

MARIE BERGLUND: Born Marie Louise Torheim January 22, 1891 in the village of Torheim, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway. Torheim is on the Nordfjord and the nearest large community is Nordfjordeid.

MARRIAGE: Marie married Henry Berglund on January 1917 and their only child, Ruth, was born in December 1917. She has two grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

EMIGRATION: Marie emigrated alone from Bergen, Norway on September 9, 1911. On the Bergen to England trip she met Mrs. Borklevik (?), a missionary to China. This lady shared her first class cabin with Marie and introduced her to two Norwegian-American farmers traveling back to North Dakota. These two men looked after Marie from England to the Midwest.

Marie didn't appreciate the ocean crossing: the food, the boat, the various peoples (southern Europeans). The northern Europeans ate first; then the southern people were served.

ARRIVAL IN VANCOUVER, B.C.: Mrs. Borklevik had written down Marie's brother's address and instructed Marie to show it to the police if her brother failed to meet her. But, her brother, Henry Torheim, and her uncle, Ove Monson, did meet her.

WORK: Marie had no job or skills when she arrived. She did housework in Vancouver until she moved to Tacoma on May 17, 1914. (She visited Tacoma in 1912, but returned to Canada because of her visa and her connection with the Good Templar Society.) She came to her father's cousin, Mrs. Baker on 1314 North Huson St., Tacoma. These relatives did not engage in the local Syttende Mai celebration, and Marie was really disappointed not to celebrate.

FAMILY HOME IN NORWAY: They had a big farm with lots of timber, a sawmill, and a flourmill. The big house had two living (apartment) areas: one for the grandparents and the other for the Torheim family.

PARENTS: Her father is Rasmus Torheim and her mother is Anne Marie Myklebust from Lofoten.

GRANDPARENTS: Paternal grandfather was Lars Torheim who died when Rasmus was 15. The grandmother remarried Hans Forsheim from Breim southeast of Torheim on Breimsvatnet. The maternal grandparents came from the Myklebust district.

REASON FOR EMIGRATING: She was close to her brother, Henry, who had emigrated two years earlier. Mother felt it would be good if the two were together, so Henry - a steelworker - sent Marie a ticket. They were a family of 10, and some still remained at home.

BOAT TRIP: The ocean crossing took six days. She took a train across Canada and remembers the long,

uncomfortable ride on wooden seats. She met two girls with whom she made friends: one Swedish and one from Stavanger. The two farmers supplied the girls with food. Marie's baggage consisted of one great, big suitcase and a trunk.

Marie wanted the excitement of traveling and seeing a new country, and her brother was here. Her brother had emigrated, traveling with a Norwegian-American uncle. Marie's ticket - from Bergen to Vancouver - cost about 200 crowns. Food on the train trip was purchased; it was brought on board at train depots (there were no dining cars). The trip was generally okay: beautiful scenery, good company, and the wooden seats opened into hard beds. Marie particularly remembers the Swedish girl who was so clever with millinery and Mrs. Borklevik, who had wanted her to attend the mission school in Chicago.

SETTLING IN: Vancouver was a big, beautiful, and exciting city; Marie was not scared - just excited. She joined the Good Templar Lodge where there was no drinking and had wonderful fellowship with over 100 Norwegian young people: picnics in Stanley Park.

WORK: first job. Her brother had arranged for her to live in a Swedish hotel run by Mrs. Campbell. Her first job was in a family situation, and her first task was to clean a very large carpet with torn wet newspaper which kept down the dust. Marie was fired in two days, because she didn't suit the work - and vice versa.

SECOND JOB: There was lots of work to be had through advertisements - especially for Scandinavian girls doing housework. She worked next for a banker's family on Naper Street for \$10 a month. The house was four storied and beautiful; the household consisted of the man, wife, a 16-17 year old son, and the wife's unmarried sister who was also, more or less, in charge of the house. The lady of the house and the son were very kind to Marie. She worked in the kitchen, located in the basement.

07 The meals were cooked downstairs, and a dumbwaiter transferred the food upstairs to the breakfast room or the dining room. Marie ate her meals in the basement. Tells a story about a herring dinner she couldn't eat (hated herring). Marie worked there through Christmas which she spent with her brother in New Westminster. The 16 year boy gave her a lovely jabot for a Christmas present. But the housekeeper-sister didn't treat Marie very kindly, and Marie sought another job because she wanted a more familiar, family-oriented situation.

THIRD JOB: This family had three children, 8 - 14 years of age, who were so nasty; they walked on the table and threw food. She stayed at this job for only one month, because of the 'impossible' children - earned \$20 a month.

FOURTH JOB: She was a chambermaid at the Empress Hotel. The work was okay, but the patrons (theater and stage people) were coarse customers: drinking and fighting.

FIFTH JOB: Her brother found her a waitress job at a Swedish restaurant in Hope, BC - a mining town in the mountains. Marie worked there six months and really liked it. During slow times between 2-4 pm, they went horseback riding. There were many Norwegian loggers and railroad workers in the area who, when paid, came into town to drink and gamble. Marie felt badly that there weren't decent things to do, because the boys were simply homesick and wanted fellowship. Marie liked the Swedish woman who owned the restaurant and the Norwegian

male cook (Halvorson). But her friend, Kristine Peterson, from Tacoma said there was a cafe job available there, and Halvorson encouraged her to accept because he felt Hope was no place for Marie to stay.

SIXTH JOB: She came down to Tacoma; this is when and where she met Henry Berglund. Her English was picked up here and there, and was pretty good at this time.

SCHOOL IN NORWAY: Attended from age 7-15, and then went to confirmation class which was separate from the school.

CONFIRMATION: She and two other girls went to confirmation class for several weeks, rowing across the fjord from Torheim to Lofoten and staying three days at a time. The priest served three churches: Davik, Lofoten, and Rugsund. The pastor preached twice a month at Davik and every fifth week at Lofoten, staying three days extra during confirmation time to teach the class.

The fjord leading to Lofoten was beautiful: farms with rows of painted white houses on one side and hillside on the other. At the head of the bay was a mountain. Marie stayed in Lofoten with her grandmother, Anne Marie Myklebust who lived on a portion of the family farm. Grandmother was such a good cook, making delicious berry preserves.

CHURCH: At least once a year during church services the pastor asked the children to come up, and he would question them on the Bible. This happened to Marie when she was eleven, but very short and small for her age. The pastor queried her about fighting with her siblings, but kindly - because of her size.

It was a rule there that the people of richer, bigger farms sat in front and the poor in the back. It was also customary that women sat on left and males on the right. Marie believes church attendance has dropped dramatically in later years.

TACOMA: She worked in Henry's coffee shop on 1305 Commerce. There were lots of Norwegian men as patrons, and one could speak Norwegian all day long: she spoke a mixture of English and Norwegian. The restaurant was open from 5:30 am to 7 pm. Served oatmeal mush with milk and sugar plus coffee for 25 cents for breakfast. For lunch they served thick ham sandwiches that cost three for 10 cents plus coffee and three lumps of sugar.

CITIZENSHIP: She got her citizenship in 1922, five years after marriage (1917).

Henry was notified that he was on call for military duty during WWI, but he wasn't called up. He had emigrated from Norway in 1889.

DATING - SOCIAL LIFE: The Good Templar Lodge had good entertainment after the meetings: singing, folk

dances, discussions-debates, *etc.* This group met monthly and was all Norwegians. The members' purpose was to not drink and promote the welfare of the young people. This group still exists in Seattle.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: Sons of Norway. The local group was organized in 1906; Henry was a charter member.

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY: This was organized in 1908, and Normanna Hall was built in 1921-2. Tells about early members. Bazaars were an early activity of the group; the first one was in 1922 and was a three-day affair held between Christmas and New Year. The Hall was decorated beautifully and dinners were held. The lodges were very active in the 1930's and 1940's. During the war rationing (1942), one member received butter from ND which was used as prizes for bingo games; these games were always filled.

NORDFJORDSLAGET: This was established in 1920-30. Marie was active in this also. She's been president of Daughters of Norway five times and Grand Lodge president two times. At one time the latter consisted of 36 lodges; now it's down to 10. Membership was good because of the insurance policies sold through the lodges.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY: Marie as an active recruiter and participant feels this group has preserved Norwegian heritage through the generations.

OTHER SCANDINAVIANS LODGES IN THE AREA: There was no Icelandic lodge, although one Icelander, Dr. Jonsson, was active in the Leif Eriksson group. His wife was Norwegian. The Swedes had a small ladies' organization, an auxiliary to the men's group. The Norwegian lodges were the largest, over 600 members in the Sons of Norway at one time.

CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY: Christmas was two weeks long in Norway, as opposed to two days in America. In Nordfjord they had a big meat dish at 5-6 pm, 'ribbestek'. Later they had risengrynsuppe, and goodies like julekake.

In America, the family had lutefisk on Christmas eve. At home in Norway lutefisk was served on Christmas Day. Christmas Day was just for family. On the second day visiting amongst the villagers began - for coffee, supper, and homemade beer. The *◆◆bolle*' was passed around and everyone took a traditional sip. Gifts were small and handmade: stockings, mittens, *etc.* Marie received her first purchased doll when she was 11. It was such a treasure, she clearly remembers every detail about it. Another common gift was skates handmade from juniper wood with a highly polished metal blade.

Each person had his own lefse. Mother made 'snikalefse', which had a coating or filling on top in which each person's name was written. The lefse was placed in a covered basket which was brought out for afternoon coffee. Each child ate their own lefse during the holidays, seeing who could keep the name intact the longest. Each person had their own butter and butter cup, an example of which she has given to the Scandinavian Center at Pacific Lutheran University.

In America, these customs were not carried on because Ruth was the only child, and they always celebrated and shared Christmas with the extended family.

AMERICAN HOLIDAYS: These were a natural part of life in America, and were assimilated into their family lifestyle. Henry was an American citizen since 1905 and a very enthusiastic one. Marie had a happy home life.

CHURCH IN AMERICA: In Norway there were no church activities - just religion and mission support. In America she's been active in Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran Welfare since the 1920's. Tells about how Lutheran Welfare operated in Tacoma during the Depression years.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE IN THE TACOMA AREA: The language was taught in two high schools between 1940 - 1944. Started because the grandchildren of the immigrants had lost the language and couldn't communicate with families back in Norway. Marie feels there was prejudice and pressure on the immigrants to drop their native tongue in the early years.

The first 'texts' used at Lincoln and Stadium were loose leaf papers. Some school people were sympathetic to the project; some-like other language teachers-ended up short of students and not happy. Lincoln High School had the more positive response due to its heavy population of Norwegians. By the time new regular texts (by Einar Haugen) arrived, the schools cut the language curriculum to basic Latin and English. But during its more successful years, Marie had put together a Norwegian exhibit at Lincoln High School.

NORWEGIAN RADIO PROGRAM: Oskar Johnson, a neighbor on McKinley Hill, worked for KOMO radio station in the early 1930's. Marie talked with him, and the manager of the station arranged for a Norwegian radio program. The first weekly program featured a 'barnekor' - a children's choir - presenting a Christmas program. The script for this program was printed in the Norwegian paper; besides singing, one of the children told about 'julenek' - putting food out for the birds at Christmas.

Besides the childrens choir, Marie and the Daughters of Norway organized a string band which was on the program. She list names of people in the lodge who were involved with this activity.

There was an active drill team at the lodge also. Names people involved with this activity.

ST. OLAF MEDAL: Marie thinks that Mrs. Gunnar Lund of Seattle nominated Marie for this medal because of all Marie's leadership in the Daughters of Norway. The Lunds began and ran the Norwegian paper 'Washington Posten' in Seattle. They were Norwegian patriots and patrons of the Good Templar Lodge also, refusing to accept advertising from liquor companies.

NEWSPAPERS: Tacoma had two Norwegian papers in about 1908, but one folded. The other, 'Vestkysten', was started by John Sollie (?) who also directed the Normanna Chorus for awhile. Tacoma was strong Norwegian cultural center.

(ST. OLAF MEDAL) Marie received a card from the Norwegian Consul in Seattle requesting an appointment for presentation of the medal. The presentation occurred at a regular meeting of the Daughters of Norway in Normanna Hall about 1939.

Another accomplishment of Marie was to begin a \$200 scholarship -stipend for high school students.

CROWN PRINCE OLAV'S VISIT IN 1939: The crown prince and crown princess M~~o~~rt~~a~~ visited the west coast area in 1939. Because Marie was the Grand Lodge president at the time, she and Henry were part of the group to meet the plane at Ft. Lewis, attend the luncheon, and present flowers to Princess M~~o~~rt~~a~~ from the Embla Lodge.

One privilege of the St. Olaf medal is to attend official functions concerning the Norwegian government.

AUDIENCE WITH KING HAAKON IN 1946: Marie had the occasion to speak with King Haakon for 25 minutes. Beforehand she was nervous and instructed in court etiquette, but he was kind, gracious, and like an old friend. They talked of his leaving Norway during W WII and how the Norwegian -American people perceived that.

WWII: The lodge women made dresses, garments, layettes, etc., to send to Norway as war relief during WWII. Mrs. Peterson from Seattle was the main co-ordinator; the garments were packed into boxes and shipped back East to be sent overseas.

They also knitted heavy, long stockings for the Norwegian paratroopers. She and a neighbor (from Nordfjord) knitted so many pairs, that their husbands cooked dinner so they could continue knitting.

BETZY KJELSBURG'S VISIT IN THE 1940'S: Betsy was a leader in Norway for women's rights. Marie first met her at the San Francisco World Fair in the late 1930's. Betsy traveled and spoke throughout Norway, striving for women's rights and social reforms in that area. She believed women had great potential, equal to men; and they needed to take on important leadership roles. Betsy was very smart, but 'domineering'; Henry said, 'He'd just as soon tackle a ship.'

Her purpose in her American visit was to renew and refresh Norwegian-American relations. Marie attended a luncheon held in Seattle for Betsy, and got to know her quite well. She thinks that Betsy accomplished good things in her own way; she reached a high government position.

Tells a story about attending a lodge banquet in Astoria, OR.

SPEAKING NORWEGIAN: Marie recites a favorite table prayer: 'I Jesu navn.....'

She discusses in Norwegian how life has been in America.