

ARNE HENDRICKSON: Born Arne Henrikson on May 27, 1908 in Kolbjørnsvik, Aust-Agder, Norway. This little town is across from Arendal on the southeast coast of Norway.

PARENTS: His father, Anders Henrikson, was a seaman-skipper, sailing in the merchant marine out of Arendal, Amsterdam, and the US. Arne saw his dad on and off until 1915, when his father's merchant ship was torpedoed during WWI by a British ship. About 12 men survived and 18 died, including his father who was the skipper on the bridge and the last one able to leave the ship.

Mother was widowed and did not remarry. She bought a farm in the country, later selling it and moving into town. Brother now lives in the Sørdaudnedal valley.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Arne is the oldest of three children. Arthur is about six years younger and works on the highway system in Norway. The third child was Ingrid. She, her husband Per Spilling (?), and little boy died during the German occupation. Two of her daughters are alive; one lives in Oslo and the other in Helle-Konsmo in the Norddaudnedal valley in Vest-Agder.

SISTER, INGRID: She and the two other family members died from lack of food. Her mother, Inga used to try take some food up there. But there was a camp right on the farm premises headed by an Italian soldier, and the area was heavily patrolled. They were able to fetch food from a hidden stash only during bad weather (blizzards and storms) when their tracks were covered up.

GRANDPARENTS: Arne didn't know his maternal grandfather, but the grandmother lived with a son about one half Norwegian mile from the Henrikson place in Sørdaudnedal. The paternal grandparents lived on Hisøy, a small island southeast of Arendal. Hisøy is tied into the mainland with a bridge now.

The Henrikson name goes way back in time, and the Henriksons were all seamen. They lived on the most southern point: Øyvingen. Øyvingen (Ryvingen ?) and Lindesnes are the two most southern tips of Norway in the North Sea. Arne wanted to be a seaman also, but his mother objected because too many of the family went down at sea. His grandfather Henrikson had died at sea from malaria. Only Adolf (his father's nephew) became a seaman. There were four boys and one girl in his father's family.

FAMILY LIFE IN NORWAY: Arne's dad would be gone several months at a time; short trips between Norway and England took two months, but long trips took five - six months. His father made South Sea trips to China, bringing back lots of silk and dress material. Arne remembers a beautiful vest he received. Skippers, not sailors, had a chance to shop.

The English blamed the ship disaster on the Germans, but the surviving sailors had seen the boat flying a British flag. His mother collected insurance money. They lived in a new house in Arendal, and the mother was a seamstress and had a sewing school. In 1916-17 they sold the house and bought the farm around Audnedal on the southern coast of Norway. In town the kids didn't work much - played ball instead. On the farm they worked in the woods, hauling in firewood over ice and snow. They also had four - five cows.

Arne walked to school five - six miles away, skiing in the winter, until he was 14.

Then he attended confirmation class once a week all summer long at the Vigeland parish. This is where the sculptor, Gustav Vigeland, came from; Arne visited his place and said 'it was something to see'.

WORK: Arne attended a special school in Buhølen to learn woodworking - 'snekker'. School days alternated with 'snekking' (practical experience) for about one and a half years. He learned how to read blueprints which came in handy when he immigrated to the US; he immediately got a job in bridge construction, and though he didn't speak English, he was knowledgeable about the blueprints. He worked in Norway in a carpenter's shop; but, the shop was small, and work wasn't steady.

Arne then went to sea as a merchant marine for two - three years. He crossed the Atlantic five times and went around the Horn once. Worked out of Amsterdam and Hull, England, where they fueled up with coal.

Arne knew no English, but had heard about America. He jumped ship and spent three months in the US at one point, but had no intention of staying. When his buddy, Martin, showed up in America on another ship, Arne joined back up and continued in the merchant marines, going back to Norway via Puerto Rico, Argentina, and Denmark.

EMIGRATION AND WORK: Arne emigrated from Norway to America in 1927 with a couple of neighbor girls. The nine-day ocean crossing on the Stavangerfjord from Oslo to New York was real nice - 'better than a merchant ship by a long ways'. He stayed with friends on Staten Island until he got a construction job with a German-Norwegian company - Hessen-Hanson (?), building bungalows and houses. When that job was finished, he worked on a mud dredge deepening the harbor between the Statue of Liberty and New Jersey. Then, he worked for an Italian outfit in Yonkers, New York.

SETTLING IN: During this time he learned English by reading signs and ads in the subway and by speaking with children who didn't laugh at him. Financially he was fine. Having worked in Norway, he had purchased his own ticket and still had money to live on. In the US, he sought and found employment easily and readily.

He visited the Sons of Norway lodge and Lutheran church in Brooklyn. His cousin lived close by on 8th Avenue and 76th St., and he still has friends who live in that area. Fifth Avenue used to be like 'Karl Johans gate' - very Norwegian. When he last visited in 1968, the area had become Puerto Rican. He had been in the area (Lancaster, Pennsylvania) with his son to do interior millwork in a restaurant.

TO CALIFORNIA: Arne distinctly remembers when he arrived in New York: September 22, 1927 - the day of the Tunney-Dempsey fight in Chicago; and he clearly recalls his departure date on a cold NY day - March 12, 1930. With no plan in mind, he and Martin went to the redwood country in CA where an uncle lived. They arrived in Eureka, Arne wearing a wool suit and overcoat, and carrying two suitcases. People laughed at them because of their dress; Arne said, 'it was hotter than blazes'. His friend Martin Clayton (?) was from a neighboring farm in Norway; he left Eureka in 1931 and later retired in St Petersburg, Florida.

LOGGING IN CALIFORNIA: Arne worked about two years in several different logging camps, making about \$34 a week rigging, cable splicing, *etc.* Work started at 7 am after breakfast. The crews consisted of lots of Scandinavians, Italians, and Greeks. The latter ran the steam donkeys or cooked - rarely were out in the woods. With so many Scandinavians around, Arne spoke more Norwegian than English.

There were many accidents, including one that involved Arne. A Caterpillar vehicle tipped over on him hurting his leg. Gas was running all over him, and he was worried about a nearby hot manifold and a possible fire/explosion. But he escaped and, when recovered, returned to logging until he witnessed another fellow get smashed up. Then, Arne took off.

Arne's uncle, Hans Abrahamson (his mother's brother), had met Arne and Martin in Eureka. He and his wife had first emigrated to and worked in Brooklyn, New York. They then moved to California, and eventually returned to Norway.

TRAPPING IN CALIFORNIA: There was no logging in the winter. Arne spent one and half winters living and trapping raccoon, mink, and otter on a homestead in the mountains. He stayed in Pete Thompson's cabin - real nice. During the first winter Arne made \$1100. This was the era of Rudy Vallee, when the cottage or raccoon coat was popular. Raccoon skins brought \$5 each; mink and otter were high also, but beaver was cheap.

The animals were skinned, and the skins were scraped and stretched in the barn.

The barn walls were plastered with nailed up skins. He used skis in the high country where snow was two-three feet deep. At the 2000 ft. level, the snow was five - six inches deep.

Food was bought and stockpiled for the winter. His first grubstake cost \$75, lasted him the entire winter, and consisted of ham, bacon (10 cents a pound), coffee, *etc.* The slabs of meat were hung up and kept very well, unlike these meats today. He cooked what he knew, familiar Norwegian grub.

Although he was excited over American food when he first emigrated, he soon missed the old Norwegian grub. His wife cooks this type of food now: 'kjøttsuppe' (meat stews), 'pommlio'(?), 'lapskaus', lutefisk, cod and salmon.

It wasn't too bad being alone all winter in the woods as he had a radio. Both cabins (Pete's and his brother Oscar's) are still standing and located about 40 miles east of Eureka - through Blue Lake and Corbel, in the Humboldt Mountains.

There was lots of game there, deer that came right up to the door. He had a muzzleloader at first, then got a double barrel 8-gauge shotgun. Arne had learned to shoot a muzzleloader with black powder as a kid in Norway and had done bird hunting there, selling the birds.

TO MONTANA: After two years he moved to Billings, Montana. Between 1932-34, Arne had a series of jobs in various places: building sheep sheds in Lovell, Wyoming, construction in Bismarck, North Dakota, and forest service in Montana.

MEETING SPOUSE: Arne met his wife, Iva Marie Brown - a native of Montana, and they were married September 19, 1934. Their first home was in Milltown, Montana (east of Missoula), and Arne went to work in a sawmill for Anaconda Copper. He stayed there seven years until the war.

CHILDREN: Arne has three children: Julie, Dane, and Doug.

WWII: In about 1941 Arne left that area to avoid being drafted. For the next nine months the family lived at Farragut, Idaho, where Arne helped with the construction of a Navy boot camp. Conditions were primitive - there were no places to live or eat. They had a 14x16 ft. tent in which Arne placed a linoleum floor, sidewalls, and a door. It was like homesteading in the mountain forest. Marie cooked on an old woodstove, not only for the family, but breakfast and supper for a crew of four - six men, also putting lunches up for them.

They left in December spending Christmas in Sonora, California. He had construction work in California until they moved to Washington in 1943. There were all kinds of work available, but travel was hard due to lack of gasoline.

TO WASHINGTON: Heading for Shelton, Washington, they stopped in Kennewick to look around, and Arne got a job with Morris and Knutson Construction. They stayed in Kennewick and he helped build 15 houses, beginning in June 1943.

CITIZENSHIP: He became a citizen in 1943 returning to Missoula, MT, to do the paperwork and take the test. His name was legally changed from Henrikson to Hendrickson - like everyone had been writing it for years. He received his citizenship through marriage as it was the quickest way. Although he'd started the paperwork a couple of times in earlier years, he'd been on the move too much to finish. Not having citizenship never interfered with his ability to acquire jobs.

They have lived in Kennewick 40 years, and he continued to travel for some jobs. Around Kennewick he worked for independent contractors until the late 1940's when the union went on strike, and there were no jobs. He went to Alaska and built radar stations and apartment houses. Back in Kennewick he had his own business.

After he retired, he and Marie did commercial fishing out of Ilwaco, Washington. They owned a commercial boat which Marie ran while Arne fished using long poles, outriggers, *etc.* They quit fishing about four years ago in 1979.

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS: At a 17th of May celebration in Pasco, Arne met a lady from Spokane who suggested having a Sons of Norway lodge in the Tri-Cities area. So, he organized one which had its first

meeting on April 6, 1968. Arne 'went around the country looking for every -sen and -son he could' and received suggestions from Spokane also. At the initiation 102 members, including Arne, became charter members of the Soland (?) lodge #86. Arne's nephew, whom he'd sponsored here from Norway, was the first president. This nephew stayed in America five years and then returned to Norway.

Arne just liked belonging to the Sons of Norway lodge, and he's always stuck with his Norwegian heritage.

RETURN TRIPS TO NORWAY: Arne has visited Norway three times: 1958, 1960, and about 1968.

OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: He also belongs to Eagles, Moose, 1849 Union in Pasco, and the Masons.

CHILDREN: Julie is married, lives on a farm out of Pasco, and works part-time at the courthouse. Dane had his own business but got toxic poisoning from the formica adhesive. He's on disability and lives in Kennewick. Doug drives 18-wheeler trucks out of Pasco.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE: Arne still speaks Norwegian. Had a friend visit from northern Norway recently, and they conversed for a couple of hours. Northerners are harder to understand though.

REMINISCING: He likes and is happy with his life, although he could have done things differently. He wishes he'd fished up north, but is too old for it now. Helps his son-in-law on the farm, and still does cabinetwork in his shop making things for the Sons of Norway. He is real active with this group.

Snakker litt norsk. The last time he was in Norway, 'han likte å fiske.....og gå på jakt...elg'.