

# Aurland Newsletter Past and Present

Volume VIII Issue 3

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From the editor: I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer. My uncle, Donald Otterness, from Altamont, NY stayed with us for a week and we had a family reunion at our farm July 7th.

Three of Arne Brekke's nephews and nieces, John Eric Johnsen, Gerd Ohnstad Tønjum and Lise Torvik Aldal along with grandchildren and children came to America the same week to visit Arne Brekke and traveled from Park Rapids to Stoughton, WI stopping in the Cannon Falls area for an overnight. The group who stayed with Sherman and Jean Ann Hommedahl included: Gerd Tønjum and her grandchildren, Sebastian (12) and Iselinn (14) Tønjum, John Erik's daughter, Kari Johnsen (14). Svein and wife Lise Aldal stayed with Millie and Ray. John Eric Johnsen and his wife Anne Line stayed with Lars and I on the farm. The entire group joined us at Urland Church the next morning before heading to Wisconsin. Millie Ohnstad introduced them at church and explained that it was 10 years since the friendship agreement had been made between the people of Aurland, Norway and the people of Urland church, rural Cannon Falls, MN. John Eric, Arne's nephew, brought us greetings and a book on the Næroy fjord from Aurland Kommune.

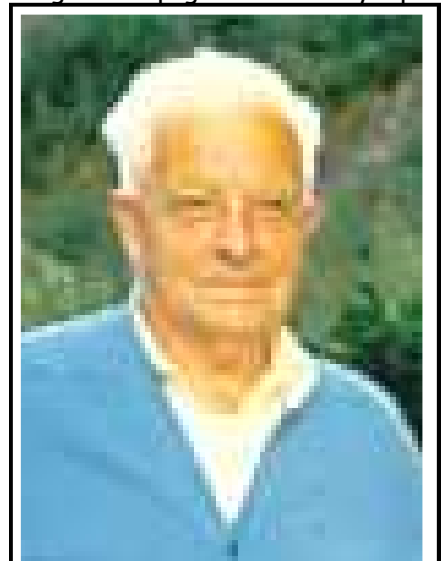
I found some articles in the Rochester Post Bulletin about Spring Grove, MN—about Norway Ridge cemetery north of Trinity Lutheran Church and a new Art Gallery opening in Spring Grove. Find them on pages 2 and 3.

Dr. Arne Brekke spent a couple weeks in Norway in May. He has written about his time over there: Anders Ohnstad passed away May 4, 2007; PER SIVLE: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Birth; The Red River High School Concert Choir in Aurland; May 17<sup>th</sup> in Flåm; and meeting with Viggo Fosse in Bergen. Find the article starting on page 4.

Kathleen Stokker has written another book: **Remedies and Rituals: Folk Medicine in Norway and the**

**New Land.** Her books are available at the Vesterheim Bookstore in Decorah and also the Scandinavian Marketplace in Hastings. See page 6 for the synopsis of her new book.

Millie and I did extensive research into the Urland Church pastoral records some time ago. We printed "Honoring the Memory of the Saints buried in Urland Cemetery" in each issue in 2006. We are continuing it again starting the section in the cemetery on the



Anders Ohnstad 1911-2007

south side towards the woods. The numbers start at 1 again so we put an "N" in front of each number for that section. Find them starting on page 7.

Gordon has again written about the Black Hammer area, this time about the Alfred and Benora Otterness family. He also includes a 1880 Black Hammer Township plat map, listing all the people in certain sections, and some pictures from Spring Grove's May 17<sup>th</sup> celebration. Find his article starting on page 12.

## Aurland Stevne

You can still register for the stevne/ reunion by calling **Millie Ohnstad at 507-263-5542.** See the back page (18) for the schedule