



The Mt. Tron Mail

September 1999

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 3, Volume 2

Construction work on the peak of Mt. Tron



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Captions

The photos above - which have been shot at about one months interval - show the construction development of the Aviation Authorities' radar station for civil flights, on the peak of Mt. Tron in the summer of '99. The building site is located on the so-called "Tylldalstoppen", while the telecommunication tower of Norkring is located on the opposite and highest side of the otherwise rather flat peak of Mt. Tron. Picture 1 was taken on the 11th of June and shows an excavator in the process of preparing the building site after the road to the site has been finished. Picture 2 was taken primo July, and picture 3 medio August. Picture 4 was taken on the 6th of September and shows in the front, the building of the very cupola, while the pillar it will rest on is nearly finished on Tylldalstoppen in the background. The placing of the cupola on the pillar is planned to happen on the 15th of September, and from the first of January year 2000, the radar station is supposed to be in operation. The whole installation costs 25 million crowns. (All photos by BP).

No virgin wilderness

After the tower building of both Norkring and the Aviation Authorities on the peak of Mt. Tron, and with a much used car road from the bottom of the valley up to the very peak, Mt. Tron is definitely not virgin land or wilderness any more. From an environmental point of view, the placement of a peace university by the road on the Peace Plateau - about 107 feet below the peak - should not entail much doubt.

The Mt. Tron road

The municipality of Alvdal has done well in making Mt. Tron an area of potential development. The Mt. Tron road is already the second most visited target of tourists after the Aukrust centre in Alvdal, and this happens even without any kind of organizing or public relation. This shows clearly what enormous potential Mt. Tron and its road really have. Also this condition strengthens the argument for building a university of peace on Mt. Tron. To visit such a construction on such a mountain, should become a very attractive target.

The University of Peace on Mt.Tron

A letter from the future. By Knud Larsen

The Mt.Tron Mail has received an article from Knud Larsen which is rather long and which therefore will be divided and published in several issues. Knud is a professor at the NTNU and is responsible for the drawing of the existing plans for the University of Peace on Mt.Tron. Here, in the form of a letter, he expresses his vision of the more physical aspects of location and shaping of the university. The article started in issue 1/99.

(Continued from the previous no).

After finding that there were only few newcomers, and having a refreshing shower, I went down to the Meditation Hall. In the entrance one takes a pillow to sit on or a blanket, because it might feel a little chilly. In this big circular room, which has been digged down underneath the outer open courtyard, there is space for 108 persons in the outer row. The floor is polished wood and the roof vaults into a flat copula up towards a round over-light. Alongside the walls there are chairs for those who cannot sit on the floor. In the centre there is a raised platform with different types of candle-lights. Otherwise there is nothing. When the sun shines, there is formed a bright spot on the floor which moves around in the room during day-time and functions like a kind of sundial. People sit where they please, some along the wall, some near to the candles. They come and go. It is completely silent. Usually I sit for an hour in the morning. Some may sit for several hours. Others do not use the room at all - they rather sit alone in their private room. Afterwards I usually go up to my room and write some letters like now, or I read.

We eat at eleven o'clock. I saw some foreigners in the Entrance Hall on the way up here, it is probably the lecturer

who has arrived. The seminar starts at one o'clock in the Conference Hall. I got to change Bruce as planned. It is a pretty nice collection of art which has gradually gathered here. Apparently, people become generous when they experience places like this, because it is not only junk which they cannot find space for in their homes. Actually, I was surprised to find a couple of very fine things in the collection, but anyway, Tara won my heart again to-day. Art in the University of Peace is nevertheless an interesting topic of which I could write a whole letter, but that will have to be later.

Bjørn just dropped by to say hello. He had been at the railwaystation to fetch the lecturer. On the way he had seen a species of bird which he believed to have disappeared from Alvdal for good. He was pretty elated because he didn't have time to go back to try to take some photos of it. You know well his big interest for birds. But in any case it will be a new entrance in the ornithological database.

The private rooms are not exactly rooms of meeting. There is only one chair, the rest have to sit on the beds. There are several reasons why the rooms are that small. The wish for a good and broad corridor with daylight where people can meet and partly stay, brings the rooms to lie on only one side. To have enough rooms in a not too long and narrow building, the rooms have to be narrow. You may say that the width is determined by a width of a bed plus a minimal walking area. There are then two beds in a row with a table across along the outer wall underneath a little window. The chair is usually a working chair to the table. *(Cont. next no.)*

Mini-bust of Sri Ananda



Anne Eggset eagerly occupied with the forming of Sri Anandas features in soft clay on Shantibu in the spring (over), and showing the finished product primo August (to the right). All three photos: BP.



This little ceramics bust (about 5 inches high) is the proto type for a souvenir the ceramic artist Anne Eggset from Alvdal, on her own initiative, has made and wish to put into production. The plaque in front bears the inscription (in translation from Norwegian) "Baral, 1881-1945, the sage of Alvdal" ('Baral' is the local name for Sri Ananda). Part of the sales income she wants

to give to the Trusts' work for building The Mt.Tron University of Peace. In the beginning of August all the local newspapers wrote about the project, and the municipality of Alvdal has shown positive interest. However, there has appeared some problems of a not completely unexpected character, so that the project to-day is temporarily postponed.

Swami Sri Ananda Acharya

A short biography by Bjørn Pettersen * Part I: From Bengal to Alvdal

(Continued from the previous issue, 2/99)

Himalaya

After Burdwan, Sri Ananda didn't see any other possibility than to go to the Himalayas. Together with two friends he therefore travelled northwards by train to Hardwar. From there they thought of walking on foot to the Lake Manasarovar in Tibet.

When they had been travelling for three days and were at an altitude of between three and four thousand feet, he experienced a great revelation in a cave by the Ganges at night. He was told that the time had now come for him to travel to Europe, and that he there should proclaim the message of friendship and peace to the people. Therefore, the following day they didn't continue north, but instead turned back to travel westwards to Europe.

Travelling to Europe

Early in the morning on the 14th of July 1912 he left Calcutta and embarked on a vessel as a deck passenger heading for Ceylon (Sri Lanka). When they reached Colombo, Ceylon, he had to change to a French steamboat which was going to take him to Europe. It carried French soldiers from Kambodia back to France. He left Ceylon and Indian soil for good on the 17th of July.

The voyage proved to be very tough for him. One thing was to be a deck passenger, all the time exposed to weather and wind, and frequently drenched by rain, but worst of all was the food. He couldn't eat meat, which was mainly the only food served twice a day. Already from his childhood he had kept a strict vegetarian diet, not even eating fish like the Bengalis otherwise do daily. Therefore he spent the whole voyage practically without food and became physically quite weak.

After crossing the Indian Ocean the steamer made a little halt in an African country to replenish charcoal. And after a voyage of altogether about three weeks, Sri Ananda could finally touch the solid soil of Marseilles in South France. From here he travelled by train across France via Paris to the English Channel, which again was crossed by boat. Broke, and without friends or acquaintances, he arrived London and Mornington Road on August the 15th, after almost exactly one month's continuous journey from India.

London

If the long travel to Europe had been hard, his stay in London for the next more than two years, should in no way prove to become any easier. Often he was without food and even shelter, and he had to endure many insults, rasisme, intrigues, exploitations and other unworthy behaviour from

people he met. But of course, there were also several bright spots and sincere, good friends. Nevertheless, this period of his life was mainly filled with hardships and struggle for physical survival. In spite of all these difficulties he was very productive while in London. During all this time he frequently gave an enormous number of lectures at various spiritual societies and organisations which flourished in England at that time.

In London he also studied and worked regularly at the British Library and the British Museum. Here he found many invaluable treasures which the British had stolen from India through the centuries in the form of age-old Sanskrit texts written on birch bark and palm leaves. And these he used for the work with the three first books he published, which were all English translations of ancient Indian works from original Sanskrit texts.



Sri Ananda, London 1913.

published, which were all English translations of ancient Indian works from original Sanskrit texts. His first book, 'The Samhita', is a dialog between king Janaka and rishi Astavakra, and is recognised as one of the greatest pearls within the Vedanta literature, containing the highest philosophy of life. The book has an extensive foreword by Sri Ananda and is meant as an introduction to the study of the Vedanta philosophy. This book was published in 1913. Early in 1914 his second book, 'Vikramorvasi', was published as a translation from a drama by Kalidasa, who is often called 'The Shakespeare of India'. Also this with a lengthy introduction by Sri Ananda. His third book, 'Panchadasi', was, in likeness with 'The Samhita', a translation of Vedanta texts. But because of the outbreak of the First World War in

1914, his book was never published by the publisher and the manuscript somehow disappeared. It is probably now lost for ever. The money Sri Ananda earned or rather could have earned from his lectures and books, was almost always swindled out of him in various ways.

In the summer of 1914 the First World War broke out and on August the 4th that year, England was also involved in the war. As time went by and the war became increasingly extensive, it became clear for Sri Ananda that he had to leave England. Late in the autumn or in the beginning of winter he got an invitation from one of his friends in London, who was aristocratic and very rich, to come with her to her house in Norway and give lectures at the university of Kristiania (Oslo). And since he didn't wish to return to India, but considered Europe his future field of work, he accepted the invitation. (Cont. next no.)

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The Mt.Tron Mail - The newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace

Publisher: Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation
Editor: Bjørn Pettersen
(Chairman of the Foundation)
Issues: Quarterly 4 times a year
Languages: Norwegian and English
Prices: Subscription of support NOK 250,-/year
Single copies NOK 30,-/piece
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New optimism for the University of Peace!

The Monument restored

On Thursday 8th of July, members and representatives of those who on Saturday the 3rd of October last year razed parts of the Trust's monument on the Peace Plateau, were present on the scene in radiant sunshine and repaired the Monument. This restoring work came about as a result of an agreement made in the Hedmark Council of Conflict in January this year. The finished labour was o.k.'d by Hallstein Tronsmoen. This case is thus closed.

Congratulations from the mayor

A handwritten, undated letter from the mayor Per Hvamstad, with a stamp dated 25th of June, to our surprise appeared in our postbox this summer. In the letter he congratulates the Trust with fine publications and says that he frequently meets people who are interested in the University of Peace, e.g. other mayors, and that he orders further info-materials - i.e. folders and The Mt.Tron Mail in 10 copies

of each - and asks for the bill to be sent to the Alvdal City Hall, att. the mayor.

Political support by party programme

Both the Centre Party and the Left Wing Party of Alvdal have this autumn made a party programme of support to the University of Peace for the coming period of election. This we think deserves great honours, and it certifies both broadmindedness and foresight among their representatives!



The 'Peace Plateau' (in sunshine) and Sørkletten (in shadow), as seen from the peak of Mt.Tron, primo June -99. Photo: BP.

Resumed municipal planning

On the 1st of September it was clear that the Committee for Regular Plans in the municipality of Alvdal, followed the recommendation of the chief officer about the resuming of the municipality's area plan. This includes also

the plan for the Mt.Tron area with among others the arranging for the University of Peace after the Trust's plans on the Peace Plateau.