

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Knute John Mjøen. Johnson is the family name. Mjøen is the name of a community with everyone named Mjøen. Born on November 17, 1902.

PARENTS John and Sigrid Moen. Knute was born on his mother's farm. Mother's maiden name was Mjøen. Knute lived with Olene and Marte Mjøen, his aunt not his parents.

Father was a shoemaker. They lived on a small farm with a few cows and pigs. They also had a garden. Knute lived and worked on his aunt's farm. They had 25-26 milk cows.

FARM Was in Oppdal, Norway in Sør Trøndelag which is eight Norwegian miles south of Trondheim.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Johan worked in a creamery as a machinist. Martin was a fisherman in Seattle. Elisabet immigrated to the U.S. in 1926 and was a housewife in Canada married to a Norwegian. Sivert lived on the home place in Norway and worked in a sawmill. Sverre lives at Hasvaag where he owns a hotel eight miles north of the ocean.

Knute enjoyed living with his aunt. Didn't miss living at home.

GRANDPARENTS Father's side, Knute was a shoemaker. He was a husman. Mother's father, John, had a farm in Mjøen. Father's mother was Marit Elisabet. Her maiden name was Stoelen.

HOME IN NORWAY Very nice place, big house. Close to 1,000 acres. Lots of cleared land and timber. Raised barley and potatoes.

Barley and potatoes were raised in high places like Oppdal which was in a mountain valley. Raised famous potatoes which were banana shaped and colored.

1914, his uncle came from America and took over his aunt's farm.

CHRISTMAS Before Christmas they cut lots of wood and piled it up. Women did the baking and the men cleaned around the place.

CHRISTMAS EVE Everyone stayed home. At 5 o'clock the church bells rang for an hour. Had a Christmas tree. Very few presents. Usually had a new pair of shoes and a red shirt.

CHRISTMAS DAY Went to church. Went visiting and had company in. Christmas usually lasted for two weeks. Men didn't do anything but chores. Women usually cared for the cattle. Women were very busy.

FOODS Lots of baked goods, lefse, cookies, and lutefisk. Lutefisk on Christmas Eve, but sometimes had rib steak. Had rommegrøt.

CHRISTMAS DAY Had beef roast and pork roast.

FIREPLACES IN NORWAY Not used much, mostly for show. Used to cook on these stoves. Also stored wood in the fireplaces to dry it. Had special heating stoves for heating the house.

TROLLS AND JULENISSEN Thought that the Julenissen was in the grain in the hayloft.

THRESHING GRAINS Had a long stick with a club. They swung this and hit the bundles.

JULENISSEN Put food out for him, rissengrøt. Fed him on Christmas Eve.

FOODS Ate rissengrøt and sunggrøt, which was cooked out of fresh milk, almost like fresh cheese.

SCHOOL Eight years and one year of beginning high school. Confirmation.

CHURCH There were two churches in Oppdal, Lønset Church and Solkirke. They had the same minister for both churches.

CHURCH Took the 'sluffe' (a sleigh) to church in the winter and in the summer they took a nice wagon.

REASONS FOR COMING TO U.S. Had relations in the U.S. Norwegians like to travel. Knute was the first in his family to come. He was 18.

RELATIVES IN THE U.S. He had an aunt and uncle in Sioux City, Iowa and relatives in Stanwood, Washington.

Came in 1921 in February to Sioux City, Iowa.

Parents and relatives didn't like him leaving Norway.

TRAVELS Sailed from Oslo to New York on the Stavangerfjord. Took nine days on the boat. Cost around 1400Kr, which is about \$400. Very nice boat.

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES Could speak some English when he came over, but not much. Learned from his three cousins who came to Norway and they spoke only English.

These cousins were born and raised in Seattle, Washington. They went back to Norway after 20 years in the U.S.

ELLIS ISLAND No trouble. A lot of fun. Herded like cattle. Had to show that you had \$20. A doctor examined you.

TRAIN TRIP Fine. He knew what to eat because he'd learned English well enough in Norway.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. Interesting. Cold in Sioux City where his uncle lived. Uncle worked on the railroad. He was a blacksmith.

WORK Knute did painting in Sioux City. Learned this trade in Norway from an uncle. No problem finding work. Worked for a Norwegian contractor.

1018 CHURCH Met lots of people there.

1031 No problems with minority groups.

1040 Moved to Stanwood, Washington. Wanted to see the coast, similar to Norway.

1055 No jobs were found in 1923, so he stayed with his aunt in Stanwood. Worked in a shingle mill in Milltown, Washington through the winter.

1 1082 WAGES \$15 in Sioux City, eight hour days, six days a week. \$5 in the shingle mill. \$5 a day painting. During the Depression, he made \$2-\$3 per day.

MARRIAGE Married Gertrude Rise from Central Washington. They were wed in 1926. She was originally from Oppdal, Norway. It had been three years since they came to the U.S.

MARRIAGE Performed at home. Three couples were married at the same time. Gertrude's brother and sister. Gertrude's father was a wheat farmer.

2 CHILDREN Esther, Sylvia, and John. Esther married Orville Hanson, a painter. They have three children, Patricia, Nick, and Karen. Patricia lives in Cold Bay, Alaska. She's married and is a medic up there. Nick is a salesman. Karen is a student at Western.

Sylvia married Dean Sill, both are deceased now. They had five children. Dennis works for Twin City Foods. Rick is a carpenter. Mikes also works for Twin City Foods. Susan works for Twin City Foods too, which is a freezing plant in Stanwood, Washington.

John is married and has two girls. He is an ambulance attendant. The two girls are both students.

SECOND MARRIAGE Knute remarried Violet Larson. They've been married for 21 years. Knute's first wife died years ago.

CHURCH Have been active members.

NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATIONS Sons of Norway member since 1921. Served as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Still goes to their meetings. A lot of nice people there. Kept up with the Norwegian heritage.

Norwegian classes every Monday night a few times a year. Singing and folk dancing.

LANGUAGE Continues to speak the language.

TRIPS TO NORWAY In 1952, he went alone. In 1962, Violet and her son, Alan went with him. In 1972, all three went again. In 1979, Knute and his wife went.

CHANGES New buildings. People are more modern. High prices.

Homes kept up nicely in Norway.

CHURCH IN NORWAY They don't attend much except for special days.

CHURCH IN NORWAY Different church there now, Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, Catholics, and Pentecostals.

NORWEGIAN HERITAGE Proud, Norwegians are sturdy people

NORWEGIAN TAXES They pass less taxes on a well kept home. Different from the U.S.

SOCIALIZED MEDICINE Hard at times to get into hospitals or see a doctor. Don't pay for service.

OLD PEOPLE IN NORWAY Well cared for. Rest homes are nice. Many old people stay home with their family near. Old people get help from the state.

WORK IN NORWAY Most people are working. No unemployment to speak of. Farms are very efficient today, more modern.

OLD HOME FARM They milk cows and sell the milk to the creameries.

SPOKEN NORWEGIAN Good, clear example of the language.