

Astrid Jerney Sørene Tomsli. Born in 1904 in Vik i Helgeland, Norway. This is located in the middle of Norway near Brønnøysund.

PARENTS Signe and Helge Sørene. They used the name of the place they lived for their name. Her father was a fisherman and worked on the Coast Guard Wards. Their name before they took the place name was Edwardson.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Two brothers and four sisters, Arthur, Magnhild, Gudrun, and Hjørdis. Her nephew was one of the family as his parents had passed away.

GRANDPARENTS Paternal grandfather was an old man. He played for Astrid's wedding. He was always smoking cigars.

Maternal grandmother died when Astrid's mother was small. She was a hard worker. She sewed late at night to make money. Grandfather was a farmer.

1 CHILDHOOD HOME Five windows, pretty curtains. Had 12 runners to cover the floor. Her mother did weaving, spinning, and carding of wool. Astrid also learned to work with wool. They raised their own sheep, cattle, horses, and chickens. They had a garden.

CHRISTMAS Lots of snow. No cars, had to walk or go by sled. Couldn't see the tree until Christmas morning. Mother did baking, biscuits for all.

Astrid did not know her brothers and sisters very well until she returned to Norway in 1952. Now they are acquainted.

SCHOOL Hard sometimes. Close by their home. She went through the 8th grade. She took a course for 6 months studying English.

Astrid was 24 when she came to America. Met her husband in Norway and was married there. He worked for people in the woods.

WEDDING Was in the church where she was baptized and confirmed. They had a fancy carriage. Wedding lasted for a few days. Lots of food, cake. Dancing in the evenings. Grandpa played the violin and another fellow played the accordion.

Came to America in 1927. Married in 1924. Came to America because 'it was meant to be.' They came over alone.

TRIP OVER Come on the Stavangerfjord. Husband made it over perfectly. Landed in Quebec, took the train to Seattle.

Met by Ole Pederson and his son, Astrid's uncle and son in Seattle. They had a fancy car, a 1927 Nash. They drove to Westport, Oregon. Took a boat to the island on the Columbia River.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS Did not think much about it. Had family here. Her grandfather had come to America.

THINGS ASTRID BROUGHT TO AMERICA Her wedding dress. Could not bring much with them.

ENGLISH She could say 'I Love You.' She did not have any language difficulties. They lived with her relatives. Husband got work in the sawmill. He was working to pay back money they had borrowed for their trip over.

Astrid did not work in America, she was a housewife. Husband worked on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, now owned by Crown Zellerbach.

CHILDREN Orville, Sonja, and Reier. Husband worked for Walnut (?) Bradwood, and Westport sawmill in Oregon.

They built a bridge to the island in the 1930s. Mostly Norwegians on the island years ago.

Astrid was active in the Norse Hall on the island. They had dinners, banquets, and made lefse.

Astrid does not belong to a church although there is a church on the island.

TRIPS TO NORWAY First time she went was after 25 years away. She noticed many changes. Did not recognize her hometown of Sørene. Her parents were still living. Sister had taken over the home place. They rode in a new car, a real treat for her parents.

Her children visited in Norway. They all live close by to Astrid now. She had eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Her children can speak some Norwegian. Many of her grandchildren have been to Norway. Many in Norway speak

English.

FEELINGS ABOUT NORWEGIANS They are working people, good people. Has been away for 54 years. Things have changed some.

Have always had Norwegian friends. Husband passed away 10 years ago. Astrid is content to live on the island as long as she can.

Still speaks Norwegian, speaks a few words.

Astrid told her children to be good. Children today seem to get away with more. Orville went to school on the island before the school program was cut, so did Sonja and Reier for a while.