

Aurland Newsletter

Past and Present

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From the editor: Here we are starting our third year of the Aurland Newsletter. I can hardly believe it! I want to thank everyone who has made the newsletter possible, especially Millie Ohnstad, my mentor, who writes many articles, but whose favorite, I believe, is "Connecting Cousins"; Gordon Eddy, who writes "Out on the Black Hammer"; Jerome Ramstad who has contributed the Norwegian Language lesson; Arne Brekke, who has translated and written several articles about Aurland; and also those who have contributed articles we have featured during the first two years. I just mostly type articles or save e-mail, then format and organize everything on the paper. Without everyone else, including the subscribers, this paper couldn't continue. I am so grateful to you all. I have made some mistakes, but I hope you will be understanding and forgive me. Please let us know if something needs correcting.

Aurland is celebrating its 800th Anniversary of the Vangen Church this summer. Start reading about it on this page and continue the story on the next two. Connecting cousins starts on page 4 and includes ancestry charts for Jens Sjursen Flom and Brita Eilefsdtr Kardel on page 6-7.

Arne Brekke has written about the new Bakka Tunnel on page 8 and an article about the Eldhus in Norway on page 14. We have a request for help identifying people on a confirmation picture on page 9. Millie has written about the 2001 Aurland Reunion on page 10.

We have some miscellaneous announcements on page 11. Jerome's language lesson is on page 12 & 13, and Gordon's "Out on the Black Hammer" starts on page 15. Then read about the 2002 Sognefjord Heritage Tour (July 30-Aug 12) on page 18.

800th Anniversary **Aurland Vangen Church**

The Aurland Kyrkja (also called Vangen Kyrkje) in Aurland, Norway will be celebrating its 800th year anniversary throughout 2002 with a special big jubilee on June 9th. King Harald and Queen Sonja will be coming to Aurland for the celebration. In connection with the Friendship Agreement between Aurland Kommune and Umland/Wangen Prairie Parish, an invitation has been extended to someone from here to join in the celebration.



The Vangen Church in Aurland Photo by A.F.