

KING OF SWEDEN Followed progress when he came to U.S. Saw Swedish prince in restaurant, Viking Restaurant. PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born July 25, 1909, Malmö, Sweden (busy metropolis, no plumbing, outhouses.) Many apartments.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM Wealthy country families take city kids in for holidays. Brother worked on a farm.

FATHER DROWNED Was fireman on ship. She sold magazines, newspapers age 5

PARENTS Oscar Karlsson. Linnea. Doesn't remember grandparents. Mother from Småland, Sweden. Father drowned as a fireman on a large ship.

CITY OF MALMÖ Coastal city, four hours to Denmark.

NAME CHANGE Changed on citizenship papers, prior Greta Hellive.

SELLING NEWSPAPERS Children had to help. Brother employed fruit company. Mother did cleaning. Saved their money.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS WWI goods scarce, mother would always share (miserable times). Beggars would come to apartment.

DESCRIPTION APARTMENT (MALMÖ) Flowers in kitchen, had water but had outhouses.

ROYALTY COMES TO MALMÖ Big thing to see the king and queen. Very important part of heritage today.

EMIGRATION Age 9. Mother unhappy to go but future for children. Mother had an aunt and uncle in Porter, Indiana who invited them to come and work.

FLU EPIDEMIC Mother helped with sick. She caught the bug.

TRAIN TO OSLO, NORWAY February 1919 still mines in ocean. Boat trip took 15 days.

FIRST ENGLISH WORDS Taught by English sailors, "Yes, box, alright." They were in steerage class.

FEELINGS LEAVING SWEDEN Excitement, scared to death of cowboy and Indians.

BOAT TRIP Big steamer. Three legged race, potato race she won money.

MOTHER BECAME ILL Died June 1920 of TB. Gretchen caught TB was sent to McChord Air Force Base. Brother entered Marines.

UNCLE IN TACOMA Employed motion picture projectionist. Gretchen taken in by this uncle. Went to school at the Sanitorium.

AGE 14 Put out on own. Had to get a job. Mrs. E.R. York offered to put her through Bellingham Normal School if she could get through H.S. Uncle said no.

LIFE AT MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE Wing for boys, for girls. Adults above.

EMPLOYMENT Carlyle Cafeteria, bussing dishes. Judge Sol's (?) parents clerking. Still in school while working evenings. Not involved in Swedish community.

WILLARD SCHOOL Attended through eighth grade. Employed Woolworth's.

TACOMA EARLY DAYS Busy place. Sad to see what's happened today.

CITIZENSHIP Through husband who is Canadian.

TEENAGER IN TACOMA Made her graduation dress, ordered tennis shoes vs. cousin's satin dress, satin shoes. Day she was told she was on her own. (See counter I-440) At age 14, her aunt put her suitcase on the porch. Got a job at a cafeteria.

MEETING HUSBAND Through church functions 1932. Husband employed motion picture projectionist and choir director Presbyterian Church. Member of Calvary Baptist Church. Church life in Sweden.

CHILDREN'S NAMES (See attached): Son self-employed in investment and building. Daughters are homemakers.

FIRST HOME 37th and G Street. Depression set in, earning money to go to banquet.

PIE BAKING BUSINESS 25 cent; a piece, forced out of business, no cement floor.

SWEDISH HERITAGE Very dear thing, granddaughter likes to hear about olden days. Can't speak Swedish anymore.

NEVER VISITED SWEDEN No one back there. Remembers life in Sweden vividly.

KEEPSAKES Photo and passport. All lost in storage after mother's death.

No contact with Swedish relatives.

SCANDINAVIAN BAKING Braiding coffee cakes. Has a Swedish cookbook. Favorite recipes: Kåldolmar and filbunke.

CHRISTMAS Berries and rice before Christmas day. Pickled herring, lutefisk, rock candy, decorate with some Swedish artifacts.

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