

Otto Calvin Loe. Born September 5, 1911 in Sortland, Vesterålen, Norway. Sortland is on an island.

PARENTS Laura and Gustav Løe. Mother's maiden name was Jensen. Father was a fisherman, farmer, and a carpenter, a little of everything.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Two in the first marriage, Hanna and Otto. Two from the second marriage.

GRANDPARENTS Mother's parents had a slaughterhouse. Paternal grandfather was a shoemaker. They were from Sortland.

NAME Was Løe, now is Loe. It comes from Trøndelagen, Trondheim. Grandfather was born in Stiklestad. Name of farm was Løe. Changed name in America because people could not pronounce it.

CHILDHOOD Nice. Mother died when he was 17. Father came to America when his wife died. Otto stayed in Norway with his grandmother.

Took up fishing when he was 15. Did herring fishing. In the wintertime he did fishing, in the summertime he worked on the farm.

FARM CHORES Haying, planting, and potatoes.

CONFIRMATION Confirmed when he was 15. Something you did when done with school. Went to school for eight years. Close to seven English miles to school. It was cold in the winter. Skied to school. Never missed a day. Dark in the winter, light in the summer.

CHRISTMAS Holiday that everybody respected. Cleaned up for Christmas Eve. Father went to get the tree. Had rice and other goodies to eat. Mother prepared food for Christmas Day on the Eve. Went to church on Christmas Day. Pickled herring and rice are traditional foods and a dried leg of lamb.

Father stayed in America. Took three years for Otto to get his visa to come. His sister had already come over.

AMERICA Had heard that the streets were lined in gold. Eight of fifteen children in his father's family came to America. More opportunity in America.

Traveled to America alone. Got papers in Norway. Took a boat from Sortland to Trondheim, train to Oslo. Took the Stavangerfjord. Ticket cost \$200.

Father had sent him a ticket. He planned on going to Alaska and fishing. Trip on the ocean was beautiful. August 1930. Rough from Oslo to Bergen.

Brought over heirlooms from Norway. He felt that this was a permanent trip. Took eight days to cross the Atlantic. Come through Canada to the West Coast because it was cheaper. Conditions on the ship four in a cabin, lots of immigrants. Landed in Halifax, Canada. Herded like cattle.

TRAIN TRIP Porter on the train took advantage of people. Charged them more for food than he should. Otto could not speak any English. Talks about drinking coffee with sugar. Took seven days to get to the West Coast. Made friends. Landed in Vancouver then went to Tacoma. Met by his father at Union Station.

Father lived in Tacoma on 34th and McKinley. He had a family.

Helped his father at a shoe factory, was not paid. Started night school right away. Went to the Sons of Norway. Talks about a man who helped him get a job.

FIRST JOB Paid \$7.50 a week, six days a week. Good wages for the times. Paid for room and board.

TACOMA Could not figure out the stoplights. Tells a story about this. The Norwegian community was strong in Tacoma. Started mixing with other groups in the area after a year.

LEARNING ENGLISH Went to night school. Had difficulty learning.

Worked for Mr. Bjerkestad. He was owner, manager, and editor of the paper, 'The Western Viking.' Had a Swedish paper also. Describes what happened to this paper. Puget Sound Posten was another publication they had. The press was located on 13th and Tacoma Avenue.

FIRST DAY OF WORK Stood there and watched. Presses were electrical had been hand presses in Norway. Put out papers every Thursday. Two editors, Otto, one pressman, and a mailer working. Otto set type, did this and that. Churches called in news to be put in.

Times were hard in Tacoma. Otto was glad to have work. Tells of how some of his friends made it through the Depression. Got a raise to \$9.00 a week after three months. \$12.00 after a year, \$15.00, and finally \$18.00. Then the company went bankrupt in 1932.

Someone took over the papers. Worked for the new owner for a while and then went sailing.

SCANDINAVIAN PAPER Had 3,000 subscribers. \$1.00 a year. Had 1,200 the last year.

WORK CONDITIONS Worked late at night on Wednesday night to get the paper out in time. Swedish and Norwegian papers both in Tacoma. Link between the churches, Sons of Norway, and the paper.

Was a member of the Sons of Norway for a long time. Took part in a play.

SAILING Half passenger, half cargo ship. Got the job in San Francisco. Was a Danish ship. Wanted to see the world before he got married. He was a steward. Took care of the passengers, cleaned rooms, and served food. Worked along the chef. Sailed to the Orient, Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila, *etc.*

Came back to do printing. No printing work so worked on a farm for six months. Put an ad in the paper, someone responded right away.

MET WIFE Her brother was a good friend of Otto's. She came to visit her brother in Tacoma. Married in 1935. Very plain wedding.

Rented a house. Began working for the paper again. Otto and another fellow bought the paper in 1938 for \$4,000. Gave the paper to his partner.

Got another job through the milkman. The paper went bankrupt, bought by Einar Carlson, still owned by him.

Puget Sound Posten was discontinued.

Paper changed from Norwegian language to English. Used to be all Scandinavian. Paper had an impact on the Norwegian community.

Hardest part of working for the paper was getting money for the paper. Ads kept the paper going. Some businesses would give merchandise for ads in the paper.

Did not have much contact with the other Tacoma papers. Controversy over one edition they published.

CITIZENSHIP 1940. Since he was married, he did not have to take out the first papers. Studied for the test. History and government.

Stayed with the paper until 1939. Got a job printing labels.

CHILDREN Leif, Barbara Miller, Roseanne Rybolt. Don't speak Norwegian. They are interested in the culture.

Going to the movies helped him learn English. Working on the paper was difficult to learn English because they all spoke Norwegian and Swedish.

Lived on the east side since 1953.

Not that active in church. Active in Sons of Norway. Still go once a while. Member of Nordlandslaget, goes from Trondheim up north.

TRIPS TO NORWAY 1974 was the first time, 1977 and 1979. Changes in the country. Visited relatives.

Otto worked for Miller and Miller Label Company in Tacoma. Stayed with them for 19 years.

Started his own printing business. Prints labels. Tells about a few jobs they have. Work for people from Mexico to Canada.

CHANGES IN NORWAY Houses stand where there were farms. Electricity in the area. People are the same. Lots of eating. Have cousins and an aunt left in Norway.

Something draws them to Norway. Otto would like to go back and stay. Tells a story about the model ship that was given to him by a friend in Norway.

Norwegians have a special fascination for boats. Fishing is their life.

BEING A NORWEGIAN Proud to be a Scandinavian. Prominent people. Leif Erikson discovered America.

CHARACTERIZING NORWEGIANS Friendly, honest people, hospitable.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE Do not speak at home.

GRANDCHILDREN Tells about how many they have. Son, Leif went to PLU.

SPEAKING IN NORWEGIAN Wants to go back to Norway and see friends and relatives.

The play, 'The Dollhouse' was based on the home place where Otto's grandfather lived. Play was by Ibsen.

Stiklestad has a place in history. There was a fight between the kings.

Otto is glad that he came to America. He likes it here, no complaints.