

00:00:00 - 03:13 Introduction, early life, education

[TAPE STARTS MID-SENTENCE] His middle initial is F., that used to teach at Pacific Lutheran University when it was Pacific Lutheran Academy back in 1911, 1912. But first of all Mr. Giere, you're from the Midwest here originally you started out here in Galesville. Can you tell us a little bit about your early life just in a few words?

I was born in [UNINTELLIGIBLE] parsonage which is near Willmar, Kandiyohi County. I was born there in 1885, the sixth of May. My father's name was Nils. That was the old synod in those days and he was there for 17 years. We moved away from there in 1899 and then he became a pastor of Randall, Minnesota. Then I went to Willmar Seminary and I graduated in 1902. I suppose you would call that a high school course, they call it an academy course, you know. And then I started to teach at a college the following year in 1903 and I was there until 1909 then I went to the University of Minnesota. I also spent a year at the theological seminary. I studied there in the daytime, that was the old Hamline Seminary in 1909.

Hans Gerhard Stub was head there and Ole Brandt was there. He was a classmate of my dad. They graduated from Luther College at the same time, 1879. So that's it.

Then you finished law school at University of Minnesota?

No, I didn't finish. I just went one to two years. I ran short of money and in those days like now you can go before the bar and take the examination, a three-day examination. I went there, I was lucky enough to pass and I got licensed to practice law so the natural thing was to go out and make some money. I should have gone there in that extra year but I couldn't afford it. So that's it.

I came out to the Pacific School there in 1911. Right out of law school. I got a call, they called there, they sent a letter when you're a teacher in those days just like a preacher. I accepted that call and I got a salary of a thousand dollars, you know. Oh boy, that was a great salary, you know, a thousand dollars. To go there cost me twenty-six dollars only to get there so that is a real deal for a fellow that was broke.

Were you married then?

No, I didn't get married til I got back here after the war, after World War 1.

03:13 - 08:39 Arrival at Pacific Lutheran

What subjects did you teach at Pacific Lutheran?

Everything. I was supposed to principal of the department of commerce, and of course law and bookkeeping and stenography I taught that that for six years here

OK we were talking about the courses of study you're teaching out there.

Of course I was the director of the band and the orchestra and the singing. I'd had that at the other

college for six years. We played, the band played on top of that big story building you know at Easter time whenever we were there.

Did you take the band around the community?

No, we didn't that year. The band had not been organized the year before. Sperati had started the band—

He started it in about 1895 didn't he?

Yeah, and it hadn't been taken care of. I taught English I remember. And also they were short a Latin teacher so I taught Latin and then I don't remember, whatever. In those days, you know, if there was a course to be offered then Hong would say, "Who'll take this?"

How many teachers were you then?

Well that, I don't – it was Miss Tenwick

She later became Miss Sovik. Her brother John married a lady who taught music there after you were there –

Mrs. Fjelde? Christensen? There was a Christensen girl there.

Yeah, there was Christensen, but that wasn't her.

Mrs. Fjelde was Preceptress of Girls and I was Dean of Men.

How many teachers were you? There weren't very many.

Well, no, and there was Xavier, and Hong, and Peterson, of course. He was a pal of mine.

How many students did you have then?

I suppose we had about 125, 30 something. Many of them were from Alaska

Yeah, you had those short course people too. Did you have anything to do with sports at all? Did they have any sports for you?

No. They just introduced basketball, and they played it outdoors. And always in the daytime, of course, you couldn't play at night.

How about that old gym behind the building? Did you have that there?

No, that wasn't there at that time.

And they built the new gym there in 1912. You were there just the one year?

Yeah, 1911.

And you said you got a thousand dollars? Did they pay you every month?

Yes, they paid every month.

You got to pay them every month?

Yeah, every month.

Where did you live? Did you live in the...

I lived upstairs, right above the entrance. I was in charge of the boys, you see, and I had to be up there.

They had the boys on one side and the girls on the other.

No, the girls were downstairs, towards the –

Were you on the third floor then?

I was right above the entrance. And I suppose there was a basement there. It might have been the second or third, but it was right above the entrance. And the church used to be across the road there.

Yeah, that's been torn down now.

Yeah, I noticed that. And I used to lead the choir in the church when Harstad was preacher there.

Well, some of the Harstad boys are around. There's one Harstad boy left in Parkland, his name is Oliver. Do you remember him?

Yes, I remember him.

He went back to Luther College in about 1912, somewhere. And his brother, Theander, did you know him?

Yes.

He's a dentist. He's 81 years old, I guess now. He lives in Milton Freewater, Oregon.

That's interesting. That was a great family. A very fine family. Bjug was a scholar, too.

We were talking about Bjug, he was quite a scholar, wasn't he? Now, he wasn't connected with the school when you were there, though, was he? He was pastor of the church.

He was pastor of the church. And he used to give talks on some religious subjects.

Did he teach some while you were there?

I think he taught religion. You see, they had to have a minister do that in those days. You know, Hong could've done it just he wasn't a minister. They felt that they should be done by a theologian so Bjug was there. And he was interested, of course, in the school. He went up to Alaska that year, too, and started a church. He went up to Tellar, you know.

He'd been up there before. He went up there when they had the gold rush in the Klondike, you know, to try to make some money for the school, but he lost everything.

Yeah, he lost everything. I owned some lots there, too, you know, next to the school at one time.

Oh, you did?

I had three lots, I remember. We had a high tax there, about \$3.70 a year. [LAUGHS]

Did you sell those quite a few years ago?

Yeah, I sold them before I left or shortly after I left.

08:39 - 17:50 Memories of Parkland, practicing law, time in Everett

What was Parkland like when you were there? Could you give us some impressions of...

Well, the streetcar went in front of the building there, about a block or two from there. There was a store there.

Kraabel Store.

Yeah, you could buy groceries. What was the end of that streetcar now? Spanaway. We used to go there very often. And I think we could make a trip for \$0.10, you know, to town. And when we got tired of the board, the board and all that, we'd go downtown, take the streetcar, and spend \$0.50 for a good meal, you know. I remember that. It was a wonderful place. I liked it there. The next year, I had to be in the state one year before I could practice, you see. And then I went to Everett.

You left the school after one year. What was your reason for leaving the school?

Well, I had to practice law some place, and I couldn't do it there.

What'd you do with your call?

That was a one-year call.

But then you wanted to – Your main aim was to become a lawyer.

I wanted to be a lawyer. That was the purpose of it. So I went to Everett, and I went into partnership with a fellow named Engeset. And he became a preacher.

Engeset, huh? What was his first name?

Andrew.

He became a Norwegian Lutheran preacher out there?

No, he joined the Synod in the south. They had a seminary in Seattle in those days. I was on the Board of Directors of that seminary when I was in Everett. I taught at Everett, and I also taught all the business and we had a band there, too.

This was at Columbia College. What years did you teach at Columbia College?

Two years, 1912 to 1914. Then I went to Centralia and stayed there until the war, until the spring of 1918.

Tell us a little bit more about, while we're in Everett, a little bit about Columbia College. What was that like? Who was in charge there then?

I can't remember.

Was Boxta there then?

No, Boxta had been there. And he was still in town. And there was another fellow there. He's dead. He just died. And there was another fellow there.

Was Nils Hageness there when you were there?

No. He came later.

But you had the band and taught music?

Yes. And Clara Bergen, I don't know whether you know, she went to St. Olaf College. She married a preacher by the name of Vatland. She was a teacher there, too. She was my cousin. And she taught Latin and...

Is she still living?

She's in a home now, in Moorhead. And Bergan was a doctor, he was her brother.

When I went to St. Olaf, there was a boy by the name of Bob Bergan, who became a doctor, and he's up in Duluth, Minnesota. Is that the same family? And so Clara would be his aunt.

That's right.

Well, that's interesting, you know. I'll have to look him up and talk to him about this. So you taught there with your cousin; she was on the faculty at the same time. How many were there on the faculty at Columbia then?

Oh, we weren't very many. The attendance, I don't think it was more than about 40 or 50. It was way down. You see, the school in Parkland and in Everett were fighting each other at those times, you know. One was a Missouri, the other was an anti-Missourian.

Which one was anti-Missourian?

Well, the United Church was the anti-Missourian, you know. That was in Everett, and the other was the old synod, the Missouri.

Well, your family was old Missouri, weren't they?

Well, my father was, but all the rest of the family were anti-Missourian. Uncle Eric, the doctor, he was an anti-Missourian. So, my mother was raised in a family that was anti-Missourian too.

That's a facet of the history of Columbia College I've never heard before, but in fact they were anti-Missourians up there.

And it's a hospital now, you know.

No, the building's torn down now.

Oh, is it?

Yeah. They've built up new buildings there, and it's called Martin Luther Child Center. There's also another building there where they have several agencies, welfare agencies, for the city to stay there, but it's run by the church, and it's called Martin Luther Center. see, they've got 35 acres up there. It's right alongside a park. But some of the land isn't being used.

No, it's pretty hilly there.

You taught full-time at the school, didn't you? Or did you teach part-time?

Just part-time.

And then with Engeset then. You practiced with him for a couple of years, and then he went into ministry, did he? Was he in the United Church?

He was in the Synod of the South, it was called in those days.

Oh, that's the old LCA.

They were the most liberal Lutherans, you know.

Yeah. They had that seminary in Seattle, folded in about 1925, '27, somewhere in there, out in Laurelhurst.

You practiced law in Everett. Was it Bethany College running then, or was it Bethany Home?

Yeah, Bethany was there, yes.

And that was another group, too, wasn't it?

Yes. I went there very often to see that. That was a wooden building, you know, all wooden... And the fellow that owned it was the father of this musician that leads the choir down there.

They've torn that building down. It's a retired old folks home, Bethany Home. It's been a home since 1930, or so. And they built several new buildings. It's a whole block, square city block, and it has room for 270 people who live there.

Sateren. His dad, the fellow that...

Oh, Sateren. He directs the Augsburg Choir.

Yeah, he's in the music business. His dad was president of school at that time.

Probably his grandfather.

Could be. This fellow was a young kid at that time. Leland Saturn. Leland is around 50, so it must be his grandfather that was president, you know. I know it was Sateren. And they, of course, were the Augsburgers.

Of course, they were different than the Missourians and anti-Missourians. They were another group.

It was wrong to be associated with those anti-Missourians. Couldn't even look at them, you know.

Unionism. You understand Norwegian? Unionism. You know, you couldn't pray in public, unless you belong to the same bunch, you know.

My father was a pastor in the Hauge Senate. He went to school up here at Redmond. He was at Redmond from 1898 to 1905.

Well, Hauges, you know, you know, I had great respect for them, you see. People came over here from Norway and they were sick of that formality of the state church. They went into Hauge and many of them started the Hauge congregations, but many went in with the Methodists, because then they didn't have to start more organizations. And they were pretty much the same at those times. They believed in lay preachers and all that stuff, you know.

Well, to get back to Everett. Now, what church did you go to when you were in Everett? Our Savior's?

I went to the Missouri synod, the Norwegian synod church. And the preacher there was Edwards.

Joseph Edwards. He was at Central Lutheran, it's called Central Lutheran now. But then the other one was Our Savior's.

Yeah, I was a member of that.

Nordgard was pastor there.

Nordgard, you know, he was a fine fellow.

Carl Nordgard, he came when you were there?

Yes.

He died a few years ago now. His son was a classmate of mine in college. And his two daughters, one daughter was in school with me and one daughter was a little bit ahead. They all live in Everett. Well, two of them live in Everett. One girl lives in Seattle.

Yeah, he was a fine fellow. I liked him.

17:50 - 22:32 Centralia, Chicago, law career, Galesville

In 1914 I went to Centralia.

And you were the judge down there?

Yeah, I was a municipal judge there for two years until the war, I was drafted. And I was too old, you know, they took the younger ones from those days.

And then your eyesight was bad too, you said?

So they suggested that if I wanted to do this work, I go into Red Cross. And they sent me to Diversion Street in Chicago. And I was there only for about four months, I guess, then the war was over. And we had a lot of fun there. I stayed at the YMCA.

You said you had the idea of going out and everybody's going to beat up on the Kaiser.

Yeah, that's what we went in, you know, to lick the Kaiser. That was to end the...

The war to end all wars.

End all wars forever, you know.

Then you said when you got down in Chicago, you found all kinds of young people, Germans hiding in attics, did you say?

Yeah, you can't blame them. They didn't like to fight their own people, relatives. And many other kids, you know, would live up in the attic. And if I could go there and get their confidence, I had the authority to say if they followed me back to the office, they'd forget everything. Everything would be eliminated and they'd start to say nothing had happened. And I got quite a few.

I mean, they've thanked me ever since for it, you know. And then many of the mamas and papas couldn't write an English letter to the soldiers that were in the service, you know. So I had to write letters for them, and I did a

lot of that. It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed it. And I stayed at the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Chicago.

Then you came up here after the war. And you came up here and set up a law practice here, or did you come back to the school?

I taught for half a year. I came in the spring and finished out.

That's Gale College that was here. That was an old Missouri school, wasn't it?

That was an old Missouri school, yeah.

You know, the old Sonoda. And of course, after the merger in 1918, well, then it was in the Lutheran Church of America. Now, how long did this college stay open?

Til '38. It was a junior college. It had an academy here, too. It stayed until '38 then it was closed.

So what is that school used for now?

It's a Marianist Novitiate. And they're going to quit. They have only four students this year. That's a one-year course and they have seven teachers and four students. They've got a beautiful building there. Thousands of dollars they've spent on it. They built a \$300,000 building. They're fine fellows. Very nice people. I'd go up there and lecture.

What do you lecture on?

On history. And coins, of course. Ancient coins, they liked to see.

Now, you set up a practice here in 1918, and you've been here conducting a practice ever since?

Ever since, yeah. I have my 50-year certificate, I think, so I'm at all of that in university. And this year, it'll be 60 years since I started, 12 and 72 years.

You passed the bar in Washington, too, didn't you?

Yes, in 1912. I got that. I have a certificate.

You know, after a bit, I'd like to take a picture of you with the state of Washington, the state of Washington Supreme Court.

Yeah, that's the federal court over there.

Now, you've been a trial lawyer? What type of law have you specialized in?

Well, I specialized mostly in commerce. And, of course, the state. And that's the most popular. And the criminal law, you know, there's no money, the criminals have no money to pay for that. So I stayed out of that. But the state, there's good money in the states. And I still practice that in Lacrosse.

22:32 - 24:30 Giere family

That says Giere?

That's my son, Ralph. He's in Minneapolis now. He's been there for two years. He's teaching in the law school there.

How old a man is he?

Well, he was born in '26.

Is he a graduate of the University of Wisconsin?

Wisconsin. And Luther College. He got the highest rating a Luther College student ever had. He had three majors.

What year did he graduate from Luther then?

I think 48 or 50. I suppose in 1950, I think. My daughter graduated 49... and Frederick, I have a son, Frederick, he graduated from there. He was a teacher at Luther for 12 years.

What's his field?

Biology.

Where does he teach now then?

Well, he's head of the department of biology at Lake Forest College. And he teaches one day in the Argonne National Laboratory, where the bomb was made. He teaches there every Friday night.

What does your daughter do?

She's a superintendent and administrator of Eitel Hospital in Minneapolis.

What is your daughter's first name?

Dorothy Root. She's married.

Is your wife still living?

No. She died five years ago. So I'm all alone.

Was she originally from here?

She taught here for eight years at college.

What was her maiden name then?

Her name was Agnes Peterson.

24:30 - 42:25 Impressions of Pacific Northwest, PLU memories

Now, we've gotten quite a bit of biography. I wonder if you could give me some of your impressions of the Pacific Northwest in the days when you lived out there?

Well, it was glorious to come out there, you see. There were so many opportunities.

Would you have stayed there if it hadn't been for the war?

I think I would. And I don't know whether I'd have been any happier there than here. I'm very happy here. I've seen this history, this town here. And I've been interested in schools. I've been president of the public school system here for several years. That's years ago. I've always been interested in education. And I've been taking

advanced courses all the time. So I like it here. I think the West had great opportunities. And it certainly showed that I suppose now your school out there is the largest in our church, isn't it?

Yes, it is.

Yeah, I would think so. You have wonderful people out there, you see. And you have them clear down to California, you know. Wonderful. That's a stretch of about fifteen, sixteen hundred miles.

Down the coast. Yeah, we were just about ready to fold in '43, '44, there. But then we came out of it. And now from the smallest school, we've become the largest.

Now, Tingelstad was a good friend of mine. And when he came back to Luther, my boys roomed at his house. They did odd jobs for him too. And when he was there, he wanted me to write a story about the school out there. And so I gave him a big folder of the newspaper – we had a little magazine published out there, you know. I edited that for the boys in the dorms there.

I sent him all that, and he was going to write a story about it. But he died, you know. That contained a lot of nice information there. And I wonder what became of that.

Well, a lot of his papers, we didn't get his papers. St. Olaf got some of them, and I don't know where the rest of them went.

You know, this was all about the Pacific College.

All those things got lost. His wife died, and we just lost a lot of these things.

Oh, that's just too bad. And that was a nice folder. I had a lot of stuff there. It had, I think I said the letter of call there, too. And then we had a stationery, the letterhead, you know, and it showed where Hong was president, and I was principal, you know.

You were principal of the school?

I was principal of the Department of Commerce, they called it. A big name, you know.

You were principal of the Department of Commerce, but you were teaching the music and everything else.

Everything else. They had to keep you busy, you know.

How many students did you have in the Department of Commerce?

Most of the school was in that department. All these fellows from Alaska were taking bookkeeping and commercial law, you know.

What was the area like around? Of course, that's quite a ways down at Tacoma and there wasn't much in the line of homes or civilization until you got down to Fern Hill, was there?

Well, there was a military station not far from there. We could walk over there. I don't remember what it was called.

Yeah, that's Fort Lewis. Camp Lewis then.

We used to go over there. And on Sundays, we'd go out and pick strawberries, I remember, wild strawberries. There were a lot of them around. And the prairies.

How about fish? Was there much fish down in Clover Creek then?

No, I can't remember anything about that. I can't remember anything.

How about the Lake Spanaway? Did you go out there quite a bit?

We went there, but we didn't go there very often. We'd go for a walk sometimes.

Would the faculty and students go together? Or would you just faculty stick together pretty much?

The students were many of them older than I was. They were mature, you know. There were very few of the younger fellows there. So you didn't have much trouble except the fellows get drunk once in a while. And of course, that was a terrible thing in those days. Or to play cards or anything. That was terrible, you know, that demoralizing.

What would you do to them?

I tried to handle it in a way. I didn't tell Hong about it because he was radical on that stuff. We got along pretty well with the boys. I told them right out. We didn't argue about whether they're good or not. You play baseball, you go by the rules. Whether you like them or not.

And here I am, they sympathized with me, and they were pretty nice, you know. They were pretty nice. I said, you're older than I am, you know more than I do about conduct, you know. We got along pretty well, sometimes you get a little snippy, you know, college and all that.

Do you remember the names of some of those students in those days? No, I suppose not.

There was a Gord. I think he became a preacher, didn't he?

Conrad Gord. No, he didn't become a preacher, he always became kind of a lay preacher, but not with a Lutheran church, he kind of strayed away.

Then Hong had a boy.

Nelson Hong, he's dead now, but Nelson was a reporter for the Tacoma News Tribune until he died. He must have died 25 years ago, something like that.

You know, Mrs. Hong couldn't talk, she couldn't talk Norwegian, you know. So a preacher came there one day, you know, and he met this here boy on the front porch there, and the preacher – they always talked Norwegian in those days – So he said to the boy, [NORWEGIAN]. And he didn't know what that meant. And then he said, [NORWEGIAN], mama, well, the kid didn't know what he had to do, Mother hates work. I'll never forget that. [laughter]

It's funny how those things, they crop up and you think of them, and I'm not saying that she was entitled to that honor, it's just a thing that the kid said. She was a fine woman. They came from Willmar, Minnesota, you know, and I knew the Honges, you know, they were a great family in Kandiyohi County.

There's one, there's a Hong daughter left out there in Parkland, and she lives in Tacoma, but she doesn't come around. There's a son, Shelton, down in Oregon. He came up when we named one of the halls there Hong Hall, but the other, the girl in town, didn't come.

Xavier got married, you know, the year I was there, he was an old man. He married a daughter of a Reverend from Hallingdal, Norway. I guess she's living yet.

Well, she died here last year. She became senile and she was a patient in the mental institution.

I understand that. The children wrote to me and told me about it.

Her sister is married to John Tenlich. Mrs. Tenlich is still living. She was my son's piano teacher here. You were talking about these people talking Norwegian. Did you teach, talk a lot of Norwegian at the school, too?

No. All those fellows from Alaska were Norwegian.

Well, did you do your teaching in Norwegian to them?

No. Teaching was all English.

But then when you get outside the classroom and speak Norwegian?

All spoke Norwegian.

When you ate the meals and when you went places hiking?

We used to give a prayer for the meal and often that was given in Norwegian. And we never thought anything about it.

You were just bilingual. In school, it was English. How about the people who couldn't speak Norwegian? How'd they get along at the school?

I don't know if they were anybody that didn't.

All the kids could speak Norwegian.

I suppose there was some. I never gave it any thought. You'd just switch on and off. Because Bjug Harstad came there. He always spoke Norwegian. I think you had to get your religion in Norwegian.

Because Harstad never spoke English, huh?

Well, he could, I mean, but he didn't. He didn't, you know.

Oh, yeah, he spoke English because I talked to him when I was younger.

Oh, he was accomplished, that man. And it was good English, too. And Latin.

Well, in Parkland, then, when you go to the store and so forth, do you speak Norwegian in the stores, too?

Yes. Everything was Norwegian around.

How about the church? All the services conducted in Norwegian?

And then in the evening, sometimes, they'd have English, and those were pretty bad.

You'd have an English service in the evening.

Occasionally, not often.

You mentioned the band. How large a band did you have?

Oh, I suppose we had, uh, probably about 32.

Did you have your own instruments, or the students had to bring their own?

Well, there was an instrument here and there, and drums and stuff. They were there. But the rest of it, the boys brought their own. There were a lot of coronets there, I remember, the old fashioned.

Did you have a choir too? Did you direct that?

Yes, they had a choir. Yes.

How many did you have in that, then?

Oh, I suppose probably 20. Five on each part.

Did you sing for the general public, or did you just sing about...

We used to play around in school and in church. In church on Sunday.

Did you have such things as artists who would come, guest musicians, come and give concerts at school?

No. Because you know, it wasn't like that. Nothing in those days, no.

How about faculty members? Do you have any musicians in the faculty who would give programs?

No. We had a piano teacher there, but she came from the town, from the city. I didn't know her very well. I mean, I met her, but I didn't...

What did you do for social life? Did you have plays, or did you have parties, or anything of that nature?

We had plays, and after one or two weeks, we had to get together with everybody.

What did you do to get together?

Oh, we'd play games, you know, or run around. Grand March.

The Grand March, we did that when I went to school there. Who would lead the Grand March?

Well, Xavier was great at that. That's one thing he loved to do. I never did it, but he was always there.

And where would you hold these?

In the basement of the building, in the dining room.

How was the food then?

Good. Good food.

Who was it cooked, do you remember?

I don't remember... There was a baby living down there.

Did you eat family style, or did you have waiters, or how did you...

No, family style. Everything was on the table. You helped yourself. Very nice. And it was cooked right there in the basement. Everything was on the table when they rang the bell to come down.

But how were the students in those days? From the standpoint of, how would you compare students then with the students, with the young people nowadays?

Well, the fellows that once came to school, they weren't sent there by their dads or mothers. No. They came there mostly, they spent their own money, and they were going to get their money's worth. They had a rule: you had to put out lights at 10 o'clock. Well, that was all foolishness. Many of those old timers, they only go there three months, and they wanted to work later. And so I told them, they were studying, to stay up as long as they wanted. They were older than I was. They knew more about health and what was good for them. And I thought that was fine. Why shouldn't they?

How about the girls? They were sent by their parents the most.

Yeah, and they were sent there to get a little trimming so that they could probably marry a preacher or somebody. You know what I mean.

Did many of the girls marry these fishermen and tell them from Alaska?

No, those fellas had their girls that were in their hometown, I guess.

They didn't do much socializing, really?

No, no, that wasn't much. But each of the fellows that were going to the seminary later on, you know, on Sunday they were interested in the arts and naturalism. And those are the same age, you know. A lot of them were 35 years old, you know.

Now you, you mentioned in one of your letters you mentioned a lady down in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Yes. Mrs. Erskine. So was she the only daughter of Peterson, who was the business manager there and teacher.

Do you have her address by any chance? I'll have to get that from you.

Yes, I think I have. She's a wonderful girl. She was just a little kid then. And I hear from her, and she's a world traveler. And her husband, you know, is the son of that famous [UNINTELLIGIBLE]. They're a wonderful family. She's a very intelligent woman, and has done a lot of writing. She was in Norway, she's been in Norway several times. I think she was there last summer. And she understands Norwegian and gets along.

How long did she live in Parkland?

I suppose they left there two years after I did. Then they moved to Portland, Oregon. Went into merchandising and died down there.

What was his first name?

Helmer Peterson. You'll find that in the book.

42:25 - 01:00:52 Hobbies

I have several hobbies.

Yeah, I'd like to hear about some of them. Professor Giere is quite a hobbyist, and he's collected versions of the Lord's Prayer and has over 350 versions that go back to the Anglo-Saxon days, bound into a publication. They're called Potter and Oster versions, and this is one of his hobbies.

Here's a list of his hobbies. From the Hobby Room of Arthur F. Giere Hobbyist and Amateur, Galesville, Wisconsin, in the subjects pertaining to the alphabetist, bibliophile, genealogist, nominologist, numismatist, pattern-oster versionist, philatelist, and philologist. So he's got some very interesting hobbies. You've got, oh, you're a stationery here, the Library of Hobbies on Windy Point.

That's my house.

You call that Windy Point?

I have a whole acre up there and a big library in the home.

Stationary and appreciative, from Arthur Giere to his 100 school teachers. Now he's got a stationery heading here, Famillion, Giere for Hollingdoll, that's Gary Elven. That means the Giere family from Hallingdal in Norway by the stream called the Giere. And they'd evidently been over there in 1969. Did you have a family reunion over there in 1969?

My son Frederick taught at the university there during a sabbatical year. He taught biology at the Oslo University.

Who's the lady there?

That's my daughter. She's in charge of Eitel hospital.

Blessings of the First Cyprus. You read Hebrew?

I started on that from a rabbi down in Lacrosse. He's now at the rabbinical school in Chicago. There were four of us. We were a Methodist minister, a Lutheran lawyer, and a rabbi, and another fellow. And we got together and we discussed things. We had a lot of fun.

Here's one: Arthur Giere, oldmaker, coin exhibitor, coffee imbiber, hobbyist. Now, you mentioned that you also do some freelance writing. What kind of writing, what do you write for? What kind of publications?

Well, I just got something from Canada today. I haven't looked at it yet. I write about two stories a week.

You write in Norwegian?

No, that's in English. I'm writing the story of the Vostas Vostanage. And here's one, it would be in the next issue.

Do you get paid for these articles that you write?

Yes.

This article appeared in the Coin Stamp Antique News, which is published up in Canada, comes out every month. And then there's another publication here called Coins. Which, Seeking and Finding Coins is an article that goes back quite a few, few years. News around the world of coins. That's a monthly magazine. So that coin collecting is quite a thing.

I've been doing that 40 years.

You still buy coins?

Buy, sell, but I, I'm not a dealer.

For your own hobby. And you exhibit them. Here's another card. Hobbyist and amateur. Now you're a philatelist, too?

I sold off all my stamps. 32,000 of them.

What role do you play here in the church and the community?

I've been president of the foundation. I've been active in the department.

Were you ever on the board of this Gale College here?

I was on the board of the college from 1918 until 1938. I was secretary.

What happened at Gale College? Did they merge with some other schools?

No, they didn't merge. They just quit. During the depression.

I remember, I know a friend that was going here, Gene Price, was going here at the time. J.C.K.'s daughter, you know. She came out of the Pacific Lutheran from here. Rolf came out, Rolf went here, he went to the Pacific Lutheran He was a schoolmate of mine. And, Linka, she came later, she was registrar out there. She's at California Lutheran now. So they all went here to Gale College at one time.

I've written over 800 stories that have been printed. And have been bound.

I'd be interested to see those. You've been on a, you say you travel quite a bit and you go out a couple times a month to get away from here. You say you're going out of Mexico City for a coin exhibit there?

A coin exhibit. Half of the time, I don't make the thing, you know, I can't get away.

You've got, you've got a lot to do here, I suppose. When you do your writing, you say you do a lot of writing.

Sundays and evenings. I'm alone at the house just now. I've got a lot of time. I've got a lot of stories. Now, for instance, in the paper I'm writing the Tritonic Bar Association.

Well, it's the Tritonic Bar History, and that's on the front page here of the Galesville Republican for Thursday March 9th, today's paper.

This will be in today's paper. They send this to me ahead of time

Well, now we want to, we see a, a lot of these, uh, things around your wall here that we'd like to, I'd like to get a shot of that one, Philip, of, of that state of Washington, Supreme Court. It shows that he's a member of the Bar of the state of Washington.

You have 47 trophies for your coin collection, huh? You get those in different places all over the United States and other parts. What countries have you gotten them from?

Canada, I got nine.

You got a lot from Canada. Well, your coins, what does your coin collection consist of, mainly?

Mostly ancient Greek, Roman, and a lot of Canadians. I have all the silver dollars from the United States, except one: '93 and it costs \$1,400. That's a good reason for not having it.

How much would you say your collection is worth?

I have no idea.

I imagine it's worth thousands of dollars. Of course, you can't put a value on these old Greek and Roman coins.

Well, you buy, suppose you pay \$1,500 for a coin, and then somebody else has a better coin, and you say, well, now let's make a deal. I'll buy that, and give you so many dollars to go with it. That's the way we do it all the time.

Where do you get your ancient coins?

We get them from Europe, from England, many of them from New York, Minneapolis. Then I have American coins, too. Here is one that I got up there. That's the first dollar we have ever used in the United States. 1732. It was a dollar, you know, Spanish dollar.

How much is one like this worth?

If it was certified, it would have been worth 900 dollars.

And these American dollars silver dollars, some of them are worth an awful lot of money, aren't they?

A lot of them are worth over 100, you know.

Do you know, uh, do you know Virgil Foss up at St. Olaf's College? He's quite a coin collector, isn't he? Does he exhibit?

No, he doesn't exhibit, but he was there.

You're director of the Citizen Bank of Trempealeau?

I've been director of this bank since 1921.

Yeah, you're a banker and a lawyer and a writer. You're all kinds of things rolled up in one. Life never gets dull, doesn't it? Now, you went to Minnesota College. Where was that? Is that in Wilmer? Or Minneapolis?

Minneapolis. That became part of the University of Minnesota. I got a master's degree there.

Have they ever written you up in the paper in Minneapolis?

I have a story there.

We're going to run you now on the Alumni Scene at Pacific Lutheran. So we'll send a copy of that to you.

Mr. Giere is on the appeal board for the draft board, the Selective Service System here. He's been on there for 15 years and he's a graduate emeritus listed from the University of Minnesota recognition and loyalty to the University for over 50 years. It was in 1912. It's 60 years since he finished there. And he's a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin. He's got citations from the Governor of the State of Wisconsin,

from the President of the United States. That's from Selective Service from the President for his work there.

And he's got one from the United States District Court. This one says United States District Court, Western District of Washington. Be it remembered that at the July term 1914 of said court, Arthur F. Giere Esquire of Centralia, Washington was on motion first made on this behalf by Andrew Engeset, Esquire. Duly admitted and qualified as attorney at law and proctor in the Admiralty of the District Court of the United States District of Washington on the 16th of November in the years of our Lord, 1914. In testimony thereof, I have here to accept my seal and fix the seal of the Court at the City of Tacoma the 16th day of November in the year of our Lord, 1914, Frank L. Crosby Clerk of the District Court and is signed by E. C. Ellington, Deputy.

And he's a member of the Order of the North Star for the State of Minnesota in their Centennial in 1958. And then here's another one over here, District Court of the United States of America Western District of Wisconsin. Last Monday he got his 50th year award from the Decorah Lodge number 177 of Galesville. This is the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin.

Now how'd you get along with the old Missourians if you joined in the Masonic Order?

No Missourians around here.

But of course you were with the Missourians or you were anti-Missourian, weren't you?

No, my father was Missourian.

Your father was Missourian but then you were you taught in anti-Missourian schools. So you could join the Masons and not have any problems there.

No, I've got all 32 degrees. Scottish rite. Shriner.

I see you got from the American University of Los Angeles, California. What did you get?

My father was a preacher there, organized a congregation.

When was that that you were there?

I don't remember.

Doctor of Jurisprudence. You got that in 1923. Your dad was a pastor down there. You just went down there to visit him for a while, was that it? Did you practice law in Los Angeles?

No, I've only practiced in Wisconsin, Minnesota.

They've got Ph.D. after your name. When did you get a Ph.D.? What year did you get that?

I got that from Minnesota. '14.

You got the Ph.D. after you were out west then.

I did the work in the evenings when I went to law school. And then I had finished up by mail.

What did you get your degree in?

In psychology and philology.

What was your thesis in?

It's on this extrasensory perception. Dr. Hudson, he wrote a book, you know.

So you wrote your thesis on extrasensory perception.

No, that's what you call it now. They didn't call it that. It was called subjective mind. We have the objective mind. Subjective mind – [TAPE ENDS]