

Aurland Newsletter Past and Present

Volume V, Issue 4

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Published quarterly

From the editor: How the year has flown by! There have been so many changes and things going on in my life---getting married, moving to Lars' farm from my Pine Island townhouse (still have things to move though), and now I'm trying to clean up at the farm and organize the farm house to combine two households.

Millie and I traveled to Norway again this past summer on Brekke's Sognefjord Heritage tour. Travelers **Julie and Jerry Ingstad** and **Rosemarie Myrdal** have written about their experiences. See their stories on pages 2-4, and also a group picture of our travelers on page 5.

Also on page 5, see the quip about a new book, "**Astri, My Astri**" written by **Deb Nelson Gourley** of Waukon, Iowa. I have just finished reading it. It's wonderful!

Barb Murray, of Bismark, ND, and her cousin **Jeff Skeim** of Florida, have written a very interesting and informative story about their ancestors immigrating to America. See their story starting on page 6.

Arne Brekke's granddaughter, **Katie Hoelzer** of Illinois has done a college assignment describing an event that had a significant impact on her. See her story "**A Hike to Stegen and Beyond**" on page 10.

We are very sad to hear that some subscriber friends

A message sent by **Olav Ellingson**, mayor of Aurland,
Norway to our Aurlandslaget Stevne.

have died. Find obituaries for **Janise Timbeross**, **Ivan Underdahl** and **Kari Rice** on page 11. Janise's ancestor chart is on page 12. Ivan's and Kari's charts were printed in earlier issues.

On page 13 see an article from the Cannon Falls Beacon about our **Aurland Stevne**, and also a short article about **Brekke Tours' Sognefjord Heritage Tour-2005**.

The **Aurlending newspaper** has printed some stories about our Aurlandslaget Stevne and our trip to Norway. It is in Norwegian so we want you to try and read it. We think you can understand some of it. Find it on page 14. Let us know if you want it interpreted and we will include that in the next issue.

Our **Aurlandslaget Stevne** was a huge success! **Gordon and Brit Eddy** did a marvelous job of organizing the event! Thank you to both of you! Thanks also to everyone who helped make our Stevne a success! We are also grateful to **Nancy Nelson**, (of Stillwater), publisher of the **Aurland Heritage Chronicle**, who started the Aurland Reunions. You can find a list of attendees and a thank you to our many helpers for the event on page 15. See pictures starting on page 16 in Gordon's "**Out on the Black Hammer**" section.

On page 20 find the **Index** of all the articles in 2004.

**Gordon Eddy, Cresco, IA receiving a gift
from the people of Aurland, Norway
Presented by Ingvar Vikesland,**



*To all the friends of Aurland
On behalf of Aurland Municipality I send my best wishes for a memorable celebration.*

We are very interested in keeping the contact with the descendants of all those people who left Aurland to find the prosperous land far away.

As mayor of Aurland, I wish to do what I can to make strong ties of friendship, not only with the citizens of Cannon Falls, but also with all 'Aurlendings in America.'

I hope that all of you will be able to visit Aurland some time. We will make preparations to make your stay in Aurland as pleasant as possible, in the searching of your roots.

I also hope that I and many other Aurlendings can visit USA to see where the emigrants settled.

*Greetings from
Olav J. Ellingsen*

