

## 2

I don't know what else you want to know. This is Cassette 2, a continuation with Helen and Francis Johnson, Maureen and Eloy. Cassette 2, Side 1. When your father-in-law constructed and made a drawing for this house, how did it differ from other houses 15 or 20 or 30 years older? You said they still had an art house, but you had a bathtub at that time.

Yeah, well, now, when the old houses moved back there, otherwise we took a bath in the... we had a little out kitchen, I mean a little hallway. Yeah, something like that, where they kept a bathtub that we took a bath in. And they had to heat the water on the stove.

And Mother had a kerosene stove out there that she could cook on when it was too hot to have a coal stove burning in the summertime. And we had a coal stove in the living room, and the upstairs wasn't heated, but I think there was a register that let a little heat go up. And Mother told about how they would get up at 4 o'clock.

You see, they had certain days to do things, and Monday was wash day. That was customary in those days. And so they'd get up at 4 o'clock, and Dad would turn the wheel on the washing machine and the ringer and things while she was getting the other washing done.

And they had a copper boiler that they thought they had to boil clothes in, you know, sheets and towels and things. So you were small girls, they had a washing machine? Yeah, but not electric then. They turned it by hand? They turned it by hand.

And they'd get up at 4 o'clock and get that washing done before Dad went to work. Then Mother could get us kids up. See? It was a long day then.

Yes, it was. So most of the houses then had this procedure, right? Yeah, they all washed on Monday. And then they ironed on Tuesday and did mending on things.

And then, I don't know, Saturday they baked for the weekend, and Mother would bake six great big loaves of bread three times a week. And besides maybe other things, you know, but I mean she always had those. Was it rye bread or wheat? It was wheat.

But during World War I, we had to take some other kinds of grain, and I don't know what kind they were, but they made the bread all ugly looking. And Mother said, We can't eat that. But to get the white flour, you had to take the other.

We had, I don't know what kind of grain it was, but it made a kind of purplish brown, and that was terrible. I suppose it was all right to eat, but she didn't like the looks of it. Mother was a good cook.

And when she, I know. We'd come home from school and have a great big slice of her homemade bread. Bread and butter.

You went home for lunch and everything. No, well, from elementary school, but not from, yeah, from high school, because we gave up our free period, I mean our study period. We gave up our study period so we could have two periods for lunch.

So we walked home and back. That's why we're still healthy. A mile.

So we walked four miles a day. In all kinds of weather. In all kinds of weather.

Now the kids are carried and taken in cars. Yeah. Dropped off.

That's why they aren't as healthy. So then you had a big slice of bread, and was there wheat, you said, or rye? You never had rye? Usually wheat. With homemade jelly or something, I don't know, before Dad came home from work.

And then we'd have that right after he got home from school, and then we could have supper an hour or two later, you see. And then we always had, in the winter, we always had a barrel of apples in the basement. They called them cellars then because they weren't finished the way they are now.

And things kept cool down there, and Mother had all her canned goods down there, and they stored potatoes for the winter and things like that down there. Was there a cellar under the old house when you moved? Yeah. It was a cellar.

Yeah, well, no, when they moved back there, then it was cemented, and they had a bathroom down there. So they moved the old house and the bed there and started digging down it. Then they had plumbing facilities back there before this was built, while this was being built.

Because this was in the process for about two years because Dad was doing so much work himself, you see. And when he was out of work, he'd work here. So who dug the basement for him? Oh, he had to hire that type of thing.

And electrical work and plumbing work and things like that. And he had help erecting the tuba for us for the frame, but he did all the cabinet work and the laying of the floors and things. And we moved into it in the spring of 1916.

1916. And then you had the bathtub and the shower also? No, not a shower then, no. We built a second.

Oh, you said, was this like the houses? This is typical of the houses that were being built then. A big square house because it was the most economical. You could have all your downstairs and then four bedrooms and bath upstairs.

And then he was going to build a pantry because a lot of them had pantries in. And we had a sink in the pantry and a lot of cabinets. And Mother said, oh, I'd rather have a sewing room because

she sewed for all us kids, even for the boys, you know.

And their suits had to be, their little Russian blouses and knickers had to be starched and ironed, mind you. Now they throw all these wash and dry things in the washer and that's it. But that's what she had to do.

It was a 24-hour job, practically taking care of a family. But there was never any ironing done the same day you washed? No, no. You had to wet it all and you had to iron it.

Well, then they had to hang them out to dry and then they'd sprinkle them and put them in a basket to iron the next day. Because then the moisture would circulate through them. And make them just right for ironing.

And everything was ironed, and towels. And linens, and she loved to iron. And later on, when the boys had to wear white shirts, she'd have as many as 12 shirts to iron.

But she said, I loved to iron shirts, and I didn't. And linens, linen tablecloths and napkins, she loved to iron. Anyway, to go back to the pantry, that's the sewing room.

Dad said, you can have both the pantry and the sewing room. So that was it. So he made that little room for her sewing room.

And then later on, we've got that as a closet. And we cut a door between that room, you can see it, and made another complete bath back there. That was when Mother had arthritis so bad, when she was older.

It was done before. No, she had arthritis before her heart attack it was. And we thought that she'd only have to go upstairs at night, and not have to go up in the daytime if we had a bathroom down here.

And so we wanted to do that. And she didn't want us to, because she didn't want her sewing room spoiled. And we didn't want it opening into the kitchen.

Was she still sewing at that time? No, and then finally, I said, well, Mother, it won't do any good if you have to go into the kitchen, if you ever have to use this for a bedroom. But, you know, she thought... And she said, oh, well, you can do what you please, because I'm not sewing anymore anyway. I'd sew for her then.

Then front porches, you know, you'd have your big front porch with a porch swing at the end, and chairs, and crouton covers on them, and you could sit out on the porch. Well, now you can't do that here. With all the traffic, it's no fun out there.

So I thought, oh, I was living here alone then for quite a while. And I thought, oh, I'd like to take in part of that front porch and get rid of it. But I thought, oh, it's silly when I'm alone.

But when Helen moved back here with her grand piano, stereo, and a whole library of her own, I said, we're going to do that. So we took out the triple windows in the front and extended out onto the porch. And they stuccoed the outside of it just like the rest of the house, so it looks like it was originally that way.

Oh, so there was an open porch there before. We use it the way people do patios now, because there wasn't that traffic then. And the adults would stay out there, and when our uncle from Devonport would come over and his family, they'd come over in the summer evening, and we'd all sit out there.

And at their house, we'd sit out on the porch too, no air conditioning in those days, and it was cooler. It isn't as grand the way it is now. And then I was working on a hooked rug there, and I can leave it there.

It's out of the way. And there were just triple windows there, you see, and all we did was take those out, because they said it would spoil the structure of the house if you took the whole thing out. I thought maybe they could take it clear out to the edge there, but he said if they started taking out the wall, they might get into structural problems.

And so it works all right, because I've got the bookcases over there, the ones that have records in, and the big books. So you inherited some ideas from your dad, then? Mm-hmm. Made some drawings.

She made this. I made that in Colorado one time, because I wanted some cabinets, and I couldn't find the kind I wanted. So I went down to the high school and took woodworking classes.

Did you build the whole thing yourself? Well, the industrial arts teacher at the school where I was teaching showed me how to make the drawers. And in these drawers, I bought at Montgomery Wards and had to cut them down and add to them to fit. But I did all the structural things.

You brought them from Colorado Springs? Yeah. And when I wrote to Frances, I said, Shall I bring those home? And she said, Why, of course, when you made them. But, you know, when Dad came out there after I had made them, she said, I expected him to say, Oh, did you really do that all by yourself? But, you know, he wasn't that in a game, and he opened the drawers and things.

And then he said, Well, you know, you should have beveled these doors. And Mother could see my crestfallen face. And she said, Well, don't you think it's pretty good for her? And he said, Yes.

But he said, I was just showing her how she could do better. It was his honest opinion. It's in six sections, so it can be taken apart.

Oh, and I'll have to tell about when they were older, how Mother quilted, and she'd put up, she'd

put a, see, those two love seats were mine, and I brought home. And we had, she could put a frame, a quilting frame there, so it was out of the way. And she would quilt her own quilts.

And her eyes were, before her eyes got so bad, and she'd have about half a dozen needles stuck here. A dozen. And Dad had real good eyesight.

And he'd come and he'd thread all those needles so she didn't have to stop to thread the needles. She'd pick one, and then he'd come to see how many were left unthreaded. And when she got down to one or two, he'd start threading all the needles again for her.

He had good eyesight. Yeah, he didn't wear glasses regularly at all. He wore them finally to read.

Oh, did he? But you can see here, he doesn't have any glasses on. And that's the way he looked most of the time. He didn't look his age either.

He's a good-looking man, isn't he? So, were there other houses going up at the same time then on this 23rd Avenue? Beyond that, and across here, well, across here, they're more our vintage. I see. Because they began to go up first.

And this was still a pasture across 14th Street. Two houses here then. And then it was a pasture.

And then beyond that, where Morgan Park is, that was all woods. And we'd go out there and roll down the hills in the leaves in the fall, you know, to hear them rustling. Then we could take sleds and skis out there and go up the hills.

It was really wonderful. Was it hard times then during the First World War to get work for your dad? I suppose. I suppose.

Well, no. Because they were building then and doing things for the war. Because this house was built then, and a Swedish friend of his over here on 13th Street, because that was built up in there then, said, why don't you rent this one? And we could continue living there and make a lot of money.

Not a lot, but I mean for those days. And so dad told mother what he said, and mother started to cry. And he said, don't worry, we won't do it.

And so he told this other fellow, no, she said, she's looked forward to that house. And she couldn't let anybody else live in here. So nobody else has ever lived up here except us.

So then we rented the little one during the war. But it happened though, many families did that during the depression. They rented a house for five, ten years.

It's a strange idea, you build something new for yourself and you rent it off to some stranger. But you can see mother looked forward to this new home. Just the way they wanted it at that time.

And I can see that she wouldn't want to let anybody else come in here. And then you continued to work as a carpenter. And you went to high school and then on to... And I went two years to Augustana.

And then I taught for three years to earn some money. And then I went to the University of Michigan. And finished there in 1927.

Then I graduated from high school in 1920. And went to Augie. Youngest in her family, I mean youngest in her class.

And valedictorian of her class. Well I don't know whether I was the youngest, I was among the youngest. I said it, among the youngest.

And then, well that's because I skipped a grade over at Garfield. Then I went to... Then I taught in Winnetka when I graduated from Michigan for two years. A suburb of Chicago.

Where I got to go in Chicago to the operas and the concerts and everything, you know. Because I was so interested in music. I sang in a chorus in Michigan and I got to go to all the concerts then.

And hear a lot then. So then I wanted to go, I thought my idea was to... Where in Michigan did you teach? I didn't teach in Michigan, no. I signed a contract to teach.

To teach history in French, I believe. And then I got this chance to go to Winnetka. And I thought that was a bigger opportunity.

The other was a little town. And I wasn't sure, I hadn't been to France then. And I didn't think I should teach French without having been to France.

So I had enough hours to teach it. So then I went to Winnetka. And my house mother in Michigan said, I said, what will I do when I got this notice to come? And I said, I've already signed this other contract.

And she said, well it's still three months before school begins in the fall. So if you get the other job you can renege on that. So I did.

Then I stayed there two years and my idea was, I wanted to travel so badly and I didn't have money. So I was going to, and I thought when you live in a place, you get to know it better than as a tourist. So I thought that's the way I'll see the country now.

I'll go two years in every place. So I went out to Colorado then in two years. And I stayed two years.

Well by that time the depression came. See that was 1929 in the fall I went back. And my principal said, what do you want to change every two years? Because pretty soon no matter how

good your recommendations are, they'll say you don't stay long enough to contribute to the system.

He said, why don't you do your traveling in the summer? And you couldn't get any seniority or seniority? Yeah, that's it. And I'm glad I stayed because my pension's real good now. Did they count seniority years back though? Was there a big deal in seniority years back in the 20s? To stay in one place and be alone? Yeah.

Did they have tenure then? I don't know whether they had tenure then or not. Yeah. But anyway, I was happy there.

You didn't look there for us at tenure. You didn't want it. If you taught two years and you were satisfactory, then you were on tenure and you could have the job as long as you wanted to.

For two years only? Today, yeah, sort of probationary you are for your first two years. And then if you got your contract the third year, you could keep the job as long as you wanted to. Why today it's terrible.

They pink slip them and then maybe they'll hire them back, even if they're on tenure. I think it's terrible. Well, that's because they've been cutting down, you know, because of the lack of money.

And if they don't notify them three months before school's out, they can't let them go. And so they have to notify them about March, you see. February or March.

So they call it pink slipping. And then some of them get hired back again. Now, my grandniece who teaches the hearing impaired, she got a job here in Moline after she graduated from Illinois State in that hearing impaired program.

And each year she got pink slipped. Even the third year she was on tenure. Well, she got this job down in Parsons, Kansas.

And she says, I'm not going to monkey with Illinois anymore because she'd spend her spring vacation running around saying about a job again. And then they'd hire her back again. And that's no fun.

But then if she moves into another school district, or I mean another state, she loses her seniority though. Yeah, but she's, now this is her third year down there and she's never had any trouble. She's got her contract back without any trouble every year.

And they're good to her. They do everything. And when they called her down there for an interview, why, they paid half her plane fare down there, they put her up for a night, and they fed her.

And she visited the school the next day and they took her back to the airplane. Why, it was

wonderful. They don't do it in Illinois.

Well, she was up interviewing near Chicago one year and they said, and she liked to sit up there pretty well. But they called her home and her father said she was up there being interviewed and that was spring vacation. And that was several, before she went to Kansas.

And they said, oh, don't let her sign a contract. We're going to have enough pupils for two teachers. You see, the first year she got, she knew it was only for one year because a woman who had it had a year's leave of absence for pregnancy.

She was having a baby. So she knew that was for one year. But then they had enough.

Then she was up interviewing and they said we're going to have enough for two teachers. So she can, we're going to hire her back. And so she didn't pursue that anymore.

And then the next year, the same thing happened. So finally, they were so good down there to her that she took it. And she was a little homesick at first, but she's adjusted.

And mind you, she teaches the preschool hearing impaired. And kindergarten now, too, I think. In your case now, you also went to Augustana.

I went to Augustana two years. And by that time, I got a job. And then Helen was doing this traveling and I had to go, too.

So I, we'd travel in the summertime. And then, so I got my last two years, mind you, I got some Augustana summer school, some night school. And I went six winters straight on Saturday classes out the University of Iowa and got my degree out there.

But I didn't stop teaching then. I just kept on teaching and did Saturday classes while I was teaching in the wintertime. And, well, she did that because when I was teaching in Winnetka, a couple of my friends there said, oh, they had a travel guild in Chicago had a reasonable trip to Europe for six weeks.

You had to go by boat then. And it was for young people, professionals, you know, and college students who didn't have the money, but they wanted the grand tour. And so they said, didn't I want to go? So Helen rode home.

And I said, and so Francis rode back and said, oh, can I go too? Yeah. So she went. And by that time, this other friend, her mother got, her grandmother got sick and she didn't want to leave her mother alone with her.

So she didn't go. So we went anyway on the trip. And that was in 1931.

During the Depression. So after that, I didn't have enough money to go away to school and travel too. So I just got the rest of my education piecemeal.

And you paid for your own education. I paid Dad back without any interest. And I took out an insurance policy with a friend in the church.

And Dad said, well, the least we could do would be bury you. You didn't have to do that. But I thought if I owe any money, I better take out an insurance policy.

And here I am still living. But I didn't think it was fair for me to go to Michigan when I could have finished at Augie. But I wanted the experience of being away at school in Michigan.

Did he insist on you going to Augie? No. It was your own idea to... The principal of our high school graduated from Michigan. And another friend, a lawyer, had graduated from the law school there.

And it was supposed to be a very excellent university. How much more did it cost you to go to university? Well, I could go for \$1,000 a year including board and room then. And I got a scholarship and then the tuition itself wasn't very much because I could live at home, see him get my room and board for nothing.

But in tuition, I think for the whole year it wasn't much over \$100 maybe. And then your books weren't as expensive now. Gee, this Scott that's going to Blackhawk, his books cost about \$200 for one semester.

Just at Scott Community College. Of course. People are making more money now.

It's comparable. But is it possible for a student like in your days, you could work during the summer and pay for most of the tuition. But would it work today to pay tuition, for instance, what I was saying, \$8,000? I worked on Saturday down at the department store because I was invited to a sorority up there and I thought, well, I can earn that at least, you know.

\$100 during the summer. Oh no, did I? I don't know. When I got to college when I worked the New York store in the office, I made more because I thought, well, now I've got to work, I can't stay home.

In those days, the teenagers didn't get jobs the way they do now. And so I didn't work and I didn't get a job. You didn't try to get a job.

Teenagers just stayed home and helped their mothers. Now all the teenagers get jobs as soon as they can. So they don't know what I am anymore.

Our Scott at Kmart, he heard something over the PA system about a job. He went to see about it when he was just barely 16, ready to start his high school. And he's had the job ever since for his junior year and his senior year and now his two years at Blackhawk.

He's had that part-time job at Kmart and it's been wonderful. And they pay him \$4.25 an hour. It's more than the minimum wage.

They even asked him if he wanted to learn how to be a manager. He said, no, I have to go to college. That's necessary.

So both of you then were in the printing profession. That was about the best thing except secretary. I wasn't interested in machine work like typing and things.

I was interested in dealing with people. I never regretted it. And you spent how many years out in Colorado? About 51.

I retired when I was... No, no, no. I taught 36 years out there and I taught 6 years and lived out there until I came back here now. And she lived out several years after she retired.

She retired four years before she had to. But I lived out there about 16 years, I guess, after I retired. So I had a good time out there too.

But I worked then even. They asked me when the curator of an historical house died and they said when somebody recommended me they thought I might be good. So I worked there and what did I get the first year I was there? About a dollar and a half an hour.

But I had read a lot about antiques anyway and then I learned a lot and I learned some from even the people that were in who would add things and I read more so I learned a lot and it was fun and then in the spring and fall before it opened sometimes we'd take school groups through that wanted to go and then I house sat for people and I earned money that way to travel too. When they went on vacations they don't want to leave their home without something there. No, nowadays you know why houses are broken into.

So I did that. So I'm willing to do anything and she says, I wish to get Medicare you know and I've got Medicare but she hasn't. I pay for the doctor part but I don't have hospitalization and Medicare.

How many years did you teach them? 41. Why don't you have the Medicare? I retired a couple years before I had to but I've never worked under Social Security so all I have is my teacher's pension and anything else I invested. What about Social Security? Some states have both and some states only have one.

Colorado just had the teacher's and Illinois just had the teacher's pension. Iowa had both. She worked enough to get Medicare because anybody born after 1902 couldn't get it unless you worked under Social Security.

See I was just a year so I didn't have to work more than three quarters and she'd have to work more because she was 1905 she would have had to work nine quarters and I could work three

quarters and travel another quarter you see and still make it. Oh I planned. It was all planned.

More or less you have walked on water. Yes. And now we can live comfortably and we don't have to worry about finances.

And here you have the hostel and we can travel as much as we want to and now I wouldn't travel abroad anyway because of all the insecurity. And I'm glad we did as much as we did. You can take a look around the map when you get through here.

How about your parents? Did they take any vacation that you knew of? No because they didn't pile children in a station wagon and travel across the country in those days as much as I said in the neighborhood. We'd have neighborhood picnics where they'd go out to the mother would work all day planning food the day before and then they'd take it out and eat it in the park and in the winter they'd get together in the evenings and maybe play some cards or talk and the children would play games and make candy or popcorn you know things like that. Now Dad went with us to all over the east but Mother wouldn't go.

She liked to stay home but Dad went with us and then they went with me several times out to Colorado while Helen was living out there. Yeah Mother didn't mind going if she could go and stay put but she didn't want to be traveling here every day. So she came out to visit you then? Oh yeah she was out quite a few times.

Yeah and then this aunt this one aunt the wife of his brother in Colorado. And then in the summer Francis would drive out with them so they were out there a lot and Mother liked it that way because then she could have the bed for a couple of weeks out there you see and not have to travel. Because she could stay put.

She was at ease and didn't have to pack a suitcase. Yeah that's it. You mentioned about the plan that the family had in the early years you washed on Monday did you feel all the way throughout your life? Oh here's something interesting about Dad too.

When we went then the first washer electric washer they had was a washer with a with a ringer cycle. Then you could turn the ringer around to go here and then into a rinse water that had bluing in it then you could turn the ringer this way see here was a thing and you could put it to go here and then here and then here and then it would ring out of that one into the basket. Did your dad still help? He didn't have to then.

She took care of it herself. Yeah because there was no manual work on that it was electrically done. So then they had that for a long time I guess broke down or something This was in the 20's? No this was in the 30's I guess I don't know when she got her first automatic one anyway when they were coming in and so we went around Mother didn't feel like going so we went around and looked at the washers and we decided on one of these automatic ones you know what they're like and so we brought the literature home and we looked at it and Mother said oh I

don't know whether I want that because I can't wash blankets in it and Dad said I think we better get another Thor Thor was the old kind they had and I looked at him and I said Dad if you get another Thor it will be just like if you wanted a new car and you went down and brought a Model T and he looked at me if you wanted she could wash blankets in it anyway we didn't have a dryer at first and then one time we were going away on a trip and we didn't want to leave her to hang out clothes because she was it was harder and she was short too and Dad had made a footstool for her when they dried them in the basement in the winter so she changed the schedule yeah but she usually washed on Monday anyway that was that was her established thing but she didn't keep other schedules now if you got them out of the dryer you could iron the same day you see and half the things you don't have to iron no but she ironed all her life then she was not used to this drip and dry well toward the end she was I guess but then we were doing the things then I mean Francis was I lived at home because I taught here and then I'd come home on vacations could you tell her at any time that this item is not necessary to iron and things like that oh yes she realized that she realized that toward the end I'm sure didn't she realized what that you didn't have to iron like her nightgowns and things if they were nylon because it seems to us now she still does unnecessary things she's done but you are different why are you different in your opinion then I don't know you know the iron and starch and everything like 50 years ago and then they suddenly find out there's nothing necessary to do you feel like what are we doing she's adapted she wants to use paper napkins I said we've got all these linen napkins nobody wants them after we're gone you might as well use them then you have to iron them then you have to iron them but we don't use them very often but once in a while when we travel I picked up a lot of paper napkins so I've got a whole stack of paper napkins and one of the covers in the kitchen I said we better use them up you know you see pretty boxes from different countries I had some from Norway they were awfully pretty and different things like that so we had to go before we got any older so we went to Alaska last August you see we would go every summer and take a different section of our country and see it thoroughly and you read up on it before you left and I always did that planning and I said to her she planned the Oberammergau trip and also the no you said you wanted to go there no I said we'd go there she said we've been there quite a bit and I said well I said I guess we'd better go back to the British Isles because we hadn't been there since we were young and we'd gone on this trip and she said oh we can always go there that's so close she said let's go someplace more exotic and so I thought and I thought well we've been around the world we've been to all over South America and all over Africa and the South Pacific and we visited our relatives then we traveled alone we had a friend who wanted to go with us so there were three of us and then oh yeah it was 75 we went to the communist countries we were having sort of detente then and I said to France well the only place we haven't been is the communist countries so she said well that'll be fine so I went to my I had a nice travel agent out there that I knew and I had her two kids in school and they were teachers and Travcola was the only country that gave a long enough trip it was 52 days in the communist countries where we could cover all except Albania of course and we could get out into the countryside I don't want to just see the big cities because they're more or less alike any place not entirely but you know

similar so we took that one in 75 and she went along then in 80 in 70 we were over in Europe on our own we didn't go to Oberammergau we went but I mean I knew we wouldn't get tickets we just went there to look it over and so Frances said well I think we ought to go to that so in 80 she signed up with the first man of the church some people we knew that were going with them so that's the only one you went on that trip then and then she's the one that insisted on going to Alaska well you haven't been there last August we were there because I said that's the only state we hadn't traveled in so we must go and I told her a long time ago oh I've seen ghost towns and mining towns in Colorado and we've seen fjords in Norway and in New Zealand and I said what will we see that's different we've seen beautiful scenery other places and she said well it's our the only state we haven't been in and I said well you get a roommate and go with somebody else and I knew she'd end up going so how did you find it then oh I'm glad we went I enjoyed it tremendously we met the group in Seattle and everything was taken care of from there on and it was really very interesting and now in our old age we like to travel that way somebody else does all the work and we just enjoy it well you know we would we would travel in the summertime in this country and take our sleeping bags because we belong to the Black Hawk Hiking Club do you know that do you live around here oh yes I know about it you know that and so we went all over the country to national parks with them and that was cheap because we'd cook over an open fire and we got a lot of good hiking in and seeing so then we'd go on our own and take our sleeping bags and it was really interesting when I first went out there though my ears nearly broke when I first went out there when I got the job I went out with a friend who said let's take this trip and we went by train out and we took the cog road no we took a I think we took no we took the touring car up to the top of Pikes Peak and we went up for sunrise and I tell you coming down my eardrums were going to break and then I learned to yawn and I yawned and I fell on cracking because we went up early and so then I learned that that's what you do and you stayed there 52 years 51 and a half your dad and mother did they belong to any Swedish organizations here in the Quad Cities like Vasa, Viking, Switzer you never heard of those no he wasn't Swedish he belonged to the Moose Lodge that was for insurance I think and they got medical too for us through the Moose they had a doctor but they didn't belong to any Swedish no so did he go down to Augustana for instance for any doings they had there your parents I don't think when we were young not when we were kids midsummer festivals I don't think they had them then I don't know the midsummer has been more the recent decades we've been to some of those later yeah but I mean they weren't there when we were growing up I don't think they had them it was just developing then too I guess so you had an interesting life you have put in two cultures British and Swedish how about Tina for instance your mother was she a tea drinker yes and we don't drink coffee and mother never drank coffee until she married dad and then she drank coffee for breakfast to keep him company but we never liked well Francis liked coffee when you were real little and shouldn't have it but I never did like the taste of coffee no I don't even like it when our brothers drank our brothers and dad drank coffee and Helen and I and mother drank tea did you have a special hour another day you took a cup of tea no no we don't snack between meals not in the middle of time just for meals you had it after a meal with a meal I like it with a meal so that's

the way it's done and then you have at the holidays you have plum pudding so did you learn how to do all this cooking your mother mother taught some well when I was in college and I decided I better get a job for the summer I came home and I said to mom I'm going to let you have vacation this summer and I'm going to do all the cooking before that she did the meat and things like that we fixed salads and set the table and do things like that and so she said I said I'm going to learn how to do the meats and things and so I'll do the cooking well she had everything baked up over the weekend I was going to start Monday well Monday there was enough leftovers roast beef I could warm up and Tuesday then I made cream coconut pudding cream coconut pie and I said you stay out on the front porch I'm going to do it all myself and I got a recipe book out and so she was sitting out on the front porch and I thought now I know that the secret of good pie is lots of shortening I thought and I put heaping and then I took a little bit extra too so I had about three times as much finally I had to call mother and I said I don't know what's happened but the crust this looks like a mess of grease she came in and said oh you can't use that and here I had the filling already started you know the cream coconut custard and I was so crestfallen and she said we'll just put it in sherbet glasses and call it cream coconut pudding so we did that and my brothers said is it like the pie they didn't know how much well then mother gave it away a few days later because they came in and began to tease us and then there was an ad in the paper for somebody in the millinery department at the New York store and I thought well then I can get a job down there so I went down and I just about had the job the head of the department and I said well for a while and she said what do you mean I said I'm going back to college in the fall and she said oh I couldn't train anybody in for just the summer and so I saw another friend in there and she said oh they're taking inventory now and they're hiring high school girls to take that and so she said go and see if I'm going to get a job so he said well he thought they had all they needed but for figuring they could use some and they were just counting then and he said how are you at figuring and I said accurate and he said are you fast and I said yes and I'm accurate too because I was good in math so I thought well I better brag a little bit so he hired me and a sorority sister of mine took off all the other girls when they got all the counting done well then we could work up in an office and count it on things well then a man came in one day when he was out and he had a Monroe calculating machine and they were if you got a big one you could put the cost here and the selling price here and then bring up the amount and you got both things at the same time and I knew a little bit about what they could do because he had shown me I was always interested in learning anything and so I said to this man I said I know how to run those and I got him to show me because I said maybe I'd forgotten so he showed me how to run it so when the boss came back I said are you going to let me run that machine and he said do you know how and I said yes and so all that was done and he raised my the first week we got seven dollars a week mind you a dollar a day so he raised me to eight and then ten and I think before the summer I was getting twelve dollars a week and I was saving enough to go to Michigan I guess then well anyway then when I came home then when I started to teach and the Monroe Calculating people had their offices in Devonport by that time the stores were sending their sheets over there to be figured and they wanted me to work well I had just come home for Christmas I wasn't going to spend my

time and I was getting a salary of my own then so I said well I couldn't do it anymore so there were a lot of opportunities yeah well I'm not a liar though I'm not a liar when I got my job there were kids around the neighborhood and so they'd come and say will you babysit so that's the kind of job I did the ordinary people would give me 25 cents maybe for an evening to stay with the kids and when I stayed with their kids I'd get 25 cents an hour so that was good you said for evenings in the daytime too sometimes once in a while in the summertime in the daytime she could do it even when Bud Lundahl was 10 or 11 10, 11, 12 if Mrs. Lundahl went away she'd have me go over and sit in the house was there a Lundahl that had a toy factory down there was this the same Lundahl yeah who made the Buddy L toys and it was Buddy that she sat with they lived right over here on the corner and he was about 10 years younger than I was and he died you know a few years ago and then you know the Getz family she was in Ainsworth you know Republican yeah Bill Getz he had a chauffeur so she became a Republican then oh I was a Republican that's why they hire you dad was a Republican he was a Republican and mother when she during Roosevelt's term she liked his fireside chats and his school so she wanted to vote for him and so then when election day came and I said are you going to vote no she said dad will vote Republican and if I vote I'll just kill his vote he didn't vote dad didn't I mean dad voted but mother didn't because she thought she voted for Roosevelt and he voted for Hoover or whoever was running why then they would she'd kill his vote she was a good Republican yeah later on we were all good Republicans so this was a Republican neighborhood not now there were a lot of people and fell across the alley as a highway cop patrol they're all Democrats and Linda and B. Yasmus are Republicans I don't know whether maybe Earls are too and I think Coverstones next door here vote Republican now because I was drafted in working at the polls so once in a while I work on election day and so I know what the voters do when they call in primary when they call for a Democrat or Republican ballot this Buddy L where does this come from his name was Arthur and they called him Buddy and then Buddy L stands for Buddy Lundahl you see the toys that they make but they don't make them anymore well his wife and children are living the one that she babysat with his wife and children are living but they sold that house a long time ago and she went into an apartment before she died the mother the mother lived to be about 87 or 88 and Bud died at 65 and he was an only child but he wasn't a spoiled child and his wife was she Swedish I don't think so I don't know maybe in the past you don't know when it gets several generations you don't know and then they marry like my nephew's wife her father I guess was Irish wasn't he and her mother was French her grandmother couldn't even speak English and her oldest daughter married a man from Czechoslovakia who had also German blood in him and so their little boy their 7 year old boy has everything well that's a melting pot that's right their ancestors all came from these different countries but that's what makes good stock that's right I believe that so now when you travel you have no problem with the language you speak French she can speak French German and Spanish and just a little bit of German I tried to learn some Swedish and somebody gave me a record in Colorado Springs they had in a big bookstore they had even Vietnamese languages and the Middle Eastern languages because that was for our military but no Swedish and Swedish isn't spoken outside Sweden and so it's not used much so

somebody bought me one in Rockford you know that's quite a Swedish and I could say please drive me to the Grand Hotel things like that I learned off the record but I couldn't really carry on but you know I learned an awful lot when you know some languages and it comes easy for me anyway and I and I wanted some more hot water for my tea and the waitress couldn't you know they speak English so much in Sweden so we didn't have much trouble but this waitress didn't know what I meant when I said could I have some more hot water and so then I thought well on that record it said jag behöver I need and so I and I had picked up a few words so I said jag behöver I didn't know how to say we need på det te and she understood me and she she brought the hot water so that encouraged me well then we were up at on Lake Siljan what was that name in that Mora we went up there to see you know the crabs and things we had a Ural Pass we could go any place and so oh yeah we got a room no that was in when we went out to the Orifice factory in the little town of Orifice they didn't have any hotel or anything but they had a pension up by the on the highway and so she the girl could speak English but her mother couldn't and I so anyway she went up so often in Sweden they have twin beds and then they have a day bed and they can make up there's a third one and there was a friend of ours with us her father was Swedish too but they were dead her mother and father her mother was Scotch-Irish and so anyway they were making the mother was making up this third bed and I wanted to thank her because I said to the girl do you serve dinner and she said no just breakfast and I said well we haven't had anything but sandwiches and she said well I'll ask my other mother so she went out of the kitchen and she came back and said yes so while the mother was making up we were eating and they had nice sandwich you know with cheese and meats and things and hot tea so that's all we needed and I said so I wanted to tell the woman so I said I'm pretty limited and she understood and she rattled off a whole paragraph in Swedish and I didn't understand one word but I smiled and I said yeah yeah so that's how I got by you got your dinner too but she gets along with Spanish and French quite well I had Latin and French in high school and Spanish in college but you know you don't have any opportunity to use it so you forget it all but where you've been living you've been able to use it out there I learned Spanish out there and I belonged to an AUW you know AUW American Association of University Women and I belonged to a conversation Spanish group well first she was teaching it was one of the teachers in the schools that taught our class and I learned some of the grammar and things like that out there that were well educated and they joined our group through other friends so we became unaffiliated with AUW but the French group remained affiliated with AUW and when we had some outside speakers who weren't members like the Air Force Academies there and they had the liaison officer from France who'd be there and his wife would belong and then some of the officers there in our occupation and things or Europe and they spoke French the wives did so they were members so anyway I got to the French would meet once a month well you don't get much there but it kind of brought back some of mine and then the Spanish we met once a week if enough people could come so then you get a little more once a week so when I was in South America you really been covering the earth now you know it's round or is it still flat? what? is it still flat you think? oh yes well I guess around the world proved it didn't they because we left from New York

and came in as San Francisco and there's more of Woodson Forest down to Monmouth oh then this uncle as I say they had more money because they only had one child and they had a car early they went out to San Francisco and bought a new Studebaker out there seven passenger and came back with it and camped on the way they went through the mountains they had to have an extra horn then to toot you know if they came to a place and that was 1950 they didn't have all these roads then but anyway from that time on we didn't have to ride in that little rumble seat we could all go in the big seven passenger car 1950? 1915 oh 50 oh 50 they had roads back then he died in 46 yeah in 1915 so then all of us could go so he took a long ride out there to San Francisco but it was really kind of a pioneering experience it must have been so we could get nine people in a seven passenger car because three could ride in front and three in back and three girls Francis and I and their daughter Elna could sit on those seats and the women with one boy in the back and the men with one boy in the front and you camped outside no no no but that's the way we'd go down to Monmouth for these two brothers to visit this brother and we'd make an all day trip of it you see in those days and you took 67 down then yeah well we took the telephone post and the fence post it was that time and we came to a detour and there was a real steep hill and mother said oh let me out let me out they called that area dog town you remember yeah but I think it was another place for this because then there was the woods beyond it on this detour and I remember I wrote a theme for school afterwards about this exciting trip this steep hill and going through the woods to make the hard road I remember mom wanted to get out and walk one time she was scared of it and there was no hard top then no so you have had your experiences from the beginning oh we enjoyed our trip in Sweden we spent about four weeks in Sweden I guess how about your two brothers now Cecil and Clifford were they also adventurous no not so much did they stay in Sweden and they stayed here and they didn't even want to go to college this meat market up there they began working when they were well Cecil did when he was about 14 and you could drive then without a license and he would deliver in their little truck and when the street in front would be a sheet of ice he would come down and put on the brakes and knew just how to swing it around in front they learned the meat cutting trade yeah so then they learned the meat cutting trade and became meat cutters yeah