

Aurland Newsletter Past and Present

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From the editor: We are in the planning stages for our **Aurland Stevne** to be held **Sunday, July 31**. We have a tentative schedule on the back page. It will be held at Urland Church as our addition is finished and we now have a lot more room. Our speaker will be Deb Nelson Gourley from Waukon, IA. Her book, "Astri, My Astri" was published Oct 1st of 2004. After the wonderful stevne that Gordon Eddy and his friends organized in Black Hammer last year, we are trying to organize and conduct cemetery tours at Urland Church also.

Carol Hanson of Buffalo, MN, who has ancestry from the Horton and Kappedal farms, has sent us a translation of a letter to share that **Annette Horton** had written to her niece, Myrtle Engen (Carol's aunt). The letter starts on page 2. See **Stevne** dates for **Bygdelags** on page 4 in **Future Events**.

Jackie Ranby sent some additions and corrections to the **1851 Ship's list of Immigrants**. Unfortunately we printed an early draft. I apologize to Jackie for not asking her to edit the first part that was printed in February. Find the lists starting on page 5.

Olaf Kringhaug of British Columbia, Canada has translated parts of the Book "Nordmændene i Amerika" that was written by Martin Ulvestad in 1907. See the part about Goodhue county starting on page 8.

Millie Ohnstad has been working diligently comprising a list of immigrant ancestors of our subscribers. You may be able to "**Connect with Cousins**." See pages 11-13. If you haven't already sent your immigrant ancestors to Millie, please do so for later publishing.

Brekke Tours has spaces open on the **Sognefjord Heritage tour** that Millie and I are genealogy consultants for. The itinerary for the trip can be found on page 14. Call Brekke tours for more information.

Nancy Nelson, editor of the "Aurland Heritage Chronicle" was our inspiration and for-runner for publishing the "Aurland Newsletter Past and Present". Recently her father, Ed Nelson, passed away. Our condolences to you, Nancy. Her father's obituary is on page 15 along with an article about their church celebrating 150 years this summer.

Gordon Eddy has been busy - this time writing about the **Winjum Heritage** in "**Out on the Black Hammer**" starting on page 16. Congratulations to you, Gordon and Brit, on the birth of your two grandchildren, pictured on page 19.

"A Work of Love"

(From the Cannon Falls Beacon)

The dedication of the addition to Urland Lutheran Church, rural Cannon Falls, on Sunday, April 3, was the culmination of a work of love for many people. "We had a lot of volunteer labor," building committee member Kathy Jacobson said. "They put in so many hours and some came after work to help in the evening. It was a blessing to have this turn out so beautiful and functional. It fits in very well with the old church."

The center of the west side is the new entrance with the fellowship area on the lower level and the gathering area on the upper level. To the left are the offices for pastors and secretary and a chapel on the lower level and new Sunday school rooms on the upper level. To the right side is room for a future kitchen. The steeple, part of the original church, can be seen in the background.

The inside is very unique. "We are blessed to have talented people," Jacobson said. "Our pastor's wife, Catherine McLaughlin, is an artist and she painted on the walls of new Sunday school rooms. Also, Arnie Otterness rebuilt existing stained glass windows to be used in the new addition and made several others. It's been so much fun to see it all come together. It's been a work of love and everyone walked away feeling good about it."

In addition to Jacobson, members of the building committee for the project were Gary Esterby, chair, Chuck Blastervold, Art Rehtzigel, Keith Holt, Jim Berquam, Al Hernke, and Renay Ingledew.

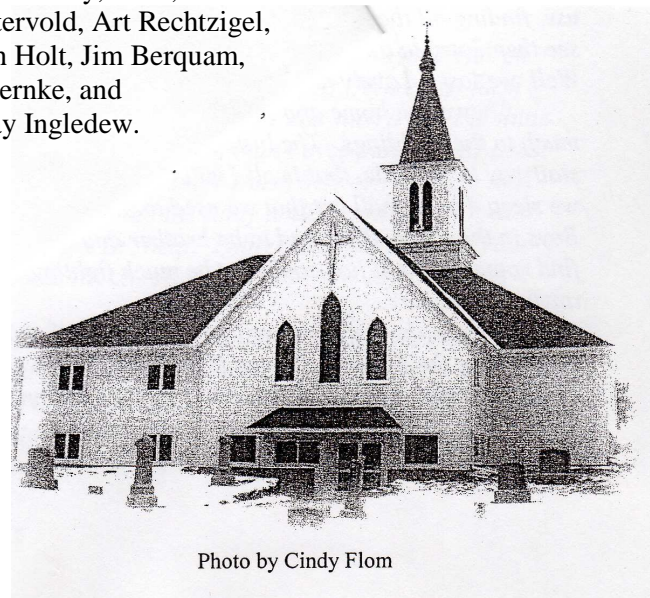


Photo by Cindy Flom