

Did not go to college. As soon as school was out Arvid went out and got experience. He began sailing when he was 15 years old.

SCHOOL Went for three weeks and then had two weeks off. Went to school for seven years. Did homework when not in school. Learned the Psalms. Had one hour of Christian instruction each day. Learned woodwork and plant life. Had school most of the year.

CONFIRMATION Had to stay three weeks with the minister for instruction.

CHURCH Could not go every Sunday because it was on another island. They rowed to church. Father did teaching at home. Sang at home.

CHRISTMAS Lots of goodies to eat: meats, coffee, lefse, and Christmas cake. Lots of baking. Usually killed an animal before the holidays so that they would have fresh meat. Christmas lasted a long time. Had first and second Christmas days. Had to stay home, could not go out and play.

Arvid learned to knit, make net, and sew a little. His mother taught him these skills. Also learned how to spin on the wheel. Mother made most of the children's clothing.

FARM Grew potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. Had milk and all the fish they wanted. Bought margarine, sugar, and coffee. Sold fish to make money.

Father did not make a lot of money. 'It was a living, that's all.' Boys had to chop wood, carry water, and help people at home.

TROLL STORIES They scared us. Talks about this some. Did not really believe in them but was still scared.

SAILING Started sailing after confirmation. The first year he was a cook for eleven men. Second year was half share guy. The third year he became a third share. When he was 21 he went out sailing on a freighter. This was a pretty good life, better than fishing. They went up and down the coast. Shipped fish and building materials. Did this was for about two and a half years.

Went to Bergen and then to Rotterdam and went sailing for nine years. Made 86 kroner a month. Sent some of this money home.

CONDITIONS ON THE FREIGHTERS Poor food. No refrigeration, only cold storage and the ice melted fast. Had

long trips to Brazil and South America, which took 37 days. Were shipping coal, corn and oil. Shipped corn from Argentina to Rotterdam. Took ore from Spanish Morocco. Took coal from England to Italy.

Arvid was the coal trimmer for the first year and a half, shoveled coal to the boiler. Describes his tasks. He was 22 years old.

Had three stowaways from Trinidad in the coal box, two colored men. Arvid had them help him and he provided them with food until they were discovered and put ashore. They had wanted to go to Europe because times were bad in Trinidad.

Changed jobs because he was so skinny and pale. Promoted to sailor. Changed to another boat in Belgium, which sailed to the Mediterranean.

Worked for an American oil tanker which sailed between Antwerp, Belgium, and Philadelphia. This was a Norwegian crew running a ship owned by Atlantic Oil Co. Arvid got his job through a hiring agency. Was on this ship for four and a half years, working in the engine room.

In 1936 went to sail on a new Norwegian ship. He became an engineer after six months. Stayed with this ship for seven years. Shipped apples, oranges, and other citrus fruits. Shipped apples from the West Coast, Vancouver, Portland, and Seattle to Europe.

In summer sailed to Brazil and loaded oranges to take to Europe.

During the war, they were sailing between the West Coast and Panama. They made the boat into a truck transport ship. It was a big ship that went 18 knots, had four decks.

Married in 1943 and then went ashore.

During the war they shipped different cargo for the canal zone in Balboa, Panama. Shipped food, hay, clothing, and shoes.

Good pay during the war. Took bananas from Costa Rica to the West Coast for United Fruit. Made \$50 a trip with bananas if they were in good shape. Arvid worked in refrigeration.

Went to school, Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles, California. Stayed here for four years. Went to night school.

Did not hear from his parents during the war but assumed that they were all right because they were insulated.

LEARNING ENGLISH Spoke mostly Norwegian on the freighters. When he came ashore he began to pick up the language as he worked.

1 IMMIGRATED TO THE U.S. IN 1945 Came through Tijuana, Mexico. No problems coming through because his papers were all prepared before he came.

MEETING WIFE Met in Seattle when he was sailing on the coast. They met a friend's house in Seattle, Molvik. Wife's name is Esther Lund. They were married in San Pedro, California at a Seaman's Church. A very nice little occasion.

The minister's wife was a friend of Arvid's. He knew her from Antwerp, Belgium. She was the daughter of a shipping master that Arvid got his job through in Belgium.

After he was married he sailed for a short time. Health problems have slowed him down through, so he settled in San Pedro for a while.

Sailed as an engineer on Tuna Clippers down to Mexico and Peru. Was in Panama for two years on a fishing boat belonging to a Frenchman. Boat was called Bertine. The crew was Japanese. They ate raw fish and soy sauce as a main meal. Gone for nine months at a time. Esther lived in San Pedro, California. Then he got a job ashore in San Pedro.

Moved to Monterey, California because he was working too hard in San Pedro. Did refrigeration work. Joined a union in Salinas. They built two powerhouses, a chocolate factory and a rubber plant.

Worked with the government in Mercury, Nevada for one year on the atomic bomb. Arvid worked keeping instruments cool. He solved some problems in refrigeration and received a plaque from General Electric.

Continues talking about work in Nevada. Worked here for one year until Nixon came into office and cut funding.

Went back to work in Watsonville, California and worked for the union. Got a job mounting steam boilers out in the oil field. Pumping steam into the ground to heat the ground, which thinned out the oil.

Retired in 1970. Went to Norway planning to live there. Bought a house over there but stayed for only one and a

half years. Did not like it. He worked for the refrigeration company in Oslo. Did not like the long, cold winters. Nothing to do. People are more insulated in Norway.

Moved back to the U.S. to Gig Harbor where they had been once before in 1939. They built a duplex with Esther's cousin, Marie Hageness.

Active in Normanna choir. Also in the Nordlite Club. Took trips with the choir.

CITIZENSHIP 1950 in San Pedro, California. No problems with this.

CHURCH Active in the Seaman's Church in San Pedro. He helped to build this. Active in First Assembly of God at 18th and Union in Tacoma.

Was raised Lutheran but changed to First Assembly. When he was young he was not strong for the Lutheran Church, the spiritual part was not there. Lutherans are stiffer and have more ritual. The Pentecostal church is a freer church.

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORWAY Too much ritual, not enough spirit. They mention God but not Jesus.

CHANGES IN NORWAY People more independent, can afford more things. People are busier with themselves, do not go out of their family much.

Claims Norway may have become the richest country in the world but people depend on the social services provided. They do not use their own talents.

People are leaving the church because there is too little spiritual food.

Still speaks Norwegian. Gives a clear example of the language.