

LS 0167 – LS 0168

Lennart Setterdahl: Det är idag den 12 december 1985. Jag sitter tillsammans med Hugo Eliason, i Moline, Illinois. Han var född 1905, den 7 juni, i Tagel, i Småland och han kom till Amerika 1923.

Om vi börjar nu Hugo. Du kan väl tala svenska?

Hugo Eliason: Ja visst.

Lennart Setterdahl: Du har ju varit här i många år.

Hugo Eliason: Se jag har vart här många år!

Lennart Setterdahl: Du har bevarat svenskan rätt bra.

Hugo Eliason: Ja.

L: Så berätta lite grand om vad pappa försörjde sig och familjen på. Han hade en gård, Din pappa, i Småland?

Hugo: Nja. He was. He just - at Sjuhult - You know where it is?

L: Jaa.

Hugo: He was a farmer there and then he also was a carpenter and - and .. can I say it in Swedish?

L: Ja ja, det spelar ingen roll. Du kan ta vilket Du vill.

Hugo: Then we lived closed to Ryssby.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And - let me see - then we moved - and he moved to Södra Unnaryd, i Småland.

L: Det var när Du var liten pojke då eller?

Hugo: Yeah - I just couldn't talk.

L: Hur många var ni i familjen?

Hugo: Twelwe.

L: Tolv stycken!

Hugo: Eight boys and four girls.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And still three of us are living.

L: Var Du en utav de yngre, eller i mitten?

Hugo: No. There was one younger then me.

L: Jaså. Jaha. Eight girls and four boys?

Hugo: No eight boys and four girls.

L: Four girls. Hade pappa en gård eller arbetade han för någon?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Han arbetade för någon?

Hugo: Ja han arbetade - men vi flyttade till Sjögård, Södra Unnaryd.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Do You know where Unnaryd is?

L: Ja det vet jag.

Hugo: There he was for farming and he was a carpenter and a little bit of everything. He was a handy man. He was a very good worker.

L: Så Du var inte gammal då när Du fick börja hjälpa pappa med olika arbeten?

Hugo: No. We were so many boys in our family.

L: Åtta stycken ja.

Hugo: So I helped mother there mostly.

L: Jaså.

Hugo: And dad, he always used to say, he wants somebody to do it - and this and that, he said. No, Hugo, You help mama, dad said. So I used to help her a lot. Of course I did outside work too.

L: Så Du hjälpte henne med lite vad som helst?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Baka, kanske?

Hugo: No inte baka, but skura!

L: Jaså.

Hugo: Ja!

L: Jaså. Du skurade golven.

Hugo: Skura golven!

L: Och vrida ur trasorna.

Hugo: Ja!

L: Jaha. Fick Du göra det varje vecka eller?

Hugo: Skura varje vecka? Jag kommer inte ihåg. Jag tror det: köket.

L: Köksgolvet.

Hugo: Ja, de andra rummen behövde man inte.

L: Det var många fötter som kom in där under dagens lopp.

Hugo: Ja, jag skulle säga det. Många tofflor ute i vasken, or vad det kallas.

L: Men ni hade trätofflor?

Hugo: Ja. Trätofflor ja.

L: Så det sparade ju mycket. Det var ingen som gick in med sina skor.

Hugo: Nej, inte vad jag vet.

L: Så det var Ditt arbete.

Hugo: Ja!

L: Hur gammal var Du då när Du fick börja hjälpa till?

Hugo: Let me see. Jag var väl about sex sju år gammal.

L: Jaså.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så det var innan Du började skolan.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Och det var vanligt att ni fick rycka in och göra någonting? Ni fick inte sitta?

Hugo: No. De alla hade hjälpa. And vi gick i skolan. Det var rätt så långt, det var en - jag vet inte vad jag ska säga - som cirka till mitt i stan där i Moline.

L: Jaså, så pass långt!

Hugo: Ja.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: But kanske inte that long.

L: 3 4 kilometer?

Hugo: Jag vet inte - 4 - ja, kanske.

L: Jaha. Men ni var många då, för att ni var så många barn tätt tillsammans naturligtvis.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så ni hade sällskap?

Hugo: Ja, and then flickorna, de var äldre än 'småpojkar, Så de gick ut och fick arbete i

L: Flickorna?

Hugo: Flickorna ja.

L: I hemmen som pigor då?

Hugo: Ja, vad - jungfrur - vad 'di kallar - pigor ja.

L: Ja. Gick Du varje dag i skolan, eller var det varannan dag?

Hugo: Varannan dag tror jag visst vi gick.

L: Kommer Du ihåg lärarinnans namn?

Hugo: Va?

L: Kommer Du ihåg lärarens eller lärarinnans namn?

Hugo: Ja. En lärarinna, hon hette Blenda, en 'hetade Nancy. That's two I had, jag hade dem när jag gick där.

L: Var det yngre personer? När Du var liten tyckte Du de var gamla förstås.

Hugo: O ja, jag tänkte 'di var väl 25 år kanske, vid 20 eller 25.

L: Höll de i ordning i klassen i skolan, så att alla fick lugn?

Hugo: Å ja 'di var ordningsamma.

L: De var det?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så ni kunde inte sitta och skrika?

Hugo: Nähä! So; I only went to the grade school.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And sedan hade vi och gå 'te och läsa för prästen.

L: Jaha. Var det i Unnaryd?

Hugo: In Unnaryds kyrka.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And han 'hetade Lindsten. Lindsten 'hetade han.

L: Lindsten?

Hugo: mhm.

L: Kyrkoherde Lindsten?

Hugo: Mm.

L: Hur många var ni som gick fram och läste?

Hugo: Se. Jag tänker vi var 30 ändå, tror jag visst.

L: Flickor och pojkar?

Hugo: Flickor och pojkar ja.

L: Alla tillsammans?

Hugo: Alla tillsammans ja.

L: Och det var en gång i veckan ni gick då?

Hugo: Ja. Vi 'börja på hösten and så gick vi till; - till pingst, tror jag visst.

L: Hela vintern!

Hugo: Yes!

L: Hade Du längre till kyrkan än till skolan?

Hugo: O ja. Det var långt från där vi bodde.

L: Hade Du cykel då till kyrkan eller?

Hugo: Ja vi hade cyklar. Vi cyklade.

L: Kunde ni göra det under vintertiden då när det var snö och lite besvärligt?

Hugo: Ja!

L: Men det gick?

Hugo: Det gick rätt så bra. Se - vi hade inte så långt to get to landsvägen, Du vet.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Så vi cyklade. I can't say if we had to go ibland, jag vet inte.

L: Och så fick Du gå varje söndag i kyrkan då, det var noga?

Hugo: Jaa vi gick inte varje söndag, men mesta.

L: Jaså det var inte nödvändigt då ni gick och läste att ni skulle gå på söndagen till kyrkan?

Hugo: Nå ja, Ja det gick bra. Vi gick ändå. Then vi åkte släde; häst och släde.

L: Och då åkte pappa och mamma och hela familjen med?

Hugo: Ja, ja - och farmor.

L: Och då band ni upp hästen vid kyrkomuren, så att säga?

Hugo: Tjaha!

L: Eller hade ni kyrkostallar utanför i Unnaryd?

Hugo: Ja vi hade hästar; en del stallar som 'di kallade.

L: Jaså de hade det!

Hugo: Så de lämnade hästarna där se.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And my dad - my father - he still leave it with some farmer close by the church, leave hes horse there sometimes.

L: Var det någonting som Du såg fram emot, att gå och läsa varje vecka för prästen? Eller vad tyckte Du om att läsa katekesen och att lära Dig alla versarna utantill?

Hugo: Å! Å det var bra!

L: Jaså!

Hugo: Jag tyckte om det!

L: Du hade inte några bekymmer?

Hugo: Vi hade roligt där! And - vi var över 'te prästen, var han bor and we hade; jag vet inte var lunch, or middag, vad det var. Vi hade. Han var trevlig!

L: Jaså - han bjöd på lunch då?

Hugo: Ja! Vi var över på prästgården.

L: Under söndagen?

Hugo: No. Det när vi gick i skolan.

L: Jaså.

Hugo: During. Ja.

L: Jaså allihopa fick lunch!

Hugo: Ja.

L: Det var ju en vänlig präst det!

Hugo: Jag kommer ihåg, det var en 'pojke. Han 'spela piano and han 'börja där jazzmusik - and - Lindsten, jag kommer ihåg han, han bara titta, han sa ingenting!

L: Inte det?

Hugo: No.

L: Var kyrkoherden äldre?

Hugo: Ja, han var, jag tänker. Han var långt skägg, vitt, and - jag vet inte hur gammal han var - 60 år or so.

L: Jaså. Jaså han hade förståelse för jazzmusikens intåg?

Hugo: Ja! Ja den pojken han spela jazzmusik!

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And ibland, då prästen gick hem, då sprang vi You know i just bänkarna Du vet. Ibland 'fallde de över, Du vet, and ramlade, så vi fick ordna det innan han 'köm 'tebaks.

L: Jaså det fanns lite ostadighet i gruppen.

Hugo: Jaa visst.

L: Det var alltid någon som var lite mera frihågsen.

Hugo: Jaha. Sen tror jag visst 'te pingst, är det inte var 'di brukte?

L: Konfirmeras vid pingst.

Hugo: Ja. Pingst.

L: Jaha. Då gick ni alla upp för nattvarden.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Pojkarna hade svarta kostymer då?

Hugo: Ja. Ja.

L: Hur skaffade Du kostymen? Var det en skräddare som kom och tog mått och sydde den, eller åkte pappa med Dig in till stan och köpte en kostym?

L: No, vi hade 'ett sytt. Min kostym, den fick jag utav en 'pöjk, som levde närmare mig and det var en snygger suit, så jag hade den. Men min tvillingbror, han hade kostym made, gjord, se.

L: Jaså. Jaha. Så Du kunde inte använda en som Dina bröder tidigare hade använt?

Hugo: No. **No.**

L: Det gick inte det?

Hugo: Det gick inte så till.

L: Det passade inte?

Hugo: Vi tvillingar, vi var lite a kind of little.

L: Mindre än dom andra?

Hugo: Mindre, se.

L: Jaså åtta pojkar. Det var ju många som hade gått och läst då?

Hugo: Ja. Men mina äldre bröder, 'di var 6 ft and so, but Erik and I, we were just about 5 8/ 8 ½.

L: Jaha. Då fick ni skaffa dem, så att Din tvillingbror fick en ny och Du fick en utav grannpojken.

Hugo: Yes.

L: Men de användes väl inte mycket senare efter konfirmationen? Använde ni konfirmationskostymen till någonting?

Hugo: Oh ja, vi använde 'et efter.

L: Till begravningar och sådant? de var svarta väl?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: De var 'svart.

L: Ni hade krage?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Stel krage?

Hugo: mhm.

L: Och kragknapp?

Hugo: jaha there was! A Rosett!

L: En rosett, ja.

Hugo: Jaha.

L: Och flickorna, vad hade de på sig? En lång klänning eller en kort?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg det. I think they just had bara half.

L: Jaså. Jaha. Vita?

Hugo: mm.

L: Och det var en stor dag. Då kom alla i bygden in till kyrkan och hörde på förhöret.

Hugo: ja.

L: Det var ingen som hade problem, utan alla kunde gå fram för prästen, som man säger? Det var ingen som fick sitta över tills nästa år?

Hugo: Nä.

L: Nej.

Hugo: Men i skolan brukte de ha där.

L: Jaså, att de fick sitta över?

Hugo: Sitta över ibland and 'di hade - vad jag säger på svenska - grade in English. We have to had the grades.

L: Betyg ja.

Hugo: Betyg, ja. Betyg.

L: Jaha. Fick de gå om ett år till då?

Hugo: De fick gå ett år till then.

L: Det var inte roligt det.

Hugo: De var noga! Och prästen, han brukte komma till skolan allt ibland.

L: Så det var 1920? eller 1918? -19?

Hugo: Nej, det var innan det. Jag var 15 år.

L: Jaa, just, alltså; det var 19 .. Ja 1918? Du var född 1905.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så det var då under första världskriget, eller alldeles efter?

Hugo: Ja men vi kunde höra när 'di skjuter kanonerna, kunde vi höra.

L: Ni hörde det!

Hugo: Ja, över Tyskland.

L: Jaså.

Hugo: Or Ryssland, jag vet inte vilket det var. Jag kommer inte ihåg allt det.

L: Så det var så pass lyhört. Var det svårt under första världskriget med maten?

Hugo: Å ja.

L: Åtta pojkar och fyra flickor, det var en stor familj.

Hugo: Å, jag just säger det.

L: Hur kunde de ordna fram mat på bordet varje dag? Det är klart att så fort de blev gamla tillräckligt så fick de ge sig av?

Hugo: Ja, ge sig av - ja.

L: Hur gamla var de när de fick ge sig ut och söka arbete? Efter konfirmationen?

Hugo: Jag var ute och arbetade efter jag var konfirmation, jag arbetade på en herrgård and jag 'brukte gå i blomstergården, gjorde arbete i blomstergården and hade gå till Unnaryd hämta posten and I had a horse! and one night I got. - En natt så började det bli mörkt innan jag kom hem and jag var rädd jag - and jag tog of sadeln, eller vad kallar ni den?

L: Ja. Du red på hästen?

Hugo: Va?

L: Du red på hästen? Eller var det selen Du tog av?

Hugo: Selen, ja.

L: Selen ja.

Hugo: Jag inte rätt kommer ihåg. And let hästen in and inspektoren, han undrade hur det var fatt där hästen var lös i

L: I stallet?

Hugo: Stallet - se. Jag sa ingenting. Jag var rädd!

L: Du var mörkrädd?

Hugo: No jag var rädd hästar. Jag var rädd för hästar. För - när jag var liten - en häst, han slog mig rätt hän i magen. Jag var rädder för det. Men; - Du vet - i Sverige, far lovade att: Erik, min tvillingbror, han fick gå opp, men han ville inte gå. Så jag var alltid, jag sa: well I go. Så jag var där, jag vet inte hur long jag var. Jag var där hela 'sommarn, tänker jag och arbetade där.

L: Du bodde där då?

Hugo: Jag bodde där and they had

L: Hur mycket betalt fick Du då?

Hugo: Va?

L: Hur mycket betalt fick Du för den sommaren?

Hugo: Det kommer jag inte ihåg.

L: Fick Du behålla de pengarna eller tog pappa hand om dem?

Hugo: Nej. De gick till pappa.

L: Pappa.

Hugo: mhm.

L: Så det var inga av ungdomarna då som tjänade pengar på egen hand?

Hugo: No.

L: Allting gick till hemmet?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Alla arbetade för - för alla?

Hugo: Ja there was - tre drängar tror jag visst att there was och; två pigor som arbetade där.

L: Var det ett bra arbete tyckte Du?

Hugo: Va?

L: Var det ett bra arbete, eller?

Hugo: Ja det var rätt så bra. Det jag var rädder för; 'di hade en storer hund: (?), Du vet vad det är?

L: Ja.

Hugo: And - den 'brukte och skälla på natten Du vet and jag var rädd Du ser.

L: Men blev Du inte bekant med hunden då efter ett tag?

Hugo: Ja, lite småningom.

L: Jaa.

Hugo: Men då fick 'en ju så lätt att han hoppade upp på borden när han var lös!

L: Och det var på herrgården detta?

Hugo: Det var på en herrgård.

L: Vad hette den gården?

Hugo: Nässja.

L: Nässja.

Hugo: mhm.

L: Var det en stor gård?

Hugo: Yeah. Han var en handelsresare - han själv.

L: Jaha. Och så hade han då gården, med rättare och

Hugo: And han hade en dam som var hushållerska.

L: Han var ogift?

Hugo: Ja han var ogift ja.

L: Så Din uppgift på gården, vad var den? Vad gjorde Du då?

Hugo: På gården?

L: Ja.

Hugo: Jag tog hand om blommorna. Jag hämtade posten and I had to take the - I don't know what they call him; the bull?

L: Tjuren.

Hugo: Tjuren, ja. Take them and go down to the lake and get them some water.

L: En stor tjur!

Hugo: Ja! Två var dom. Jag var så rädd! but 'di hade ringar i näsan!

L: Och det var Din uppgift att ta ner och vattna dem?

Hugo: Ja och vattna hästarna.

L: Två gånger om dagen eller?

Hugo: Ja, jag kommer inte ihåg det. Jag är 80 år Du vet och jag kommer inte ihåg allt.

L: Du hade hand om blommorna, sa Du. Du rensade ogräs och vattnade om det behövdes.
Hugo: Ja. Ja. Han har väldigt stor blomstergård, fina blommor.
L: Hur gammal var Du då när Du utförde detta arbete?
Hugo: About 15.
L: Och det var Din uppgift då? Du skulle göra allt detta?
Hugo: mhm.
L: Och där bodde Du då.
Hugo: Vi bodde. 'Di levde in the herrgården and hjälpen, 'di levde i ett annat litet hus.
L: Hade Du ett eget rum, eller bodde Du med någon i samma rum?
Hugo: No jag hade eget rum, men två utav drängarna, 'di hade rum tillsammans and flickorna, 'di hade rum på första golvet.
L: Jaha. Så där var ni "herre på täppan" då,
Hugo: Jaha!
L: när handelsresanden var ute och sålde.
Hugo: Ja.
L: Var han borta ofta då, hela veckor?
Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg om han gick bort or hur det var.
L: Så vem var Din bas när han var borta då? Var det husmodern?
Hugo: No, Vi had that inspektoren eller vad 'di kallas.
L: Å en inspektor.
Hugo: Ja.
L: Jaha. Så han fördelade arbetena?
Hugo: Han 'talte vid drängarna vad dom ska göra.
L: Var det mycket tryck under arbetet, eller kunde ni ta det lugnt och sitta och prata?
Hugo: 'Di hade en förfärlig del. Vi hade middag. Så låg - I don't know vad 'di kallar - resting
You know. Rested.
L: Vila middag?
Hugo: Ja. And then, by one o'clock, they gave us coffee and they never had anything before
the evening.
L: Inte det!
Hugo: Nä.
L: Jaså klockan ett!
Hugo: Ja.
L: Ni åt middag klockan tolv.
Hugo: Ja, middag just tolv.
L: Och så vilade ni?
Hugo: Sen vilade vi ja och sen hade vi 'te gå opp igen klockan ett.
L: Och fick kaffe?
Hugo: Kaffe - and sen hade vi 'te och gå ut och arbeta igen.
L: Och ni fick ingenting förrän klockan sex på kvällen då?
Hugo: Nej.
L: Jaså, inget eftermiddagskaffe?
Hugo: Nä.
L: Ja det var konstigt.
Hugo: Ja!
L: Hur var det under förmiddagen? Hur dags gick ni upp?
Hugo: Å - det kan jag inte svara, sju kanske.
L: Vid sju och då fick ni frukost och då fick ni kaffe?
Hugo: Ja, vi hade kaffe, and mat, jag kommer inte ihåg vad vi hade.
L: Nej. Och sedan, fick ni inget förrän middagen då?

Hugo: No vi fick ingenting before middan. Inget elvakaffe, nej.

L: Jaså. Vad var det för idéer! För så var det inte i mitt hem till exempel.

Hugo: Jaha! Hemma, där hade vi allting: kaffe på morgonen - kaffe och bröd. Sen hade vi frukost.

L: Frukost ja.

Hugo: Så hade vi elvakaffe!

L: Jaa.

Hugo: Så hade vi middag and på eftermiddan hade vi kaffe med våfflor and something like that.

L: Och sen då kvällsvard?

Hugo: And then kvällsmat klockan åtta, tror jag visst att det var.

L: Jaså åtta!

Hugo: Jaa! Far var kanske sen till komma hem - se. Han var ute och byggde, or something.

L: Jaha. Vilade Du middag när Du var hemma?

Hugo: Yeah a little bit. We used to go to the lake and swim. Nude. Just the boys. Yeah.

L: Jaså alla badade nakna?

Hugo: Jaa, det var pojkarna.

L: Inte flickorna?

Hugo: Nä. Det var; - det var en flicka hemma där, hon var inte med, men pojkarna. Men tvillingarna – en reste. Arvid and Julian, ja, det fyra tänker jag vi var.

L: Ja. Men var aldrig pojkar och flickor tillsammans när ni badade? Badade aldrig flickorna?

Hugo: See det var inte mer än en flicka i hemma se.

L: Jaha. Men jag menar: andra flickor?

Hugo: Andra flickor och pojkar ja det gjorde de!

L: Ja men de badade väl inte nakna allihopa tillsammans?

Hugo: Ja det vet jag inte hur 'di gjorde, of course jag var inte alls. That was in Bolmen, sjön Bolmen.

L: Jaa. För baddräkter fanns inte på den tiden väl?

Hugo: Det vet jag inte, det tror jag inte.

L: Det var väl okänt ute på vischan?

Hugo: Ja. Jaha! Haha!

L: Jaså då hoppade ni ner i Bolmen?

Hugo: I Bolmen ja.

L: Ni fiskade väl också?

Hugo: Ja. But jag 'brakte inte fiska mycket men min broder, 'di fiskade för gädda and abborre and sik – and jag kommer inte ihåg vad 'di heter alla.

L: De satte ut ryssjor då?

Hugo: 'Di hade en homma.

L: Homma?

Hugo: Du vet vad en homma är?

L: En mjärde, eller det är väl en ryssja antagligen?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Jaha. Det var på våren det?

Hugo: Ja, på våren ja.

L: När isen släppte.

Hugo: Jaha! På vintern ’brukte vi åka skridskor and isen var **that tjock** and vi brukade gå i en .. det var precis som det var en åska i luften, det ’dönade så, men isen sprack, **det spricker upp så mycket**.

L: Jaså?

Hugo: But vi brukte åka över det!

L: Och den höll hela vägen över?

Hugo: And then vi brukar cykla på isen men det var a little snö. Jag ’brukte gå över till Bolmsö med ’cykelen. Min bror, han levde i Bolmsö. Närmaste stan is Ljungby var ’di går.

L: Vad hade ni för er under sommarkvällarna? Hade ni logdanser?

Hugo: Ja, när vi ville, så hade vi. Vi ’brukte; först ’brukte vi gå från en bondby till en annan and ’di dansade i hemmen se. Men senare när vi hade läst, sen började vi gå till dansbanan.

L: Jaha. Var det någon som dansade i hemmen före de hade gått och läst? Hur lärde sig ungdomarna att dansa?

Hugo: Å det gjorde vi in hemmen. Ibland dansade de på logen and de hade prydnad med löven och allting – You know.

L: Var det vanligt på den tiden att pojkar dansade med varann?

Hugo: Ja lite, men inte så mycket.

L: Inte så mycket? Det var flickor och pojkar?

Hugo: Ja, det flickor dansade tillsammans.

L: Jaha. Och då hade ni dragspel eller fiol, eller vad använde ni för musik?

Hugo: Jag tror det var dragspel, and fiol också.

L: Alla kunde dansa?

Hugo: Ja!

L: Det var ingen som satt, utan alla försökte?

Hugo: Å då ibland var det en del ’flicker som inte fick. Jag vet inte om det var nog ’pojkar or vad det var.

L: Var ungdomarna som regel blyga utav sig eller var de kavata när de kom ut i umgängeskretsen?

Hugo: Ja en del var blyga ja.

L: Dom var det?

Hugo: mm.

L: Sådana som bodde långt bort i skogen, som inte hade varit med andra. Det var svårt för dem?

Hugo: Ja. And - då gick ’di till Folkets Hus och vi dansade and ’di hade, vad ’di kallar i kyrkan; missionshus!

L: Missionshuset.

Hugo: ’Di hade det också, vi ’brukte gå där. And vi hade torgdag en gång i månaden.

Torgdag.

L: I Ljungby eller?

Hugo: No i Södra Unnaryd.

L: Södra Unnaryd.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Jaså, en gång i månaden?

Hugo: En gång i ’månan.

L: Vad försigkom på den torgdagen?

Hugo: Ja ’di hade platser var ’di säljer olika saker and allt där. And så hade ’di konditori, kaffe konditori.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Vi 'brukte gå där and var vi dansade 'di brukte ha læskedrycker. Se det var ingen supning Du vet!

L: Inte det - nej.

Hugo: Det kanske var en del 'pöjkar gick ut och söp utanför dansplatsen.

L: Utanför, ja.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Men i regel höll sig de flesta undan spriten när de var yngre?

Hugo: Ja.

L: I den åldern?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Det var mest de äldre som var i 20- 25-årsåldern?

Hugo: Ja!

L: De var mer kavata?

Hugo: 'Di brukte slåss om allting, Även om en kommer från en annan by, Du vet! And then i Södra Unnaryd, då hade 'di, 'di slåss Du vet.

L: Du gjorde det?

Hugo: Nej, jag gjorde inte, men det gjorde en del pojkar?

L: Jaså, det var med andra byar då?

Hugo: Andra byar, ja!

L: Det såg dom med en gång?

Hugo: Jaha! 'Di brukte ta cykelkedjan och slå dem med den och allt möjligt.

L: Å det var riktiga

Hugo: Ja ja busar ja! Haha!

L: Vad hände då? För de kunde ju göra skada med en sådan kedja!

Hugo: Ja, jag kommer inte ihåg hur det var.

L: Det var många blodiga näsor på måndag morgon?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg vad det var - and - jag kom till Amerika in september.

L: Men innan vi kommer in på resan. Hur länge arbetade Du på den där herrgården?

Hugo: Se. .. Hela sommaren, tänker jag.

L: Hela sommaren.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Ja - och Du var 15 då? Vad fick Du för andra arbeten efter det?

Hugo: 15 år.

L: Sedan åkte Du hem då och stannade hemma?

Hugo: Stannade hemma ja.

L: Fick Du något annat arbete efter det?

Hugo: Ja vi hade ett litet jordbruk and; and vi hade skog; mycket skog and vi hade att hugga skogen. Min tvillingbror och jag vi 'brukte såga - Du vet. And min bror, som är ett och ett halvt år äldre än 'öss, han 'brukte ha 'öxan - and

L: kvista?

Hugo: Ja, kvista, and han 'brukte bli arg på oss ty vi gick inte fort nog!

L: Jaså, Din äldre bror?

Hugo: Ja, han 'brukte bli arg på 'öss, för vi gick inte fort nog! And vi had 'te och gå in snö, way up till knä and - it was hard.

L: Du tyckte inte något vidare om det?

Hugo: No!

L: Och Din bror, han var ungefär av samma läggning som Du då? Ni hölls tillsammans?

Hugo: Min tvillingbror.

L: Ja, Din tvillingbror.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så ni hade ungefär samma takt?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Men Din äldre bror, han tyckte inte om det?

Hugo: Nej, vi hann inte fort nog.

L: Ja men; om han nu var stor och stark och en sexfotare, han kunde använda en stor yxa naturligtvis. Använde ni samma slags redskap? Ni hade ingen mindre yxa för att ni själva var lite mindre?

Hugo: Vi hade mindre yxor.

L: Ni hade det!

Hugo: Ja, me and min tvillingbror. Men han hade en - vad han 'kunne – jag vet inte vad 'di kallar 'et?

L: Till splitter wood?

Hugo: Splitter wood. Well; 'di pick the bark off and then they turn the timber.

L: Barka, ja. Jaha.

Hugo: Ibland så vi såga av 'et and 'la det uppåt – Du vet.

L: Jaa.

Hugo: And there were so many meter till.

L: Meterved. Famnved, som dom sa.

Hugo: and hänga drapperierna och allting. Han 'kunne göra vad som helst.

L: Jaså, Din pappa?

Hugo: Min pappa.

L: Jaså!

Hugo: Och han gjorde vad som helst.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Han hade (?), det var in Voxtorp (?).

L: Vad hette det?

Hugo: Voxtorp.

L: Voxtorp?

Hugo: Ja. Det är i Småland också.

L: Så var Du med pappa och lärde Dig de här arbetena?

Hugo: Nej, jag var för liten then.

L: Jaha. Så han hade med sig andra söner då?

Hugo: Nej han var själv then när han gick ut och gjorde det.

L: Så han lärde inte upp någon av er då till att göra likadant?

Hugo: Nej. And så brukte vi gå och plantera

L: skog?

Hugo: Skog - och han gjorde det också. And plocka sten! Jag kommer ihåg det också.

L: I markerna?

Hugo: Ja. Jag menar när jag 'arbeta på den där herrgårn.

L: Det var på våren det?

Hugo: Ja det var på våren, på 'sommarn, på våren.

L: Hur bar Du Dig åt då? Hade Du en korg att plocka sten i eller?

Hugo: No. Vi 'brukte plocka, lägga det i en hög och sen kommer 'di med hästen och plockar upp det efter.

L: Jaha. Så Du har varit med i stenriket.

Hugo: Jaha! Det är ju alltid!

L: Där är mycket sten?

Hugo: Å i Småland är mycket sten, men det är vackert då på många platser där.

L: Jaha. Men det tänkte Du inte på när Du växte upp, att det var vackert?

Hugo: Jo! Jag tyckte det var vackert! Vi ’brukte gå ut och cykla och gå till dansbanan and det var bra sent när vi kom hem. Då ’brukte dimman ligga i – det var så – det var så vackert!

Men; vi var rädda, ville inte far skulle se oss när vi kom hem. Mor var det bra med, men far, han ville inte vi kom in så sent.

L: Jaså, han var sträng?

Hugo: Han var sträng for that. Ja. Min mor, hon hjälpte oss pojkar ut! Ja.

L: Jaså hon hade mer förståelse för det?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Jaha. Så om det var en besvärlig fråga, då gick Du till mamma och bad henne om råd?

Hugo: Ja ibland.

L: Om råd och nåd!

Hugo: Haha! Ja.

L: Jaa. Var pappa sträng mot er pojkar när ni växte upp?

Hugo: Nej inte no.

L: Inte det?

Hugo: Nej.

L: Han hade respekt med sig?

Hugo: ’Di var snälla ’både två.

L: Jaha. Och ni gjorde vad som skulle göras?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Det var ingen som ifrågasatte att: det behövs inte göras **så och så**, utan ni gjorde det?

Hugo: Ja. Bära in vatten och ta in ved till spisen and vi hade ’te och hugga ved and

L: Hade var och en utav er var sitt beting att göra?

Hugo: nej, då de kvittade inte.

L: Så mamma och pappa kunde säga till vem som helst utav er?

Hugo: Ja. And – som jag sa: Vill ni hjälpa mor? En annan av flickorna ville inte göra ’at. Far ’brukte säga: Hugo vill Du hjälpa mor, vill Du? Så jag hjälpte henne mycket.

L: Och Du trivdes bra med det? Du och mamma trivdes bra ihop?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Så hon lärde Dig att knäskura och att torka rent?

Hugo: Ja. Jag gjorde det när jag kom hem från Amerika and ’hälsa på. Jag hjälpte skura and allting.

L: Jaså mamma Din levde då, första gången Du var hemma?

Hugo: Å ja, hon levde, båda två.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Det var 1928.

L: Jaså, då åkte Du hem?

Hugo: Fem år efter jag kom hit.

Lennart Setterdahl: Jaha. Så - Du åkte till Amerika 1923. Vad berodde det på? Var det någon i familjen som var i Amerika?

Hugo Eliason: Ja min syster, hon var i Sverige till hälsa på.

L: Och hon hade emigrerat tidigare?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Vad hette hon?

Hugo: Estrid. Estrid.

L: Ja och när

Hugo: Norling var hennes gifta namn. Och hon; jag vet inte hur länge hon vart här, men jag åkte med henne hit till Amerika.

L: Så hon skrev brev tidigare då hem och berättade hur det var här i Amerika?

Hugo: Ja. Jag skulle inte gå, men min bror was två och en halv år, han hade till gå in armén. Så han kunde inte gå. Then jag gick. Men 'di hade till skriva till min syster brother of law här in the Unated States and they had to have

L: En garanti för Dig.

Hugo: A guaranty - course I was to young!

L: Hur gammal var Du då?

Hugo: I was 17, I just turned 18.

L: Ja, Du var född -05 - ja.

Hugo: And

L: Var det ingen av de andra bröderna som funderade på att åka till Amerika?

Hugo: Ja, det

L: Utav åtta pojkar?

Hugo: Det; Olle and Gust and Osborn, 'di kom 'te Amerika and then my syster.

L: Utav bröderna?

Hugo: Ja. And my systrar var; Ellen and Estrid, 'di 'köm till Amerika.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Ja.

L: Men Din syster då, som var äldre, hon åkte först?

Hugo: Nej. min bror åkte först. Han 'hetade Gust.

L: När åkte han, ungefär?

Hugo: Nej, han var inte äldst, but den andra, next to the äldst.

L: Vem hade inbillat dem att de skulle åka till Amerika?

Hugo: Well! Jag tänkte, jag går väl. I talked about going - You know - to the kids. So I decided to go, but they did have to get a permit, from my syster and her husband, he was responsible for me.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: And – that's how I came. And I had to go to Ellis Island.

L: Jaha. Men innan vi kommer in på det; hur gammal var Du när Du fick reda på att det fanns någonting som hette Amerika?

Hugo: About en – about six seven years old.

L: Och det var brev som kom ifrån Amerika då?

Hugo: **ja!**

L: Och då läste mamma och pappa dem?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Och Du kunde läsa dem också efter ett tag?

Hugo: Ja visst ja.

L: Var det någonting speciellt som Du funderade över hur det såg ut, eller: Vad är Amerika för någonting? Låg det långt borta för Dig – eller var befann det sig för Dig – i Ditt huvud?

Hugo: It was far, a fantasy mostly, You know.

L: Du kunde inte göra Dig en föreställning om det då?

Hugo: Nej! But I am glad I came.

L: Som Din syster och då Din bror, när de skrev i breven hem,

Hugo: Ja.

L: vad skrev de egentligen? Hördes det bra ut?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg vad dom skrev.

L: Jag menar: skrev de på ett sätt så att det lockade över Dig också, att: dit måste jag också åka!

Hugo: Ja.

L: Fick Du den uppfattningen?

Hugo: Hugo nickar.

L: Så Du tror att breven hade en stor betydelse för att Du åkte?

Hugo: Jag tänker det ja.

L: För Du var 17 eller 18 år då och Du hade inget arbete då – fast arbete?

Hugo: Nej.

L: Och Du hade ingen, vad man säger: girlfriend, i Sverige heller?

Hugo: Oh I had a girlfriend over in Sweden yeh! Ha!

L: Ja! När Du beslutade Dig för att åka, vad sade Du till henne? Ville Du att hon skulle följa med?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg det.

L: Eller vad sa hon när Du sa att Du skulle åka? Var det en flicka ifrån bygden?

Hugo: not far from Unnaryd.

L: Unnaryd.

Hugo: Färda, a little place outside of Unnaryd. We had a good time in Sweden too.

L: Jaha. Men det mest nödvändiga för Dig, det var att få ett arbete, för Ditt livsuppehälle.

Hugo: Jag arbetade till – I worked at the (?), in East Moline, that's the first job I had, in a shop. I worked there to in juli nittonhundratjugofyra; 1924.

L: Och Du kom över -23. Skickade Din syster en biljett till Dig eller?

Hugo: No. My sister and my brother bought it. They paid.

L: Jaså.

Hugo: mhm.

L: Direkt ifrån Unnaryd till, till Moline?

Hugo: Till Moline ja.

L: Hon var här i Moline, Illinois?

Hugo: Ja. A-Ha.

L: Och de bodde rätt här i stan, eller?

Hugo: Ja, de levde här i Moline.

L: Jaha. Du åkte med Kungsholm ifrån Göteborg?

Hugo: Jag tror det var Kungsholm – or was it Drottning-? Then när jag gick hem, när jag åkte 1928. En gång var det Drottningholm och en gång var det 'Kingsholm, but jag kommer inte ihåg vilken det var.

L: Och det blev en bra överresa?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Du träffade många pojkar då som emigrerade 1923?

Hugo: Å ja!

L: Var det många ifrån Unnaryd kanske?

Hugo: Nej.

L: Du var den enda?

Hugo: Inte - jag har inte träffat många från Unnaryd över här.

L: Och inte på resan heller.

Hugo: Nej.

L: Men det var många svenskar som åkte då?

Hugo: Oh yeah -! Många svenskar.

L: Det var omöjligt att få ett arbete då? Du kunde inte ha åkt till Jönköping till exempel, eller till Göteborg eller Malmö eller till Stockholm? Du hade inte det i tankarna då?

Hugo: Nej, hade aldrig en tanke.

L: Utan det var Amerika, det var, det var målet,

Hugo: Ja.

L: oavsett hur långt det var.

Hugo: Jaha!

L: Nu när båten höll på och ånga iväg där dag efter dag, tyckte Du att det var väldigt långt bort?

Hugo: Ja, tog elva dagar, tror jag visst det var.

L: Elva dagar.

Hugo: mhm.

L: Du förstod att det var långt 'borte?

Hugo: See vi gick till Halifax, Canada and then over to the Unated States.

L: Jaha. Och så kom Du då till Ellis Island?

Hugo: Ja Ellis Island, Jaha!

L: Hade Du alla, Du hade pengar med Dig för landstigningen?

Hugo: Ja, Du hade till och ha.

L: Hur mycket var det?

Hugo: Kommer inte ihåg hur mycket det var. Men det var många som 'di inte hade 'et.

L: Vad berodde det på att en del inte hade det, för det fick ni väl upplysningar om?

Hugo: Å 'di söp upp 'et se! En del, 'di 'brukte gå utan allting else, to fill a bad bottom there You know. But that's what they did do. They had a lot of Germans, Polacks and all different countries on the boat too.

L: Vad hände med dem då som inte hade landstigningspengar?

Hugo: Jag vet inte hur länge de hade till och stanna där.

L: De fick inte fortsätta förrän de hade det?

Hugo: De kanske fick stanna och kanske de hade till att skriva hem för pengar or någonting.

L: Telegrafera.

Hugo: Jag tänker det.

L: Jaha. Så det var !

Hugo: Det var svårt!

L: Det var ett svårt uppvaknande efter ruset.

Hugo: Å – jag säger det!

L: Men Du hade allting klart när Du kom igenom och det var inga besvär på Ellis Island?

Hugo: Nä.

L: Kommer Du ihåg om Du fick gå från en våning till en annan för att undersöka Dig med lungor och hjärta, att de tittade på händer?

Hugo: Å ja, The doctor, we had to go to.

L: Var Du på *en våning* och gjorde detta?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg det.

L: Du kommer inte ihåg att Du gick uppför trappor?

Hugo: Jag tänker vi gick uppåt.

L: Och så skrev de på bröstet på Dig, gjorde de inte det?

Hugo: Ja, var vi skulle gå.

L: Ja, var ni skulle gå ja.

Hugo: mhm.

L: Så Du behövde inte säga någonting.

Hugo: Nej. Men jag hade min syster. Hon kunde tala bra engelska - så.

L: Du var med henne på resan över?

Hugo: Ja! Jag gick, när hon gick tillbaka så följde jag med henne.

L: Jaha. Så det förenklade ju saken en hel del.

Hugo: mm.

L: Så då hade Du inga bekymmer direkt?

Hugo: Nej.

L: Och sen anlände ni då till Moline.

Hugo: Va?

L: Sen anlände ni då till Moline?

Hugo: ja.

L: Och Du stannade hos Din syster ett tag då?

Hugo: ja, jag stannade med min syster. Jag stannade, I don't know hur många år det var, tre år tänker jag det var.

L: Och bodde hos henne?

Hugo: Bodde hos min syster.

L: Och hon var gift och hade familj?

Hugo: Ja. De har en pojk.

L: Ja. Och hennes gifta namn, vad var det, sa Du?

Hugo: Swanson.

L: Swanson. Och; hur gick det till då när Du fick det första arbetet? Åkte Du ner och presenterade Dig på olika ställen eller?

Hugo: Well. Now I have to tell You in English. The first day I went to work my brother in law took me to work, and he showed me the place (?). And then; when I'd go home, I had to go so far and when I'd find the 3rd street, I had to change the spårvagn – and – I done wrong see and I couldn't find this street. I asked everybody about **so and so** and everybody did like this: nobody knew it. And I went around and around. Finally I got up to 26 Str 11th Ave and that's where she lived and they even had a car to go out and look for me. Oh it was terrible! I cried and everything else. It's the worth memory.

L: So You were completely lost then?

Hugo: I was completely lost.

L: But; there were so many Swedes though. What happened to them?

Hugo: I don't know! There are no Swedes, or anything!

L: Where was the Swedish area then at that time in Moline? Was it more downtown?

Hugo: It was up here, down 26th Str., not here, this is a newer place. Up on 26th, 27th Str.

L: And the 3rd Ave?

Hugo: And 3rd Ave.

L: Så det var bebyggt då utav svenskar 1923 när Du kom? Här runt om och?

Hugo: Å här, detta var farmland, allt då.

L: Det var farmland ja.

Hugo: Yes.

L: Men på 3rd Ave.

Hugo: There was

L: and (?)?

Hugo: Ja.

L: Där var bebyggt?

Hugo: mhm.

L: Jaha. Så hur gick det då? Hur kom Du till rätta? Hittade de Dig?

Hugo: They got the car and they were going to look for me. And the next day I had to go down and walk a couple of blocks down the 27th str. And I had to take a stick out on the 3rd Ave. And I had to change and think: this is Moline. And; after that I got pretty well used to it. But it was hard.

L: Very hard. So Your first work place then was in East Moline?

Hugo: Buddy (?).

L: Buddy (?).

Hugo: They made fire trucks – and – You know – small things for children.

L: Oh a toy factory!

Hugo: Toy factory.

L: Buddy (?).

Hugo: Buddy (?).

L: Buddy (?).

Hugo: Yeah.

L: How do You spell that? B u d d

Hugo: Yeah Buddy (?).

L: Oh Buddy (?).

Hugo: mhm. And I worked with a bunch of high school kids and they felt sorry for me. They got the paper, they thought I could read the paper and everything else, but I couldn't do it You know. And then, one time I worked with (? Överhoppat). And then I have seen her a few years after that, at the Old Colosseum, at a dance.

L: Yes.

Hugo: She asked if I remember. I said: Sure I did! They did everything they could, those young kids, the girls and the boys.

L: To help You?

Hugo: To help me. See they were high school kids. And

L: Where there any kids of Swedish background, that could speak Swedish?

Hugo: No.

L: No?

Hugo: No. The boss he was Swedish, but he was (? Överhoppat). He won't help me.

L: No!

Hugo: I know he cheated me, about the wages and everything else.

L: So there was a rough time then?

Hugo: Oh boy! There was no Swedish young people working there.

L: You were the only one?

Hugo: I was the only one.

L: So how did You start to learn and pick up the English? You had to go the hard way?

Hugo: I went to – they had a school were they used to be, I just got to a night school and I learned some. And then I got (?) with a fellow. He was born in Sweden, but he was just a couple of years old when he came over here. He helped me a lot - You know, – talking to him. And there was a family in Rock Island, their name was Svensons and they had a son. But the son, he could talk all fairly good Swedish, but the mother and dad, they always tried to help, so that's how I picked it up.

L: How many years did You work there?

Hugo: From September to the next July -24.

L: The hole winter then?

Hugo: mhm.

L: And it was steady work.

Hugo: Yeah. I had a work. I had to leave on 6 o'clock and sometimes I didn't get home before 7.

L: Oh that was a long day!

Hugo: Yes sure!

L: Why did they work so many hours!

Hugo: Well. You see: they did get around the Christmas time and the kids wanted a lot of toys and stuff and

L: And they were all made of wood in pieces?

Hugo: No.

L: Oh metal?

Hugo: metal. So we looked like real little fire trucks and everything.

L: What was Your job now to do there? What did You do?

Hugo: I did different things and I was just the one (? Överhoppat).

L: You mean You pressed the (?) to fast?

Hugo: (? Överhoppat).

L: How much were You paid then an hour?

Hugo: Let me see. 25, I remember, yes.

L: 25 cents.

Hugo: mm.

L: And You had no insurance, or anything, if You got sick for instance?

Hugo: I don't know.

L: And there was no unions?

Hugo: No union no.

L: It was open.

Hugo: It was open!

L: Was it a high turn over of people? Did they hire and fire, or did they usually stay on their job?

Hugo: I think they got fired and left, and so on.

L: So what happened then in July the following year? You decided to quitt then - or?

Hugo: Yeah. Then I started to work for Axel Carlson Construction Company. My brother in law, he was a superintendent for the company: Swanson. And then, finally, he bought; him and another guy within: Lundin, they bought out Axel Carlson Company. So he was the owner!

L: So that was a big construction company in Moline?

Hugo: Yes. Moline. And; the old man, he moved to California and Curt Lundin, and my brother in law, they bought them out and they still kept hes name. So that's how that happened. And then my nephew, after my brother in law died and Mr Lundin died, then he got the job, for he was the owner of the company, when he worked in the office and that came before, so I worked for him; my nephew.

L: Oh I see.

Hugo: And he lives in, he used to live up in Crestwood, do You know where Crestwood is?

L: Yes.

Hugo: That's where my sister, they used to live there too. And then. But now he lives in Florida, most of the time and then he come down here in the summer. But now they ain't going to come down to Moline no more. They are going to get a place in Wisconsin, where they got a son, he is a lawyer there; in Maddison Wisconsin.

L: Oh I see. So You quitt then. You quitt there down at the Buddy (?) factory?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Did Your brother in law – or: what do You call him now? – not brother in law? Yeah! It would be!

Hugo: Quite in law.

L: Did he tell You then to start for him to work, or?

Hugo: No. My sister was asking and they were after me to join the Carpenters union see.

L: Yes.

Hugo: That's how it happened.

L: And You did?

Hugo: And I did yeah.

L: And You became a full fledged carpenter?

Hugo: No, I was an apprentice!

L: Apprentice first?

Hugo: Of four years.

L: Four years.

Hugo: And I got 45 cents an hour to start.

L: And who was Your master then, to teach You the trade of carpentry?

Hugo: I have forgot this.

L: It was Your brother in law or?

Hugo: Him too – and; Course: Lundin, he worked in the office mostly and my brother in law, he goes all around on different jobs – You know.

L: As a superintendent?

Hugo: Yeah - he was a superintendent. And then we had the bosses You know, for different jobs.

L: And then You got the hammer and the plane and the square and the

Hugo: Yeah!

L: and all the kisels and everything, and started out.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Did You like this kind of work then?

Hugo: No. I a kind of liked it first but it was hard.

L: It was hard? It was a different tempo?

Hugo: Yeah. I wish I ever had started myself, course now I don't get any pension from the company. They just started it then, when I quitted.

L: Yeah but You had the Carpenters union though?

Hugo: Yeah! I get 31 dollars and 35 cents pension.

L: From the Carpenter union?

Hugo: Yeah!

L: A month?

Hugo: A month. Yeah that's the hole!

L: And how many years have You put into it then? Since 1924?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Up to 1970 ?

Hugo: 6.

L: -76. 35 dollars a month. And You paid into it every month?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: And You paid Your doughs every month?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Did You pay in anything extra than the doughs, for a pension fund or anything like that?

Hugo: No, they didn't have it then see, but then they started it. So that's the reason why I don't get the pension.

L: So You were an apprentice then for four years, for 35 cents an hour?
Hugo: Well - they increased it, as the years went by - see.
L: You didn't have to press that, because the union took care of it?
Hugo: They took care of that.
L: Were there any frictions then between the union and the management?
Hugo: No.
L: No?
Hugo: See when it was in the law they had, they had to pay **so much each year**.
L: But You came in -24. That was quite early then for the unions, because there were no unions at John Deere and
Hugo: No. That was all Construction. We built a lot of big shops and mostly commercial.
L: Commercial buildings.
Hugo: Yeah - no houses. Commercial. All big stuff.
L: And he made good then in the 20s?
Hugo: Oh yeah. He - he was the biggest company on this side of the river and in Davenport it was Turnercliff.
L: I see.
Hugo: So; that was a big company one time.
L: How many carpenters were You then, when he started there?
Hugo: Oh I think he had close to hundred carpenters.
L: Hundred!
Hugo: Yes. One time.
L: That was a big company!
Hugo: That was in; now that was in the 30s and in the 40s see. That was a big company.
L: And the most of the carpenters were Swedish?
Hugo: Nej.
L: Nej!
Hugo: A lot of them were Americans. And the most of them were Swedish.
L: Did they prefer Swedish workers, do You think?
Hugo: No, they didn't. It didn't matter.
L: No.
Hugo: And then I worked for them and then I got to be a carpenter forman myself.
L: How many years did You have to work for that?
Hugo: Oh I don't remember, about ten years, anyway.
L: You were up in the Depression then?
Hugo: No. The Depression started at. - But! I'll tell You what I did one time. They worked for the labors (?) see. I had labors working for me. And there was one guy, a colored guy, hes name was Swanson. And so the guy, and there was another guy. I gave the colored guys check to him, course I did think he was a Swedish, and gave him the one check. But
L: He was a black Swede.
Hugo: And - he said: "Yeah my name is Swanson"! I gave the one check to the other guy, he looked more like a Swede see and that even if I had the name. You know: the niggers, they did take any name they'd feel like, - they used to. They didn't make any difference: Anderson and Johnson, or what ever it is.
L: Oh I see. So they had negros then up here in the construction!
Hugo: Yeah - not to many.
L: Not to many.
Hugo: Not in the carpenter work; but the labors.
L: Were they good labors? Or what was the reason why he employed him at that time?
Hugo: Oh they were just pretty good, some of them.

L: Because You would think there were coming a lot of Swedes in though in the 20s there?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Were there a lot of Swedes coming in then, when You were working there in the 20s?

Hugo: Oh yeah.

L: Every year?

Hugo: Every year yeah. But never anybody from my place in Sweden!

L: No.

Hugo: Never.

L: So on the work now, You started there in 1924, for the Carlson Construction?

Hugo: mhm.

L: Did they use a lot of Swedish on the work site, or did You talk English the whole day? The Swedish carpenters.

Hugo: They talked, they mixed it up.

L: They mixed it up.

Hugo: mhm.

L: But then they had labors; like the Swanson, he couldn't talk Swedish?

Hugo: No no! (? Överhoppad mening)! They teased me about that! Yeah.

L: So then; - during the 20s, why was the carpenters organizing, do You think, like the shop holders? They (? överhoppat). In other words: If You were talking about the union down at the John Deere, or at the International Harvester, they; - they just fired them.

Hugo: Yeah. They didn't have much union.

L: No, but how come the management of the construction company? – Why would they let the carpenters into the union?

Hugo: I don't know.

L: Because there was no (? överhoppat)? They agreed the carpenters being unionized.

Hugo: Yeah - but they did not have nothing to do with that, I don't think.

L: No! But I mean: You know like the Carlson Construction, they could say: We don't want the union to unionize the carpenters here! We take in other Swedes coming in; green horns here. They are as good carpenters as You are. But they didn't do that?

Hugo: Nej!

L: There was no (?) union carpenters on the work force then? Like at the Carlson Construction?

Hugo: Nej. There was; all was union.

L: So they couldn't have any union brakers?

Hugo: Nej. No!

L: But, You know, in the shop, they hired all none union?

Hugo: I know it.

L: How could they get away with it?

Hugo: Well. That was in the early days, so I don't know. Course then later on in the years – You know they had the union in all the shops.

L: When?

Hugo: Oh I don't know when it started. It must have started in the 30s.

L: Yeah in -35, -36.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: When Rosevelt came in?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So the plumbers, the carpenters and the painters, they were (?) then in regard to the union?

Hugo: They all had their unions.

L: (? Överhoppat)?

Hugo: Yeah – ahead of the shops yeah.

L: Did You attend any union meetings? When You became a forman, did You have to pay into the union though, did You?

Hugo: Yeah! Yeah!

L: You had to be in the carpenter union?

Hugo: Yes.

L: But You were a forman?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So what happened there then? You were in between the management and the carpenters?

Hugo: Yeah I did. Well; we all had to pay the dues You know. They weren't so much then, I don't remember how much. But now they have to pay dues, I don't remember how much, do You?

L: No I have no idea.

Hugo: No, I don't.

L: But then they got a lot of benefits though?

Hugo: Yeah. Now they have benefit. I think; probably they have to pay around 50 dollars a month!

L: In dues?

Hugo: In dues, for insuring and (?) and all that stuff.

L: But then (?) 300 or 400 dollars a month?

Hugo: Yeah – after they retire.

L: But it is hard to get a job now though.

Hugo: Yeah You don't get any!

L: But they still have to pay in every month; the dues?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Even if they don't work?

Hugo: Mhm. They pay in if they don't work.

L: Otherwise they drop You?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: It goes down the drain.

Hugo: Down the drain! Yes! Sure!

L: What kind of benefit did You have when You paid in Your dues? Did You have any insurance coverage?

Hugo: Yeah I have

L: If You hit on Your hand You know with the hammer?

Hugo: Yeah. I got my hand in a (?) - see. The company have insurance for that.

L: They paid You?

Hugo: They paid it.

L: The doctor?

Hugo: The insurance company paid it. Course they had to pay. The insuring company had the contacts. They had to pay to the insuring company.

L: Even in the 1920s?

Hugo: Well; this happened in -55.

L: Oh it was later. But I wonder now: before the Depression? Could You have free doctor and hospitalisation then if You hurt Yourself on a job?

Hugo: Jag kommer inte ihåg det. I don't remember.

L: You were not sick then. So: in other words: the company didn't pay for You if You were home sick for a month?

Hugo: Nej. No!

L: You were Your own?

Hugo: I am my own.

L: And that's when a wife comes in handy,

Hugo: Yeah!

L: to take care of it. How about vacation now? When did You get Your first vacation from the company?

Hugo: We never had a vacation.

L: Never?

Hugo: Never.

L: Was that because You were laid off in the wintertime, do You think?

Hugo: No! Everybody. Nobody had any vacation.

L: So nobody talked about going anywhere; for a week, or anything like that?

Hugo: No. I don't know how they got it now, because I don't go to the meetings any more, but I never heard of them saying they have a vacation.

L: Did You go out on a strike at any time, do You remember, in the Carpenters union?

Hugo: No, I don't believe so.

L: No.

Hugo: I don't think we had any strike.

L: So You stayed at Your sisters place, with Your brother in law, for three years?

Hugo: Mhm.

L: And then you rented a

Hugo: place downtown, for me and my brother, down at the 16th avenue.

L: You had a brother coming over then from Sweden,

Hugo: Yeah.

L: to join You?

Hugo: Mhm.

L: Was he working together with You, or?

Hugo: No, he worked at Evans Corporation, down in River Drive. And then he; then he moved to California.

L: Oh I see. How old was he when he came?

Hugo: Oh I think Bob he was .. he was .. around 20 years, 1920.

L: Was it Robert?

Hugo: Robert yeah. Roubert they called Robert and now they call him Bob!

L: Roubert. So he didn't stay long here in Moline?

Hugo: No. He moved to California, where my brother lived.

L: I see. But You never had any thoughts about going?

Hugo: Va?

L: You never had any thoughts to going west, to California?

Hugo: Oh Rouby, Rouby

L: I mean: for staying though?

Hugo: Rouby have been a lot in Pritchwood, California.

L: So then You were on Your own, living in Your own department after he left. What time did You get married?

Hugo: No. We had a lot of rooms in the same house, it was two .. oh! Six or eight, I think, moved to that place.

L: All Swedes?

Hugo: All Swedes yeah. And then we had a board, she had a boarding house too. The lady, she is a good cook.

L: And she took care of the food and the washing and

Hugo: No. The washing, we had to go to the China man!

L: Oh I see. You had to take care of it.

Hugo: But her husband, he worked at the Plow company at Deeres.

L: So the China man; You had a chinese laundry?

Hugo: Yeah!

L: Was it more than one?

Hugo: I think there was two of them!

L: In Moline!

Hugo: Moline yeh.

L: So it was big business.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So how much did You have to pay though for the weeks wash? Or did You sign it up for two weeks?

Hugo: I don't remember how much. And then it was another laundry over, they was a regular laundry. I don't know what nationality they was, but

L: There were not such a place where You could do it yourself? You had to leave it?

Hugo: Yeah we had to leave it yeah.

L: And it came back shining white.

Hugo: Yeah! The Chinese really knew how to do (?) and stuff!

L: So there was good cleaning.

Hugo: Yeah!

L: Old Chinese trick.

Hugo: Chinese trick!

L: On the work, 100 workers, it was a big bunch of carpenters. There were a lot of hammers.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Did You have any Belgian people working there?

Hugo: Belgians! Yes!

L: Do You know if they were Walloons? You know what Wallons are (from Sweden)?

Hugo: No.

L: They came from Belgium up to Sweden to the mine work.

Hugo: No.

L: You don't know if the Belgians here are from the same part of the country of Belgium? You have no idea?

Hugo: I don't know.

L: How were the Belgian people to work with?

Hugo: They were all right!

L: They were good carpenters, as the Swedes were?

Hugo: Yeah there was one, hes name was (?). He was a good finisher, he was a good carpenter. But; there was one time, during; Oh! in the 40s, but then afterward, they didn't have so many. But then I think there was the carpenters and the labors (? överhoppat). But – after that it got a little less and less.

L: So when it was going in high speed, then You had a lot of work going on.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So they were good people to work with then. The Swedes and the Belgians came in good terms with each other?

Hugo: Yeah. We had 'Polacks and different nationalities.

L: Jaha. So there were Polacks here!

Hugo: Yeah! We even had. We had one, I think we had one Russian labor, who worked on there.

Lennart Setterdahl: So; how about the Wasa and the Wikings, Svitjood and Fridhem, the Godtempler lodge and all those. Which one did You join first?

Hugo Eliason: Wasa.

L: Wasa.

Hugo: Mhm.

L: There was Rupert Kask?

Hugo: Rupert Kask ja!

L: He got You!

Hugo: Ja! Rupert Kask!

L: He came to the train station?

Hugo: Ja. Rupert Kask.

L: What did he say when he met You then, do You remember?

Hugo: I can't remember what he said.

L: (? Överhoppad fråga)?

Hugo: Yeah. He .. He was the old (?) Rupert Kask.

L: He was?

Hugo: Yeah! And then I joined the – let's see: – the Wikings, but: then the times got bad, I dropped the Wikings, but now I am a social member. And I also used to belong to the Turners, (that's a German)

L: Yes.

Hugo: but I dropped them too. Everybody had to drop those during the Depression – and: – did I belong to Svitjood? No.

L: You didn't belong to the temperance?

Hugo: No, I didn't.

L: How about the church now, which church did You join when You came?

Hugo: Well; - my wife and I - we was married in the (?) Lutheran church.

L: You didn't join the church when You came?

Hugo: Yeah. We joined and went to the First Lutheran downtown and we used to go there for the Sunday evenings and we used to go for: – I don't know what we called it, do You know?

L: Socials?

Hugo: Socials yeah and then they had coffee and stuff afterwards.

L: Oh at the church!

Hugo: The pastor, hes name was Moreland.

L: So the young people met down there then?

Hugo: Yeah – the young people – yeah.

L: Jaha. But You didn't meet the right girl down there though?

Hugo: Va?

L: You didn't meet the right girl down there, at the church?

Hugo: No.

L: You had to go somewhere else?

Hugo: Jaha!

L: So where did You look for Goldie Smidie? Where did You meet her?

Hugo: I met her on a boat going between Rock Island—Davenport, they just had a ferry going back and forth. That's where I met her.

L: So how did it happen?

Hugo: Well. There was a police mans son in Rock Island! Him and I was buddies. He were not Swedish - and

L: He was not Swedish?

Hugo: No. And – he said: "What do You say Hugo? Let's go on the next tour"? (? Överhoppat). We got to talk and; we took her home!

L: You mean: they danced on that ferry?

Hugo: Oh yeah! They danced on the ferry!

L: And served food and ?

Hugo: Nej. No. No food, but they had pop and stuff. And

L: So You asked for a dance?

Hugo: Yeah!

L: And You got it?

Hugo: Yeah! And she stayed with my buddy in Rock Island. And she went home (?) and she came back and in a year or so we got married. We married in the (?) Lutheran church where we belonged.

L: What year?

Hugo: It was in .. let's see: I came from Sweden .. I can't remember!

L: -23.

Hugo: Va!

L: You came from Sweden -23.

Hugo: -23 yeah. Det måste bli in ... Well; we have been married .. 55 years.

L: You were married before -30 then, You were married -20 ?

Hugo: -28 then, yeah.

L: -28.

Hugo: yeah.

L: Jaha. Well: -29.

Hugo: -29. That was during the Depression. And; she belonged to, she went to a church in Waterloo and when we had married we belonged to the (?) Lutheran church ever since.

L: You told her You liked to belong to the Lutherans, or? Were You the one that picked the church?

Hugo: Well we used to go over there see and she liked it, so we joined it.

L: Jaha. And she was of English, German and French background?

Hugo: mm.

L: So: she joined the Wasa too then?

Hugo: When she joined the Wasa I don't remember.

L: Later on perhaps after the Second world war?

Hugo: Yeah. Yeah.

L: Because at that time You had to be all Swedish - I suppose - that belonged to it?

Hugo: Yeah, then they started afterward.

L: Jaha. When did You became American citizen?

Hugo: In -30 I believe it was.

L: So then You were ready to vote for: Hoover?

Hugo: Hoover? Who was it? ... I don't remember. Hoover was the one I voted for first.

L: But wasn't it the case that the most of the Swedes, that came over, they said that: if You like to have a job for three years, vote the Republicans? Then You are safe?

Hugo: No **no!**

L: You didn't have that

Hugo: I didn't have that trouble with anybody.

L: No?

Hugo: No.

L: So could You at that time pick Your own choice of the political?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So how did You vote then; Republican or Democratic?

Hugo: We voted Democratic because they were for the workers, mostly!

L: But then You became a forman though, didn't that change the picture a little bit?

Hugo: No.

L: No?

Hugo: No.

L: You continued straight Democate.

Hugo: Yeah. I don't remember for how long, but

L: So in Your opinion, was Rosefelt a good president?

Hugo: I thought he was! He helped, he got everything in – You know – and helped the working man.

L: So: when You came into the Depression, How did that affect You? You were newly married. Did You buy a house then or did You rent a place?

Hugo: No we rented. We lived in different places. We moved in here in 1941.

L: In this area?

Hugo: Yeay in this house.

L: 1941.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Did You build it Yourself then or?

Hugo: It was at that time when I was supposed to go into the service and we had **so much work** and I had some outside done there and I had done some myself.

L: I see.

Hugo: Course then after that I don't like to work upstairs and (?) the room up, and; and for porch. I have two different porches out there, one have a screen and one have jalousi windows. And I had done the painting and everything and then (? Överhoppat).

L: But how did the Depression affect You then? Did You work the hole time?

Hugo: No.

L: You were laid off?

Hugo: Laid off. She worked at the Kresge's town store.

L: Oh I see. That is the K-Mart today?

Hugo: I don't know, is it?

L: Kresge, yes.

Hugo: Oh!

L: So she had a job, but You didn't?

Hugo: Yeah. Well; once in awhile I got a job as a; - I don't know what You called that stuff?

You got a work for the State a few days?

L: Oh - WPA?

Hugo: Yeah. WPA. I had to get to different places in around Moline. But You couldn't go to Rock Island, You had to be in Moline.

L: Oh, I see. They wouldn't (?).

Hugo: Yeah. I could have got a job in Rock Island, but they said: Hugo, If You lived in Rock Island, I could give You a job, but; You have to live in Moline.

L: Were there many people then, of the Swedes that came over in the 20s, that were without job, walking in the streets?

Hugo: I don't know, I don't remember, I don't think it was.

L: Not to many?

Hugo: Nej. No.

L: Do You know if somebody went back?

Hugo: Yeah some went back and stayed.

L: How did the Wasa operate then during those hard tough years? Were You still a lot of people at the meetings and Your doings out at the Rock River?

Hugo: Yeah! They had and they had dance downtown and we had a very good time there!

L: Good attendance.

Hugo: Mhm.

L: But some had to drop off because they couldn't pay the dues, because of the hard times?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: But there was a good insurance though, during that time, to have a Wasa membership?

Hugo: Yeah but

L: If You got sick?

Hugo: No You don't got too much!

L: No, but at that time?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: It ment wuite a bit then, 10, 12 dollars a week?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: It kept You rolling för another week.

Hugo: Yeah!

L: When did You join Wasa? Do You remember?

Hugos maka: What?

Hugo: When did You join Wasa?

Hugos maka: When did I join Wasa? Oh!

Hugo: She has got a little hearing problems.

Hugos maka: Four or five years ago.

Hugo: Oh, it is more than that!

L: Oh I see.

Hugos maka: It must, it must be

Hugo: Oh it's more than that.

Hugos maka: A-Ha. It must be at least four years In anyway. But longer. I have been a social member for a long time.

Hugo: Oh yeah.

Hugos maka: It must be, oh it must be longer than that, because it was when they used to have their meetings up there in the old

L: Olive Hall.

Hugo: Yeah.

Hugos maka: Up there.

L: Olive Hall.

Hugos maka: They had their meetings upstairs there.

Hugo: Yeah and then they had it outside afterward and she belonged since

L: In the 40s?

Hugo: Yes.

L: Jaa jaa.

Hugos maka: When they had them upstairs.

L: Yes.

Hugos maka: That's when I joined.

L: Jaha.

Hugos maka: What year that was, I don't remember.

L: That was back in the 40s.

Hugo: And it was back in the Turner Halls, long long.

Hugos maka: It was a long long time.

L: A long long time ja. How did You find the Swedes? You were of English, German and French background. I first ask You now: Hugo. Are there more people, like You, that married non Swedes, at Wasa?

Hugo: It was quite a few.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Some was born over here and they married them over here.

L: Yes. But I mean: like of non Swedes at all, I mean with no Swedish (?). Like Your wife now?

Hugo: No, it ain't to many.

L: Not to many?

Hugo: No.

L: Did the Swedes marry any Belgian people?

Hugo: No, I don't think so.

L: Did they associate with the Belgian people - for instance? They lived down on the 7th street.

Hugo: Oh we got Belgians living in the next door!

L: I see, but did You associate with them back in the 20s and the 30s?

Hugo: No.

L: Not to much. They kept for themselves, and the Poles for themselves?

Hugo: No.

L: My question, Mrs Eliason: How did You find the Swedes, when You married Hugo and went down to Wasa? How did You find these Swedes?

Hugos maka: Oh I like the Swedish people, I think they are (? överhoppat) people and I have been to hes home at four times and met

L: In Sweden?

Hugos maka: in Sweden, and I met all hes folks there that were living, outside of the mother and father, of course they had passed away before we went. Our first trip was in 1955. We went in 1961, in -70 and then we were there in -80.

L: Oh I see!

Hugos maka: And I have met all hes nieces and nephews, hes cousins and I like all of hes people very much! I like the Swedish people.

L: So You came from Waterloo Iowa?

Hugos maka: What?

L: You came from Waterloo?

Hugos maka: I lived in Waterloo, but I was born down here by (?), Illinois! I was born down here in Illinois.

Hugo: I said (? utelämnat) it is closed by!

L: I see. So You met Hugo then in 1928?

Hugos maka: 1928.

L: 1928. You met him on a ferry?

Hugos maka: I met him on a ferry boat!

L: That's right and he asked You for a dance?

Hugos maka: Yes! My sister and I were living here in Rock Island. We worked at the (?) Company, both of us and we were going over to a show in Davenport, so we were going to take the ferry over there. And so we heard music and we both liked to dance. So; of course, we were going right upstairs to see where the music was and so Hugo and his boyfriend were there. And my sister and I were there, sitting down and watching the people dance and they came and asked us to dance. And Hugo introduced himself, and that's how I met Hugo.

L: And then You went back to Waterloo?

Hugos maka: Then I went back to Waterloo. I quit my job, my mother was ill and I went back to Waterloo and then Hugo wrote to me and tried to get me to come back here. And when I came back here then, I got my job back at (?) Company and that's when Hugo and I started going together.

L: I see. So You gave him Your address then?

Hugos maka: What?

L: You gave him Your address?

Hugo: Yeah - in Waterloo yeah.

Hugos maka: I gave him my address in Waterloo

L: And You wrote?

Hugos maka: in Waterloo and he wrote to me then!

Hugo: I don't know how good English I wrote back. I did it better then I do now!

L: So You understood what he had to say?

Hugos maka: What?

L: You understood what he had to say?

Hugo: He asked if You understood my letters?

Hugos maka: Oh yes, I understood him! Oh yes. A-Ha. And; – I was living in Rock Island with my sister and she didn't went back, my sister didn't come back and then she stayed in Waterloo with my mother and I came back then. And I got a new room. The peoples name were? .. What was those peoples name I lived with there?

Hugo: 6th avenue? Neerak.

Hugos maka: On 6th avenue. What?

Hugo: Neeraks.

Hugos maka: What?

Hugo: Neerak, wasn't it?

Hugos maka: I think so. I lived with this family on 6th avenue and it was close so I could walk to work. And; I lived there and on Saturdays and Sundays Hugo did take me to the dance. We did go to the dance and he always took me out to dinner on the Sundays and we always had our dinners together and sometimes we'd go to a show and we would spend our weekends together - and - which was very nice for me.

Hugo: We used to go down to Swea, just to have smörgåsbord.

L: På restaurangen ja.

Hugo: Restaurant.

L: Ja.

Hugos maka: But, then: Axel Carlson came. He said: "Hugo has gone down to Missouri to work.

L: Oh Missouri!

Hugos maka: Yeah. He went down to Missouri, to do some work there.

Hugo: Yeah. I worked in Missouri.

Hugos maka: And when he came back, then he said he made enough money down there to buy my diamond and he gave me my diamond and gave me the ring then.

L: How long time was it between Your first meeting and Your marriage? How long time did it take then before You could buy the diamond?

Hugo: By a year, I think.

L: A year. Jaha. You were not engaged then?

Hugo: Yeah we were engaged, yeah.

L: You were engaged. Ja.

Hugo: I don't know how long time it took between we were engaged and we got married, together we were engaged?

Hugos maka: Well – I met him in the early fall and I got my diamond just before Christmas.

L: Oh I see!

Hugo: And we got married in June, the next year.

Hugos maka: And we got married in June 21th. We were engaged from just before Christmas until the 21th of June.

L: Jaha. So then: the union was made!

Hugo: The union! The union was!

L: And You went back in -28 You said, to Sweden.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: That was just before You met her?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Ja. Your old girlfriend in Sweden, did You see her?

Hugo: Nej. Oh yes at a dance!

L: In -28?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Jaha. But You didn't ask her to come over to the Unated States?

Hugo: No!

L: There was a pretty rough time then over here?

Hugo: Yeah it just started, the Depression.

L: Jaha. So both Your parents were living then in Sweden?

Hugo: When I was home yeah.

L: Jaha. Both Your father and Your mother.

Hugo: But when we went over, then they had passed away.

L: Jaha.

Hugo: Oh Truman was the president.

L: Yes.

Hugo: Truman?

L: Yes.

Hugo: You have heard about him? You probably remember that You have heard about him? Truman then, and Johnson.

L: Yes.

Hugo: And then that old Nixon. Oh God! And then we had Carter. Who was the other president?

L: And Jerry Ford.

Hugo: And Jerry Ford yeah.

L: With this Swine flu.

Hugo: The Swine flu – yeah! (?) presidents!

L: How about the customs; like for Christmas for instance? Do You use Your family customs for Christmas, or do You use Hugos?

Hugo: We use Swedish.

Hugos maka: We used to have my folks, my sister and her husband, was living here. My sister that eventually came back here and she met a Swedish fellow: from (?) Franzén.

L: And they married?

Hugos maka: Yes and she was married to a Swedish fellow. And she came back here and then she went to work at the (?) again also, and she worked there a long time and then she got ill and my sister had multiple sclerosis. She was sick for 18 years with that and then she passed away, the 1th of May, in 1955. That was the first Year Hugo and I had planned to take a trip to Sweden and so she was in a hospital and was bad and so I got her doctor and talked to him and I said: “We have reservations for a trip to go back to my husbands home in Sweden” and I said: “are we going to cancle them course my sister is bad”. And I said: “if we cancle now we will get our money back, that we had paid. Otherwise”, I said, “we will lose it all”. He said: “Don’t You cancle it”. He says: “Your sister is not going to last long” and my sister lived a week after that and she passed away the 1th of May and we went to Sweden in the 1th of June.

L: So she also married a Swede?

Hugos maka: What?

L: So she also married a Swede?

Hugo: Ja.

Hugos maka: And I have a sister that lived on a farm down here, at the other side of Bigsfield.

L: Yes.

Hugos maka: And she married a fellow by the name of Nelson, she was married to a Swedish fellow also.

Hugo: But he was a farmer.

Hugos maka: All three of the girls married Swedish fellows.

L: I see.

Hugos maka: A-Ha.

L: Yes it’s strange. But Your background is: German, English and French?

Hugos maka: Yes.

L: What kind of customs are You using in Your cooking, for instance here for Christmas and for Holidays?

Hugo: Swedish.

Hugos maka: I use all those Swedish customs.

L: Why?

Hugo: She likes it!

L: Your mother gave You other ideas?

Hugos maka: I fix Swedish meat balls, I have Swedish brown beans, I have sylta, I have fruit soup, I have rise pudding, and I have pickled (?) and I have canded sweet potatoes and I fix all that stuff.

L: Lutfisk too?

Hugos maka: For just us too.

Hugo: We don't like stock fish.

L: Oh You don't like that.

Hugo: We don't want this – no.

Hugos maka: I use to have that when I have my sister and them too, for a Swedish dinner. But when it is just the two of us; - today is the day, twelve days before Christmas and my dining room table is supposed to be opened up today and (?) a little before and I put a lace coap on that, and I have it open and we will eat the rest of our meals in the dining room, on that table there, until Christmas.

L: Is that a custom from Your family?

Hugo: No, that's a custom from Sweden.

Hugos maka: No! That is our custom!

L: From You?

Hugos maka: He is still going to Sweden!

L: Yes.

Hugos maka: Yeah!

L: You are more Swede than the other Swedish people here I think!

Hugo: Yes!

Hugos maka: I love Sweden.

Hugo: Some of them talk Swedish to her, down to Wasa and in different places! She knows some, but she don't know all.

Hugos maka: No I enjoy every trip. And do You know what I would do? Do You know John Carlson and hes whife?

L: He died a couple of months ago?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: I didn't know him, but I know who he was.

Hugos maka: Well. Hes whife went to Sweden with him. She was interfering all the time. So: when Hugo would be with hes family, the children in Sweden can all talk English, so I would gather with the children. When we were out in the country, I would take them out to the woods and we'd pick flowers and I'd keep the children outside. Then I would take the children into town. I'd take them to the store, buy them candy and buy them fruit, anything to get them away, so he could visit all hes Swedish friends!

Hugo: She even took the car, they didn't know she could drive. In Sweden in those days they didn't drive. She took the car and took the kids out!

L: Jaha.

Hugos maka: And those, that couldn't talk Swedish then, they would say: Thanks, and Hugo would translate it. But that was entirely after their aim. I never interfered with their conversation. I sat and listened and if it was any thing he wanted to tell me, then he would tell me what it was and I would sit and listen. But the children and I, we would disappear to all places! All of them spoke English! So I enjoyed the trip very much.

L: But: Hugos brothers and sisters, they couldn't speak English to You though?

Hugo: No.

L: They couldn't understand any English, hes brothers and sisters?

Hugos maka: No.

Hugo: Nej.

Hugos maka: No. Hes sisters and brothers - and nieces and nephews, they couldn't understand any. But one of hes nieces husbands could understand some. He worked at a post office there in Sweden.

L: Yes.

Hugos maka: He worked with all foreign mail and stuff, and he could speak different languages, that's Gunnar.

Hugo: Gunnar, ja.

Hugos maka: And he could understand me! And then: the one of the nephews wife, she could understand some English also. And so her and I; she had quite a bit of time talking English, but we always managed it somehow. But there was two of them that could talk English to me. And I mean: I got along okey: with the children and then with Hugo translating it all. It was a very wonderful trip, every time we had! And; Hugo and I had wonderful trips. We were staying six weeks in Sweden and then we would go in other countries, after our trips in Sweden. We had six weeks in Sweden. The first year we went to London and we went to Scotland and we went to Hamburg; Germany and we were in Copenhagen and then Sweden and then our last stop would be flying from Copenhagen to Paris. We both wanted to go to Paris and we spent four five days in Paris and then we flow back to New York and home! And on our second trip: we went to; we went to Geneva; Switzerland, we went to Rome; Italy and we were in .. Rome and Venise and we were in Copenhagen.

Hugo: And that old city in .. in

Hugos maka: Freiburg. Freiburg; Germany and then we flow back.

Hugo: Florence.

Hugos Maka: Where?

Hugo: And Rome. Florence Italy.

Hugos maka: No, that wasn't that trip!

Hugo: Oh I see.

Hugos maka: And then we flow back to Copenhagen and then we flow back to Paris. And then, when we flow back to Paris, You know: the Worlds Fair was at Montreal. We flow from Paris to Montreal, to the Worlds Fair and had four days at the Worlds Fair before we'd come back home, on that trip. And then, on our trip in -71, we went to Sweden! Then we were in Copenhagen and we went to Florence in Italy. We were in Venise, we were in Milan and then from there we went to Vienna, Austria. We had four days in Vienna, that near. We flow back to Copenhagen, then we flow to Paris and then we were in Paris, before we came home again.

L: Jaha. How about Your Heirs in Europe? Have You tried to find out were Your parents came from in Europe?

Hugo: Yeah, her mother.

L: Like on Your side, Your mothers side?

Hugo: Your mam was an English.

Hugos maka: My mother had a lot of relatives in England.

L: In England.

Hugos maka: In England.

L: Have You seen any of her relations?

Hugos maka: We didn't locate none of her people, for the simple reason; we got the phone book and got the names that we were to look for and I think there was three pages of people with that name.

Hugo: Yeah there were some.

Hugos maka: And so we just –

L: You couldn't do it?

Hugos maka: We couldn't do it.

Hugo: No. We couldn't do it.

Hugos maka: We couldn't do it.

L: Your mother, did she correspond with her relations in England?

Hugos maka: No.

L: No?

Hugo: No.

L: No. So it was broken.

Hugo: She was born over here too.

L: I see.

Hugos maka: Here folks all came here. I will show You something here.

L: I see. That was broken too many years ago then, so there was no way to connect with it again. But it was easier for You with so many brothers and sisters?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: You couldn't miss them. And they lived in Unnaryd and in Ljungby, and in different places.

Hugo: Yeah and Tagel and Värnamo and in different places.

L: Jaha. Have any of Your relations been over here visiting from Sweden, from Småland?

Hugo: Yeah! My sister has, and her husband, and they can't speak English, neither one of them. And; then my nephew and his wife - he was here, - but she can talk English, because she got a friend, she is from Canada and she learned her to speak English and then she learned her Swedish - and that is the way she know to talk English.

Hugos maka: Mary (?) was a cousin of mine that worked on this and You see: Here! If any of all those folks here - of our relations on my side - if there are any babies born, or if it is any deaths in the family, then Ill keep in contact with the ones that are taking care of the books, to keep it up to date.

L: Oh I see. You have a special committee then working at it.

Hugos maka: Yes. That's right. And all of them here, I keep in contact, if anything happens here.

L: How many are You involved then in this?

Hugos maka: What?

L: How many are involved in this family now? How many people are we talking about?

Hugo: I don't know how many!

L: You don't know how many hundreds!

Hugo: You don't know how many people is involved in it?

Hugos maka: Oh I don't know how many people are involved. I know there is an awful lot of them.

L: Yes, I can see that.

Hugos maka: Oh yes. Yes.

L: So You retired then in 1976?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: And Your wife in 1970 ..?

Hugo: When did You retire?

Hugos maka: I retired? 1970.

L: Oh 70.

Hugo: She got it before me.

L: So You worked a little bit more.

Hugo: Yeah.

Hugos maka: I retired the 1th of June 1970.

L: And You were still working with Axel Carlson Construction?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Are they still in business?

Hugo: no, he sold.

L: He sold out.

Hugo: My nephew sold it. They live in Florida now.

L: I see.

Hugo: They sold the hole.

L: So this time is gone.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: But You stayed with them until the last days?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Were You a part owner in the company too?

Hugo: No.

L: No. You stayed outside.

Hugo: (?).

L: And You stayed with the same company.

Hugo: Yeah, the same company.

L: And You are still attending the meetings at the Wasa?

Hugo: Yeah.

L: And And the Wiking doings too?

Hugo: I don't know if she belongs to Wasa longer!

L: Jaha.

Hugos maka: (? Hela överhoppat).

L: Oh I see.

Hugos maka: And I couldn't be on that case!

L: Is that right?

Hugos maka: Yeah!

L: Was it a Swede involved in the case?

Hugos maka: No. No not at all. No! I had - one case I was on, he was a preast and that was really funny! He was out here for to play golf at he golf courts in Davenport. Well; there were two women, came up in a golf car and he was watching the people played golf and he was drivig alone and bumped the women in the golf car and they were (?) him, the one woman was (?) him. And – You know – she was so (? Utelämnat länge stycke).

L: You have not been on the jury duty?

Hugo: No, I never have.

L: And during the war, You said You were defered because You worked on the Rock Island (?), on the island

Hugo: Mhm.

L: and for the construction company.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: So they did a lot work then for the construction company?

Hugo: Oh yeah they did a lot of work.

L: So when You summit up though, since 1923; You made a nice move over to this country? You found the right girl and You are still in company together after many years of courtship and Your marriage together.

Hugo: Yeah.

L: Are You going to go back to Sweden?

Hugo: Oh I doubt it.

L: One more time - or?

Hugo: We are pretty old.

Hugos maka: I like one more trip. I would like to go back to Paris again, do You?

Hugo: She loves Paris!

Hugos maka: I love Paris!

Hugo: She almost feel home over there.

L: I see.

Hugos maka: You kno - A lot of people say: Oh Paris, it's so dirty, it use to be dirty. You

know: In the morning, when we would get up, we'd get up for a walk early in the morning

and; You know: they would be out, they have the - that water hose – what do You call the

Hugo: Water hydrant open.

Hugos maka: Water hydrant open, washing the streets down and everything was (?), cleaned up – just as clean as it can be.

Hugo: Yeah they used to say it's so dirty, there wasn't. There was not dirty!

Hugos maka: We have had a lot of nice tours. I love Vienna, Austria. I just love Austria. You

know: I had an experience there. In our group, there was 20 of us in our group and there

would be a preast appointed when we would enter the church there, that big cathedral there in

Vienna. This preast came up and he would look our group over - and he said, to me he said:

“You are the only that are dressed proper to go down to the altar”. He says “You are the only

one. I can be happy to take You”. And I'll tell You why. Those have to dress properly to go in

certain churches, and things, and; I had to go with him, and the rest of our group, they had

only short pants, they (?), everything, and they couldn't go. And I had on a dress that went

down and I had a Sweater on, my arms were covered. And I had a big (?) and we were in

Rome, when we went up to the Vatican, the guard stopped me at the door. He said: I am sorry

lady, but You can't go into the church”. I had a dress that was sleeveless. And there was a

lady standing back on me. (? Överhoppat). And she said: “Just a minute! The lady can go. I

have an extra scarf with me”. She took the scarf, put it around my neck and she rapped it

around my arms and I got to go into the Vatican. Otherwise I wouldn't got to get in.

Hugo: That was something to see, that Vatican.

Hugos maka: We have had wonderful trips.

L: Jaha. Yeah that is wonderful!