

Anton Magnus Hopen. Born in Eikefjord, Norway on January 6, 1902. Eikefjord is 25 miles north of Bergen.

PARENTS Salamon Hopen and Dorthea Svardal. She was from Svardal. Hopen comes from great-grandfather.

FATHER Father was in the fishing industry. He retired early because he was sick. They lived on a small farm. Father did most of his fishing in the winter. Fished for herring. Made a good living, nothing extraordinary.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Borghild Susanne worked in Bergen. Her husband worked with shipping cod and other fish. Samson Kristoffer went through school and went to work for the Post Office as Postmaster in Ramsdalen, north of Bergen. He transferred to the office in Nesttun, outside of Stavanger during the war. Also transferred to Oslo. He had retired in Lillehammer. Johan Ingolf immigrated to the U.S. in 1924. He did fishing in Alaska. Magna Bolette is married to Einar Jacobsen. She lives in Norway. They have a little farm.

GRANDPARENTS Paternal - Samson Hopen born 1818 and Ellen Maren Lovise. Maternal - Johan Antoni and Inger Olsdatter Høevik. Lived in Svardal.

CHILDHOOD Lived in Svardal a few years. Went fishing in the lakes, many mountains around.

FARMING IN SVARDAL Small farms, 6-7- cows, potatoes, and barley. Enough for families to use. Caught trout and salmon in the lakes.

Fishing rights to a lake close by were sold to doctors in Bergen so they could not fish in the lake anymore.

Describes fishing in places where the fish jumped. Used a dip net to catch fish.

Moved to Eikefjord because father had to move with the fishing industry.

SCHOOL Went in Svardal. Shared a teacher with another school. Had three weeks on and three weeks off. One room schoolhouse 7-8 kids. Went until he was 15 years old.

CONFIRMATION 1916, Rowed across the lake and then walked to church. Had church once a month. Pastors rotated to 3-4 different churches.

School in Eikefjord was bigger, one teacher.

Left home when he was 16, worked on the telephone lines. Lived at the place he worked. Was a foreman for one year, 28 men under him. 1920 made 9 kroner a day. Foreman job paid 18 kroner a day.

REASON FOR LEAVING NORWAY Did not want to be in the service and it was time for him to go. It was compulsory and he did not like the idea.

Put in an application for utvandring (emigration). He had to leave before April 14, 1923 or had to go in the service. Left April 11, 1923.

TRIP Went to Bergen to Newcastle, England. Took boat here to Liverpool. Went to France and picked up more people.

Across the Atlantic got into ice and fog around Newfoundland, stayed still for eight days on the ocean. There were Russians, Germans, and French people on the boat.

BOAT 'Old tub,' not real nice, food was good. Many Scotchmen playing the bagpipes, people dancing. Took 16 days from Liverpool to St. John's in Canada.

TRAIN TRIP Problem with river washing out the railroad tracks. Had to wait a while on the train. A loaf of bread and sardines were provided for them. Train went through Montreal, Winnipeg and landed in Blaine. Went through customs with no problems.

No language problems. Could find people who would help with translations.

Took the train from Blaine to Tacoma. Arrived in Tacoma at 11pm, slept on the benches in Union Station. Met a friend who sponsored Anton. Went to work for a logging camp by Enumclaw.

Trip took 28 days from Bergen to Tacoma. Cost about 1500 kroner. 5-6 kroner to the U.S. dollar.

Worked at the logging camp for a year. Fed really well.

WORKING ON THE RAILROADS Did work with the timbers that were used to build the ties. Built track that went into the logging camps.

LEARNING LANGUAGE People were patient with him.

Worked on the 4th of July on RR and got double pay. Made good money.

Went to see his uncle in Alaska. Got a job at Vermont Marble Co. He worked in the marble quarries. This was in Tokeen, Alaska. Made \$100 a month, free room and board.

Big bunkhouse. Camp right by bunkhouses. Food was good. Had an Englishman as a cook. More meat here than Norway. Worked here until 1926.

TOOK TRIP TO NORWAY Stayed for six months. Took the Stavangerfjord. Went with a Swede. This was in 1926 so there were not many changes yet.

Attended a wedding in Norway that lasted four days. They had fourteen barrels of homebrew. Saturday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon. Wore out two pairs of shoes from dancing. Came back to the U.S. and went back to work in the marble quarry.

Used the hot springs in Alaska because he had rheumatism from wearing boots. Shut down the quarry in 1932.

FISHING IN ALASKA Worked for many small companies, one was New England Fish Co. In the winter he came down to Tacoma.

DEPRESSION IN 1933 Did herring fishing in the Aleutian Islands, had a herring gill net. Set up their own company. Shipped herring to Seattle. The Norwegian Consulate was a broker, sold fish in Seattle. Good way to make money during the Depression.

In 1940s he fished for herring for many years. Worked for Oceanic Fisheries out of Seattle.

In 1948 he built his own boat, 36 feet long, a salmon fishing boat. Fished on the Sound during the fall, Alaska in the spring. Fished for himself. Quit fishing in 1973.

Never had much difficulty in finding work. Some problem during the winter.

Stole a job at a wheat shed. Wheat came in from the Midwest to the warehouse. Unloaded boxes and stored the wheat in warehouses.

MINORITY GROUPS Not many around. Worked with other people besides Norwegians.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP September 20, 1937 got paper in Cordova, Alaska. He was a resident in Alaska. Hard winter there, nice summers. Studied for citizenship. Problems with witness. They gave the wrong information to the judge. He had confused Anton with another friend.

NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN ALASKA He was a member of the Moose Lodge for many years. Not many activities going on. Way to meet people.

There was not a Lutheran church in Alaska, more Russian Orthodox churches. Describes spending a night in one of these churches. Pictures of Russian monks.

Married in 1936, they met during a snowball fight at 13th and Market in Tacoma.

TRIPS BACK TO NORWAY 1970, 1975, and 1979. Did not know many people. New farm owners, more modern farms. Talks about the cows. Things have hanged with feeding and milking them. They drive cows hard.

Still speaks Norwegian. Speaks more Norwegian at home than English.

SPOKEN NORWEGIAN Describes why he is glad to be a Norwegian in the Norwegian language.