

Helene o Frances del 1.mp3

(0:03) It is 04/04/1986, and I'm sitting together with Helen and Francis Johnson in Moline, Illinois.

(0:12) And you are what we call half Swedish and half English.

(0:20) Francis used to say, we're 50% Swedish, 50% English, but a 100% American.

(0:27) That's it.

(0:28) That's the way to know.

(0:30) Now you were born here right in this not in this house, but on this property.

(0:34) Right.

(0:34) On this property.

(0:36) But dad was carpenter, and he drew his own plans.

(0:39) When he got four children, he drew his own plans for this house.

(0:44) And and then he moved the smaller house back on the lot.

(0:48) And then later on, that was torn down.

(0:50) They they lived there while they were building this.

(0:52) Oh, so you don't remember because it was Oh, yes.

(0:55) I remember because this was built about 1915.

(0:59) '15?

(0:59) Uh-huh.

(0:59) And I was born in '22.

(1:01) Mhmm.

(1:01) So you were running around in the rafters and Oh, we climbed the roof.

(1:06) I did arithmetic sitting on the top beam of the house, and the stairway, you know, goes up from the basement to the attic.

(1:13) So that was four flights.

(1:15) And we climb up there with it all open.

(1:18) It's a wonder we didn't fall and kill ourselves.

(1:24) Well And your only brother, Clifford, he was only a few Seven years then, so he was much smaller.

(1:31) He climbed was five years and four months when he was born, and that made four children for mother.

(1:38) She didn't have the conveniences that she had later on, you know.

(1:41) It wasn't quite two years between any of us.

(1:43) So it was not easy until No.

(1:47) And yet she lived to be almost 90, and dad lived to be 91.

(1:51) Oh, I see.

(1:52) And they both worked hard all their lives and were alert.

(1:57) No smoking, no drinking.

(1:59) No.

(1:59) And our two brothers died?

(2:02) Dead, chewed snuff, but very little.

(2:05) Well, did that.

(2:06) You remember that when he used the Yes.

(2:08) Somebody at work He took it under the nose or he No.

(2:10) He chewed it.

(2:11) He put it under his tongue, I think.

(2:13) I see.

(2:14) But but he he wasn't addicted to anything.

(2:20) Mother.

(2:21) That's why we had a happy childhood until many kids don't today.

(2:26) Isn't it pitiful?

(2:28) So you remember them as good parents, Yes.

(2:31) And I remember how at Christmas one time, of course, when we believed in Santa Claus, and we were still in the old house then, and they we were going over to my uncle's in Davenport.

(2:45) This one, that was his older brother.

(2:47) Monz.

(2:47) Monce.

(2:48) Uh-huh.

(2:48) Do you call him No.

(2:49) We call him Will.

(2:50) He changed his name to William.

(2:51) Oh, William.

(2:52) I don't know why.

(2:53) I maybe that was his middle name.

(2:55) I don't know.

(2:56) Mhmm.

(2:56) But it was more American than Monce anyway.

(2:59) So you went over there to his house for For Christmas.

(3:02) Well, they came here one year and we'd go there.

(3:04) We'd alternate.

(3:05) We'd alternate Thanksgiving and alternate Christmas.

(3:08) We'd go to one house Thanksgiving, the other one Christmas.

(3:10) And William, he was married to Matilda.

(3:13) Yeah.

(3:14) She was German.

(3:15) Was German.

(3:17) Mhmm.

(3:17) But she and and and dad could talk Swedish to each other and they could understand each other.

(3:22) And and they'd tease mother sometimes because she couldn't understand.

(3:29) And mother wanted dad to teach us some Swedish.

(3:32) I've always been interested in languages and even when I was little, I learned to count in different ones and he taught me to count and things and say a few things like talk some make it and so forth.

(3:41) But he said, what does she want to learn English for?

(3:44) Swedish, you mean.

(3:45) Swedish.

(3:45) But we're in America now.

(3:48) And mother couldn't do it.

(3:49) Now we had a lot of Swedish friends whose both parents were Swedish and they learned Swedish.

(3:55) But we never did.

(3:56) But we learned we took Latin and French and German and things in Spanish and And Uncle Perry's children or is he over here someplace.

(4:05) Both Here.

(4:07) Both parents were Swedish.

(4:08) Mhmm.

(4:09) And so those children learned Swedish.

(4:11) Mhmm.

(4:11) Were they also here in the Yeah.

(4:13) Now the three boys the three boys came to this country.

(4:17) He came after dad.

(4:18) He came first and he came next and he came last.

(4:22) So And the girls stayed over there.

(4:25) This youngest one, is this Tilda.

(4:29) Well, she's yeah.

(4:31) But her name was what?

(4:32) Edith.

(4:34) Edith.

(4:34) I don't know how she got that name.

(4:36) Yeah.

(4:36) But that must have been a Swedish name, but Edith was too.

(4:40) Her name was Edith.

(4:41) And she came she was the youngest.

(4:43) Also.

(4:44) And she came over.

(4:45) And, you know, in those days, the girls took housework to learn the language and everything.

(4:51) Mhmm.

(4:52) And she worked for a wealthy family in New York.

(4:57) And they were Catholic.

(4:58) Catholic.

(4:59) And she fell in love with the son, we think.

(5:03) Of the family.

(5:04) Of the family.

(5:05) Uh-huh.

(5:06) And of course, being Catholic and and and they being wealthy and she was the servant, why nothing could come of it.

(5:12) So she joined the the Catholic church and went into a convent.

(5:18) And she was at in Spark Hill, New York at a Dominican convent.

(5:23) And we visited her several times there and took dad.

(5:26) And she visited us.

(5:27) She visited us.

(5:28) Even when she was a nun, she could come and visit her.

(5:32) But when she first started coming, she had to stay down at the cathedral, the Catholic where they had where they had the nuns.

(5:40) She could come in the day.

(5:41) We'd go down and get her and bring her up and then take her back at night.

(5:44) She couldn't sleep here.

(5:45) But then later on, when she was older, she could sleep here.

(5:49) Mhmm.

(5:50) So she was a younger girl then when she was She was the youngest of the She was the youngest, and she came when she was young.

(5:56) Uh-huh.

(5:56) And she said she wanted to come to this country, so dad sent her money to come.

(6:00) Mhmm.

(6:01) Oh, but she stayed in New York then too.

(6:03) Yeah.

(6:03) Mhmm.

(6:03) Mhmm.

(6:04) She never reached Moline?

(6:05) No.

(6:05) No.

(6:06) But she came to visit.

(6:07) To visit only.

(6:08) Mhmm.

(6:08) So we start now with Bel Air or Mons, He was born in Sweden.

(6:12) He was born 1865.

(6:13) He came first to Monin.

(6:14) Mhmm.

(6:14) No.

(6:15) To Davenport, I think.

(6:16) Davenport.

(6:17) Or Eldridge, someplace in there.

(6:19) Do you have an idea the reason why he came?

(6:23) Just to better himself.

(6:24) He thought it was big more more opportunity.

(6:26) So he came along then.

(6:27) Mhmm.

(6:28) He had no other Mhmm.

(6:29) Other people with him.

(6:31) And then he what kind of work was he doing then at first?

(6:35) And then he was doing building.

(6:36) I don't know what Well, he was a carpenter.

(6:38) He was a carpenter.

(6:39) And dad and then dad yeah.

(6:42) As Francis say, this one, Aunt Edith said that she told us that dad was the smartest one in the family and he was given scholarships to go into town in Sweden?

(6:53) To to to what would be our high school.

(6:55) Mhmm.

(6:56) In Sweden.

(6:57) Yeah.

(6:57) So when he finished that at 17, he thought he'd come to this country then and establish himself and make a name I mean, make a living.

(7:06) So he wrote to his Yeah.

(7:08) And he sent him money Put a ticket.

(7:10) Mhmm.

(7:10) And that's how he got here.

(7:12) And he worked on a farm between Monmouth and Galesburg and learned the language and studied hard and saved.

(7:20) He was very thrifty and hard working.

(7:23) And then How come he come down to Monmouth?

(7:26) Why didn't he stay up here with the I really don't know.

(7:29) He he said how many years How old was he when he came down?

(7:33) 17.

(7:33) 17?

(7:34) Uh-huh.

(7:35) And he he worked there and saved money.

(7:37) Then when he was about 21 or 22, he went back to Sweden to visit on his own.

(7:45) He'd saved plenty of money back So he saved up?

(7:47) Yeah.

(7:47) He saved money.

(7:48) Did he work for American farmers or Yeah.

(7:50) American, no Swedes?

(7:51) I don't know about that.

(7:53) Do you?

(7:54) You know this Frank Johnson that was with him, he was a Johnson too, so he probably sued.

(8:00) Well, I don't I mean, the people he worked for, I don't know.

(8:04) What year did he come over in approximately He went back in '93 because he stopped at the World's Fair in New York when he went back to visit Sweden.

(8:16) So it would be would be five years before that.

(8:20) If he came at 17, he was born in '71.

(8:24) '81.

(8:26) '89.

(8:27) '88.

(8:28) Or '88.

(8:29) It'd be '88.

(8:30) He came in.

(8:30) We have his naturalization papers.

(8:32) So he came '88?

(8:33) In '88, I guess.

(8:34) '88 then.

(8:35) Mhmm.

(8:36) At age 17, I guess, that would be.

(8:39) And do you know the parish or the place he came from in Sweden?

(8:42) Yes.

(8:43) Hesleholm.

(8:44) Hesleholm.

(8:45) Because when we were over there visiting, they took us out to the to the farm where they were raised.

(8:52) It doesn't belong to the family.

(8:53) Now this this Anna Yes.

(8:57) This woman and her husband lived in that in on that farm.

(9:03) They had seven children and they lived on that farm until I don't know when, but anyway it was sold then.

(9:11) So one of the one of the younger generations that could speak English took us out there and and we drove into the farm yard.

(9:20) I remember dad telling tales about how they had to learn the catechism on Sunday afternoon and their parents would go for a walk, and they would they would be around a big dining room table working at their catechism and and then the parents would go and they'd watch till the parents went over the hill, and then they all ran outside and played.

(9:39) And then then when it was about time for them to be coming back, they'd run-in and get out their books again.

(9:46) I saw that, and I could look out the window and I saw that hill, you know, and it was it was a wonderful experience for us to see there in 1970.

(9:56) Mhmm.

(9:57) And this woman, then then this younger one said, I'll go and knock at the door so she won't she'll wonder what this car's doing in here, and we're looking around, and and she and he told her that we were daughters of a boy a man who was raised there, and she invited us in and showed us all.

(10:13) She had a bathroom, of course, now and of course when they had lived there, they didn't have a bathroom.

(10:17) She was real proud of that, it was a real nice little house.

(10:19) And that's when I looked out the window and saw the garden, you know, the flowers and then the road going downhill.

(10:26) And then we went to the church where he was confirmed.

(10:29) And his parents are buried in the cemetery there.

(10:32) Mhmm.

(10:33) And the school too where he was.

(10:35) They don't tear things down the way we do.

(10:37) They knew additions to the school, but the addition was still there.

(10:41) And we So he took an initial of o when he came to this country and your father.

(10:47) There was one more Nelson Johnson than they're on here?

(10:50) Oh, yeah.

(10:50) There were several.

(10:51) So he took the initial o.

(10:52) Oh, because there was no o, and that's in the Well, he took that name.

(10:55) Uncommon an uncommon letter.

(10:58) Yeah.

(10:58) But they're Swedish Olaf and Oscar.

(11:00) I know.

(11:01) But then in this case, it didn't stand friendly.

(11:03) No.

(11:04) No.

(11:04) Just to That's right.

(11:05) To make sure the male Yes.

(11:07) The right property is One of our realtor here was n o w Johnson.

(11:11) Yeah.

(11:13) Uh-huh.

(11:14) He was in no insurance.

(11:16) So there was an experience for you until stand or walk in the same groin as your Yes.

(11:21) Father once said Wonderful.

(11:23) Monkeys.

(11:23) Yeah.

(11:23) So he died in '62.

(11:27) Mhmm.

(11:27) And he never got a chance to go back to Sweden at any time.

(11:30) No.

(11:30) He had wanted to go married.

(11:31) And then '93, he went back.

(11:33) No.

(11:33) Yes.

(11:34) But he wasn't married then.

(11:35) No.

(11:36) He was married in '21.

(11:38) And then he wanted to go back and we were going to take him when we were grown up, but the war interfered, you know.

(11:49) The depression came when we were able to when we were on our own earning money, why then he the depression came and then the war and it wasn't feasible to go traveling.

(12:02) And then after the after things got better again, why he was pretty old and we didn't want to be responsible for taking him.

(12:09) He was getting so hard of hearing and we thought it might be a disappointment to him.

(12:14) And and we didn't want to leave mother either because she was elderly and so we didn't we didn't he didn't get there.

(12:22) But before mother died, she said, you must go and visit your Swedish relatives.

(12:29) And so we did in 1970.

(12:31) Did you also go to England at that time to see No.

(12:33) We had been in England.

(12:35) We've been in England since.

(12:36) But it's hard to trace anything there because all their family came over here.

(12:42) She was so young that she didn't feel like going back either.

(12:46) No.

(12:46) We had an aunt though down in Monmouth that lived to be 93, and she'd tell us tales, but I don't know Mhmm.

(12:54) I don't know what Well, he wouldn't be interested on that.

(12:57) Not too much.

(12:57) No.

(12:57) He wouldn't be interested on that side because that's the English side.

(13:01) So she is but dad Is she still living?

(13:04) No.

(13:04) No.

(13:04) She died at 93.

(13:06) She was our great aunt.

(13:08) Oh, I see.

(13:09) And so when we're in our eighties, she couldn't be living yet.

(13:12) No.

(13:12) That impossible.

(13:14) Unless some people do live.

(13:16) Yeah.

(13:16) You never know.

(13:20) Bill then and then Nellis, they came to United States.

(13:23) Mhmm.

(13:23) And And that's the these are the two families we were closest to.

(13:27) I mean, this one.

(13:28) Uh-huh.

(13:28) Now these people lived in Monmouth, and we'd go and visit them.

(13:32) Per.

(13:33) Per.

(13:33) But He came after your farmer.

(13:34) He he was his name was Perry, uncle Perry.

(13:37) What was he doing down in Mammoth?

(13:38) The farmer?

(13:39) Or What was he doing?

(13:40) No.

(13:40) They lived in town.

(13:45) I don't think it was any great profession.

(13:49) No.

(13:49) I don't think he did either.

(13:51) I And how about Elna?

(13:54) Elna.

(13:55) Yeah.

(13:56) Now She stayed in Sweden.

(13:59) Did she yeah.

(14:00) She died.

(14:03) She died young.

(14:03) Nineteen fifteen.

(14:05) Uh-huh.

(14:05) She died young.

(14:06) But now where did oh, Edith was the one of her daughters that we saw there, wasn't she?

(14:11) In Sweden.

(14:12) Yeah.

(14:12) In other words, she didn't come over to United States then.

(14:15) No.

(14:15) None of the girls did except this youngest one who didn't marry.

(14:19) Mhmm.

(14:19) And the rest of them was in Sweden.

(14:20) And one of these died Maria.

(14:22) Maria.

(14:23) She was sort of an evangelist.

(14:26) Oh, I see.

(14:26) She was next to the youngest.

(14:28) I think she probably died of cancer, I don't know.

(14:31) We never knew exactly.

(14:32) But she was kind of a new preacher.

(14:37) And Anna is the one that we kept in touch with.

(14:39) Now Bertle is here someplace.

(14:43) Do they have seven kids or seven?

(14:45) Yeah.

(14:46) And maybe Bertle's in this generation.

(14:50) Now they have visited us twice.

(14:52) Yeah.

(14:52) Because And and Ellen came with them this last time.

(14:55) Oh, yes.

(14:55) Just a year ago.

(14:57) Ellen Dishman?

(14:57) Ellen and and and and Maria Marie, they never married and they were nurses in Sweden.

(15:08) And she was head of the children's ward, I believe.

(15:13) So they had taken a new name then?

(15:15) Is that Yes.

(15:16) And they they were they were supposed to be Olsen and some of them kept Olsen and some of them took Disman and I don't know where they got Disman.

(15:25) But these were all Now Joseph came came to this country too and worked in this country about five years.

(15:32) Yeah.

(15:33) During the 1930s.

(15:34) Girlfriend there in Sweden and then they never came back.

(15:37) But he came over and this one this that was working in this convent, she was teaching art and printing and things like that in the convent.

(15:45) She was kind of talented in in crafts and and and design, you know, art.

(15:50) And and he she got him.

(15:53) He wanted to come and she got him a a job in the bakery there.

(15:57) Mhmm.

(15:57) So he learned the bakery.

(15:58) And then he went back and stayed in and married his girlfriend there and and had these four children.

(16:04) We met all them and their children.

(16:06) And he, of course, could speak English then, but he hasn't used it much since.

(16:12) But since he's learned that bakery trade, he has all kinds of bakeries in that was in Katrina Home, wasn't it?

(16:20) Yeah.

(16:20) Katrina Home.

(16:22) And they he has the conditores or what do we call them?

(16:26) Yeah, conditores.

(16:27) Conditores, you call it?

(16:30) Conditores.

(16:30) Conditores.

(16:31) And they have a place for you to eat, you know.

(16:34) And then they have these big walk in freezers where they have all kinds of torts.

(16:38) And we were when we were over there in 1970, they all met, all the relatives that were there met in in Hasselholm at one of these places, Ruth Ruth and Sven.

(16:53) We met there and and some of stayed out in the yard and some in the in the house and there were 24 of us there.

(16:59) And he brought a lot of food for me.

(17:01) He brought beautiful torts, you know, for for the main meal and and and desserts and things.

(17:08) And and we had a big spread there for 24 people, and that was wonderful.

(17:12) And they took it to a smurder's bar one time.

(17:15) Well, we were there over the weekend.

(17:16) Then Joseph, he was the he had the most money because he had all these.

(17:20) You know?

(17:21) He would have sessions in hospitals.

(17:23) Yeah.

(17:23) Oh, I see.

(17:23) And he took us around and showed us all those.

(17:26) And and then he he took all he took 16 of us.

(17:31) I don't know.

(17:32) Some of them didn't wanna go.

(17:33) He was pretty old, but six three carloads went about 50 miles to a resort where they had a wonderful smorgasbord, and we did that on on Saturday.

(17:45) Yeah.

(17:46) And then and then a table of desserts beside.

(17:48) So you have the context then with the people.

(17:51) Yeah.

(17:51) And this is little When died, you see the the younger people kept on writing Christmas notes to dad after the older people died.

(18:00) And when dad died, we sent clippings from the paper and said we did not want to lose contact with our Swedish relatives.

(18:08) And so from then on, the younger generation kept on.

(18:12) So you write in English to them and they write back to you in English also all of Bertle this one, Bertle does.

(18:18) He was born in '19, what, '38.

(18:20) Yes.

(18:21) And they've been over here twice.

(18:22) They were over here in 1980 when I was still in Colorado Springs, and they did the West.

(18:27) They had friends from Sweden who were in on the West Coast too, and they wanted to see the whole West, and they were they did as much as they could in three or four weeks.

(18:36) Four weeks, I I don't know what it was.

(18:38) And they stopped in Colorado Springs, and I and stayed with me a few days, about four or five days, and I showed them all around there.

(18:46) And took them over to the top Pike's Peak.

(18:47) Yeah.

(18:48) And all that sort of thing.

(18:49) And then they came here.

(18:51) And Francis had these relatives from uncle Perry, this Estrid and Elmo, they came up.

(19:00) And I told them to come.

(19:01) I said the Swedish relatives because they never kept in touch with them.

(19:04) And I said that our Swedish relatives are coming and so you come and stay here while they are here.

(19:10) So they did and we had the most wonderful time.

(19:13) And then they got to meet all the rest of our family, see all these all these children because they had a cookout in Kathleen's and they and they got to see, you know, see their all those families.

(19:25) And oh, you spoke about the the the childhood.

(19:30) I never considered my father very sentimental, but I was thinking about things and he he was he wasn't effusive with his sentiment, but he had it because we had a a wicker baby buggy and it was in the attic.

(19:47) And, you know, originally, it had one of those parasols, you know, and you could wheel well, first they wheeled me in it.

(19:54) They'd go out every Sunday afternoon for a walk, and they'd wheel me in it.

(19:58) Then pretty soon I was a toddler and she was in the buggy.

(20:01) Pretty soon Cecil was a toddler and we were, I mean, in the buggy, and then Clifford.

(20:05) And they had five stair steps, and the oldest one when when Clifford was a baby wasn't even six yet.

(20:12) I wasn't.

(20:12) Five stair steps.

(20:13) What are you saying about?

(20:15) Four.

(20:16) Four.

(20:16) Four total.

(20:17) Yeah.

(20:18) Well, anyway, that baby buggy was in the attic, and and we decided we'd throw it out.

(20:22) And it was put out in the alley for the trash.

(20:25) And dad saw it out there, and if he didn't come bringing it in and mother said, what are you bringing?

(20:30) And he said, oh, we've healed all four children in this.

(20:34) We can't throw it away.

(20:35) And it's still in the attic?

(20:37) Is that right?

(20:39) Although it's been remodeled so it wouldn't be an antique because we remodeled it for a girl who was ill and had to have a wheelchair and and they fixed it over for him.

(20:48) So I don't think even our historical society would want it, but I thought before we throw it out, we'd find out.

(20:53) Mhmm.

(20:54) But and then another thing, he'd they'd color Easter eggs for him, and he'd do that, you know, along with mother, and he'd and then, oh, I started to tell about this Christmas, we were going over here to Davenport to my uncles.

(21:06) And and to get four children with their Christmas things in the morning and get them ready to go over there for dinner, why it was too much for mother, all these little ones.

(21:15) So so she said she asked Santa if he if he would come the night before Christmas Eve.

(21:21) And he said, yes, but he we we couldn't see him.

(21:25) Dad didn't have a Santa Claus suit, you see.

(21:28) So it was so we couldn't see him.

(21:30) But if we stay in another room, he'd come in and bring him to the Christmas tree.

(21:34) And so we stayed away and and we heard the bells jingle.

(21:38) He had some bells.

(21:39) We heard the jingle of the bells and and heard the the them let him in, and mother was with us, I guess, back there or something anyway out in the kitchen.

(21:48) They let him into the living room, and they brought all the presents down from upstairs and got it all ready.

(21:54) Then we heard the jingle bells and them bidding goodbye, then we could go in.

(21:58) Was it Christmas Eve?

(22:00) Mhmm.

(22:00) Yeah.

(22:00) Because because we were going to Davenport the next day, and it was too much trouble to get everybody ready.

(22:08) Because you know how children are.

(22:09) When they get their Christmas things, they wanna play with them and everything.

(22:13) And and he did oh, and one time before this was all built up before that one, when they bought the property, mother said it was just a a cornfield across there.

(22:22) And and there were only two houses here.

(22:24) And then there was a pasture woods.

(22:26) Dead end.

(22:26) It was all pasture land out there.

(22:28) Mhmm.

(22:28) And our house was a little unlike some of these along here.

(22:31) It was a story and a half with only two bedrooms.

(22:34) Well, after he got four children, he needed more bedrooms, you see.

(22:37) One bedroom was big and we had that for sort of a nursery for a while.

(22:41) And then when we girls got a little older, they felt they needed more room, so we did.

(22:46) But oh, when we were little, we'd we'd when we the two boys were in one double bed and we and we two girls were in another one and we'd tell we'd start stories, know, make them up and then we'd end and somebody else had to go off.

(22:59) And then the boys would play tricks on us and things, and it was Preparation for Christmas.

(23:03) Now how about the Christmas tree?

(23:05) When did dad bring the Christmas into the house?

(23:08) Well, he'd bring that in before so they could get that decorated.

(23:11) Santa Claus didn't bring that.

(23:13) No.

(23:13) How long before?

(23:14) Oh, about the day or two before.

(23:17) Because it was a real Christmas tree, it wasn't artificial in those days.

(23:20) Spruce or a fur or Mhmm.

(23:22) Was there a spruce with short needles?

(23:24) Or fur, I think, usually.

(23:25) Fur, it doesn't have prickly needles like spruce.

(23:29) The fur has softer needles.

(23:30) Uh-huh.

(23:31) Uh-huh.

(23:31) And then you had And we had candles on it.

(23:33) Live candles.

(23:34) Yes.

(23:35) The little candles candle holders clipped on and and candles, but look what a fire hazard, but nothing ever happened.

(23:41) Was the lighter than the We'd light them for Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

(23:45) Not otherwise.

(23:46) We wouldn't No.

(23:47) Well, we wouldn't leave them on if we weren't in there.

(23:49) Do you have a can of water in in the room?

(23:51) You remember that in case of fire?

(23:53) Or I don't know.

(23:54) I don't remember.

(23:55) I know later when we grew up, dad always had a can of water that he put it in.

(24:01) Uh-huh.

(24:02) And then another time, I oh, I was telling about this cornfield.

(24:06) Well, then when a few houses got here and and the paved sidewalks got in and they began building.

(24:12) There were a few houses, but from here on to that next corner, it was pretty open and

there was a pathway and we play over there and I could see dad coming.

(24:20) He rode a bicycle always to work and or walked if it were close.

(24:25) And so we saw him coming down that what is 15th Street now, and so we would run to meet him, some of us, and I think there were only about two of us, maybe the boys were playing someplace else.

(24:35) We ran down there and he was drawing pulling a beautiful bright red wagon with two little children in, and we thought that it was their wagon.

(24:43) He was just pulling him, you know, as far as he went.

(24:45) But when we got up to him, he said to him, oh, these are my children, so I guess you'll have to get out now.

(24:50) And here that was for us, and it wasn't Christmas or Easter or anybody's birthday.

(24:54) That was a big present.

(24:55) That was a big present in those days.

(24:57) Did any of you have a birthday then or No.

(24:59) It was just just in between.

(25:01) Yeah.

(25:02) And so we he he wrote he brought us home.

(25:04) So he was and then I remember when I was real little, I can remember when he'd he'd put build a box on a sled so that we could he could put little babies, you know, little children.

(25:15) And when I was just not more than three and Francis was a tiny baby, why he'd put us we bundled up weeks sitting.

(25:23) I was only twenty twenty three months younger than you.

(25:26) Yeah.

(25:26) So I was over a year old.

(25:27) He was a year she was a year old.

(25:29) He they'd mother bundle us up, you know, with scarves over our noses too, and and then he'd haul us in that sled.

(25:36) So he was really good to his children.

(25:40) Christmas presents now, what did you get now from Santa Claus, or what did you get?

(25:44) Oh, we get when we were little, we got dolls, and I was always interested in books.

(25:49) And I always wanted books even when I was pretty little.

(25:53) And so I'd get books, but I I get dolls as long as I want.

(25:56) So it was wrapped up then with the The dolls would be sitting under the tree.

(26:01) No wrapping on her own?

(26:02) No.

(26:02) Not on the dolls.

(26:03) Oh, I see.

(26:04) A lot and the the toys.

(26:05) And the boys also always wanted horses and wagons, but not sometimes they were attached, and they wouldn't want they didn't want they always told Santa Claus wanted not a horse that was attached to the wagon.

(26:16) They wanted one they could they could pull out and put in a barn Why?

(26:21) And harness it.

(26:22) They didn't want the they knew that.

(26:24) They What kind of the idea?

(26:25) I don't know.

(26:26) They always wanted horses and they wanted, you know, they had they had puzzles in the paper with seven ponies and if you drew up three lines and put each pony in a separate one, why you'd get a pony or something and mother said that's not true.

(26:40) There'll be a catch to it, you know.

(26:42) But they wanted to do that.

(26:44) Where would we keep a pony anyway?

(26:46) They brought home stray dogs, and we had rabbits once, and we had they even had a random chicken once, and I don't know.

(26:53) We had that sort of thing Rabbits.

(26:55) Out of the back.

(26:56) That was before this house was built.

(26:58) Even when they got a little older, we didn't know when we could find a dog in the basement.

(27:03) They brought home some stray dog.

(27:06) And Oh, I don't suppose you're interested in all this stuff.

(27:09) Yes.

(27:10) Yes.

(27:10) This is interesting because that gives 90 you know, how you Well, and we plan things.

(27:15) How about now Chris Christmas decorating the tree?

(27:19) Who did that?

(27:21) Your mother?

(27:22) Well, when we were little, the parents did.

(27:24) As we got a little older When you were watching watching them doing it, did dad help out to do it?

(27:28) Mhmm.

(27:29) Mhmm.

(27:29) What did they put in the tree?

(27:31) Oh, we had all kinds of ornaments, and I wish we'd saved them because they'd be antiques now.

(27:36) And then sometimes we'd make paper chains out of colored paper and trim them with that.

(27:42) And cranberries and popcorn you strung, I think.

(27:45) Told you how to do that then?

(27:46) Yes.

(27:46) Mhmm.

(27:47) So she brought what did she bring in now to the family from the English side?

(27:51) Oh, Christmas plum pudding.

(27:54) But sometimes she'd make lute fix for dad.

(27:57) You know?

(27:57) She did.

(27:58) Yeah.

(27:58) Because somebody showed her told her how to fix it, so she fixed that for him.

(28:03) And then we had always had English plum pudding.

(28:06) What did she think about that dish?

(28:08) She didn't care for it.

(28:10) She didn't care for it?

(28:10) No.

(28:11) Uh-uh.

(28:11) But she prepared it for him.

(28:12) Mhmm.

(28:13) How about you now?

(28:14) And Oh, I like anything.

(28:15) I'm I try any any nationality food.

(28:18) Your father.

(28:19) Yeah.

(28:19) When we when we travel in foreign countries, we'd always try the native food because what's the use of going someplace and then want all your American food again?

(28:28) Well, and then too, I think I inherited dad's adventurous spirit more than Francis because I want to go to University of Michigan instead of staying at Augie and finish.

(28:39) And so I taught between my second and third year of college, earned enough money for one year and then I borrowed from dad for the next year and then I paid him back because I didn't think it was fair for me to take it when he had three younger children.

(28:50) So I paid him back both without interest.

(28:53) And then and, you know, he didn't make much money because when we were looking through some of the things that were in the attic, some of his account books around '27 and '9 and '10.

(29:04) Why, he wasn't he wasn't making more than a thousand dollars a year.

(29:08) Was he a contractor that building houses?

(29:11) Well, not too much.

(29:13) He worked usually for another contractor.

(29:15) Mhmm.

(29:16) But he did draw his own plan Well, he made he did this house.

(29:19) And he did most of the work.

(29:20) The finishing because he was an excellent cabinet maker.

(29:23) Everybody wanted him to do the finishing.

(29:25) Mhmm.

(29:25) The cabinet work.

(29:27) And the but you see, they didn't they didn't go and and he paid cash for the property when he bought it because he'd saved up enough money that till he was 31, you know, when he was married.

(29:41) And they rented in Rock Island for six months.

(29:44) And then they bought this house.

(29:47) I mean, the little house that And was and then I was born here and all the rest of them too because they didn't go to hospital then to be born.

(29:56) They were in the home.

(29:57) Yeah.

(29:57) We were all born in the old midwives then coming in or No.

(30:00) We had a doctor who was a baby doctor, I well, a general family doctor.

(30:05) He did everything because Was it doctor Arp?

(30:08) No.

(30:08) And he was doctor Beale.

(30:09) Beale.

(30:10) Beale.

(30:10) But he's been gone a long time.

(30:12) I don't know.

(30:13) B e a l e, I think.

(30:14) Sounds like a German doctor.

(30:16) Mhmm.

(30:16) I don't know.

(30:17) I don't know.

(30:18) So he came to the house then?

(30:19) Yes.

(30:20) For and when we had measles and chicken pox, see, I'd go to school and get the disease and bring them home to the rest of them.

(30:26) He came a horse and buggy then?

(30:28) Then.

(30:28) Mhmm.

(30:29) I suppose.

(30:29) In early years.

(30:30) Mhmm.

(30:30) Yeah.

(30:31) Yeah.

(30:32) Because, you know, her heart This is side two, the continuation with Helen and Francis Johnson, one in Illinois.

(30:45) Side two.

(30:46) Mhmm.

(30:46) So there was a Christensen's Store store.

(30:49) And they had they and then there was a meat market.

(30:52) The the grocery stores didn't handle meat then.

(30:55) And and they delivered in a man would come around.

(30:59) We didn't have a telephone then.

(31:00) They'd come around once a week and take orders, and then they deliver it.

(31:07) And and they they knew their families, you know.

(31:11) And and you you they would tell them if if some if mother wanted something, well, that isn't very good today, but we have something else that's good in fresh vegetables, you know.

(31:20) And they were always honest and and told her even over the you know, when you ordered like that what what was the best so you didn't have to go.

(31:28) And then we go and then we children would go up and get little things in between that she wanted.

(31:32) Well, we charge it.

(31:33) And then on Saturday night, dad would go and pay the bill, and they'd always give you a bag of candy when you paid the bill.

(31:39) Every week the bill was paid on.

(31:41) Yeah.

(31:42) Mhmm.

(31:42) Well, in the winter, like in those days, you see, lots of times carpenters didn't work in the winter because they didn't have inside work.

(31:50) They couldn't work outside.

(31:52) And so then he wouldn't be working and and he might run the bill for several weeks.

(31:58) But they trusted him, you know, and then he'd then they'd pay.

(32:02) And and all we always thought that bag of candy that he gave him when he paid the bill was wonderful, you know.

(32:09) And then they went to them we'd go to the meat market, and in those days, mother said, when they were first married without any children, she could get a little roast for 25¢ that would do them for two meals.

(32:20) Imagine.

(32:21) And I remember going to the store for 25¢ worth of steak for our family of six.

(32:27) Did you have any So you see, even even a thousand dollars a year would go a lot farther, and he owned his own property, And he had a big garden and mother would can, not freeze in those days, but can.

(32:41) And so they they they worked hard and and they had a good life, and we didn't have to have entertainment because the neighbors would get together in the evenings and the children would play and the and the adults would And dad had a pool table.

(32:55) They put it up here in the dining room.

(32:58) All the men from the neighborhood then would play pool.

(33:01) We'd probably sit underneath and hear and hear the balls going up.

(33:05) See.

(33:05) Children like the crew table then.

(33:07) Yeah.

(33:07) Mhmm.

(33:08) Wasn't it kind of unusual or or Well, as I say, he was thrifty and he saved and and thing and he got this Uh-huh.

(33:15) And it provided entertainment for all the Do you think there was an English idea from your mother's side?

(33:20) I mean, there are no I don't know.

(33:22) I don't know.

(33:23) No?

(33:23) I don't know.

(33:25) How about other families do you go into?

(33:26) Did they also have food tables?

(33:28) No.

(33:28) No, they came here.

(33:29) I see.

(33:30) Uh-huh.

(33:30) So there was a gathering place there.

(33:32) And I know we girls learned to dance.

(33:35) We didn't have wall to wall carpeting then, and we could roll up the rugs and see this and this these were wax floors, and we had Victrola and some of our older friends who were two or three years older and had learned to dance had came here and they taught us to dance, and so we could dance at So your parents danced to them?

(33:53) No.

(33:54) Mother danced, but dad didn't.

(33:55) He didn't?

(33:56) And no.

(33:56) When they were dating down near Monmouth, you know, they'd go to these country dances and dad would take mother and sit on the side he never danced.

(34:04) He'd sit on the sidelines and watch her dance with the other fellows.

(34:07) He took a lot of chances then.

(34:09) You have to tell me now what happened in the church.

(34:12) Oh, Man would Yes.

(34:14) Take her.

(34:15) He wanted to marry her when they were 22 and 27.

(34:19) He was still living down in In Manma.

(34:21) Manma.

(34:21) Mhmm.

(34:21) And she was also down there.

(34:23) Yes.

(34:24) And she thought she was in love with another man.

(34:29) He was a handsome, you know, dashing person, but then she found out that he liked to gamble too much.

(34:36) Your father?

(34:37) No.

(34:37) Oh, other The other man.

(34:39) And so anyway, when when she refused him, he came up and worked with his uncle or his brother.

(34:45) In Davenport.

(34:46) Our our uncle in Davenport.

(34:48) And but he took them on the paper to see if she ever married the other guy, and he never found that she did.

(34:55) So then then he began after about three years corresponding and and and pursuing her again.

(35:03) Well, then then at Christmas time, he gave her a beautiful watch.

(35:09) It's just beautiful.

(35:10) We have it too.

(35:10) Well, he's not interested in seeing that, but it is beautiful.

(35:14) And and her foster mother said to to to another man that she wanted him to marry because he was quite wealthy.

(35:22) He had a lot of farmland, but mother didn't like him.

(35:26) He was quite a bit older and he was, you know, not the type she liked.

(35:30) And so she said to this man, I've heard all this through other, you know.

(35:38) Her mother.

(35:38) Her her foster mother said to this other man, well, I guess it's no use, she said, because she wouldn't accept a valuable gift like that if she wasn't serious.

(35:49) So they were married the next April.

(35:53) So there was a And then they came up to Rock Island and boarded and roomed and boarded for a couple of weeks till the house next there was was vacant, and then they rented that for for six months.

(36:06) And then this house was up for an auction.

(36:09) Not this house, but I mean, know, the property.

(36:11) The property.

(36:13) And so he he got that real reasonable, think for around \$700 then.

(36:20) But it was Owen needed a lot of repair, you know, but he could do it and and because he learned the carpenter trade.

(36:25) So she came up then from Monmouth?

(36:27) Yeah.

(36:27) They came they were married in Monmouth.

(36:30) By whom?

(36:32) What I don't know.

(36:33) They were married at at Perry's house.

(36:36) They were married at his brother's house.

(36:38) By a minister?

(36:39) By a minister.

(36:41) From what church then, the denomination, or did he belong to a church down there?

(36:44) Well, now mother mother's family was Episcopalian in England, and then when she was adopted down there, I think she was a Baptist because she had to be immersed in a stream and a lot of people got cold.

(36:58) It was winter and caught some of them caught cold.

(37:02) But that was that was baptism.

(37:04) And dad was confirmed in the Lutheran Church in England.

(37:07) Then when they when they moved here in Sweden.

(37:10) When they moved here, why the Methodist it was called the second Methodist then, it became the Wesley Methodist later.

(37:17) It was a little frame church up on 23rd And 4th Avenue.

(37:21) And we didn't, of course, have a car then or a horse and buggy or anything.

(37:24) By the way, when dad was courting mother, why he had a buggy and a horse.

(37:29) To go down to Monmouth with?

(37:31) That's when were courting down in Monmouth.

(37:34) But when he was in Davenport, there was long lapse of time before he could see each other.

(37:38) Yeah.

(37:38) It was only through the paper you knew what happened.

(37:40) Yeah.

(37:40) Mhmm.

(37:41) But it didn't happen.

(37:42) About four years.

(37:44) It is a long time, though, I mean, to work Well, for maybe three years till they started corresponding again.

(37:49) So there was no way you could take the train down once in a while.

(37:52) Yeah.

(37:53) Because I know we went down to see our grandparents, our foster grandparents down there by train once when I was just real little, and I had a wild imagination.

(38:02) And and it wound around and around and around, and I thought, oh, I thought the I didn't know the world was so big.

(38:11) And when people said it was round, I thought it was round like a ball and half of it filled in with earth, and then the sky was the dome out.

(38:19) Well, there were always trees on the horizon.

(38:21) I wanted to go and touch it, but I thought God planted all those trees and bushes so you couldn't get through to touch the sky.

(38:27) So I thought that train just wound around to make you think you were going a long distance.

(38:32) Because I would hear a train whistle sometime out here when there wasn't so much

other traffic and things you could hear it.

(38:38) And I thought that train is going to Monmouth and it's just winding around to make you think you're going farther.

(38:44) And you don't remember that train.

(38:46) I don't remember as much as she does.

(38:48) Of course, she was smarter than I was.

(38:50) She was a valedictorian of her high school class and I was She picked up everything.

(38:53) And these kids are all smart.

(38:55) All our grandchildren are smart.

(38:57) But now your dad decorated your mother-in-law with the horse and buggy.

(39:01) Mhmm.

(39:01) And he'd shine that buggy just the way the young people shine their cars today.

(39:05) And he had a big bear lap robe.

(39:09) I still remember that.

(39:11) And he told me one time, he said, well, a horse was much better than than going in a car.

(39:17) Because he said he said, you could have your arm around the girl and the and the horse would know the way home.

(39:25) He preferred that way.

(39:27) And dad had a subtle wit.

(39:29) He never laughed at his own jokes, but he always had a comeback, you know, and everybody liked that in it.

(39:34) Is he so kind of inherited?

(39:35) Yeah.

(39:35) He did.

(39:36) Uh-huh.

(39:38) And So your mother's parents now it was a stepfather and stepmother.

(39:44) Yeah.

(39:45) Because her father died in India.

(39:47) India.

(39:47) Her mother railroad.

(39:49) Uh-huh.

(39:49) When it And he was sent from England then to an engineer down there.

(39:53) Yeah.

(39:54) And he couldn't stand the climate.

(39:56) And we have those letters that And he was was only 41 when he died down there.

(40:00) I don't know how old he was.

(40:02) His isn't down here, you see.

(40:04) That's our English side.

(40:06) But he went there.

(40:08) I think the letters are dated about '78 or eighty something.

(40:12) And he died of some stroke.

(40:13) Yeah.

(40:14) Mhmm.

(40:14) He's buried in someplace near Bombay.

(40:17) So she came then to And then she came two years later to Monmouth with her my mother was seven, and she came with her mother and her grandmother.

(40:26) Her grandmother's husband also had died.

(40:29) And they had two sisters in Monmouth, and they thought that she could come here because my mother was very clever I mean, my mother's mother was clever at sewing and thought she could make a living because they always hired dressmakers to come every spring to make their outfit, you know, in those days.

(40:44) So And she inherited that.

(40:47) Well Well, see so.

(40:48) They stayed down there in your mother's family.

(40:50) Stayed in Monmouth?

(40:51) Yes.

(40:51) Uh-huh.

(40:52) Uh-huh.

(40:52) Until they died.

(40:53) And one of them from England was the Lord Mayor of what?

(40:57) Chatham?

(40:58) Or something like that.

(41:00) Anyway, that was a suburb of London.

(41:02) I don't know if that that was where she was born.

(41:04) And they were coming over here one time.

(41:06) Oh, you're not interested in the English side.

(41:08) Well, but it's interesting to see what happened And and she she thought since they were kinda uppity up, you know, that she wanted her husband to rent a big a bigger house and have some servants when they were here.

(41:21) He said, if they can't take what we have, they can just stay in England.

(41:25) And so then she told about how the they had a 17 year old boy, and there was a parents and the 17 year old boy.

(41:33) And he put his shoes outside his bedroom door at night.

(41:37) And in the morning they weren't polished.

(41:39) By that time, the mother was reconciled to not trying to put on the dog, and she said, if you want them shined, you'll have to shine them yourself.

(41:50) Different ideas.

(41:51) Mhmm.

(41:52) But if we go back now to the marriage revolves between your father and mother Mhmm.

(41:57) There was a Methodist minister and a married them, you think?

(42:01) Or who was it in honor?

(42:02) It might have been a Baptist.

(42:04) I really don't know.

(42:06) So when it came up here Then here, the reason we're Methodist is because, as I said, we didn't have a hardly anybody had cars then, and and and we didn't have a horse and buggy.

(42:15) Why?

(42:16) It was the closest one to walk to.

(42:18) So that's why we're Methodist.

(42:19) It was up on 24th?

(42:20) Yeah.

(42:21) It was only about three blocks from here.

(42:23) Four blocks.

(42:24) Just a block Mhmm.

(42:25) From here.

(42:26) So they was even closer.

(42:27) So you went to Sunday school there and and confirmed also that church.

(42:31) Mhmm.

(42:32) Were they religious, your parents?

(42:35) Well, dad wasn't outwardly religious, but he knew the Bible because they had to study it when he was young.

(42:42) He knew more about the Bible than some of the people that are so religious today.

(42:46) Despite horsing around them when the parents left, they still had the carriage.

(42:49) Yeah.

(42:50) We still had his his Swedish Bible.

(42:53) And Did he read all of it for you?

(42:55) Or He did.

(42:56) And then he then he'd get even the English bible out and read.

(43:00) Mhmm.

(43:01) But when he read the Swedish bible, you couldn't understand Oh, no.

(43:04) Oh, he didn't read to us in Swedish.

(43:05) No.

(43:06) No.

(43:06) He said that mother when mother wanted to him to teach us Swedish, she said, what do they want to learn Swedish for?

(43:13) When they went to your parents now, your mother took care of that because she knew the language, of course, much better.

(43:18) And so she had like your dad now?

(43:23) Did he have any trouble with the English?

(43:25) No.

(43:26) No.

(43:26) He spoke with a little accent, but I never noticed that when he got older.

(43:30) I didn't notice Uh-uh.

(43:34) Much of an accent at all.

(43:37) But So he was young enough then.

(43:40) And mother didn't have so much education, but because she was raised on the farm of these foster parents, and she she went through the eighth grade and wanted so badly to go into high school.

(43:51) And they wouldn't let the the mother wouldn't let her.

(43:54) I think she just adopted her, thought she'd be somebody to work for, you know.

(43:58) But the father would have.

(44:00) And but the mother was kind of jealous of the father paying attention to the dog to the foster daughter, I think.

(44:06) That's what mother thinks.

(44:07) Because she wasn't as kind as the oh, she was kind in some ways.

(44:11) But anyway, she didn't want and she wanted music lessons so badly.

(44:15) And they had an organ, and so she played by ear, but they didn't give her music lessons, and they could have afforded it.

(44:21) But she even played in the church.

(44:23) By ear.

(44:24) The organist didn't come and so she'd play the the hymns by ear for them.

(44:30) You mean up here in the No, down in Monmouth when she was a girl, when she was growing up.

(44:35) I mean, you know, teenagers or in her twenties.

(44:37) And then I know dad got a piano for her when I was about three years old, and that's why he built that narrow window up there for the piano to go under.

(44:47) That grand piano now is mine.

(44:50) And she would play that and play old hymns and and other songs, you know, old time songs.

(44:58) And I can remember as children how we you know, in the twilight, maybe she'd be playing that and we'd sing.

(45:04) So she was interested.

(45:06) So then yeah.

(45:06) But she was interested in in in giving the children an education, you see.

(45:12) And and so I started taking lessons when I was about five on the piano from a cousin from another cousin of dad's in Davenport.

(45:21) Swedish.

(45:21) And they were Swedish too.

(45:22) And she was musical and came over here to a music school one day a week to take advanced lessons, and also she'd teach me then because she'd eat lunch here and would teach me when I was home from kindergarten at noon.

(45:37) And then when I was seven, I began taking regular lessons then.

(45:42) But as I say, they didn't go and squander their money, and if they didn't have the money, they didn't buy it.

(45:50) Where today they buy it and go into debt.

(45:52) When did he buy his first car, your dad?

(45:55) 1923.

(45:56) 1923.

(45:57) Mhmm.

(45:57) Before that you took there was no street car going on No.

(46:00) The other And Uncle Will would come over.

(46:02) They they only had the one girl and he Two had street cars?

(46:04) Yeah.

(46:05) And we'd have to take four street cars to get over because they lived up near what's Vanderveer Park?

(46:10) That's Central Park, isn't it now?

(46:12) They lived up in that area and had a nice house.

(46:14) And he'd come over and get and dad would ride his they had first a little a little car that they had they could sit in the front and then the daughter could sit in the back, something like a rumble seat.

(46:26) Do you remember that?

(46:27) Mhmm.

(46:27) So Francis and I would sit in that seat and mother and uncle Will would drive and mother would sit here.

(46:32) One boy would sit between them, and the youngest would sit on a little stool at their feet, and dad would ride his bicycle over there.

(46:39) Because mother and I got seas sick car sick on the streetcars.

(46:44) And one time when we short shrimps?

(46:46) Yeah.

(46:47) Because we had to take four different streetcars.

(46:50) One down the hill here, one over to Rock Island, one across the bridge, and one up the hill there to their house.

(46:57) And and if excursion before.

(46:58) If we made four kids.

(47:00) Yeah.

(47:01) And and if that's why she didn't want to that's why she wanted Santa Claus that time to come in the evening.

(47:08) She had too much to do Sunday morning.

(47:11) And then So they was nervous then to to go, like, four stops there and change Yeah.

(47:18) Some And if you didn't have enough time between I mean, if the if the car you transferred to came pretty quickly, you didn't have time to get enough fresh air in your lungs.

(47:27) And so one time we were coming back and about 1st Street Moline, I said to mother, I've got to get off.

(47:34) I could feel it coming, you know, nausea.

(47:37) And so she said, well, dad, you take the rest of the children on and I'll get off of Helen and and we'll walk up walk clear from there about 4th Street, I think it was clear up to 15th Street to get the bus or the streetcar.

(47:51) And so we walked, I heaved up, and she she was glad because she was getting sick too.

(47:55) So we walked all that distance.

(47:57) Why was that?

(47:58) Do think it was the shaking and Yeah.

(48:00) She had her swing.

(48:02) I never could even swing.

(48:03) Uh-uh.

(48:04) I couldn't and I'd see all of the children and the parents at Sunday school picnics.

(48:07) They'd be swinging neighborhood picnics.

(48:09) You know, they'd been swinging Martha Park, and here I'd have to sit there and watch them when all the fathers would be swinging the children.

(48:16) But now it doesn't affect you?

(48:18) Affects you.

(48:18) Oh yes.

(48:19) I can't even bend over and wash my hair.

(48:21) Have to wash it under a shower.

(48:23) Do you remember when you take going to Colorado Springs for instance and going to Sweden?

(48:28) I never have gotten plane sick.

(48:30) No?

(48:30) No.

(48:31) And and not sick on a bus, sir.

(48:33) I did get sick in an automobile one time when we were going up the coast in California.

(48:37) And you know, wonder why.

(48:38) And we and I said, I wanna stay near the ocean, and it went like this and like this, you know.

(48:42) And finally, I said, oh, let me out.

(48:45) If I I'm better if I sit in the back seat.

(48:47) No, the front seat on Front seat.

(48:49) If I'm driving, it isn't so bad.

(48:51) I see.

(48:52) Mhmm.

(48:53) So and they also affected your mother a little bit then with the street car.

(48:56) Oh, yeah.

(48:56) Mhmm.

(48:57) And she was alright.

(48:58) Mhmm.

(48:58) She doesn't know what to talk about.

(49:00) She's tough.

(49:02) So the streetcar actually went up to 23rd Avenue then at that time when you It went clear out to Prospect Park.

(49:08) You know where that is.

(49:09) That's about six more blocks out there.

(49:13) And so you could go, well from 23rd to 29th or thirtieth or sometime, anyway it's about maybe seven or eight blocks.

(49:20) And all this was woods back in there where all these new houses are, you know.

(49:27) Across there and back and back where the ravines are.

(49:31) And we go out there and pick wildflowers, you know, and we had we had open space, you know.

(49:39) We didn't feel cluttered up like the kids did.

(49:41) Did you have chickens?

(49:43) Mm-mm.

(49:44) No?

(49:44) Mm-mm.

(49:45) Just rabbits.

(49:46) Rabbits.

(49:47) Well, that was because this this uncle gave them a white rabbit for Easter once, and then he had a chance to get a black one that was beautiful fur, so we gave him that.

(49:56) And so we had them for a while, but they didn't they were both females, but the white one had some had a litter and dad wondered how that was.

(50:06) So Cecil, this brother said, well, Amol, they had they were Belgians and they had rabbits that they raised to eat, I think.

(50:17) And he said Emil said, if we take our rabbit over and put it in their pen, maybe we'd get some little ones.

(50:23) So that's how we got our loans.

(50:27) Oh, dear.

(50:28) Well, they let us have those things.

(50:31) And as I say, dad did a lot of gardening, and mother did a lot of canning.

(50:35) We had cherry trees, and later on we had some apple trees and And plum tree.

(50:39) Mhmm.

(50:40) We had buds.

(50:41) And then we had pear trees.

(50:43) Those were later on as we grew a little older.

(50:45) But when we were little, we had cherries.

(50:46) Were mostly Swedish families around here then at that time?

(50:50) Not entirely.

(50:52) Mm-mm.

(50:52) I don't know what Ballards were and Thompsons.

(50:56) Thompsons were English.

(50:57) Yeah.

(50:58) Because she was a Trevor.

(51:00) They were English.

(51:01) And Trevor's English, remember.

(51:03) And Ballards, I don't know what they were.

(51:05) But they were the closest families to us.

(51:07) So you were close together as you come over These three families were course close.

(51:11) And they had two boys.

(51:12) They were older a little older than we were, and the others had three boys, and they were a little older.

(51:18) But they so I grew up a tomboy.

(51:22) They taught me how to spin tops and play marbles and fly kites because because I didn't have any little girls to play.

(51:28) Now a roly bolly with the Belgians?

(51:31) Roly bolly.

(51:32) Oh, polly.

(51:33) Don't know that.

(51:34) Roly bolly.

(51:34) The Belgians play that No.

(51:36) They throw ball, like a bowling.

(51:38) So bowling?

(51:39) Yeah.

(51:39) It's like bowling.

(51:40) Oh.

(51:40) I Have you never seen that?

(51:42) But they were the villagers too.

(51:44) Yeah.

(51:45) Because the Swedes never caught on to that, but the the villagers have that.

(51:48) Oh.

(51:48) And you never heard of that then in your neighborhood.

(51:50) You just see the other kids playing?

(51:52) Uh-uh.

(51:53) How about No.

(51:54) We played.

(51:54) Pigeons, though.

(51:55) We did they have pigeons?

(51:57) I don't remember any pigeons either.

(52:00) No?

(52:00) But we would the games we played see, we play in the street because this was a dead end, and there was no traffic down here.

(52:08) And there was no paved street then?

(52:09) There was no gravel.

(52:10) And then the first paved street came up 15th as far as 23rd Avenue.

(52:15) And I remember the fire trucks would practice coming up there and back, and we'd run to look at that.

(52:20) I remember one day we were ready to go to Sunday school, and we had embroidered dresses, you know, with this island embroidery.

(52:26) I always had blue sash, I think, and you had pink sash and and hair ribbon in those days.

(52:32) And then we heard, no.

(52:34) That was a runaway horse, we somebody said.

(52:36) And we ran out and I tore we had a fence in front, and then there was a gate and I tore that island embroidery on the leash.

(52:42) And we were all ready to go, and mother had to mend it because we were in the program over at Sunday school.

(52:49) But anyway So we were typical kids.

(52:52) We didn't watch television, which was better.

(52:54) We play out of doors, and we play 10 step in the street.

(52:58) And somebody would we call +1 (234) 567-8910 and turn around, and you could run as far as you could, but you had to so if they saw you move after they turned around, you had to go to band at back of the end of the line again.

(53:10) And the first one up there could be the one who called the next time, and then we'd play hide and seek, and I don't know, all kinds of games.

(53:17) We'd make up our own games, and then we'd sit on the porch steps when it got dark and and Tell stories.

(53:24) Tell and tell jokes and things.

(53:27) And that was a lot healthier than 14 children.

(53:30) About fifteen, twenty in this neighborhood?

(53:32) Well, in this immediate family, they lived there the longest and were and and grew we grew up together.

(53:37) That would be five boys and four.

(53:39) That would be nine.

(53:39) Or nine.

(53:40) That would be nine.

(53:41) Well, then sometimes there were sometimes there were children next door, and sometimes there were children next to that.

(53:47) Oh, you never played to them?

(53:48) Well Yeah.

(53:49) That Yeah.

(53:49) We played once.

(53:50) Elizabeth Elizabeth.

(53:50) Yeah.

(53:51) She was a Belgian.

(53:52) Uh-huh.

(53:53) And she she came along a little bit later because I remember when they came here.

(53:56) About Cecil's age.

(53:57) Mhmm.

(53:58) Oh, you didn't go too far away then to seek your friends?

(54:00) No, no.

(54:01) No, were right here.

(54:03) Then when we got in school, then of course we got friends a little farther away.

(54:07) And But then you were all the playing games, so to speak, and we grew up in high school.

(54:12) Oh, yeah.

(54:13) In high school we didn't do We that had good friends all over town.

(54:16) But one of the the middle boy in the last house down there was so nice to me, and he must have been about almost seven years older than I because Merritt was five years old.

(54:27) And and and he would, you know, seven years older for a little Todd, why?

(54:32) He would he would I would run to meet him and he would take me.

(54:36) I always wanted to fly, and I had dreams that I could just float around the top of the trees, and it was such so much that when I went to sleep I thought I'll try to think of that so I can dream it again, and I succeeded sometimes.

(54:48) So he would hold me by the hand and run, and of course being little, he would practically pull me off my feet and I would go for a long way, you know, swinging through the

air, and I called it the high run.

(54:58) So I'd run and say, oh, Alan, give me the high run, you know.

(55:01) So he'd do that all the way home.

(55:04) What was she thinking then?

(55:06) Don't know what she did.

(55:08) Two steps behind.

(55:09) But I remember when Elizabeth Delavier became your good friend, I was going to show you.

(55:14) We had an outhouse then back at the alley and a coal shed.

(55:18) And then we had raspberry bushes and things along the side, and then between the fence and the raspberry bushes would be a little path.

(55:27) Dad would cut the weeds there, but there'd be little stubbles, you know, coming up.

(55:31) And so one time we were coming up because the lot's kind of long, and I said, I know a new way up to the house.

(55:37) And so I let her on that pathway between the bushes and the fence, and she tripped over some of this stubble and ran the stubble right through her hand and it stuck out here.

(55:47) Can you see the scar?

(55:49) Yes.

(55:49) I think that's it.

(55:50) So then then then they had to call a doctor and he came to the house.

(55:56) We didn't go to emergency in a hospital in those days.

(55:59) He came to the house, I suppose the same one that delivered us, and stretched her out on the kitchen table and operated and took that out and gave her an anesthetic.

(56:09) All here by himself You without a don't remember that?

(56:14) Oh yeah.

(56:14) I remember that.

(56:15) You didn't piss off when the doctor was doing it or Didn't he give you an anesthetic?

(56:19) Suppose he gave you an anesthetic.

(56:20) But I remember Elizabeth Elliver that she said was Belgian that lives next door for a while.

(56:26) Or no, they lived the second house then, and then they bought the next one to us, but they were renting that one first.

(56:31) And she had an older brother, and they had just moved in.

(56:34) And I can remember so well, they came down, you see, they saw the doctor and they saw the lights and the doctor come in with his bag and the kitchen door it was summer and the kitchen door was open, she could look right in and see her on the Operating Room, the doctor, you know.

(56:51) I can remember that so well, because that was something.

(56:55) Then when they Could got that you be with the doctor then and see what he was doing?

(56:59) No, I didn't.

(57:00) I was, I guess, outside.

(57:01) Uh-huh.

(57:02) Cause I was responsible.

(57:03) I caused it.

(57:05) Then You were hiding somewhere in the back gate.

(57:07) Yeah, I don't know.

(57:08) But then Clifford Clifford, the youngest one fell on that we had that piano box that the upright piano came in.

(57:14) They fixed that for a playhouse for us and it was out here and the top part came down because we were little we could get under anyway.

(57:21) And and so we would Clifford was playing up there once and and fell and hit his forehead on the on the edge down below and he had to have the doctor come and take stitches in him above his eye.

(57:36) So under we all lived.

(57:38) Yeah.

(57:38) But that's the way the doctors all came to the house in those days.

(57:42) But you didn't have a doctor's visit.

(57:44) You have to do this Alan's high flight.

(57:45) I mean, you always came down on the Oh, tried to fly on my own.

(57:49) I but I tried on the on the coal shed because it wasn't too high.

(57:53) I could jump down.

(57:54) And I tried flapping my arms as fast as I could but I didn't, so I was afraid to try it from the house.

(58:01) Oh, I could tell you lots of things but I won't.

(58:05) Why was it like these things?

(58:06) Somebody gave you this idea or you got them in your own head?

(58:09) In other words, you fabricated Oh, yeah.

(58:12) Yeah.

(58:13) I didn't know about Leonardo da Vinci putting his contraption then.

(58:17) No.

(58:19) I was gonna walk on the water too.

(58:24) Oh, you tried it?

(58:25) But I tried it in the bathtub and it didn't work, so I was afraid to go out to the river.

(58:31) Well, how about fishing in the Rock River and this Oh, Cecil was the one that liked to fish, this boy.

(58:36) He'd go out there and fish.

(58:41) But you didn't go with him?

(58:42) No.

(58:43) No.

(58:43) He didn't want any girls with him to be responsible for was a very No.

(58:48) That was when we were grown more grown teenagers, you know.

(58:52) So Jonas didn't fish down in those days?

(58:54) I mean, take a poll with Arnold Fisher.

(58:56) Well, I don't know.

(58:57) He he went with some other friends.

(58:59) I didn't we didn't go.

(59:01) By that time, they didn't want any sisters tagging along.

(59:04) But They were particular.

(59:09) And we had our own girlfriends by that time, and we'd go hiking and doing things.

(59:15) Mhmm.

(59:15) How were the Belgian families?

(59:17) Were they you played the same game as they did?

(59:19) The Belgian?

(59:20) Yeah.

(59:20) Yeah.

(59:21) They played what we played because we were in the majority, I guess.

(59:24) With these three families, they'd be in the minority with just two of them.

(59:28) Uh-huh.

(59:29) Then when you came into high school and started to date date boys Mhmm.

(59:35) Did you bring home anybody that the model didn't approve of or your dad?

(59:39) No.

(59:40) I was too particular.

(59:41) Too particular?

(59:44) I guess Francis Francis had one that would cover.

(59:48) What was it he played?

(59:49) Work on a crossword or puzzle cross Oh, yeah.

(59:51) Mom mom would have a jigsaw puzzle.

(59:55) Oh, yeah.

(59:56) Jigsaw.

(59:56) Thing.

(59:57) And let me come home from a date, my he would work all that a while.

(1:00:03) And you brought a date in then?

(1:00:05) Oh.

(1:00:10) Oh, we had a good time anyway.

(1:00:13) That's the main thing.

(1:00:14) Uh-huh.

(1:00:15) And Helen, her love for mountains, she lived in Colorado Springs so many years.

(1:00:19) Her love for mountains, you better tell them.

(1:00:22) Yes.

(1:00:23) I want that the Bible she took the Bible literally with that.

(1:00:26) Oh, no.

(1:00:28) That was when I was little.

(1:00:29) I wanted to see a mountain, you know.

(1:00:31) So I prayed and I said I had faith, you know, because you learned that if you have a faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can move mountains.

(1:00:36) So I was gonna try that one out, and I prayed for my a mountain to be in our front yard when I woke up in the morning.

(1:00:42) I ran to a window and no mountain.

(1:00:44) And I and and then when when Jesus said to Peter about walking on the water, you

know, he didn't have enough faith, I'd say, I have faith and I have faith, and I put my foot in the bathtub and it went clear down to the bottom.

(1:00:56) And then finally I thought, I'm I'm getting old enough.