

FULL NAME John Howard Tveter. Born on January 18, 1912. Family home is in Gig Harbor, Washington. Born in Tacoma. Father was a carpenter but had rheumatism so they moved to Gig Harbor to farm.

PARENTS Nels Tveter from Skjeberg, Norway and Olliana Sunde from Nordfjord, Norway. His father worked as a carpenter with his dad in Fredrikstad, Sarpsborg, and Skjeberg, Norway. Maternal grandfather was a farmer and fisherman.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Only child. Many cousins here and in Norway. His father's uncle, Nels Johnsen came first.

FAMILY NAME Talks about the name Tveter and how it came about.

Father came to the U.S. in 1901. Uncle lived in the Tacoma area. Father was a carpenter. Went to Wisconsin first and then to the coast.

Mother first came to South Dakota and later came out to Tacoma where she had a sister. She had another sister in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Move to Gig Harbor, a very Scandinavian community.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE Spoke Norwegian until schooldays. Had to speak Norwegian to his mother, she wouldn't answer otherwise.

Mother and father both picked up English.

SCHOOL DAYS IN GIG HARBOR

GROWING UP IN GIG HARBOR 'Better than now, got to know neighbors better.'

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS Dance before and after halibut fishermen's trips.

He discusses what brought Scandinavians to Gig Harbor.

Cousins' immigration time was a special time.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY Farming, berry picking and his father's carpentry work.

Picking up the English language.

TOOK THE STEAMER TO TACOMA Day trip. Changes that came with the Narrows Bridge. Finished high school.

VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS : Carpenter, ferries, and commercial fishing. Retired in 1971.

MEETING HIS WIFE Her mother worked in the berry fields for them.

He learned to play the accordion. Played for dances.

MARRIED IN GIG HARBOR Married a Yugoslavian. Many Yugoslavians lived in another section of Gig Harbor.

LIFE IN SMALL COMMUNITIES Everyone was friendly, everybody needed each other.

MEDICAL CARE IN GIG HARBOR He was 6 when the first doctor came.

Bad flu epidemic and diphtheria.

CHURCH First Lutheran church was in Cromwell, Washington and later moved to Gig Harbor. English was spoken. Before this time a Lutheran minister came out from Tacoma and preached in the Methodist church.

HOLIDAYS WHEN GROWING UP Mother tried to keep culture alive (17th of May, June, Midsummer).

CHRISTMAS EVE/LITTLE CHRISTMAS A big doing.

Preparing lutefisk, spareribs, fattigmand, lefse, flatbread, and kringler. Neighbors would visit from house to house.

Reasons for continuing special foods.

CHILDREN'S NAMES He has three daughters, Beverly, Kathryn, and Linda, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Daughters haven't learned Norwegian.

Active in the Sons of Norway. Special lutefisk dinners in the Lutheran church.

ACTIVITIES NOW, CHORES AS A CHILD Gardening, cutting wood, caring for the berry fields. Milking cows, berry fields, and haying.

VISITING NORWAY Went to Gardemon, Halden, Skjeberg, Tistedal, Nordfjord, and went to Yugoslavia too. Camping and foods in Norway.

Still speaks Norwegian.

17TH OF MAY Picnics in Crescent Valley in the early days.

Lived in Tacoma for a while but moved back to Gig Harbor.

Gig Harbor today.

Says the Norwegian Table Grace.

Glad parents came to the U.S. Liked visiting Norway.