

## 2016 Fife Folklore Lecture Features Jens Lund - Oct. 05

**Diane Buist**

**09/20/2016**



The Folklore Program and Department of English at Utah State University is pleased to announce that this year's 2016 Fife Honor Lecture will be delivered by Jens Lund, PhD. The Fife Honor Lecture is an honorary lecture given every year in honor of Austin and Alta Fife, folklorists, documentarians, and founders of the Fife Folklore archives.

**Please join us on Wed., Oct. 05 at  
12:30 pm at the David B. Haight  
Alumni Center on the USU campus  
for his talk. Everyone welcome;  
reception to follow immediately.  
“I Done What I Could”: Occupational  
Folk Poetry in the Pacific Northwest**

Synopsis: The dangers and difficulties of certain challenging occupations are sometimes expressed in the tradition of composing and reciting poems, often in the traditional ballad-form of rhymed couplets. This tradition, best-known in the cowboy poetry of the American West, also occurs among occupational groups and seems to have survived to a greater extent in the Pacific Northwest. Bio: Folklorist Jens Lund was born in Denmark and grew up in suburban Stamford, Connecticut. He holds a Ph.D. in folklore and American Studies from Indiana University,

an M.A. in American Studies from Bowling Green State University, and has worked as a freelance field researcher in folklore and oral history in twenty-three states. Jens has taught at five universities, was director of the Washington State Folklife Council, and developed and managed Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program, from which he retired in 2014. He is the author of *Folk Arts of Washington State* (1989), *Flatheads and Spoons* (1995) and numerous articles and reviews. Lund has worked extensively in cultural tourism and developed Washington's first highway audio heritage tours. He is the recipient of the Benjamin J. Botkin Prize for significant lifetime achievement in public folklore and the Ethnic Heritage Council of the Pacific Northwest's Spirit of Liberty Award, for naturalized citizens who have made significant contributions to ethnic heritage and the community at large. Jens Lund lives in Olympia, Washington.