



The history of local newspapers important role in developing free speech in Norway

Trond Degnes



- Journalist/ editor in different local newspapers
- Edith in chief in Norwegian Newspaper Publisher Association
- Director of information department of Hospital Østfold
- Leader of the action group working for a Norwegian Press Museum

Jan Erik Øvergård



- Journalist/editor in different local newspapers
- Writer/novelist
- Chair man Presse-museet Fjeld-Ljoms venner
- Chair man in the local newspaper Fjell-Ljom



Sjeld-Ljom.

Towards a Norwegian Press Museum



Start of an new era

- *Indre Smaalenenes avis* 1970
- Two women working on typesetting machines for half a century
- The digital revolution was knocking on the door
- Computers replaced typewriters and traditional type setting
- Newspaper production was transformed



Fjeld-Ljom.

Towards a Norwegian Press Museum



The Pioneer

- John Solheim, the newspaper man
- Concerned about all the old production equipment ending onto the scrap heap
- Who would join him in the rescue operation?
- Established Norwegian Press Museum
- «Gutenberg met me at the door in Fjeld-Ljom»



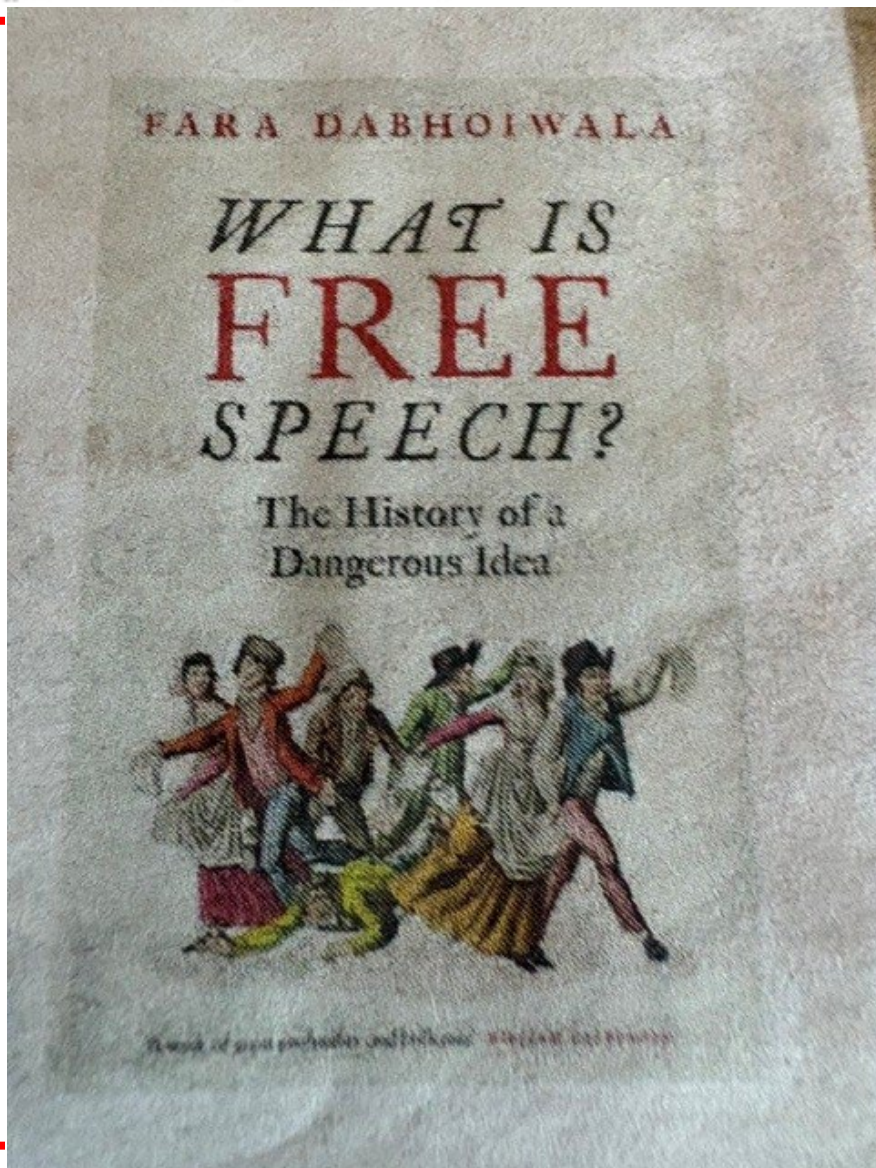
Fjeld-Ljom.

Towards a Norwegian Press Museum



The Road Ahead

- 40 years of systematic work by dedicated newspaper people to preserve Fjeld-Ljom; The house, the machines and the knowledge
- Solheim's vision of a Norwegian Press Museum has not been forgotten.
- Response outside the active group of volunteers have been limited
- But we work with this mission in a long perspective



Major Changes

- The Press Museum Fjeld-Ljom is unique in Europe
- Preserved complete pre-digital newspaper house
- Prints a yearly edition in the old letterpress technique
- Newspaper production and news distribution and how people consume news has fundamentally changed
- Are we now facing the greatest threat to freedom of expression that we have ever seen?



An Uncertain Future

- The future is uncertain, and it can seem daunting
- Newspapers gave their readers a voice
- They provided a platform for public debate and helped safeguard democratic values
- This is what we are fighting to preserve, join us in this work!