

AKERSELVA (AKER RIVER) JUNE 2008

The day before we went to France, Saturday the 21st of June, We went down along the Akerselva. It is 8 km long and is forming the lower end of the Nordmark river system, which stretch 47 km from Puttungene in Jevnaker municipality and out to the Oslo fjord. From the outlet at Maridalsvatnet to the outlet at Bjørvika the river has a drop of about 150 m.

We took the train from Gran to Kjelsås.



This is Gran Station

From Kjelsås we went up to Maridalsvatnet, which before was called Sannervatnet. It is dammed by a moraine from the last ice age about 9500 years ago. It has since 1867 been the city's most important drinking water source.



The outlet at Maridalsvatnet



Just below the outlet at Maridalsvatnet.
Here starts the walking path along Akerselva.



The walking path is also popular for joggers



It is idyllic her. Right below lies Grønvoldsdammen (Dam).



This is Grønvoldsdammen.

The bottom above gives good growth of insect larvae and small animals, which gives food for fish like trout, perch and pike.

Right below to the left lays Kjelsås with the Technical Museum and Frysja center.

The museum was founded in 1914, but was moved here in 1986.

Frysja center is in the old buildings to O. Mustad & Søn



Below Frysja center lies Brekkedammen, which was a place for storing timber for Brekke saw.

On a headland in the dam is a stone with a copper plate as a memory of Peter Chr. Asbjørnsen.

At the waterfall lies Brekke power station from 1892. It was in use until 1950. It is now an activity house for the neighborhood of Grefsen-Kjelsås.



When we had crossed the bridge below Brekkedammen we were thirsty. We saw a grocery and went in and bought two canned beers, which we drank on the bridge, before going on.



Right below was a stone with scrubbing stripes from the ice age



We also saw a lot of moths on the cherry bird tree. They spin the whole trees into their web and the larvae use the leaves form food. If the use the same tree two years in a row, the tree dies.



The old buildings of Christiania Spikerverk (nail factory) lie here still. This is seen from above.



This is seen from another angle.



Right below lie the old buildings of Nydalens Compagniet. This was founded in 1845 and was for a long time the country's biggest textile factory.



We came later down to Bjølsen and Bjølsenfossen (waterfall). This is the upper part.



This is the lower part of Bjølsenfossen and Bjølsen Valsemølle (mill). Here they still make most of the flour for food for most of the eastern Norway.



Close-up of the lower part of Bjølsenfossen



The old factory building to Ringnes Breweries



At Beierbrua (bridge) is situated a statue (1961) of the known laborer poet Oskar Braaten.



At Beierbrua stands a sculpture (1986), which shows factory girls by Ellen Jakobsen. Oskar Braaten has written about the bridge and called it the factory girls' bridge.



The factory building in the background is Hjula Veveri (weaving mill). In 1854 – with 400 looms and about as many employed – Hjula was the biggest industri company in the country.



Right below Beierbrua stands Hønse(Hen)lovisas hous, a small cottage, which was named after Lovisa in Braaten's play "Ungen" (the child).



Right below lies Vøienfallene (falls)



When we came down to Grünerløkka we went over Åmot bridge, which was built in Åmot in 1852, but was moved here in 1958.



When we had gone so far we had become hungry and we had to have something to eat. We stopped at a eatery in Trondhjemsveien 5, called Südøst. Here we had vi turkey salad and mussels with white wine along.

After this we tried to reach the outlet of the river into Bjørvika, but there were so many railway tracks and traffic machines, which were not supposed for pedestrians that we gave in.

Here is an old picture. Like this looked Akerselva at the outlet in Bjørvika in 1961. After this there are made culverts and traffic machines and a lot of railway tracks.

Now there are plans for making the lower part of the river more accessible again for pedestrians and for small boats.





Then we had walked about ten kilometers and we were tired and thirsty. We sat down at this place at Scotsman and relaxed for a while before we took the train back to Gran.