend find collectable records, Strand had a massive autograph collection that spanned generations. He was always interested in meeting stars, while also learning more about their uniqueness that made them larger-than-life figures in pop culture.

Strand's interest in celebrities hit a fevered point in 1961 when his aunt took him to the Aquatennial celebration in Minneapolis, Minn., to see Annette Funicello. His aunt, who knew Strand was a fan of the actress, offered to take him to the airport to see her arrival with countless other fans that day. Strand managed to get a front row spot for her arrival and followed behind the star as she walked through the airport to her convertible.

While his collection of autographs totaled well over 20,000 at one point, Strand didn't always grow up dreaming of being an autograph dealer. A pharmacist for years, he worked at a Wallgreens in St. Cloud, Minn., before moving to Minneapolis, Minn., in 1972 and working for a pharmacy in the heart of the city. He found himself unexpectedly bumping into celebrities at the pharmacy, as celebrities would often stop by the closest drug store to refill their prescriptions and purchase over-the-counter medications.

Being a sports fan, he would also attend sports banquets where he met star athletes. He started collecting autographs, and as time went on, he started writing to celebrities and asked for an autograph—something they would commonly oblige to back in the day.

"That's how I really got started gathering," said Strand of the sports banquets in the Twin Cities. "Then I started writing, sending photos to various movie stars and what have you. In that time you would get one back 70-80 percent of the time."

In fact, Strand enlisted the help of his sister, who agreed to write 10 letters a day while the kids at her home daycare were napping. She did this for 10

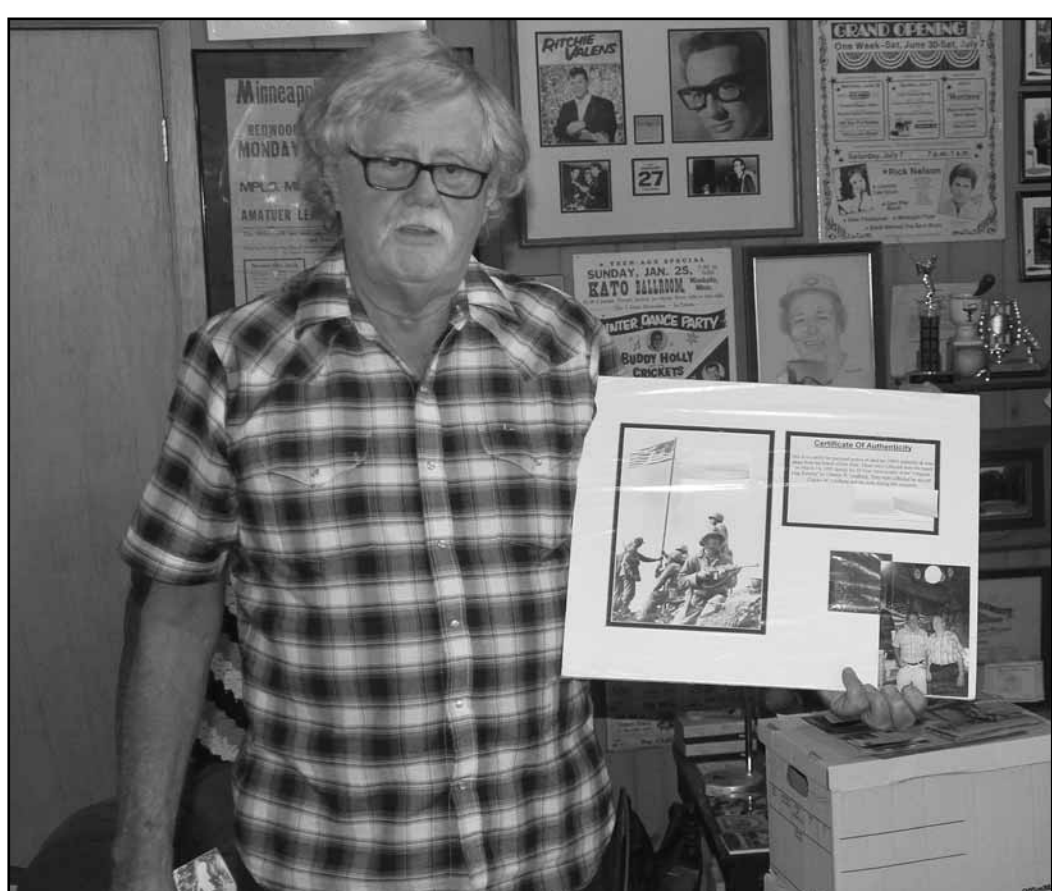


Photo by Chad Koenen

Dick Strand displays his Iowa Jima flag raising collectable that includes a picture of him and Charles Lindberg.

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- Dick Strand on searching for collectable records

chauffeur Nelson and his entourage to Perham from the Detroit Lakes airport.

After hauling Nelson's equipment to town, Strand met up with the rocker and his girlfriend at Dean's Grocery Store in Perham where he was invited to come to the house where Nelson was staying for the night. While at the house, Nelson began playing the piano for a select group of people, before the rest of the band arrived before the show.

Nelson died just 1 1/2 years later and the memory of that experience with the rock star has made his autograph by far more valuable than any other autograph to Strand.

"I don't want to part with that one as long as I am alive," he said of Nelson's autograph.

In addition to Ricky Nelson, Strand has enjoyed a long friendship and correspondence with people like the manager of Gordon "Porky" Lee, who was the child actor who played Porky in the original "Our Gang" television series in the 1930s, as well as Minnesota-born celebrities like Arctic explorer Will Steger, poet Robert Bly and Charles Lindberg.

Lindberg was the last surviving Marine out of a platoon of 40 who raised the first American flag on Iwo Jima during World War II. Strand and Lindberg had homes near each other in the Twin Cities.

"I found out where he lived and went over to visit him. I became good friends with him and his wife Vi," said Strand.

Purchasing records
Strand continues to search for collectable records for his friend in Fergus Falls. He said anyone with a record collection or some vinyl is encouraged to call him and tell him about the records.

If interested, he will purchase the records and see if his friend is interested in them. To contact Strand, call him at 367-2614.

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years, getting about seven or eight autographs back for every 10 letters she sent.

When stars would come to the Twin Cities area, namely the Carlton Celebrity Dinner Theater in Bloomington, Minn., Strand would find out where they were staying and track them down for a quick picture, story and autograph in the hotel lobby on the way to their performance. That's how he met Johnny Cash, as well as his wife June Carter Cash.

"We would find out where some of the stars were staying when they were performing in Bloomington," he said. "We would meet them in the lobby and get their autographs."

As his collection began to pile up, Strand started selling some of his autographs that included the likes of

Elvis Presley, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Michael Jackson, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, the Wizard of Oz cast, Marilyn Monroe, Mother Teresa, the Beatles, Harry S. Truman and many others.

Strand even has a picture of his sister getting an autograph of famed wrestler Andre the Giant. He said the larger-than-life athlete was as big in person as his famed lore during his stint on the professional wrestling circuit.

"The pen looked like a tooth pick," he said.

One of his most memorable nights came when Strand spent a night hanging out with Ricky Nelson. One of rock-n-rolls teenage idols during the 1950's and 60's played a show at the Cactus in Perham in 1984. Strand was asked to help

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