

Aurland Newsletter Past and Present

Volume VI, Issue 4, Millie Ohnstad, Asst. Editor mohnstad@frontiernet.net Oct, Nov, Dec 2005
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From the Editor: Six years ago, Millie and I made a commitment to publish this newsletter. It's hard to believe that we have been doing it for that long. I hope you all still enjoy reading the articles. Please let us know if you want something else included. We will try to accommodate.

We had another wonderful group traveling with us on the **Sognefjord Heritage tour**. Several people have written stories for us. **Evelyn Lien** won her flight to Norway from the Sons of Norway for collecting stamps. See her story on page 2-3.

Celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** by taking a trip to Norway, **Jonetta and Arthur Aarstad** went to see the **Oak Ridge Church** at Hamar. Her father was the pastor when it was originally in Houston, MN. Their story is on page 4-5.

Bev Waldren and her daughter Melisa Welsh, have roots to the Otternes and Berekvam gårds. See Bev's story on page 6. She has also sent the picture of her ancestors in the "**1894 Christmas at Grandpa's**" which is on page 7 and her **ancestor chart** for her gr-grandmother **Ingeborg Roselle Berkvam** is on page 8.

Next years' Heritage tour is the **Sogn/Voss Heritage tour** and it will be Aug 1 - 13, 2006. Find a short itinerary on page 9.

On page 10, you will find a **group picture** of our **2005 Sognefjord Heritage tour** at the Gjestrum Gård in Toten, Norway. This is the farm of Marianne (and Sidney) Roppe's sister's family, and also our guide, Lisa Kristen Quandahl's aunt and uncle. (Lisa Kristen is Marianne's daughter.) Our **Aurland Heritage Reunion/Stevne** was held July 31st at Aurland Luthern Church using our new addition. We have some pictures on page 10 and the program and a list of attendees on page 11.

Steinare Hybertsen has a new documentary out on DVD about "**Aurlandsdalen**". Find it on page 11.

Brekke Tours and the University of North Dakota sponsored the **Conference: Norwegian Heritage in the United States: Resources and Research Experiences** at Grand Forks, ND October 10-11. We have listed the speakers and have a picture of them on page 12. Then on page 13 we have some **Background Concerning the Bydgebok Collection** that is at the University of North Dakota.

Gordon Eddy's "Out on the Black Hammer", starting on page 14, includes a story written by **Pat Rutherford** of Carlsbad, CA, on their **Gjesme-Lommen family**. An obituary for **Roger Bjerjum** who is from Spring Grove is on page 19.

On the back page we have our **index for 2005**.

It is once again time to **renew your subscription** for the **Aurland Newsletter - Past and Present**. We have included a subscription blank and envelope for you to send back to us. We want you to include you immigrant ancestor so that Millie can continue her list that she started in Issue 2. This list may help others find common ancestors or "cousins". **Millie will appreciate you early renewals.**



Dr. Arne Brekke, Millie Ohnstad & Ann Romo