

# Aurland Newsletter

## Past and Present

Volume IX Issue 4    Ann Romo, editor - [annromo04@yahoo.com](mailto:annromo04@yahoo.com)    October, November, December 2008  
Millie Ohnstad, asst editor- [mohnstad@frontiernet.net](mailto:mohnstad@frontiernet.net) -36735 Cty 1, Blvd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009-Published quarterly

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From the editor: Our ninth year (WOW!) is drawing to a close. **Please send in your renewal slip soon** so you don't lose track of it and forget. Tell others about us to help keep our subscriber list above 200 (needed to send it by bulk mail). We have a variety of things in this issue-hope you enjoy it.

We are featuring a couple things happening for **Minnesota's Sesquicentennial**. **Orlin Ostby**, family and friends made a long trek this past summer along the **Pembina Trail by oxcart**. Find the story and pictures starting on page 2. There was a **wagon train** from Cannon Falls to the State Capitol in which our cousins, **LeRoy and Donna Thoreson** rode their **stagecoach** in. See their story starting on page 4.

Several members of the **Flom** family traveled to Norway this year with Brekke Tours. They are cousins of Arne Brekke and others in our "Aurland" family. Find their story and picture starting on page 6.

Arne Brekke has sent us some info about the **E-16 Highway from Oslo to Bergen**. Find it on page 8. Arne also has an **inquiry for Edward John Thy** on the same page.

From Brekke Tours WEB site, we have found some things you may be interested in—namely two **fires** that happened, one in **Bergen** and one at the **Fleischer Hotel**. See those articles on pages 8-9.

**Pat Goldman** of Albert Lea, MN wrote something about her genealogy researching. Find it on page 9.

**David Johnson**, a teacher in Cannon Falls, approached Millie to find his roots in Norway. See his story on page 10.

We have several **obituaries** of friends and relatives—**Mary Ann Kappedal, Eleanor Trandem, Dale Wangen, Steven Ostby, Alvin Steberg, and Carol Kappedal**. Find them on pages 11-12.

"**On a Journey to Washington Prairie**", sent by **Gordon Eddy** includes a program, "Christmas in

the Sogne Settlement, Rural Decorah" written by **Rev Elling E. Ramsey**. This is from Ramsey's book "**The Neighborhood That Was**". It starts on page 13.

**Gordon** has written a follow up on the **150th celebration of the Faith Lutheran Church, Black Hammer**. Find his pictures and story starting on page 17.

Then on page 20, find the **index for 2008**.

### **\* Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project \* Celebrating Minnesota's Sesquicentennial Recognizing Statehood Pioneers with a Plaque and Heritage Book (Deadline in December)**

If you have Norwegian ancestors who lived in Minnesota at the time of statehood in 1858, they were true pioneers. The earliest Norwegian settlers created communities that welcomed subsequent waves of immigrants, and many of them joined these waves in moving north and west to create new Norwegian communities around the state and beyond its borders.

As Minnesota celebrates its Sesquicentennial, the Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project wants to recognize the Norwegian Statehood Pioneers and acknowledge the contributions of all Norwegian-Minnesotans who helped create the institutions and culture that shaped Minnesota's past and continue to inform its future.

The web site for the Norwegian Statehood Pioneer Project is [www.mn-nspp.org](http://www.mn-nspp.org). **Check it out!**

The application asks for documentation to support that the pioneer came to Minnesota before it became a state in 1858. A \$25 application fee helps to cover the cost of reviewing the applications, processing the request and producing a heritage plaque.(very nice). You are encouraged to include up to a 500-word biography of your statehood pioneer and one photo. All biographies included with applications received by the December 31st deadline will appear in their Heritage book.