

Aurland Newsletter

Past and Present

Volume I, Issue 3

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From the Editor: This has been a very busy time of the year for us. We are sending this out early to remind you about the Aurland Reunion July 30 in Albert Lea. See issue 2 for details. There is still time to send your reservation to Millie for the noon meal if you haven't done so already. If you can only stop in before or after the meal, please come anyway. You may meet another "cousin".

Millie is in Norway on Brekke's tour (July 2 - 15) to Bergen, Sletta, Aurland, and Trondheim. I wish I were with her.

I am in the process of moving into a new town house that I have been staining, varnishing, and painting with the help of brother Gary (and his wife, Avis) Esterby and cousins, Millie and Ray Ohnstad. My new address is 240 7th St. SW, Pine Island, MN 55963. I'd love to have you visit me. Pine Island is just off Hwy. 52 sixteen miles north of Rochester, MN and only 20 minutes down the highway from Millie whom I meet with weekly to discuss the Aurland Newsletter and genealogy.

We are continuing our in depth study of Undredal. Millie has written an article "What Else is Special about Undredal" (page 2). There are some pictures of the Undredal area on page 3. We have genealogy charts from

Eldon Underdahl (page 4). Eldon and his cousin Ivan Underdahl traveled to Norway with us in 1998. They grew up in the Kenyon area (Moland Church). Eldon has contributed some history of the family on page 6.

If some of you have the Aurland II genealogy book, you may have seen the article about Torbjørn Torbjørnsen Horten near the back. Arne Brekke's interpretation of the story starting on page 8 will be very helpful to many of you. Jerome Ramstad has continued the language lesson from the May issue. The lesson starts on page 10.

Gordon Eddy has some interesting things in "Out on the Black Hammer" starting on page 12. His wife, Brit has graciously translated another letter for us (page 14). We have included some obituaries on page 16. Some of them are older but we have included them because some of you may have known them on various trips to Norway.

See the story on page 17 of present plans in Aurland for developing the millennium cultural site where the stave church once stood.

The next issue will feature the Bakke /Gudvangen parrish. If you have ancestry from that area, please send ancestor charts or stories.