

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Married twice, widowed once. She describes the Moxness name origin. Born in Melhus, Norway near Trondheim on August 11, 1902.

FATHER He was a sea captain. He could be gone for year at a time. He sailed all over the world.

CHILDHOOD Born out in the country. She was a 'fair' delicate baby. Talks about being a baby.

Moved to town, Trondheim, Norway.

PARENTS Father was a sea captain of the English Freighter. His name was Olav Moxness. Mother, Sara Kristensen Moxness. She was born in Sortland.

GRANDPARENTS Paternal grandfather, Oline Røskaft. Paternal grandfather worked with the schools. Worked at Bispehaugen school outside of Trondheim.

SCHOOL Went to school at Bispehaugen for the first three years. She describes the school.

Grandfather died and then she moved up by the university in Trondheim, Norges Teknisk Høyskole. They lived at a place called Tingvalla.

MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS All very old. Made dolls. Very interesting people. Mother's grandmother, Sara Wiklun had a saloon in Trondheim. It was also a grocery and bakery.

Mother's grandmother had an annual sale of her wares. She went by boat to Stokmarkness. She was 80 the last time she went.

MATERNAL GRANDFATHER Nils Kristensen. He had a store. Fisherman bought wares for the store. She describes some family history.

Parents married and had six children.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Gunvor Moxness Bronow. Johan Moxness worked for the county in Seattle. Ruth Moxness died of the Spanish flu. Sara Moxness Vanderbilt married a Dutchman. Olav Moxness died, he worked for a lumber company in Oregon.

CHILDHOOD 'Lived it up.' Skied all the time. Lost 30 pounds every winter by skiing.

SUMMER Hiking. Walked several miles. WINTER: Taxied students down in sled for 5 cent.

HOUSE Had a big house. Wooden apartment. Had a caretaker. Well build house. Didn't do much work at home.

EDUCATION Another lady taught her to bake, cook, and care for children. Daughters were often sent to Husmorskole in Norway to learn domestic work. She worked for four years for this lady and enjoyed it.

1914 Sister Gunvor was a midwife and entertained new immigrants in her home in Tacoma, Washington where she was for ten years before returning to Norway.

FATHER Was in New York in 1918 waiting to get a new boat. He headed for Australia on the boat but it disappeared and was never seen or heard of again.

CHRISTMAS Always had relatives over. Had handmade gifts. Sang around the tree. Christmas parties.

CHRISTMAS Could wear patent leather shoes on Christmas. Really dressed up. Father bought most of the clothes in England. 'Treated like a princess.'

CHURCH Had to go to Sunday school. Didn't go to church service. It was too deep. Learned religion in school also. Walked three miles to Sunday school.

Confirmed in the cathedral in Trondheim.

CHRISTMAS EVE Had service at home. Just the family. Ate spareribs and bakery stuff. Mother hired someone to make lefse. Describes making this. Bought many things in town.

MOTHER She was a very smart woman. Talks about ways her mother had of dealing with children. Great respect for her. Good disciplinarian.

CHRISTMAS EVE Relatives over. Had rump roast. Describes how this is made. Also had tyttebaer and fattigmanns.

TROLLS She didn't hear stories. Nordland had many stories.

STORY Tells a true story about her uncle's cows and smaakarer 'little men.'

Talks about running into a weasel.

Tells a story about the monkey her great-uncle had. She talks about this big farm and the fancy house with a ballroom and gym.

WAR Her great-uncle had to leave the farm when the Germans came.

FAVORITE DESSERT Gooseberry pudding. Many varieties of gooseberries in Norway. Also many blackberries, blueberries, and tyttebaer.

MARKET There was a big market in Trondheim where they could buy cheese and many things.

She describes the market in Trondheim today. Flowers and other things at the market.

Took dancing lessons. Boys and Girls. Ballroom dancing. First movie she saw was 'The Girl From Paris,' this sticks strongly in her mind.

SISTER WENT TO THE U.S. She stayed with an aunt in New York when she first came and then came to Tacoma, Washington.

EFFECTS OF WAR ON NORWAY Father gone often.

FATHER Talks of her father and his travels. One accident where he was severely burned.

WAR 1914 during the war was a hard year. Mother took in students as boarders. One boarder was a French noble. Food was hard to get during the war. Had butter made of whole fat. Worse in the city than the country.

WAR Had ration coupons.

SPANISH FLU Sister died of it. Many families wiped out.

TUBERCULOSIS Was another common disease when she was young. She wasn't allowed in others homes because of TB. Parents were very strict.

USA Came to the U.S. in 1922 because sister was in the U.S. Mother thought she could have it better in the U.S. The family all came within a few years of each other.

FEELINGS ABOUT LEAVING Nothing special other than missing the mountains more than anything. Left August 22, 1922.

Brother had come over and bought a house for his mother in Tacoma, Washington.

TRAVEL Took the train from Trondheim to Oslo. Took the boat, 'Bergensfjord,' It was a nice boat with music and dancing too.

Tickets sent from Andrew Foss who was a friend of her sister in Tacoma. They wanted to adopt Bella because she reminded them of their daughter.

ELLIS ISLAND Lined up like sheep. Looked at head and tongue. Didn't stay long.

TRAIN TRAVEL Took a Union Pacific train. Switched trains in Chicago.

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS Didn't speak much English. Had learned some. Both parents were fluent in English.

TRAIN TRIP Interesting. Talks about ordering food on the train. People encouraging her to spend money.

STORY A rich sheep owner who wanted to buy a Norwegian coin. He gave her a picture with 250,000 sheep on it for the coin.

WHITE SLAVERY They threw pillowcases over girls' heads and kidnapped them.

ARRIVAL IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON She was met by the Fosses and her sister at the Union Station. She stood under the 15th Street Bridge and waited for them.

CONTACT WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES Leif Leifson, a pastor helped her get in touch with them.

WORK Had a job when she arrived. Did housework. It was up on Prospect Hill. A very nice home.

Worked for Dr. Whitaker doing housework.

SCHOOL Went to school to become a citizen. Picked up the language very well.

HUSBAND Met her first husband, Fremont Oliver who owned the Oliver Tire Co., in town. She'd met him at Point Defiance.

WEDDING No formal wedding. Married by Olaf Holen at the Lutheran church in Tacoma.

MOTHER Was here in 1925. Bella gave all her money to her mother. She made \$50 a month at the first place she worked. Dr. Whitaker paid \$35 a month.

WORK Worked at Everybody's Candy Factory before working at Whitaker's. Worked with crackers. Talked about working here. Shined cans of cookies. Paid on a time basis. Worked in shipping.

HOME Lived at 12th and Stevens in a new built house when first married. Many Norwegians in the area.

Husband made \$100 per month.

FAMILY Daughter, Ruth Jones, works for the City of Tacoma

Milton Nesvig, the pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran was a good friend of Bella's sister.

CHILDREN All went to Jefferson school.

Daughter, Rosemary is married to Kenneth Duncan who is a colonel in the Air Force.

GRANDCHILDREN Ruth's daughter, Lynn Jones Moon is a dentist. She worked very hard for this.

SECOND DAUGHTER She had one boy and two girls. The boy is in Virginia and the girls are in school in Dayton, Ohio.

Problems in Ohio's economy now.

SON Fremont Oliver works for Cable Craft. Went to Franklin High School. He was the football captain. He was in the service for 2-3 years. He went to the University of Puget Sound.

SON Worked in Kansas. He married Francis Campbell from Wenatchee. They have four children.

Moved to Richwood Ave, closer to the tire co. Husband died in 1946 after being sick for two years.

TRIPS BACK TO NORWAY Went with Rosemary after husband died. Gorgeous trip.

Had to return suddenly, might have had something to do with the war. Norway returned to normal quickly after the German Occupation.

UNDERGROUND Her cousin was a captain in the underground. The family escaped to Sweden. His mother was taken hostage. Bella sent clothes, toys, and other things to Norway during the war.

SECOND HUSBAND Frank DeRosa, supervisor for the Tacoma Water Department.

Moved from Richmond Avenue to Parkland. Bella did the real estate transaction. The state took this house to put in the freeway.

WORK Worked at Pacific Lutheran University in the kitchen for one year. There was another Norwegian cooking too. This was about 1954.

WORK Took care of Mrs. Hawkins, the wife of an attorney at the country club. She was bedridden. Made about \$125 a month.

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY Very active. Was the Marshall there for many years. Used to put on plays and did dancing years ago.

17TH OF MAY CELEBRATION Very active in this. Active in Leif Leifson committee.

CHURCH Not real active. Children were active. Sunday school and confirmation.

SCANDINAVIAN CUSTOMS She still practices the customs today. She gets things sent from Norway and puts them on display in various places.

TRIPS TO NORWAY She went to Norway and Germany in 1969.

CHANGES They built big apartments that cover everything up. Hide everything that is beautiful. Doesn't feel like home anymore.

CHANGES People and children. Children don't respect elders. So many strangers coming in. Don't bake anymore. Everything bought and warmed.

LANGUAGE Still speaks the language fluently. Oldest daughter can understand Norwegian.

GIRL SCOUTS Bella was a leader. She made them all uniforms. Sang 'Per Speleman' and danced.

Bella sings 'Per Speleman' very clearly.

HERITAGE Just as much Norwegian as when she left Norway. Has done lots of lecturing on Norway to various groups.