GJØVIK AND LILLEHAMMER

We found out that we had not been around in, nor in Gjøvik and Lillehammer, even if we had been in both towns various times. We therefore wanted to see more of both towns.

Gjøvik Monday the 8th August 2011

Gjøvik lies on the west side of Mjøsa, which is the biggest lake in Norway.

In older times Gjøvik was a farm in Vardal parish, and in 1801 there lived totally nineteen persons at Øvre (Upper) and Nedre (Lower) Gjøvig. Gjøvik town grew up around Gjøvik Glassverk, which was founded by Caspar Kauffeldt in 1807. The town got its market town status from 1. januar 1861. Today the old Gjøvik farm is still an important cultural center for the town.

In 1931 Gjøvik was struck by a typhoid epidemic, which resulted in 19 people lost their lives.

Gjøvik is the end station for Gjøvik line from Oslo over Hadeland and Eina. After that Mjøsa bridge was opened in 1985, the ferry traffic between Gjøvik and Mengshol is laid down. The paddle steamer Skibladner goes in charter- and route traffic during the summer.

First on the program was Gjøvik Olympic Cavern hall, which was built for the ice-hockey games during OL-94. It seems gray and insignificant.

The hall is today used for ice-hockey, handball, concerts and other arrangements. There is also a swimming hall here that was built in 1974, already.

There is quite ray inwards, but there are a few lamps. Almost there.
The field with stands around.

More stands.

At the entrance inside the hall is this stone.

A poster that tells that Veidekke/Selmer built the hall.

Play of colors on the stone, which is lit by lamps.
Holmen Brenneri (distillery) is a factory building from 1856. Here is Mjøsmuseets administration at Gjøvik, local historic archive, photo archive, folk music archive and the secretariat of Oppland archive. In the same building lies also Gjøvik Glassverk (glassworks) and Vitensenteret (Knowledge center) Innlandet.

Here we have arrived at the yard of Gjøvik gård (farm) that lies about in the middle of the town. The barn to the left.

Gjøvik gård was ble protected in December 2008.

The main building in empire style from 1810. The building is very little changed since Kauffeldt's time. The interior is protected.

The main building seen from the back side.

Drengestua. Here has been living room for the workers, room for baking oven, brewery and in addition three stores. There is now an art gallery, shop and cafe.

The barn from the 1870s consists of a barn, a stable for six horses, a small cow barn, a pharmacy museum and a shop.
The farm houses are surrounded by a large scenery park, which is now Gjøvik town park.

Outdoor scene in the town park.

Drengestua seen from another angle.

Statue of Alf Mjøen (born 5. April 1869 at Gjøvik gård, dead 1956 at the same place) was a Norwegian officer and Member of Parliament.

Bridge over Hunnselva, which comes from Einavatnet and run through Gjøvik and out into Mjøsa. The river divides Gjøvik in Nordbyen (North town) and Sørbyen (South town).

A monument outside the town hall, which lies on the other side of Hunnselva.
A fountain outside the town hall.

Not far from here lies Kauffeldtgården. This house was built in the early 1800s by Caspar Kauffeldt, the founder of Gjøvigs Glasværk (glass works).

A stue in memory of the glass works era.

A rooster statue in front of Gjøvikhallen at Gjøvik farm.

At Hunnselva lies also Hunton Fiber, which was founded in 1889 for production of cellular pasteboard from self made wood pulp.

The factory started in 1932, as the first one in Norway, under the trade mark Huntonit, among others.

The factory buildings look like this when we come along highway 4 from Hadeland.
Now we have moved to Mjøsa and the marina.

Besides the former ferry berth lies a former Mjøs ferry, which is planned to be a restaurant boat.

A light house at the harbor.

This is the winter house for Skibladner. Skibladner has got its own shelter in glass.

The marina pub.

A fountain out on Mjøsa.
Skibladner lies by the quai.

The front part of Skibladner.

The rear part of Skibladner.

DS Skibladner is Norway’s only paddle steamer and the oldest ship in regular service, built in 1854–1856. It is by the way the world’s oldest operative paddle steamer in route traffic. Skibladner was protected by The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage 2. August 2006, which is the 150th anniversary for the maiden voyage. This is the first time a vessel in route traffic is protected in Norway.

Skibladner is often called the white swan of Mjøsa.

Marina and marina pub.

At last a picture from Gjøvik Næringscenter, which lies in Hunndalen.
Lillehammer lies in the north end of Mjøsa and in the south end of Gudbrandsdalen.

Lillehammer got market town rights in 1827 and township status in 1842. The merchant Ludvig Wiese has been considered to be the founder, and there is erected at statue of him at Lilletorget in connection with the town’s 100th anniversary. Until the middle of the 1800s the settlement was mainly around the Hammer farm. The town had in 1850 about a thousand inhabitants, and it had good connections south and north. The construction of the main railway Oslo-Eidsvoll in 1852 was based on a further connection by steamship along Mjøsa to Lillehammer, and a new road further up along Gudbrandsdalen. This transportation system made possible a transit of timber and agricultural products to the capital, and it contributed to the growth of the town.

Lillehammer is also called «dølabyen» because of its position at the entrance to Gudbrandsdalen. The town is the northern end station for «Skibladner».

Our first stop was at Maihaugen. Here on our way up the hill after having bought tickets and passed the entrance.

Maihaugen was opened 2. July 1904 under the name of “De Sandvigske Samlinger” (Sandvig’s collections), when Anders Sandvig's private collection was bought by “Selskapet for Lillehammer bys vel” (The company for the interests of Lillehammer town). Anders Sandvig was a dentist who from 1887 had started to collect old objects from the farming communities, folk art and craftsman tools, and later, to a great extent, buildings, mainly from Gudbrandsdalen. Maihaugen was a pioneer among the Nordic musees because the collection was quickly made extensive and detailed. Whole farm yards and mountain farms was moved to the museum. Maihaugen is from 2011 a department under Lillehammer Museum.
An old errand boy bicycle outside the pharmacy.

Posters inside the pharmacy. Long ago we had posters like this in Norway. Now it is forbidden by law to have posters like the one to the right.

This is in the living room in a townhouse from 1938. This is a genuine Husqväns sowing machine.

Anne Berit has found an issue of Alle Kvinner from 1938. The kitchen. Still a wood-burning stove.
A mangle.

The bedroom with the chamber pot ready.

Anne Berit has found a nice coat from 1938.

On the upper floor was a lodging with living room and kitchen that was hired out.

Genuine biscuit box.

In the yard is a kid who wants to try the stilts.
Tourists from Southern Europe are not costumed with walking on stilts.

She has not any scythe to sharpen. A twig have to do.

Skies with bindings like these we had too.

The carpenters shed.

Inside the carpenters shed is work going on at the planing bench.
Valbjørsetra (Valbjørg mountain farm).

Knerten.

Nice bridge.

A mountain farm.

Fiskerkapellet (The Fishermans Chapel) from 1459. The bishop at Hamar had this chapel built. It was situated at Øyra by the river Gudbrandsdalslågen in Fåberg. Fiskerkapellet is the oldest preserved log house church in Norway. In the middle ages they built churches as stave churches.
Fishermen huts.

Various houses down the slope.

Øygarden is a middle sized farm from Skjåk with 19 buildings.
Øygarden. Nice *round-pole fence*.

The Isum chapel. Isum, the large farm in Sør-Fron was in the Middle Ages the archbishop’s property and after the reformation crown land.

The entrance door to the chapel.

The pulpit in the Isum chapel
Nice gate.

It is not often hay-drying racks are to be seen nowadays.

The goats are inside the enclosure. Nice round-pole fence.

Garmo stave church comes from Garmo in Lom. It is built in the 1200s, and enlarged various times, latest in 1730. It was taken down in 1880, but the materials was collected and the church was reconstruct at Maihaugen in 1921.

Garmo stave church.

Nice fence.
Inside the main building is this statue of Anders Sandvig, who started this collection at Maihaugen.

Now we have moved on to the center of Lillehammer. This is the building where The Wine Monopoly is.

This is the former Norges Bank building from 1913 at Stortorget in Lillehammer. Norway’s entire stock of gold was moved here the 9th of April 1940 and then further to England.

The restaurant «Hvelvet» is now in the building. One of its halls are inside one of the bank vaults.

We had a salad here and the food was excellent.

Afterwards we are walking along Storgata, view north.
Storgata, view south.

Fine houses along the street and all of them are in an old traditional style.

In the north end of the pedestrian street, we can see along Elvegata towards where Mesna Bruk was before.

Here is Nikkers Sport.

Nikkers Spiseri.

Here, there was an old brewery before. Now there are restaurants and a night club here.
A poster with moose facts at the rear side of Nikkers spiseri. Here is stated e.g. that it is illegal to throw living moos out of airplanes (Canadian law), and that it is illegal to give alcoholic drinks to a moose (American law).

Here we are looking across the Mesna river. It is now regulated and is used for power production. The water flow is certainly reduced because of that. On the other side we can see some of Mesna Senter. The buildings has been the property of Mesna Bruk, but now there are shops and restaurants there.

There is made a cultural trail along the river. 7-Eleven is also a part of Mesna Senter.
Dolly Dimple is in a fine old building.

Spot is in a funny decorated building. Laurel wreath and crossed skies.

Outside the entrance door is a shoe display on a stepladder.

A shy troll girl.
Sigvard Larsen lived in this house. He was the first police inspector in Lillehammers, and he was a pioneer in the fight for the rights of the staff in the police force. Already in 1906, he sent a proposal of law for the Police to the Norwegian Parliament. This memorial plaque was put up by Norsk Politiforbund in connection with the yearly meeting at Lillehammer in 1996.