

Aurland Newsletter Past and Present

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From the Editor: Happy New Year! 2007! Wow! We are starting our eighth year of publication. I can't believe it! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and are all in good health.

We apologize for the poor quality of pictures in the last issue of 2006. The printers in Rochester said they would reprint the pictures for us. Ken and Harriet Roberts from Wisconsin, who are subscribers have offered to help us by printing the newsletter for us. Thank you Harriet and Ken!!

I found the **NAHA (Norwegian American Historical Assn) WEB** site and in it an article by **Theodore Nydahl, "Social and Economic Aspects of Pioneering as Illustrated in Goodhue County, MN"**. It gives a good picture of what the pioneers' lives were like. Find it starting on page 2. NAHA headquarters are at St. Olaf College. Included in membership each year, NAHA sends out a new book that they publish. This year's book is **"Norwegians on the Prairie"** by **Odd S. Lovoll**. It is shown to the right. Mr. Lovoll spent several years researching in America for his books and has several that have been published. We recommend that you join NAHA. They have a lot of information available for genealogists.

Åsmund Ohnstad recently published a book in Norway about **Undredal and the Nærøy Fjord**. He has translated a few pages for us from Norwegian to English. Find his translation on pages 6-7.

Millie's and my cousin, **Lillian Hovland** wrote a history of her family for her granddaughter, LaRae Crooks. Lillian's mother, Brita Nedberge, came from Suphamar, near Leikanger, Norway, but her grandparents lived in Aurland before moving to Lidal and then Suphamar. The story is on pages 8-9.

Brekke Tours Company and **Deb Nelson Gourley** have books and maps available to order. **Deb Nelson Gourley** from Waukon, IA spoke at our Aurland gathering a couple years ago. She is now operating her own publishing company after writing **"Astri, My Astri,"** which is the name of her company. We have a

list of books available from her on page 10 along with books, maps and misc. available from **Brekke Tours**.

Margie Lee of Portland, OR, traveled this summer with the Sognefjord/Voss Heritage tour with Millie Ohnstad and Jean Marthaler as escorts. Margie has traced the footsteps of her Scandinavian and German ancestors from Minnesota to Washington and written a book **"Kinfolk"**. We have some background about her on page 11.

Jean Marthaler wrote a story about last year's Sognefjord/Voss Heritage tour. She had it printed in the Vestlandslag newsletter and has shared it with us also. Find it starting on page 12.

Arne Brekke was interviewed last year by the **Grand Forks Herald** and the **New York Times**. We are reprinting one article on pages 13-14.

Gordon Eddy has written about the **Ytre Lie-Lee** family heritage in "Out on the Black Hammer". His story starts on page 16.

This year's **Sognefjord/Voss Heritage tour** is July 31 - August 12. We have a few of the highlights of the tour listed on the back page. We would love to have you join us. It is a wonderful experience to set foot on your ancestor's home place in Norway. **Aurland Newsletter subscribers can receive a \$50 discount in you call by Feb 5th.**

Odd Lovoll's new book
**"Norwegians
on the Prairie"**

Mark your calendar
July 29th for the
Aurland Stevne which
will be at the Black
Hammer Church rural
Spring Grove, MN.
Hope to see you there.

