

Sigrid Josephine Mattson Kasen. Born November 15, 1884 in Sideby, Finland. Sideby is a Swedish community on the west coast of Finland between Kristinestad and Bjoerneborg (Pori) in the province of Vasa Lan.

PARENTS Matt Lammenpaa and Sophie Ronkvist. She tells why her father had a Finnish name. Hard times in Finland during the late 19th century. Many Finnish speaking people came down from the north looking for food and work in the Swedish speaking villages along the coast. He married and settled in the town where his wife was from. He fished in the summer. Did whatever he could in the winter.

BROTHERS & SISTERS Mother died when Sigrid was 12 years old. She, her father, and her grandmother raised her 3 younger brothers and sisters. Hilma was 8, Hilding was 5, and John was almost 2 when their mother died.

GRANDPARENTS Remembers maternal grandmother, but doesn't remember her name. Paternal grandmother lived to be quite old, but she lived in Finnish speaking Finland.

CHILDHOOD Grew up in a Swedish village. Went to a Swedish school and Swedish Church. Sigrid understands Finnish and can say a few words, but she can't converse in Finnish. They spoke Swedish in her home. Her father spoke Swedish quite well. Nobody could tell he was Finnish.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH Didn't have to go far to go to school or church. Both were in the same village. She would often go to church with her brothers and sisters. She was confirmed at the church in Sideby.

CHRISTMAS Had a decorated Christmas tree. Had lutfisk, rice pudding, potatoes on Christmas Eve. Farmers would butcher animals and have meat too. People in the villages had to buy meat and it was expensive. Didn't get many presents. Went to church on Christmas Day.

CONTACT WITH BROTHERS & SISTERS Visited both brothers in Finland while they were still living. Sister got married and lived near Lake Stevens, Washington. Sigrid is the only one in her family still living. Sigrid is a tough Finn.

REASONS FOR EMIGRATING No work for girls in Finland. Did housework in the US. Married a man from Finland after coming to the US. Knew somebody in Fitchburg, Mass. Went to America with a woman who had been home for a visit. Sigrid had heard about America from many people. Those who had settle on America's east coast would sometimes go home to visit.

TRIP TO AMERICA Nice trip. Didn't get sick. Came to Boston, Massachusetts. Didn't take long on the train to get to Fitchburg.

MOVING TO THE WEST COAST The winter in Massachusetts was as cold as in Finland. Sigrid knew some people in San Francisco, California. Traveled by train 5 nights and 4 days. Sat the whole way. Bought only one meal.

WORK IN FITCHBURG Did housework. Many girls looking for work there so wages were low. Better wages and better climate on the West Coast.

LEARNING ENGLISH Never went to school to learn it. This was after she had gotten married. Husband wasn't sure if he wanted to take out citizen papers. Might want to go back to Finland. His father had a big farm in Purmo, which is north of Vasa and near Jakobstad. He waited so long to get his citizenship papers that she had to take out her own papers.

MEETING SPOUSE Met husband, Alfred Kasen, in San Francisco, CA. Had worked in logging camps. Then decided to become a carpenter. She met him at the church in San Francisco. He saw her and told his brother, "that's the girl I'm going to marry." Married for 60 years. Didn't have a wedding. Just went to a minister. Had to have a witness. Had a dinner that night with husband's brother and sister-in-law Got a house and lived in San Francisco for a while. Husband did carpenter work.

CHILDREN Five children. Oldest - Anna. Went to only 2 years of high school. Got a touch of tuberculosis. Had to go to a sanatorium for a while. Astrid - became a nurse. Edith - went to high school and college. Got married. Ruth

- went to college and got married. Lives near Chicago. Edith - lives in California. Melvin - lives in Portland. Works for Centennial Flowering Company. He is a salesman.

MOVING TO THE NORTHWEST Sigrid is a little confused as to when she lived where. They lived in Portland, Oregon for a time. Her husband came to Seattle from Finland. Worked in logging camps in Washington. Went to San Francisco to do carpenter work. Some of Sigrid's children were born in Seattle.

TRIPS BACK TO FINLAND Went by herself. Her husband had nobody to visit there. His younger sister and brother lived around Chicago. His parents passed away. His older sister and her husband bought the farm from their grandpa.

CHURCH Has been active in a church in Seattle.

FINNISH ORGANIZATIONS Has never belonged.

WORK Started working again after children were grown up. Worked 2 days a week. A lot of work in the home to feed 7 people. Had to start working after husband fell and broke a leg. He couldn't work for a year. He worked for the government so he got some money from them. They got \$1000. Made a down payment on a house. Sigrid is glad she came to America. Would have had to work for farmers in Finland. She had heard so much about America. She wanted to see what was going on here.

GIVES AN EXAMPLE OF THE FINNISH LANGUAGE Kuinka se te vol? (How do you feel?) Hyvaa Paivaa. (Good day) Finnish is more difficult to learn to speak than to understand.

GIVES AN EXAMPLE OF THE SWEDISH LANGUAGE Hur maar du? (How are you?) God dag. (Good day) Vad goer du idag? (What are you doing today?)

TRADITIONS Her children understand Swedish. She would talk to them in Swedish and they would answer in English. She doesn't know if the children cook Swedish food.

TELLS ABOUT THE FOSS HOME IN SEATTLE "It's a home without a home." She likes it. They keep it clean. The food is good enough for her. Some don't like it.

IMPORTANCE OF FINNISH HERITAGE She's just as good as anyone else. "Finland - the land of a thousand lakes." A beautiful country in the summer. Sun never sets before 1100 pm in the summer. Sun never sets in Lapland during the summer.

LAPLANDERS Doesn't know where they came from. Maybe Asia. They aren't Swedish or Finnish. Honest people.

FINNISH PEOPLE Honest. Borrowed money from the US twice. They paid back every cent. Other countries that have borrowed from the US have not paid back their loans. Finnish people work hard. Didn't want to have anything to do with the Russians.

The end of the interview is confusing and difficult to understand. She tells about the son of a preacher who killed a man and came to Canada. He had friends there. He's in the United States now.