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**Fekjo kulturminnepark**  
 This area has been in use for many decades. Both the 1100 year-old burial ground, with its 20 graves and many coal pits are witness to this. The culture park contains an installation and set of sculptures that produce sounds when they come in contact with the weather and wind, designed and made by local artist Gunnveig Nerol and percussionist Terje Isungset in 2001. The installation is named "House for wind drawings and colour resonance"



**Tuftebrui**  
 Tuftebrui, built around 1884, is a bridge that lies at the far end of "Ustedalsfjorden Rundt", a well used trail during the summer and winter months. Due to deterioration, a new bridge was built in 1985, as close a replica to the old bridge as possible, both structurally and visually.



**Geilojordet**  
 Geilojordet is a cosy yard in the centre of Geilo, consisting of houses from the 1700 and 1800's as well as a playground for children. In the summer it hosts an outdoor café, exhibits in the barn and various farm animals. Historical guided tours are offered where you'll meet a farm boy/girl who will talk about farm life back in the 1880's. Geilojordet is open daily from the middle of June until the middle of August.



## Skaugum Bestikkfabrikk

**Factory outlet is open**  
 Monday–Friday 08:00-15:00 (or later)

**Furusetveien 5, N-3580 Geilo**  
 Tel: +47 406 10 101  
 post@skaugum.info – www.skaugum.info



## Øyo

**Factory outlet is open**  
 Monday–Friday 08:00–16:00  
 Saturday 10:00–14:00

**Øyovegen 32, N-3580 Geilo**  
 Tel: +47 32 09 09 11  
 ordre@oeyo.no – www.oeyo.no



## Brusletto & Co

**Factory outlet is open**  
 Monday–Friday 09:00–15:00 Saturday 10:00–14:00  
**July:** Monday–Friday 09:00–16:00 Saturday 10:00–15:00

**Lienvegen 123, N-3580 Geilo**  
 Tel: +47 32 09 69 00  
 brusletto@brusletto.no – www.brusletto.no

GEILO 365  
 Tel: +47 32 17 80 20  
 info@geilo365.no  
 www.geilo365.no

**Guided tours**  
 If you would like to hear more stories and visit a factory, guided tours are available. Here you can see how tradition and handcraft have been passed down through the generations. Contact Geilo365 for more information. Any group size is welcome and is suitable for all ages.



# FACTORY TOUR

kreatorno (3'05-20) Foto: Terje Bjørnsen, Paul A. Lockhart, Anik Grethe, Emile Hobba, Bjørn Furuseth





## Iron ore extraction

Iron ore was farmed from marshlands. In order to reach temperatures of 1200 degrees, which was necessary for the extraction, coal had to be used. Wood was converted to coal in coal pits and today these pits are historical sites scattered around Hol County. The oldest scythes known to us were made from iron ore.

The marsh turfs were first dried, shaken and crushed before being heated up using coal. Having reached the desired temperature the extraction process began. The iron ore melted and was gathered in a pit. During the separation process iron would rise to the surface and the residue would be siphoned off. The process was repeated several times until only pure iron was left.

These residue lumps can also be found many places around Hol, especially around Ustedalsfjorden. Between Geilo and Ustaoset nearly 100 iron ore extraction sites and 1000 coal pits can be located.

These findings suggest that production was higher than consumption and therefore suggest that Iron ore was also used to trade items such as fish, salt and corn from the west coast. Iron ore extraction for the community of Hallingdal was a crucial part of Viking culture during the high medieval period. At Fekjo in Ustedalen 20 graves were discovered from around 900AD containing work tools and jewellery, most likely derived from the marshlands nearby.

## The Industrial Revolution

Iron ore was a soft metal and because of this scythes would have to be sharpened after each days use. Most farms therefore had their own smithy to hammer out and sharpen the scythe edges. The blacksmiths of Hol were known for their skilled work.

The process of iron ore extraction became cumbersome and it was sometime during the 1500-1600s that the iron industry was developed. They discovered that by mixing steel with iron hardened the metal considerably. Hammers were no longer needed for sharpening, the edges could now be sanded.

This made the farmer's life much easier, but the blacksmith's much harder. The mixing of these two metals was extremely difficult and almost seen as magic. Blacksmiths became highly regarded within the community.

The blacksmiths of Tinn community were regarded as the best in the country and often came to Hallingdal to sell their goods. In 1860 a young Sjugurd Endrestøl travelled to Tinn to learn the trade. He became the first professional blacksmith in Hol and began to pass the trade onto others. Around the year 1900 four blacksmiths lived by the Bardøla river in Ustedalen: Sjugurd Endrestøl, Rognald Brusletto, Mikkel S. Haugen and Knut S. Øyo. Together, these men laid the foundations for the iron industry in Hol.



The emblem of Hol community consists of three anvils symbolising the art of blacksmithing and its industry. The top anvil belonged to Sjugurd Endrestøl, the middle Knut Øyo and the bottom one to Knut Medhus.



## Hydropower

Five blacksmiths in Hol built small power plants by their smithies making them not only pioneers of blacksmithing but also pioneers of the hydropower industry.

In 1915 Rognald Brusletto together with Knut Øyo and the director of the Norwegian Hotel company Josef Klem built a dam in Budalen. On the 23rd December 1916 the hotel, two smithies and a few nearby farms were among the first to receive electricity in Ustedalen. On May 29th 1917 the dam broke and within 5 hours two million cubic meters of water came flooding down the Bardøla River, destroying everything in its path.

The flood washed away the earth from under the railway tracks, leaving the rails suspended in mid air. Rognald Brusletto managed to stop the train coming from Bergen right at the last minute. It was a miracle no lives were lost.

Brusletto built a new power plant at Lauverud waterfall which opened Easter 1920 and provided electricity for both the Øyo and Brusletto factories, it had an extension built on in 1924. In 1931 the council built a new hydro power plant in Djupedalen. This plant provided the whole county with electricity. Oslo Lysverker's first hydro power plant in Hallingdal was Ruud in Hovet which opened in 1949.



## Brusletto & Co

From water hammer to computerised design.

Rognald Brusletto (1861-1935) in 1880 started manufacturing spinning wheels. In 1896, together with Sjugurd Endrestøl and Knut Øyo, he constructed a water hammer copying an American mechanical hammer design. Blueprints were then drawn up and sent to A.H Lund in Oslo for casting. This became the first Mechanical hammer in Hol. The scythes it produced were of such good quality that Knut Øyo ordered his own the following year. 10 Brusletto hammers were produced in total.

The hammer was only able to finish the scythes to a certain level. The final stages still had to be done by hand. Ever the inventor and optimist, Rognald Brusletto believed it possible to use the machine even in the final stages of completion. After much trial and error he found that turning the scythe blade during production produced the desired result. This then became a company secret giving him the advantage over his competitors. In 1913, Brusletto expanded his company and bought 6 new hammers.

After the destruction of the 1917 flood, he built a new power plant at Lauverud waterfall. Then the depression hit. But Rognald, the innovator, was always coming up with new ideas and products. One such design was the turning wheel for copying wooden handles and later Brusletto began production of wheels and carts. He also purchased an electrical forge.

Various knives have been Bruslettos primary product since the 1930's. The first scout knife came in 1950 and for the 1952 Olympic Games in Oslo, Brusletto designed and produced 2000 knives for the occasion. These knives are today a valuable collector's item. This success was repeated for the 1994 Olympic Games in Lillehammer. The Hunter Knife, made in 1961, has sold over 600 000 samples and is still in production today. Brusletto is the oldest knife factory in Norway and in 2019 was taken over by the Dalema Group.



## Øyo

Taking their past history into their future.

The founder of Øyo AS, Knut Øyo, was born in 1860. He was educated by Sjugurd Endrestøl, but was unable to produce scythes to the standard he wanted so he travelled to Gunnleiksrud in Tinn to learn more. In 1882 owning just half a cow and the clothes on his back Knut started a small business for himself in Lauverud. In 1887 he bought Øyo and moved his business there.

Twice the smithy burnt down, once in 1905 and then again in 1910. When the dam broke in 1917 he lost everything in the flood. Each time he got back up on his feet and rebuilt the smithy.

In 1927 Øyo AS began producing axes. This played a vital role for the company's modern history. In 1936 the factory produced 35 000 scythes, 2300 sickle and leaf cutters, 1400 hoes, 3500 knives and blades and 17 000 axes.

Knut's sons took over the company in 1918 and the company name changed to Brødrene Øyo (The Øyo brothers) in 1941. In 1971 a contract was signed with Mustad and Son moving all axe production in Norway to Geilo. An extension of 2000 square meters was added to the factory in 1980 allowing them to produce 200 000 axes a year. Having 70 employees made them one of the largest industries in Hallingdal.

In 1997 Brodrene Øyo came up with a 5 year development plan to turn the factory into a modern and computer-integrated production line. A huge hammer was used to stamp out an axe template, using a force of 1200 tons. The hole for the shaft was stamped out using a force of 70 tons. The axes were then sharpened by a robot. Hardening, lacquering, packing etc. was all automated. The whole production process from start to finish was reduced to 3 minutes per axe.

Due to competition from the foreign industry, Brødrene Øyo shut down production in 2012. Today Øyo is alive and kicking with the 5th generation in command. Knut Olav's daughters, Karianne and Katrine see new possibilities for product development taking their past history and brand name into the future.



## Skaugum Bestikkfabrikk

Long tradition and beautiful design.

Herman Solhaug and Peder Johannesen, both former employees at Øyo AS, started their business Geilo Jernvarefabrikk AS in an old smithy at Geilomo in 1942. After a time they went on to produce cutlery and kitchen equipment. Herman and his brother Pål went to Sheffield in England to study knife production. In a new factory building, finished in 1947, they started to produce bread knives of British design.

Geilo Jernvarefabrikk AS came into conflict with another company over their brand name 'Märtha'. Left with no brand name, war hero and director Jens Kristian Hauge got in contact with his good friend King Håkon asking if they could use Skaugum (Home of the crown prince) as their new brand name. The king said yes and the rest is history.

By 1930, the factory had 30 employees and was among the first in Norway to give their workers Saturdays free. The ski enthusiasts were especially happy about this. The company today is run by the 3rd generation of the Solhaug family. A long tradition and beautiful design is the Skaugum trade mark.

Everyone is welcome at the Skaugum factory where you will experience first-hand how the cutlery has been manufactured since 1943. Here you can follow the entire process from start to finish ending up with a genuine handcrafted quality product.

Children are especially welcome. During their visit they can help make the cutlery leaving with an experience they will never forget.

Misbehaving parents will be chopped up, boiled and used for glue in the products!

