

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Born in Tving Parish, Sweden in a place where the farm name was Bergsmola. This is in the Southern part of Sweden in the county of Blekinge. Born on April 28, 1900.

PARENTS: Sven August Petersson. Mother, Hilda Gustafsson (Gustafsdotter). Father employed as a farmer.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: One brother died in 1921 of the Spanish Flu. Sisters: Nanny, Ida, Anna, Emelie, Edith, Agnus, Gunhild.

GROWING UP: Hard work. Girl's chores centered in the house.

NAME CHANGE: Added 'h' to Edith with she came to the U.S.

HEARING OF AMERICA: Sister, Ida, sent letters from Tacoma. Lots of family and friends in the Tacoma area.

SCHOOL: Attended for seven years in a little country church. Confirmed at age 13. After school years she helped on the farm. She worked in a TB Hospital. Her mother died in 1919. This is when she decided to come to America. Her uncle paid for the trip. He owned a restaurant in Tacoma called Puget Lunch.

DEPARTED SWEDEN: October 1922. No trouble traveling as a woman. Traveled aboard the 'Stockholm'. Became seasick. Finnish woman translated for her on the journey. Left from Göteborg, Sweden. Landed in New York.

ELLIS ISLAND: Stayed for a week because of the train strike. Lots of Italians present. No trouble getting through.

Mentions lightly the Vasa Club. Vasa Club met on the boat. Vasa is also a club which meets in Sweden.

ARRIVAL TACOMA: Sister met her at Union Station. Employed doing housework, lived with families. She describes working conditions and duties of cleaning and cooking. She worked at Hansen and Thorland (? Rowland). They were real estate people. She made \$30 a month and later \$35 a month.

LEARNING ENGLISH: Didn't have the time to go to school. Cooking helped her to learn the language.

FIRST EMPLOYER: Very rich. In the real estate business. Describes her duties.

DESCRIBES TACOMA: Wonderful place. No fears, safe place for young single women.

VALHALLA DANCES: Dances every Saturday night. Newcomers came here to meet.

EMPLOYED FOR ALBERTSON'S: Older couple. Good job.

CHURCH LIFE: First Lutheran in Tacoma. Minister, Pastor E.C. Bloomquist.

TRIPS BACK TO SWEDEN: Visited with relatives. Eager to get back home. Met husband before the trip to Sweden. Married in 1928.

CATERING BUSINESS: Started own business. Many parties, kept busy. Catered one party at Weyerhauser's and many fancy 'cream of society' parties. In business from 1933 to 1963.

HOLIDAY BAKING: Made Swedish food including coffee bread.

SWEDISH GET-TOGETHERS: Many parties including Christmas.

CHRISTMAS: Decorated house and sang. Enjoyed the holidays. Ate lutefisk.

RETURN TRIPS TO SWEDEN: Several trips, all nice.

SWEDISH LANGUAGE: Still writes and speaks it with friends. Lots of Swedish friends in Tacoma.

VASA: Visit and have refreshments.

SWEDISH HERITAGE: Not too important. Feels like an American. Glad to be here.

Keeps in touch with Swedish relatives.

