

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Born in Flækos, Norway on June 26, 1894 in Nordland.

PARENTS: Peder I. Øiesvold and Maren Abelsen. Father born in Øiesvold. Only family with this name.

FATHER: Farmer. Big farm. Uncle was a blacksmith. Cousin invented a manure spreader. Made wagon wheels, skis, *etc.*

HANS ØIESVOLD: Has a store in Bodø, Norway. Olaf Øiesvold is a clerk in Bodø. He had twelve children. Talks more about the name Øiesvold.

MAGNUS ØIESVOLD: Invented a manure spreader and a hay cutter.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Mette and Magnus. Older sister Mette never married stayed with father on the farm. Mother died when 74.

Brother Einar went hunting when about 15 and fell into a snowdrift and died. Jenny Simonson, she still lives in Norway.

FATHER: Had much rheumatism when he was young. Had a hard time holding a job because of pain. Went away when he was an old man.

GRANDPARENTS: Father's dad, Magnus was a farmer. Mother's mother lived with them, Hilene Abelsen.

ØIESVOLD FARM: Goes way back. Still have machine shops on the farm.

Cousin was a stationmaster.

Big river in Trøndelag, which is popular for salmon fishing. They sell the river to fishermen so no one else can fish it. They sell parts of the river.

CHILDHOOD: Father was a farmer who was very sick with rheumatism and in pain. Raised meat, potatoes and barley. 'Poor people, but never in need.' Shared with others. Everyone had big families.

Spun their own yarn and weaved. Weaved material for her confirmation dress. Had sheep on the farm.

LIFE IN NORWAY: No one had money. Everyone was satisfied though. Raised own crops. Went fishing and caught Sei, a gray fish, which was dried and salted, to eat in the winter.

Herring was caught in the spring. Ate salted herring. Meat was also salted. Ate potatoes with fish or meat.

SCHOOL: Went to school on skis. School was in homes at first. Built a schoolhouse. Learned to read when three years old, ABC book. Shared teacher with another district.

When teacher was gone they studied a book called 'Bible History' and the Catechism. Hanna learned very fast.

SCHOOL: Started when she was 6. Teacher felt she was prepared to go. Went until she was 14 or 15.

Lutheran high officials came to the school and asked questions of the students. It was 14 miles to church. They rowed or skied.

MEDICAL CARE: Doctors came in a motorboat. He was there only when sent for. Didn't see him very often, very expensive.

SCHOOL: First teacher was a woman. She played the guitar. They had a one-room schoolhouse. Hanna wanted to continue school after 14, but she couldn't.

FIRST JOB: Worked for her aunt. Aunt had eczema so Hanna helped her for six months. Made 4kr.

WORK: Helped on the farm in the spring, lots of work to do. Worked for an uncle with twelve kids, made 6kr. Made the most of her money and bought presents for others, *etc.*

LEARNED TAILORING in Sulitjelma, which is a mining town near the Swedish border. Worked and learned there. Had a four-year apprenticeship required to complete the program. Describes this some.

TAILORING: Not paid when going to school. Had free room and board. Made living by sewing. They worked for the learning. She was there one and a half years.

SEWING MACHINE: Bought her own on time.

OSLO: Went to Oslo looking for work. Did housework and was a cook's helper. There were four women helping in the house. Very fancy home. The king even visited.

The dining room table had 24 chairs. The pay was 80kr. per month.

CHRISTMAS: Not many presents. Made their own trees because Christmas trees didn't grow in the area. She describes making these.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Father read the Christmas story. First day of Christmas stayed home. Made fattigmand, a few cookies and Christmas bread. A serious solemn holiday.

Good for people to be poor. They don't get wrapped up in the fancy things. They get the real meaning out of Christmas. Danced and sang around the tree.

CHRISTMAS: Went visiting the 2nd and 3rd day after Christmas. Always gave something to those who came visiting.

TJUENDE DAGEN: January 13th Christmas was over. Didn't do much during these twenty days. Prepared for this time before Christmas.

CHURCH: Didn't go because it was winter and hard to travel. Would go if weather was good. Fourteen miles a long way to walk.

CHRISTMAS: Made decorations and candles for the tree. Had to be careful so they wouldn't have fires. Had risgroet on Christmas Eve and salted pork.

CHRISTMAS: Made gifts for each other. No money to buy anything. Couldn't bake too much because they bought eggs. They didn't have chickens.

CHURCH: Father read every Sunday morning at home. They sang a lot. Couldn't go out and play.

FOLK STORIES: Hanna didn't believe in these stories. Many children afraid of the dark because of these stories. She tells one story of her personal experience.

JULENISSEN: She heard about him, but she put out food for the birds and not for him.

USA: Decided to go to U.S. because she wanted to see things. She was about 30. January 23, 1925, she left Oslo. She had relatives in America and they sent her the ticket.

Couldn't go to the U.S. unless you knew someone in the U.S. Someone to care for you.

WORK: She'd made children's clothing in Oslo before she left.

TRAVEL TO U.S.: Got her passage to the U.S. and left without seeing her parents.

Stopped in England to pick up passengers. Went on the 'Stavangerfjord.'

TRIP OVER: Not too bad. Got a little sick.

ELLIS ISLAND: Lucky she was well. Checked behind her ears for lice. Stayed for two hours. Went to the railroad station and traveled to Chicago where she changed trains.

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES: Couldn't speak English. Some difficulty on the train. Friends helped her out. They had some food from Ellis Island. Took eight days to get across Seattle.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Not real good. Railroad stations depressing and dirty. Met a few people who spoke Norwegian who helped her.

ARRIVED IN SOUTH BEND, WASHINGTON: Had a cousin there, Mrs. Strumsness. They met her at the RR station.

WORK: Worked in a box factory in South Bend, Washington. America was looking better once she got off the train.

NORWEGIAN CELEBRATION: Celebrating the immigrants in Seattle. She decided to stay in Tacoma with relatives named Pederson.

Worked in Tacoma helping various people. Applied at a dress shop in Tacoma, but she didn't get it because things were slack. She describes applying for a job in North Tacoma. She had learned some English, which helped.

WORK: Got a job at Lou Johnson's at 9th and Broadway. The owners could speak Norwegian. Hanna was a coat girl at \$15 per week.

Pederson's lived on 25th and Alaska downtown. She stayed with them when she was working.

LEARNING ENGLISH: Practiced where she worked. Went to evening school a few times. Was hard to go to school when she worked.

ATTITUDE: Hanna had a very positive attitude about life and her experiences. No real difficulties coming here.

LEARNING ENGLISH: The Tacoma Times had continued a story, which she read and learned the language from.

PEOPLE: Not many minorities. Mostly Scandinavians. Not many Orientals or blacks.

CITIZENSHIP: She got this after she was married.

HUSBAND: He was from Norway. He came from Montana and lived across the street from the Pederson's with relatives.

Husband worked with landscaping.

WEDDING: Went away quietly and got married at a pastor's house. Made a new dress.

Rented an apartment downtown. Built a house on 19th and Sprague.

WAR: During this time her husband worked in the shipyards. Fishing up oward Canada.

CHILDREN: Three boys. Harold works in a gold mine in Virginia. Robert died when he was three from influenza

pneumonia. Talks about the funeral some.

HAROLD: Was sick when young. Put in St. Joe's. He had bronchial pneumonia. 'God healed him.'

Robert Jacobsen is the third son.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Robert is a carpenter. His son is too.

Harold works in a gold mine in an office. Neither son went to college. Harold was in the Navy. Harold worked at McChord for a while.

Hanna stayed home with the kids as much as possible. Worked off and on at Lou Johnson's during the Depression.

WORK: There weren't many jobs to be had. There were many tailors in town.

Sold cottage cheese and butter that she made, but this wasn't enough to get by on.

Robert Holler (?) offered her a chance to take over the tailor shop. A very good job. Stayed 4-5 years.

ROBERT HOLLER (?): She did tailoring for them also. This was a big company. They had high expectations of her. She worked there until they closed in 1958.

WORK: She was offered a job at the Bon Marche at the mall. She worked there part-time. She quit work when she was 82. She worked off and on at Klopfensteins until June 1981 when she was 87 years old.

CHURCH: Active in the Pentecostal church. Didn't go to Lutheran church very often. Active in First Assembly on 'J' Street.

NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATIONS: Couldn't drive so couldn't participate much.

TRIPS BACK TO NORWAY: In 1947, she and her husband stayed for the winter. She still has contact with Norway.

Many changes in Norway. The big farm is still there.

LANGUAGE: She didn't teach her children Norwegian. She had enough trouble trying to speak English.

She describes the trip back to Norway. Took the train across Norway. Visited relatives in many towns.

SPOKEN NORWEGIAN: A good example.

IMPORTANCE OF NORWEGIAN HERITAGE: Really free in Norway. Poor were happy. Too much commercialization in the U.S.

Prosperity changes people. They lose something. Don't appreciate what we have. Changes had occurred in the U.S. and Norway.

CHURCH: Churches have changed. 'World has crept into the churches,' no respect for God's world. Talks about Jesus. Goes into detail about Jesus' dying for us. The darkness of the world.

CHURCH: Songs have changed. Religion has been watered down. Very interesting talk about religion today.