

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born December 3, 1905 on an island called Bømlo in the town of Røyksund, Norway. This is primarily a fishing community to the south of Bergen near Hardangerfjord.

PARENTS Simon Røyksund and Gustava Olsonstensland. Mother's family became well to do. Between fishing and farming you made it.

WINTER AND GRANDPARENTS 1916 Severe, uncommon in Norway. : Maternal grandparents were Ola Stensland and Britta. They were rugged and independent. Talks about the farms in the area. Paternal grandparents were Karina and Simon Røyksund, ships pilot. How family name was derived. Grandfather had a country store. Father was a buyer for a cannery. Brothers and sisters are Simon, Ola, Britta, Alfred, and Gustav. An aunt raised him. At home they had a housekeeper.

ISLAND HOME Divided into three parishes, Bremnes, Moster, and Bømlo. Today they are all joined into one, Bømlo.

GROWING UP IN NORWAY Pleasant childhood, learning to fish, rowing was second nature. Boating accidents common, but not daily occurrences.

SCHOOL Mandatory seven years. Primitive set-up (describes vividly). Father demanded he returned home (age 12), created tension, stayed with aunt.

COMING TO U.S. 1923 Age 17. Circumstances that brought him to the U.S. The export market for fish collapsed after WWI.

TROPICS VS. AMERICA Chose America. At age 15 more or less on your own, you became a man. Came to U.S. with a school friend, Vilhelm (Bill) Larsen (?).

COUSIN IN AMERICA Resided in Sandston, Minnesota as a farmer. If immigrated as a farmer you had a better chance of being accepted and getting permits.

BOAT TRIP Bergen to Newcastle, England on the 'Jupiter.' Took the train to London and Southampton, England. Took the 'Olympic' (one of the largest ships at that time) to the U.S. Took on other immigrants later.

FEELINGS LEAVING NORWAY Brought up thinking his country was the best and he accepted that fact.

ENGLISH PROBLEMS Learned enough to communicate. Learned fast.

SHIP TRAVEL Lice problems. Steerage class. Food service not as good. Left Bergen on September 15, 1923. Arrived at Ellis Island on September 26. Had \$25 cash.

TRAIN TRIP Big long lines. Had a train ticket to Sandstone before leaving Norway. Looked after himself. Changed trains in Chicago and Minneapolis. His friend went to Duluth, Minnesota.

IMPRESSIONS Big cities, big crowds, and too much garbage. Wanted to get out of the city and into the country.

WORKING IN THE WOODS Cutting trees, enjoyed cold weather. Looking for a job. Employed on a road project. Lake Superior made him homesick...

Wanted to be back on a boat. Deck hand on a passenger, fish, and transport boat. Ate fish for one month until he got his fill.

LEARNING ENGLISH By ear and experience. Didn't take long.

COMING WEST Alaska always on his mind. In 1925, he bought a harvest ticket for \$5 and took off. Stopped in Jamestown, North Dakota, but no work. Took the train back to Valley City, North Dakota and the told him to go to Litchville, North Dakota, where he worked for the Sortlands' as a harvest hand.

BOUGHT FIRST AUTO 1916 Overland by car to Montana. Quite an adventure (no brakes, no gears). Sold car and took the train.

TRAIN TO SPOKANE Norwegians wherever you went then onto Tacoma.

HEAVY CONSTRUCTION Eight years. Depression set in so he went to Alaska to fish.

STARTED IN FISHING Halibut boats. Seattle based boat went to Alaska. Felt good getting back to fishing.

BUYING OWN BOAT Came about naturally. You try to better yourself as you go along.

MARRIED 1930 Met at church (wife Jennie Jacobson). Ending up in Graham, Washington. First home.

FISHING BUSINESS 96% Scandinavians. Second generation took place of immigrant.

CHILDREN Conrad, Helen, Glenda, Sonja, Jon, Stanley, and Elaine.

SKIPPER Boss of his own boat. Pretty much the same, but accommodations have seen a revolution. Fellow sailors had to give and take.

KITSAP AND MARKET Name of his first boat, mainly halibut and cod. Sold mainly in B.C. or wherever market was best.

FAMILY LIFE OF FISHERMAN Accepted fact that father would be gone. Compass old days, today just press a button.

HALIBUT AND THEIR HABITS Male average 35-40 lbs. Female were 300-400 lbs. Fishing always fun-element of gambling, a challenge.

Retired ca. 1971 from fishing. Became a farmer. Raised hay. Had a 20-30 head of beef cows.

CHURCH LIFE Bethany Lutheran Church.

JOHNSON'S CORNER First person to settle in 1921 from Oslo. The community is primarily Norwegians and Swedes.

TRIPS BACK TO NORWAY Nephew came from Norway to fish with him.

NORWAY TODAY Social structure, no good. Lost sense of value, don't feel proud.

KEEPING TOUCH WITH RELATIVES Relatives come to visit.

SPEAKING NORWEGIAN TODAY 'Good God, yes.' Children speak it, too.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION Oldest son attended one year at the University of Oslo. Presently teaching Luther College. Children interested in heritage.

NESVIG CHURCH Seattle area, used name of pastor. Held Norwegian services.

SCANDINAVIAN TRADITIONS Christmas, in the Norwegian way (lutefisk, subtask, fattingmand, everything you can think of.)

SPEAKS NORWEGIAN Quotes Norwegian table grace. Speaks language once in a while with neighbors, some subjects easier to talk Norwegian.

IMPORTANCE NORWEGIAN HERITAGE Meant a great deal, always will. Literature embedded itself into his make-up. Discuss various authors including Arnfinn Bruflot and Siren.

CLOSING REMARKS No resentment towards immigration. Tradition of continuity from one generation to another - if chain not broken. If broken you feel a loss and hard to carry forward, otherwise no regrets.

Those gathering information of immigrants are doing valuable service to the next generation.