

FAMILY BACKGROUND Born Jennie Josefine Brehm on September 19, 1895 in Strömstad, Bohuslän, Sweden. Strömstad is south of the Norwegian-Swedish border and south of Fredrikstad, Norway.

PARENTS Anna and Hilmer Brehm lived in the country and worked at whatever; father worked in a quarry and mother raised a big family of seven.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Ester, Håkan, Ile (?), two died - Jennie can't remember the rest. Dad emigrated to US first; then sent for mother and the family.

GRANDPARENTS She doesn't remember any grandparents except her maternal grandmother, Gustav Carlson.

HOME IN NORWAY Lived and attended school in Fredrikstad. Was confirmed in Norway; church was close.

CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY Christmas was real nice - real joyful. Had a Sunday school celebration and program with a big Christmas tree. On Christmas Eve they had lutefisk, more so in Sweden than in Norway. Had sort of a smörgåsarbord, good things to eat.

(The interviewer is confused here, thinking that Jennie was born in Strömstad, Norway. Jennie repeats that she was born in Stromstad -Bohus len (Sweden) - and moved to Fredrikstad (Norway) where her father received employment.)

EMIGRATION Father came first; Jennie can't remember the exact location. Jennie came in 1910 with her grandmother and uncle who had been home to visit. Grandma stayed with her son, Aksel (Axel) Carlson in Mt. Vernon, WA. Jennie stayed for a while working for families.

TRIP OVER Went on a big steamer from Oslo; very lovely trip. Mother and other children came later in 190? she can't remember. Her father went to Bremerton and had a job in the navy yard.

SETTLING IN AND WORK Jennie started evening school right away in Mt. Vernon, so learning English wasn't too hard. From there she went to work for both Norwegian and American families. Then she moved to Seattle.

She thought America was beautiful when she arrived; also her uncle's farm which had vegetables and fruits. Her cousins had children so Jennie had playmates; she wasn't too lonesome. The food was better here because their supply was better.

She was working for families so did not live with her parents and siblings who had a one-acre place in Bremerton.

The kids went to school in Bremerton. She worked a few years and then married in 1919.

MEETING SPOUSE AND MARRIAGE Met him in Seattle where she was employed as a domestic and baby sitter.

Belonged to church in Seattle. Doesn't remember much about receiving her citizenship.

Met her husband at Swedish Methodist Church. Both were Lutheran from childhood. Her husband had joined the Methodist church, so she did also. He worked at many things; came from Sweden but didn't have a trade. Later he went into mechanics and machinery.

WEDDING They had a plain wedding at Uncle Conrad Carlson's in Seattle. (The Carlson's were mother's relatives.) Had a nice, blue dress which a friend helped her make. Had dinner at her uncle's and moved to a rented home in Seattle, close to downtown. Her husband worked, and she kept on babysitting.

CHURCH AND HERITAGE Her husband was very intelligent and was superintendent of the Sunday school. She taught Sunday school also and was active in the women's group.

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS They belonged to none, but went occasionally with friends.

SCANDINAVIAN FOODS Jennie cooked what was available. Her mom made lefse over here, but not Jennie. Back in Scandinavia they had lutefisk, but not here. Jennie says 'we just got away from that tradition - what we use to do'. But they continued to open Christmas presents on Christmas Eve and bake cookies.

FAMILY They had two children: boy and girl. She can't remember names. Her son, Håkan Brehm (?), lives in Mt. Vernon; is now retired. Her daughter, Esther Pickering (?), is married and has a family. She lives in Issaquah where her husband is a farmer.

HERITAGE She returned home in 1959 - a wonderful trip. They went back to where they came from. The country hadn't changed much, but the old house was gone.

SPEAKING NORWEGIAN 'Jeg kan snakke norsk...', but suggests she would do better in a conversation, so Inger asks about 'familien din'. Jennie responds that 'de har det bra. Soester er gift...' Her brother is married also. 'Jeg har sju barnebarn. De besøker meg.' She has many relatives around in Bremerton and Mt. Vernon.

'Takk for i dag.'