

GRACE ELEANOR BLOMQUIST Born April 10, 1913 in Spring Lake Township.

PARENTS John R. Blomquist and Emelia Ledin Blomquist. Father was 73-74 when he died. Mother was 62 when she died. Father owned a creamery in Waubun, Minnesota. Family moved to Waubun when Grace was 3. Spring Lake Township was very near North Branch, Minnesota, which was a very Swedish community. Grace's father had come from another very Swedish community near Taylors Falls, Minnesota. His father came from SmÅ¥land, Sweden. He landed at Franconia (?) just as the immigrants did in Moberg's novel. Grace's paternal grandfather came from the same area as the people in Moberg's novels. Moberg wrote 'The Immigrants,' 'Unto a Good Land,' and 'The Last Letter Home.'

Grace's parents were born in the U.S. Her father had to start working when a young boy. His family was poor. He worked in milk stations and creameries in Goodhue County in southern Minnesota. He came to Spring Lake where he met Grace's mother. She was one of 9 or 10 children. She had worked as a clerk in a department store in Stillwater, Minnesota. She visited a sister, who lived in the northwest for one year. She clerked at People's in downtown Tacoma. This was around 1910. She went back to Minnesota and got married shortly thereafter. Her parents were from Sweden. Her maternal grandfather brought his parents with him when he emigrated. He and his brothers settled in the Spring Lake area. Their family name was Ledin. They came to the U.S. because they wanted a better life. Her father's family was very poor. Grace's paternal grandfather came to this country in 1880 by steamboat on the St. Croix River and landed at Franconia (?).

He'd been a corporal in the Swedish Army. His brothers came at the same time. They all took different names. Grandfather took name Blomquist. Another was Tagnir (?), one was Youngquist, the married a Bergstrom. They chose these names when they got to America.

CHILDHOOD Grew up in Waubun, Minnesota. Lived near school. Four teachers at school. Important in community. Parents never quarreled.

WAUBUN, MINN. An Indian name. Means 'rising sun' in the Chippewa language. Waubun lies on the edge of the Indian reservation. There were mixed blood families in town. Many of these children were friends. Many Indians played on the basketball team. That was the only sport they had at their school. In girl's P.E. they wore black bloomers and white midies. There were several Czechoslovakian families in Waubun. Some Norwegian families. Blomquist's were the only Swedish family. The town was made up mostly those who were part Indian. There were many German farmers around.

CHIPPEWA INDIANS Land settlement made when railroad was being built. Waubun was founded because the railroad needed a stop there. The Indians were given a certain amount of money, which they received once or twice a year. They'd come in to town to get the money and almost always spent it at once. This was in the 1920s. During prohibition, the Indians would come to town and buy vanilla. They'd get drunk on it and drive home on their horses and wagons. There were also some very fine Indian families

Near Waubun was White Earth, a real Indian town. There was a government school and some missions there. They weren't as primitive in the 1920s as they had been. Grace remembers seeing Indians camp near the lake where they had a summer cottage. The women would make birch bark baskets. She saw an Indian woman go down to the lake

to wash clothes.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL Grace went to school at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She chose a Lutheran school because she went to the Lutheran Church after it was built in Waubun. This church was of the old Norwegian background. She went to the Congregational Church before Waubun got a Lutheran church. Her parents had been brought up as Lutherans. Most of the students at Concordia were of Norwegian background. The Norwegian community had been more familiar to Grace since then. She was finished at Concordia in 1934.

Got a job teaching in Mohall, North Dakota. Stayed there for three years. It was a very good school. She taught English and Latin in high school. Taught in junior high some. Even helped part-time at fifth and sixth grade level one year. She had many responsibilities.

Offered an assistantship at Syracuse University. Was there two years. Got her masters degree there.

Came to the West Coast in 1939. Looking for work. Had a contact with Clara Paulson (?), a teacher at Concordia College. Clara knew that PLU needed an English teacher and an assistant Dean of Women. Grace applied for the position. Dr. Tingelstad was president then. He arranged an interview in Jamestown, North Dakota. Tingelstad had family business in Jamestown. Grace and her sister drove from Minnesota to Jamestown and met Tingelstad at the railway station.

STARTED WORK AT PLU IN THE FALL OF 1939 There were 12 or 14 members of the faculty then. The Akres were there. Elvin was the Dean of Men. He taught history as well. Most people taught in the academy as well as the college. The academy lasted until Dr. Eastvold came.

FACULTY The Akres. Dr. Hauge was the Dean. Anna Marn Nielsen, head of the Education department. Daniel Nelson came from Luther College to teach English. Ruth Franck taught English. Mickel Franck taught political science. Mrs. Bondy taught French and German. Leraas taught biology. Ramstad taught chemistry. Rhoda Young taught P.E. Cliff Olson taught P.E. Keith Reed taught business administration. George Reneau taught history and other social sciences. Mr. Stuen taught math. Mr. Malmin taught music. Pastor Larson taught Swedish part-time. Dr. Pflueger taught religion.

There weren't as many Norwegians here as one might think. Dr. Pflueger was German. Keith Reed was Presbyterian. Students weren't all Norwegian. Different than Concordia College. Mrs. Kriedler taught art. She was descendant of the Bradford's who came to Plymouth colony.

Dean of Women. There were only four buildings on campus when she came. Old Main. The old gym located where the U.C. is now. The little brown wooden chapel. The library, which was located behind the chapel and now is Xavier Hall. Sign in front of the college said 'Pacific Lutheran University' on the front and 'Build for Character' on the backside. New experience to be at a school where the offices, classrooms, and dorms were in the same building. Grace had to live in the dorm and assist Mrs. Kriedler so she found out what it was like. Registrar's Office was off to the right as you entered Old Main. Only about three office workers. Two librarians plus student help. Bookstore was in a small room opposite the Registrar's office. Dorm rooms were very simple.

Two desks, two cots, two dressers. Students could paint their rooms if they wanted to. The center part of Old Main was classrooms

She tells what the boys did on Halloween in 1939

PROBLEMS WITH ACADEMY STUDENTS Some students sent there because parents wanted to support the school. Their children got more attention than they would in a public school. Others were problem cases who couldn't be handled in their own schools or homes. Among the high school students there were some problems.

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE They all knew each other. Faculty went to all the games. They'd drive to Cheney and Bellingham to watch football. She tells about the success of PLU sports. Many parties on campus. The Stuens, Pfluegers, Leraas', Akres, and Xaviers were very hospitable.

Mr. Xavier was a librarian at PLU too. Mr. Stuen was the unofficial host to the university. They would often have dinners on Sunday afternoons. Then everyone would go play golf. Employees were often not paid during hard times but they liked working at the school.

KIMBERLY GOLD MINE 1941, no money at PLU for teachers. They were paid in gold stock. People charged food at Dahl's Grocery.

KIMBERLY GOLD STOCK She explains how PLU acquired the gold stock. Partly through Daniel Floetrig (?), a Norwegian immigrant who'd attended PLU winter short session. Dr. Tingelstad was very interested in the stock market. Rhoda Young or Milt Nesvig might know about the Kimberly Gold Mine. Floetrig's widow, Mrs. Theo Totten might know more about it. Lloyd Johnson, husband of Lucille Johnson, an English teacher at PLU knows more about it.

1016/06 **EARLY 1940s** Men from faculty worked at the shipyards. Women from the faculty were retained for teaching. Mrs. Kreidler, who'd retired by then, worked swing shift at the shipyards. This was during WWII. The school stayed open.

1049 Grace is still teaching classes occasionally (1980). Since she retired in 1975, she had only taught children's literature.

1063 Grace was president of AAUW in Tacoma. At the time (1952-1953) there were about 400 members. (American Association of University Women).

1073 1954-55 Went to Germany for one year. Taught at American schools in Frankfurt. She was a counselor in a dorm. There were American students from different parts of Europe.

1082 Member of Quota Club. A diversified service club. Each member must represent a particular field. Each field represented by only one member.

Belongs to Phi Beta. National organization for drama, speech, music, dance honorary.

80 Administrative women in education because she had held either presidential or executive positions in groups

89 CHURCH Member of the Trinity Reading Club. Started in the 1950s. Has taught Sunday school. Served on church council. Was member of Social Concerns Committee when the Vietnamese refugees came.

1952 Danish seminar. Traveled in Europe. 1954 spent a year teaching in Germany. 1963: Dr. Motet gave teachers summer off with pay.

WENT TO EUROPE IN 1963, 1979 Spent five weeks in England. 1972: Led children's literature tour to Europe. Went from Holland to Germany to Austria, to Italy, back through Germany, to Denmark, to the Netherlands, back to Holland, and home. Groups made up of PLU students, teachers, a retired person, and another faculty member. 26 all together. Went to places of interest in regard to children's literature.

CHANGES AT PLU IN 40 YEARS School had become a university in the fullest sense. 'Family relationship' no longer exists. It can't when there are so many people.

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE Her family was not very tradition minded. Moved around, trying to make a living. Difficult to retain customs. Used to have 'doppa'. Porridge made out of eggs, milk, and flour. They'd dip their bread in this. Her mother made spritz cookies at Christmas. Grace was always aware that she was Swedish. Her mother would always blame things on Norwegians. Her father could read Swedish. Knew as a child that Jenny Lind and Kristina Nilsson were Swedish singers.

Remembers her grandfather Ledin. Her was dignified and handsome. Things in her grandparent's home reminded her of Sweden; old pictures and things. If she goes back to Europe she'd like to spend some time in SmÅland, where her grandparents came from. She'd rather spend time in other places really. She doesn't feel she's too deeply rooted. Still she's glad she's Swedish. Interested in ethnic groups in general.