

Aurland Newsletter

Past and Present

Volume IV, Issue 4

Ann Forsman, Editor E-mail: amforsman@earthlink.net

October, November, December 2003

Published Quarterly

From the editor: Time is flying for me. There are so many things to do in the fall before the snow comes and you never know how much time we have to do everything.

We had another wonderful trip to the **Sognefjord** again this year. We have stories from several travelers starting with **Elroy Aslakson's** on page 2, **Cori Becker's** on page 3-4, and **Al & Bette Kvidt's** on page 5. You can find a group picture on page 6 along with some other pictures.

Betty Wulff's story was in the last issue. Her brother, Don Lowe sent us their recent Norwegian letter, which has been interpreted by Brit Eddy, and also a picture of his siblings and their father's, (**Rudolph Lowe**) ancestor chart. Find them starting on page 7.

We have several **obituaries** on page 12. We express our sympathy to family members for the loss of your loved ones. **Sydney Roppe** was our guide on the Sognefjord Heritage tour for six trips. His wife, Mari Anne, was our guide this year.

Gordon Eddy sent me two maps of **Black Hammer**. We have included the **1896** one on page 13 and Gordon's "**Out on the Black Hammer**" follows - starting on page 14.

We are going to be meeting in Black Hammer for our **Aurland Reunion** which Gordon is calling "**Aurlandslaget 2004**". Many of you belong to "lag" groups from various areas of Norway. This is where the name comes from. See page 18 for these plans, along with an article from the Cannon Falls Beacon about the Aurland Reunion in 2003.

Look for this year's **index** on page 19 and information about a new **Viking Quest** series for youth on the back page by author Lois W. Johnson.

We love having you send us articles and things to include. They are so interesting. We have many things to include in this newsletter so we are delaying to February a couple articles - including the second part of Kari Brekke's story of Koshkonong.

Please help us out. We want to know if your **E-mail address** that was sent out in November 2002 is still correct. Please contact us with changes.

Osterbo Memorial Stone

On August 17, 2003 a memorial service was held at Østerbø in the Aurland Valley to mark the 50th anniversary of the raising of a memorial stone which commemorates the burial of 27 persons in a cemetery created on that mountain farm 900 meters (2953 feet) above sea level. Because of the treacherous mountain path, it had been nearly impossible, especially in winter, to bring the deceased to the Aurland church for burial.

The nameplate lists twenty-seven persons who are buried at this location. Although the nameplate indicates that the first person was buried there in 1852, it is likely that the cemetery was used prior to that date. Nine out of the twenty-seven persons listed were children less than one-year old.



Ann Forsman, Dick Werdahl, Millie Ohnstad, & Donna Werdahl
August 6, 2003 (Photo from A.F.)

