

PREFACE

I HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO WRITE A RESUME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF MY FAMILY.

I HAD A LOT OF OTHER EXPERIENCES WHILE IN UTAH. IT IS TOO MUCH OF A CHORE TO WRITE IT ALL DOWN BUT I REALLY HAD QUITE A BALL, AS THEY SAY, IN THOSE DAYS.

LEONARD NELSON

UTAH

THE TOWN OF EUREKA WAS SITUATED ON A RAILROAD LINE THAT WENT FROM SALT LAKE CITY UP INTO WYOMING. WE LIVED ABOUT TWO BLOCKS FROM THE TRACKS AND MY BROTHER (GLEN?) AND I WOULD GO DOWN AND WATCH THE TRAINS GO BY. THEY WERE MOSTLY FREIGHT TRAINS HAULING ORE FROM THE MINES TO THE SMELTERS IN SALT LAKE CITY AND BINGHAM. WE WOULD PLACE OLD NAILS ON THE TRACK IN THE SHAPE OF AN "X" AND AFTER THE TRAINS HAD RUN OVER THEM AND FLATTENED THEM THEY LOOKED LIKE A PAIR OF SCISSORS. OF COURSE OUR MOTHER DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT EITHER. MY DAD WAS HURT IN THE MINES SEVERAL TIMES. WE COULD ALWAYS KNOW WHEN THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE THE WHISTLE ON THE MINE WOULD BE BLOWN. WE COULD ALWAYS TELL WHICH MINE IT WAS BECAUSE EACH MINE HAD A DIFFERENT SOUNDING WHISTLE. IT WAS DANGEROUS WORK IN THOSE MINES AT THAT TIME BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ELECTRICITY. THE MINERS WOULD WORK WITH A CANDLE STUCK IN THE SPOT WHERE THEY WERE DIGGING. LATER MY DAD USED A CARBIDE LAMP WHICH HE COULD FASTEN TO HS CAP. WE HAD THAT LAMP FOR A LONGTIME AFTER WE CAME TO MILTON, I WISH I HAD IT NOW, IT WOULD BE QUITE A COLLECTOR'S ITEM.

ONCE IN A WHILE A CARNIVAL WOULD COME TO TOWN AND WE WOULD ALL GET TO RIDE THE MERRY-GO-ROUND. THE MERRY-GO-ROUND HAD ROUND THINGS BESIDE THE HORSES. WE USED TO CALL IT THE LOVERS TUB BECAUSE THE YOUNG SWAINS AND THEIR GIRL FRIENDS WOULD RIDE IN IT AND US SMART ALECS WOULD KID THEM ABOUT IT.

UTAH #2

THERE WAS A BIG BRICK BUILDING THAT WE CALLED THE OPERA HOUSE WHERE THEY USED TO PUT ON ALL OF THE SHOWS, PLAYS AND MUSICAL DOINGS. I CAN REMEMBER HEARING JENNY LIND SING THERE, SHE WAS CALLED THE SWEDISH NIGHTINGALE. THIS OPERA HOUSE HAD A BALCONY WHERE YOU COULD WATCH THE SHOW FOR A NICKLE (5¢). WE CALLED IT NIGGER HEAVEN, THERE WERE NO COLORED PEOPLE THERE AT THAT TIME BUT THE NAME CAME UP AND STAYED THERE. THERE WAS ALSO A MOVIE THEATER WHERE WE COULD GET IN FOR A NICKLE TO SEE BLACK AND WHITE SILENT PICTURES AND HORSE OPERAS. SOME OF THE ACTORS IN THE HORSE OPERAS WERE WILLIAM HART, TOM MIX AND HOOT GIBSON, THEY WERE OUR HEROES.

BACK IN UTAH I CAN RECALL IN THAT TOWN WAS LOCATED ONE OF THE FIRST J.C. PENNEYS STORES. IT WAS JUST A SMALL RETAIL STORE AND THE WHOLE PENNEYS CHAIN STARTED THERE UNDER THE NAME OF THE GOLDEN RULE STORE.

ONE DAY MY BROTHER GLEN AND I WERE PLAYING AROUND A NEW SCHOOL UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WE FILLED OUR POCKETS WITH SOME ROOFING TAR TO USE AS GUM. MY MOTHER HAD JUST BOUGHT US SOME NEW BIB OVERALLS SO YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT A TIME SHE HAD WHEN SHE TRIED TO WASH THEM WITH ALL OF THAT TAR IN THE POCKETS. WE REALLY GOT CHEWED OUT ABOUT THAT. OF COURSE AT THAT TIME THERE WERE NO WASHING MACHINES, JUST WASH BOARDS AND NO HOT WATER EITHER SO YOU CAN SEE THAT IT WAS NO LAUGHING MATTER TO OUR MOTHER.

MILTON

WHEN WE MOVED TO MILTON IN 1913 MY DAD BOUGHT A HOUSE ON A ACRE OF LAND FOR \$500. IT WAS ONLY A FOUR ROOM HOUSE AND OF COURSE IT WAS QUITE CROWDED WITH 5 CHILDREN BESIDES OUR PARENTS. THERE WAS ONLY A COMBINATION KITCHEN AND LIVING ROOM. WE USED THE 2 FRONT ROOMS FOR THE KIDS SLEEPING QUARTERS SO YOU CAN SEE IT WAS NO PALACE. WE HAD AN OLD CAST IRON RANGE TO COOK ON AND WE HAD TO CARRY OUR WATER FROM A TAP AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE. THERE WAS NO PLUMBING INSIDE. WE USED KEROSENE LAMPS FOR OUR LIGHTS AND THE ONLY HEAT WAS FROM THE KITCHEN STOVE. THERE WERE SOME BIG FIR TREES IN THE YARD THAT MY DAD FELLED AND SAWED UP FOR WOOD. WE ALSO HAD AN OUTSIDE TOILET WHICH WAS OUR SANITARY FACILITIES. THERE WAS A SAWMILL DOWN BELOW OUR HOUSE WHICH WAS STILL IN OPERATION. THAT WAS NOT THE TOWN GOT IT'S NAME, MILTON. IT COULDN'T BE CALLED MILLTOWN BECAUSE THERE ALREADY WAS A TOWN BY THAT NAME.

ONE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHERS, BOB, WHO WAS BORN IN 1913, HAD THE MIDDLE NAME OF MILTON. HE USED TO CLAIM THAT THE TOWN WAS NAMED FOR HIM UNTIL HE LEARNED THAT THE TOWN WAS YEARS OLDER THAN HE WAS.

WE USED TO GET QUITE A THRILL ABOUT ONCE A MONTH WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD MAKE A TRIP TO TACOMA. SHE HAD AN OLD BROWN MARE SHE CALLED MAUDE. SHE WOULD HOOK HER TO A ONE SEATED BUGGY AND WOULD LOAD ABOUT 5 OF US KIDS IN IT AND START FOR TOWN ABOUT 5 A.M. IN THE MORNING. THE ROAD WAS JUST A SINGLE LANE DIRT

MILTON #2

ROAD UNTIL WE CAME TO THE PUYALLUP RIVER NEAR WHERE THE INDIAN CEMETERY IS NOW. THERE WAS A WOODEN BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER AND THEN THE ROAD WAS OF BRICK AND COBBLESTONES THE REST OF THE WAY TO THE TOWN OF TACOMA. SHE WOULD TIE THE HORSE TO A HITCHING POST AND THEN SHE WOULD DO HER SHOPPING AT A BIG DEPARTMENT STORE, McCORMACK'S, AND THE NORTHWEST GROCERY ON 13th & COMMERCE. WE WOULD THEN GO TO A JAPANESE RESTAURANT DOWN WHERE THE SKIDROW IS NOW AND HAVE OUR DINNER. WE COULD GET A BIG MEAL FOR ABOUT 25¢ AND SHE ALWAYS INSISTED THAT WE SAVE THE BONES FROM THE MEAT FOR HER BIG DOG NAMED BISHOP. THEN WE WOULD START BACK TO MILTON AND SHE WOULD STOP AT ANDRES MARKET (IN FIFE?) AND BUY A BALE OF HAY AND A SACK OF CHICKEN FEED. WHEN WE GOT TO THE FOOT OF THE HILL BELOW MILTON WE KIDS WOULD HAVE TO GET OUT AND WALK UP THE HILL AS OLD MAUDE WAS GETTING QUITE TIRED BY THAT TIME AND SO WERE WE. MY GRANDMA'S HUSBAND WAS WORKING IN A CANNERY IN ALASKA NEAR JUNEAU AND WOULD ONLY COME DOWN ABOUT ONCE A YEAR. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS ON A VISIT TO ALASKA IN 1926 AND SHE DIED UP THERE. SHE REALLY WAS A NICE LADY, WE USED TO TAKE TRIPS IN THE OLD BUGGY TO GO FISHING. MY UNCLE REALLY ENJOYED FISHING IN THOSE LAKES UP AROUND MILTON, HE WOULD SIT FOR HOURS WAITING FOR A FISH TO BITE.

I THINK THAT ONE REASON ALL OF THOSE FINLANDERS SETTLED THERE WAS BECAUSE IT WAS LIKE THE OLD COUNTRY, LOTS OF GREEN TREES, LAKES AND CLOSE TO THE SALTWATER.

MY GRANDMOTHER, MARIA SOPHIA ANDERSON CHRISTIANSON, WAS MY MOTHER'S MOTHER. MY GRANDFATHER, ALFRED ANDERSON, WAS KILLED IN A MINING ACCIDENT IN UTAH. MY GRANDMOTHER'S SECOND HUSBAND WAS NAMED LARS CHRISTIANSON.

MY GRANDMOTHER WAS ONE IN A MILLION. SHE HAD A FARM AT MILTON. SHE HAD A BIG BARN, SEVERAL COWS BESIDE THE OLD MARE THAT I HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE. WE KIDS USED TO LIKE TO SLEEP IN THE HAY IN THE LOFT OF THE BIG RED BARN. THERE WERE ALOT OF APPLE TREES IN THE YARD THAT WERE PLANTED IN THE EARLY 1900S. SOME OF THOSE TREES ARE STILL STANDING AND BEARING APPLES. WE HAD A WELL FOR OUR WATER SUPPLY GRIPPED WITH A WINDLASS TO PULL WATER OUT OF THE WELL.

ONE TIME SHE HAD SOME KITTENS THAT LIVED IN THE BARN. SHE PUT SOME OF THE NEWBORN KITTENS IN A GUNY SACK WITH A ROCK IN THE SACK AND THEN GAVE ME A QUARTER TO DROP THEM IN THE POND TO DROWN THEM. MY OLDER SISTER NEVER FORGAVE ME FOR THAT SHE WAS CRAZY ABOUT CATS, BUT TO ME 25¢ WAS ALOT OF MONEY. I USED TO STAY WITH MY GRANDMOTHER QUITE A BIT AS WE WERE PRETTY WELL CRAMPED IN THAT FOUR ROOM HOUSE THAT MY DAD BOUGHT WHEN WE CAME FROM UTAH. WE USED TO TAKE ALOT OF TRIPS IN HER OLD WAGON. WE USED TO GO TO OUR SCHOOL PICNICS TO SOME OF THE LAKES NEAR THERE AND ALSO TO THE SALT WATER AT REDONDO BEACH WHERE WE ONEETIME CAMPED OUT FOR A WEEK.

MILTON #4

MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD MAKE OUR SCHOOL LUNCHESES FOR US. HER FAVORITE WAS RYE BREAD AND VEAL LOAF SANDWICHES. I WROTE ABOUT OUR TRIPS WE USED TO TAKE TO TACOMA IN THE BUGGY PULLED BY THE OLD HORSE MAUDE. IN TACOMA SHE WOULD ALWAYS GO INTO A SALOON AND BUY A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY FOR HER NIGHT CAP AND THAT WOULD LAST HER FOR A MONTH UNTIL THE NEXT EXCURSION TO THE BIG CITY. SHE WOULD ALSO STOP AT A PACKING HOUSE DOWN BY THE PUYALLUP RIVER AND GET A BUCKET OF BLOOD TO MAKE BLOOD BREAD WITH. I GUESS IT WAS OKAY BECAUSE WE ALL LIVED THRU IT. THAT WOULD SHOCK SOME OF THE PEOPLE NOW I GUESS.

MY OLDEST SISTER ELVY WAS BORN ON MARCH 11, 1903, MY OTHER SISTER ESTHER WAS BORN ON MARCH 19, 1904 AND I WAS BORN ON MARCH 2, 1905. MY BROTHER GLEN WAS BORN ON AUGUST 20, 1907. CLARENCE WAS BORN MARCH 5, 1910, SO YOU CAN SEE MY FOLKS WERE QUITE BUSY. IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NONE OF THIS HASSLE ABOUT ABORTIONS. THEY JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE. AFTER WE MOVED TO MILTON MY OTHER 3 BROTHERS WERE BORN. ROBERT WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 9, 1913, SIDNEY ON JULY 28, 1915 AND RALPH ON JUNE 2, 1918. WE WERE BORN AT HOME, NO HOSPITALS. MY GRANDMOTHER ALWAYS ACTED AS A NURSE AND MIDWIFE. OF COURSE THE OLD COUNTRY DOCTOR, DR. STEWART, WOULD DRIVE ABOUT 2 MILES IN HIS OLD BUCKBOARD TO PRESIDE AT THE EVENT.

ELVY WAS BORN IN EUREKA, UTAH, AND THEN MY PARENTS MOVED TO PARK CITY WHERE I WAS BORN IN 1905, THEN BACK TO EUREKA WHERE GLEN WAS BORN IN 1907 AND CLARENCE WAS BORN IN 1910.

MY MOTHER

MY MOTHER, MARY JOHANNA ANDERSON, WAS BORN IN PEDESORE, FINLAND ON DECEMBER 16, 1881. WHEN SHE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD SHE CAME TO AMERICA TO MEET HER PARENTS, SOPHIA AND FRED ANDERSON WHO HAD COME OVER EARLIER. HER FATHER WAS WORKING IN THE MINES IN PARK CITY, UTAH. SHE CAME OVER ON A BOATH FROM HELSUGFORS, FINLAND TO LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND WHERE SHE TOOK ANOTHER SHIP BY THE NAME OF ^{Baltic} BALTICE TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC TO NEW YORK CITY. SHE USED TO SAY THAT THEY HAD A TAG PINNED ON HER COAT WITH HER NAME AND HER PARENTS ADDRESS IN UTAH. IT WAS QUITE A FEAT FOR HER ALL BY HERSELF. SHE SAID SHE FELT LIKE A PIECE OF LUGGAGE WITH A TAG ON HER COAT. AFTER THE LONG TRIP ACROSS THE OCEAN SHE LANDED AT ELLIS ISLAND IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE SHE HAD TO GO THRU CUSTOMS. SHE WAS THEN PUT ON A TRAIN TO CROSS THE COUNTRY TO UTAH. ON THE TRAIN SOME PEOPLE GAVE HER AN ORANGE. THEY HAD TO TELL HER IT WAS SOMETHING TO EAT SINCE SHE HADN'T SEEN AN ORANGE BEFORE. AFTER A FEW DAYS ON THE TRAIN SHE ARRIVED IN UTAH WHERE HER PARENTS MET HER. THEN HER MOTHER FARMED HER OUT TO SOME WELL TO DO PEOPLE BY THE NAME OF SHIELDS WHO KEPT HER AS A MAID. THEY FED HER, BOUGHT HER CLOTHES AND SENT HER TO SCHOOL. SHE MET MY FATHER WHO WAS ALSO WORKING IN THE MINES AND AFTER A FEW YEARS MARRIED HIM AND STARTED RAISING A FAMILY.

MY MOTHER HAD QUITE A ROUGH TIME RAISING ALL OF HER FAMILY BUT SHE WAS A HARD WORKER CONSIDERING NOT HAVING ANY OF THESES

THINGS WE HAVE NOW. NO ELECTRICITY, PHONE OR INSIDE PLUMBING, JUST AN OUTHOUSE AND HAVING TO USE A WASHTUB AND A SCRUB BOARD TO DO THE WASHING. SHE HAD TO HEAT WATER ON THE OLD CAST IRON STOVE. SHE ALWAYS DID HER OWN BAKING MAKING THE DOUGH IN A BIG PAN AND LETTING IT RISE AND SIT OVER NIGHT. THEN SHE WOULD PUT IT IN THE BAKING PANS AND PUT IN IN THE OVEN OF THE OLD STOVE AND BAKE. SHE WOULD MAKE HER CINNAMON ROLLS THE SAME WAY AND THEY WERE REALLY DELICIOUS. SHE ALSO DID HER IRONING BY HEATING THE FLAT IRONS ON TOP OF THE STOVE. THAT WAS REALLY A SLOW PROCESS TO SAY THE LEAST. SHE WAS ALWAYS THINKING OF HELPING HER FAMILY AND NOT HERSELF. SHE USED TO GO TO A CARD PARTY ONCE A WEEK AND PLAY A GAME THEY CALLED FIVE HUNDRED. SHE HIT IT LUCKY ONCE AND WON \$5. INSTEAD OF SPENDING IT ON HERSELF SHE BOUGHT SOME SHOES FOR ONE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHERS. WE USED TO RAISE A FEW CHICKENS AND ABOUT EVERY SUNDAY WE HAD CHICKEN DINNER. SHE USED TO KILL THE CHICKENS HERSELF AND PLUCK AND CLEAN THEM WHICH WAS QUITE A JOB AS IT TOOK ABOUT 6 CHICKENS TO FEED OUR FAMILY. AFTER MY DAD DIED IN 1931 WE HAD SOME TOUGH GOING. THERE WERE ABOUT THREE OF US BOYS WORKING SO WE HELPED OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. SHE ALSO GOT \$50 A MONTH FOR ABOUT A YEAR FROM AN INSURANCE POLICY THAT MY DAD HAD BOUGHT WHEN HE WAS WORKING. SHE ALWAYS HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR. SHE ALWAYS USED TO TELL US TO LEARN TO TRIM OUR FINGER NAILS WITH OUT LEFT HAND.

SHE WOULD SAY SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR RIGHT HAND. SHE WORE A HEARING AID IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE AND ONE TIME SOMEBODY TOLD HER TO TURN UP HER HEARING AID AND SHE JUST TOLD THIS PARTY THAT SHE COULD HEAR WHAT SHE WANTED TO SO THAT SHUT HIM UP.

I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN REMINDED OF WHAT HAPPENED ON JULY 4, 1926, WHEN OUR HOUSE CAUGHT ON FIRE. IT CAUSED QUITE A STIRE. IT WAS ON A SUNDAY AND THE ROOF CAUGHT ON FIRE PROBABLY CAUSED BY THE HEAT FROM THE CHIMNEY. SOMEONE WENT DOWN AND RANG THE BELL ON THE CHURCH AND ABOUT HALF THE TOWN OF MILTON WAS UP THERE IN NOTHING FLAT TO HELP US OUT. THE PEOPLE OF MILTON HAD JUST CHIPPED IN AND BOUGHT AN OLD DODGE PICKUP TO USE AS A FIRE TRUCK AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IT WAS USED. THE FIRE BURNT A BIG HOLE IN THE ROOF BUT ALL OF THE FURNITURE WAS CARRIED OUT INTO THE YARD. WE NOTIFIED THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND THEY WERE OUT THE SAME DAY, SUNDAY, AND COVERED THE ROOF AND SENT SOME MEN OUT THE NEXT DAY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. AFTER THE EXCITMENT OF THE DAY A BUNCH OF US WENT TO TACOMA TO WATCH THE FIREWORKS AT THE STADIUM BOWL WHICH USED TO BE THE ANNUAL EVENT. SEVERAL TIMES LATER WE WOULD USE THE OLD DODGE FIREWAGON IN CASE OF A FIRE. I ALSO REMEMBER ONE YEAR WHEN A TRAVELING ROAD SHOW CALLED THE CHATAQUA CAME TO TOWN. THEY WOULD PITCH A BIG TENT ON THE OLD SCHOOL GROUNDS AND PUT ON A DIFFERENT SHOW EVERY NIGHT FOR A WEEK. THERE WOULD BE A MUSICAL SHOW AND SOME PLAYS AND THE TOWN WAS

REALLY JUMPING THAT WEEK. THIS COMPANY WOULD PLAY ONE TOWN A WEEK AND WERE ON THE MOVE THE YEAR ROUND.

DURING THE DEPRESSION OF THE 30S THINGS WERE PRETTY TOUGH FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE. I HAPPENED TO BE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WORKING. EVERYONE ELSE WAS ON A GOVERNMENT AGENCY CALLED THE W.P.A. DOING WORK LIKE PUTTING IN SIDEWALKS AND BUILDING PARKS. THEY WOULD GET A FEW NICKELS A DAY FOR WORKING AND ONCE A WEEK THEY WOULD GET A FEW GROCERIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THEY ALSO RAISED ALOT OF VEGETABLES IN A COMMUNITY GARDEN AND WOULD CATCH SALMON AND STEELHEAD IN THE CREEK AND RIVERS AND AN OLD INDIAN WOULD SMOKE THEM FOR THE PEOPLE. THERE WERE ALSO A FEW BOOTLEGGERS WHO WOULD MAKE MOONSHINE AND HOME BREW AND SELL IT OR TRY AND SELL IT. NOBODY HAD ANY MONEY TO SPEND FOR BOOZE. THERE WAS A BARBER LIVING NEAR WHO WAS OUT OF WORK AND HE WOULD SET US ON A STUMP AND CUT OUR HAIR FOR 25¢. HE WOULD JUST USE THE HAND CLIPPERS AND SHEARS. WHEN HE HAD CUT 4 HEADS HE WOULD TAKE THE DOLLAR AND BUY A QUART OF MOONSHINE AND FORGET ABOUT THE BARBER BUSINESS. HE HAD BEEN A BARBER ON A TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAIN SO HE KNEW HIS BUSINESS.

AFTER I WAS DONE WITH HIGH SCHOOL IN 1922 I WENT TO WORK IN A FURNITURE FACTORY IN TACOMA CALLED CARMENS. I WORKED FOR \$2.00 A DAY AND STAYED THERE FOR 19 YEARS.

MONTANA

IN 1924 MY OLDEST SISTER ELVY, HER HUSBAND BILL HICKEY AND I WENT TO MONTANA TO RUN A GARAGE IN GRASSHOPPER VALLEY NEAR SOME OF THOSE GHOST TOWNS OF WIDOM, JACKSON, BANNOCK, VIRGINIA CITY AND A FEW OTHERS. WE DIDN'T MAKE ANY MONEY BUT WE HAD ALOT OF FUN. WE WERE REALLY OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS OVER THERE. IT TOOK US 4 DAYS TO GET THERE FROM MILTON TO GRASSHOPPER VALLEY IN A 1917 CHEVROLET TOURING CAR. THIS SO CALLED GARAGE THAT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO RUN SAT OUT IN THE SAGEBRUSH. IT CONSISTED OF TWO LOG SHACKS SET IN THE SIDEHILL. WE HAD ALOT OF FUN RIDING HORSES WE BORROWED OVER THE HILLS AND FLAT LANDS. WE DID A LITTLE WORK ON SOME OF THE OLD CARS OF THE RANCHES AND ALSO WORKED ON THEIR SAWS WITH WHICH ~~THE~~^{THEY} CUT THEIR WOOD FOR THE WINTER AND THEIR ICE FOR THE SUMMER. I STAYED THERE FOR ABOUT 3 MONTHS AND THEN WENT DOWN TO A TRAIN STOP AND CAME BACK TO GOD'S COUNTRY, WASHINGTON. MY SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW STAYED A LITTLE LONGER AND THEN CAME BACK IN THE OLD OPEN AIR JALOPY.

I HAD QUITE A THRILL IN MARCH 1918 WHEN I WON THE 8TH GRADE SPELLING CHAMPIONSHIP OF PIERCE COUNTY.

THE YEAR BEFORE IN 1917 I CAME IN SECOND IN THE 7TH GRADE CONTEST.

I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 1918 AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL IN TACOMA. WE HAD TO RIDE THE ELECTRIC STREET CAR TO GO TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE LAST YEAR WHEN MY DAD BOUGHT A 1920 MAXWELL (THE FIRST CAR THAT WAS MADE BY CHRYSLER). I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN MY FAMILY WHO KNEW HOW TO DRIVE SO I HAD MY WORK CUT OUT FOR ME.

DURING OUR SCHOOL VACATION WE HAD TO PICK BERRIES TO HELP PAY FOR OUR SCHOOL CLOTHES.

THE YEAR 1922 WAS QUITE A YEAR IN MY LIFE. I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND WAS CONFIRMED IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH. AT THE SAME TIME I ALSO GOT MY FIRST PAIR OF LONG PANTS THAT YEAR.

BOTH MY PARENTS CAME TO AMERICA WHILE THEY WERE BOTH YOUNG. THEY MET IN UTAH AND WERE MARRIED IN THE 1890S. THEY HAD 8 CHILDREN, 5 OF WHOM WERE BORN IN UTAH. MY OLDEST SISTER AND 2 OF MY YOUNGER BROTHERS WERE BORN IN EUREKA, UTAH WHERE MY DAD WAS A MINER IN THE LEAD AND SILVER MINES. WE MOVED TO WASHINGTON IN 1913 AND SETTLED ON A STUMP RANCH IN MILTON. THREE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHERS, BOB, SIDNEY AND RALPH WERE BORN IN MILTON.

I WAS CHRISTENED ON JUNE 5, 1905 IN PARK CITY UTAH WHERE I WAS BORN UNDER THE NAME OF "LENNART WILHELM NILLSON."

I STARTED SCHOOL IN 1910 IN KINDERGARDEN AND THE NEXT YEAR I SKPPED THE FIRST GRADE AND WENT INTO THE SECOND GRADE. I CAN REMEMBER HOW BEWILDERED I WAS WHEN THE TEACHER TOLD US THAT WE WERE THRU WITH NUMBER WORK AND WOULD START ARITHMETIC. THE BIG WORD SURE SCARED ME.

WE LIVED IN A 4 ROOM HOUSE, 5 OF US CHILDREN AND OUR PARENTS. OF COURSE WE HAD NO RUNNING WATER OR INSIDE PLUMBING. SO THINGS WERE DIFFERENT THAN TODAY. IN 1913 WE PACKED UP EVERYTHING AND CAME TO WASHINGTON WHERE MY GRANDPARENTS AND COUSINS WERE LIVING AT THE TIME. I STARTED SCHOOL IN MILTON IN 1913 IN THE THIRD GRADE AND WENT THERE UNTIL 1918 WHEN I GRADUATED FROM THE 8TH GRADE.

FATHER
WILLIAM NELS NELSON

MY PARENTS WERE BOTH BORN IN FINLAND OF SWEDISH HERITAGE.
MY FATHER WAS BORN IN ^{Terjärv} [LOURIVARI] ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1871. HE
HAD 2 BROTHERS AND 2 SISTERS BORN IN FINLAND. MY FAMILY NAME
WAS ORIGINALLY SPELLED "^{WILLSON} ~~NELSON~~" BUT AFTER THEY EMIGRATED TO
AMERICA IT WAS CHANGED TO THE AMERICAN VERSION "NELSON". I
NEVER MET MY FATHER'S PARENTS AS THEY STAYED IN THE OLD COUNTRY.
MY FATHER WAS A REALLY HARD WORKER. HE WORKED IN TACOMA AT
WEST COAST GROCERY BESIDES TAKING CARE OF OUR STUMP RANCH IN
MILTON WHERE WE RAISED BERRIES AND HAD ALOT OF CHICKENS WHICH
WE RAISED FOR THEIR EGGS. HE WOULD GET UP IN THE MORNING ABOUT
5 A.M., GO UP AND WORK IN THE BERRIES UNTIL TIME TO GO TO WORK
IN TACOMA. HE WOULD COME DOWN AND EAT HIS BREAKFAST AND CATCH
THE INTERURBAN TO GO TO HIS JOB. THEN AFTER WORK HE WOULD GO
THROUGH THE SAME PROCEDURE AND WORK IN THE FIELDS UNTIL IT WAS
DARK. HE USED TO REPAIR ALL OF OUR SHOES WHICH WAS QUITE A
CHORE AS HE HAD 8 CHILDREN WHO WERE PRETTY HARD ON SHOES.

IN ABOUT 1909 HE CAME OUT FROM UTAH AND BOUGHT 40 ACRES OF
LAND AT ALDER ON THE NISQUALLY RIVER. HE PAID \$10 AN ACRE FOR
THE LAND AND HE USED TO SAY THAT WHEN WE GOT MARRIED WE COULD EACH
HAVE 5 ACRES AND WE WOULD BE ON OUR OWN. WE USED TO DRIVE UP
THERE ON OCCASIONS AND PICKED WILD BLACKBERRIES. HE NEVER DROVE
A CAR BUT HE ALWAYS HAD TO SIT IN THE FRONT SEAT WITH ME AND
WITH HIS HAND ON THE BRAKE HANDLE AND ACT AS THE BRAKEMAN FOR
ME. THAT USED TO BE A WHOLE DAY EXCURSION TO GO UP TO ALDER.

FATHER (2)

IT WAS ONLY ABOUT 40 MILES ONE WAY BUT AT THAT TIME THE ROADS WERE ALL DIRT. ONE TIME HE FAILED HIS JOB AS BRAKEMAN, A COW JUMPED IN FRONT OF THE CAR TOO FAST FOR ME TO STOP AND I HIT THE COW AND IT KNOCKED THE FRONT BUMPER OFF. THE COW GOT UP AND WENT ON HER WAY GRAZING AND IT DIDN'T HURT HER A BIT. AFTER I WENT TO WORK IN 1922 I WOULD DRIVE THE OLD MAXWELL TO WORK AND PICK UP MY DAD AFTER WORK. HE DIED IN 1931 AT THE AGE OF 60 ON THE JOB AT WEST COAST GROCERY. I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT OVERWORK KILLED HIM. DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR THE GOVERNMENT SOLD WHAT WERE CALLED LIBERTY BONDS (LATER THEY WERE CALLED WAR SAVINGS BONDS). MY DAD COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY ANY OF THOSE BONDS. HE WAS ONLY GETTING \$3.50 A DAY SO IT WAS PRETTY CLOSE PICKINGS.

MY DAD'S BROTHER FRED WAS THE ONLY ONE I EVER MET FROM MY DAD'S FAMILY. FRED CAME TO UTAH ABOUT 1907 AND STAYED WITH US FOR A WHILE. HE THEN WENT BACK TO FINLAND AND NEVER RETURNED. I'VE RECENTLY (1989) CAME INTO TOUCH WITH A DISTANT RELATIVE IN FINLAND AND HER GRANDMOTHER IS A NIECE OF MY FATHER SO THAT MAKES HER MY COUSIN. I HAD SOME CORRESPONDENCE WITH THIS YOUNG LADY AND SHE IS QUITE A GIRL. SHE RECENTLY HAD HER FIRST BABY AND IT WAS BORN IN THE SAME TOWN WHERE MY DAD WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1871.

THE LAND MY DAD OWNED IN ALDER IS NOW COVERED BY THE ALDER LAKE AND OWNED BY TACOMA CITY LIGHT.

AN UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER KENNETH "CATSUP" SIMMONS

WHEN I LIVED IN MILTON I HAD A BOSOM BUDDY BY THE NAME OF KENNETH SIMMONS WHO WENT BY THE NICKNAME OF CATSUP.

I HAD QUITE A FEW ODD THINGS HAPPEN WITH HIM AND GOT INTO A FEW SCRAPES BUT REALLY NOTHING SERIOUS.

WE USED TO GO SWIMMING AT SURPRISE LAKE AND CATSUP COULDN'T SWIM A STROKE AND THE NEXT SUMMER HE COULD SHOW US ALL UP. WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT ALL OF THAT WINTER HE HAD BEEN GOING TO A SWIMMING POOL AT POINT DEFIANCE PARK IN TACOMA AND TAKING LESSONS. HE SURE FOOLED US.

CATSUP BECAME QUITE A SWIMMER. HE SWAM ACROSS THE BAY FROM BROWNS POINT TO POINT DEFIANCE AND ALSO ACROSS THE STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA WHICH WAS QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT. ONCE HE WAS SWIMMING IN SURPRISE LAKE AND SOME OF THE BIGGER GUYS THREW HIM IN THE WATER AND WHEN HE DIDN'T COME UP THEY GOT WORRIED AND THOUGHT THEY HAD DROWNED HIM. THEY STARTED DIVING TO TRY TO SAVE HIM. HE CAME UP IN SOME CATTAILS ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY AND ASKED THEM WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. HE HAD SWUM UNDERWATER THAT DISTANCE. THAT WAS HIS SPECIALTY, UNDER WATER SWIMMING. HE HAD A TANK BUILT WITH A GLASS FRONT AND HE JOINED A CARNIVAL AND BILLED HIMSELF AS "AQUESA", THE HUMAN FISH. HE WOULD WRITE, DRINK POP AND EAT BANANAS UNDER WATER.

LATER CATSUP HEARD ABOUT A MAN WHO STAYED IN A CAKE OF ICE FOR 15 MINUTES SO HE DECIDED TO SET A NEW RECORD. WE WENT TO TOWN AND GOT A BIG BLOCK OF ICE WITH ONE QUARTER OF IT OPEN

CATSUP CONT'D

SO HE COULD GET IN. WE PUT HIM IN AND PUT THE LID ON AND THEN SEALED IT WITH SNOW AND HE STAYED IN THE ICE FOR 16 MINUTES AND THEN MOVED HIS HEAD TO LET HIM KNOW THAT HE HAD HELD HIS BREATH LONG ENOUGH SO WE BROKE HIM OUT. HE ALMOST FROZE TO DEATH AND SUFFOCATED BUT HE WAS QUITE A TOUGH CHARACTER TO SAY THE LEAST.

AFTER A FEW YEARS HE WAS THE MAYOR OF MILTON AND ALSO ON THE CITY COUNCIL. HE AND I WENT UP TO THE COURTHOUSE IN TACOMA AND FILED FOR ELECTION AS THE DEMOCRATIC PRECINT COMMITTEEMAN. HE FILLED IN THE NAME OF BOSTON CURTIS FOR THE REPUBLICIAN COMMITTEEMAN. THE FUNNY PART OF IT WAS THAT THIS BOSTON CURTIS WAS THE NAME OF A MULE THAT BELONGED TO MR. CURTIS, A CANADIAN WAR VETERAN. TO TOP IT OFF THE PEOPLE OF MILTON ELECTED THE MULE TO OFFICE. IT JUST SHOWED HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE KNOW WHO THEY WERE VOTING FOR AND IT MADE QUITE A STORY. IT WAS EVEN ACTED OUT ON RADIO ON BOB RIPLEY'S SHOW, "BELIEVE IT OR NOT".

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A PAL TO KATSOUP - HIS DAD OWNED A GROCERY STORE NEAR THE TRAIN STOP AND HE WOULD WAIT UNTIL HE HEARD THE TRAIN COMING THEN HE WOULD HIT THE CASH REGISTER, GRAB A BUNCH OF MONEY AND CATCH THE TRAIN ON THE BACK END AND RIDE THAT WAY TO THE NEXT STOP AT FIFE AND THEN COME UP INSIDE AND PAY HIS FARE. HIS FATHER WOULD YELL AT HIM WHEN HE TOOK THE MONEY BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. SOMETIMES I WOULD HELP HIM DELIVER GROCERIES IN HIS DAD'S MODEL T FORD TRUCK. WE WOULD HAVE TO GO QUITE A LONG WAY SOMETIMES, ALL THE WAY TO NORTHEAST TACOMA AND ALMOST AS FAR AS AUBURN. WE WOULD GET HUNGRY AND EAT SOME OF THE CUSTOMER'S GROCERIES, ESPECIALLY THE BANANAS AND CANDY. THE CUSTOMERS WOULD THEN RAISE THE ROOF BECAUSE THEIR FOOD WAS MISSING AND GIVE HIS DAD A BAD TIME.

ONE TIME A BUNCH OF US BOYS WERE IN TOWN AND WE WENT TO A CHINESE RESTAURANT CALLED THE CHONG WALOO. AFTER WE HAD EATEN KATSOUP TOOK THE CHECK AND WENT DOWN BY THE CASHIER'S AND WAS PLAYING THE JUKE BOX. THEN WE ALL LEFT AND THOUGHT THAT HE HAD PAID THE BILL (PROBABLY ABOUT \$2.00 FOR ALL OF US). THE CHINESE OWNER STARTED SCREAMING BLOODY MURDER AND CAME OUT WITH A MEAT CLEAVER. WE ALL SCATTERED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND CAUGHT THE LAST TRAIN OF THE NIGHT. WE EACH CAUGHT THE TRAIN AT A

CATSUP #4

DIFFERENT STOP. IN SPITE OF ALL THE CRAZY THINGS HE DID HE REALLY MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF. HE WAS MAYOR OF MILTON FOR QUITE A WHILE AND ALSO SERVED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR SEVERAL TERMS. HE FOUNDED THE TOWN OF BONNEY LAKE NEAR BUCKLEY AND WAS THE FIRST MAYOR. HE PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET HIM. I ALSO KNEW HIS WIFE BERTHA AND AS FAR AS I KNOW SHE IS STILL ALIVE. I WAS WITH SHE AND HIM THE FIRST TIME THEY MET BUT THATS ANOTHER STORY.

MY SISTER ESTHER NEVER LIKED HIM. SHE BLAMED HIM FOR THE LOSS OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL ANNUALS. HE HAD BORROWED THEM AND HIS HOUSE BURNED DOWN AND OUR ANNUALS WENT UP IN ASHES.

CARS

THE FIRST CAR THAT I EVER SAY WAS WHEN I WAS ABOUT SIX YEARS OLD IN UTAH. SOME PEOPLE THERE HAD THIS OLD CAR CALLED A HAYNES. IT WAS AN OPEN AIR RIG THAT HAD TO BE CRANKED TO START IT. IT REALLY MADE ALOT OF NOISE. THEY HAYNES WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CARS MADE BUT THEY DIDN'T LAST LONG. AFTER WE CAME TO WASHINGTON MY DAD BOUGHT A 1917 MAXWELL in 1920, ABOUT THE FIRST CAR BUILT BY WHAT IS NOW THE CHRYSLER COMPANY. I DROVE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT CAR. THE SALESMAN WHO SOLD IT TOOKE ME OUT OVER THE TIDEFLATS IN TACOMA. THEN HE STOPPED AND TOLD ME TO DRIVE. I HAD NEVER DRIVEN BEFORE BUT I MANAGED TO GET IT BACK TO MILTON WHERE WE LIVED. ON THANKSGIVING DAY I TRIED TO PUT IT IN THE GARAGE WHICH WAS JUST AN OLD BARN. ALL OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND MY COUSINS JUMPED IN FOR THE RIDE. I DIDN'T STOP IN TIME AND HIT THE FRONT OF THE BARN AND KNOCKED IT DOWN AND IT FELL ON THE CAR. NOBODY WAS HURT BUT MY DAD HAD QUITE A TIME FIXING THE SO-CALLED GARAGE. I WAS QUITE SHORT LEGGED SO THAT I COULD HARDLY REACH THE PEDALS OR THAT WAS MY EXCUSE. WE HAD THAT CAR FOR ABOUT A YEAR THEN WE TRADED IT IN ON A 1920 MAXWELL, OPEN AIR OF COURSE, AND WE KEPT THAT CAR FOR QUITE A WHILE.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO COULD DRIVE SO I HAD TO TEACH THEM TO DRIVE BUT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SUCCESS.

AFTER THAT I MANAGED TO BUY A 1921 MODEL T FORD COUPE, THEY WERE CALLED THE TIN LIZZY. MY DAD DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF ME BUYING

CARS

A CAR, I WAS ONLY 18 YEARS OLD AND HE HAD TO SIGN THE CONTRACT BEFORE I COULD GET IT. THE MODEL T FORD WAS REALLY A POPULAR CAR, HENRY FORD MADE MILLIONS OF THEM. IT TOOK A FEW YEARS BEFORE THEY PUT AN ELECTRIC STARTER ON THEM. YOU ALWAYS HAD TO CRANK THEM WHICH CAUSED ALOT OF BROKEN ARMS WHEN THEY WOULD BACKFIRE. THEY NEVER HAD A DOOR ON THE LEFT SIDE BECAUSE THE EMERGENCY BRAKE LEVER WAS ON THAT SIDE AND EVERYONE HAD TO GET IN ON THE RIGHT SIDE. THEY HAD THE ORIGINAL AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION CONSISTING OF THREE PEDALS, ONE FOR THE FORWARD SPEED, THE SECOND FOR THE REVERSE AND THE THIRD WAS FOR THE BRAKE. I WAS COURTING A GIRL AT THE TIME AND SHE LIVED UP A STEEP HILL (NORTH 30TH STREET IN TACOMA). THE GAS TANK WAS UNDER THE FRONT SEAT AND ON A STEEP HILL SOMETIMES THE GAS SUPPLY WAS LOWER THAN THE CARBURETOR. IN THOSE DAYS THERE WERE NO FUEL PUMPS. THE GAS HAD TO GET DOWN BY GRAVITY ALONG. SOMETIMES WHEN I WAS TAKING HER HOME UP ON THE HILL THE MOTOR WOULD START TO SPUTTER SO I WOULD SWING AROUND ON THE HILL AND BACK THE CAR UP THE REST OF THE WAY BECAUSE THEN THE GAS COULD FLOW DOWN INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FLOW UP WHICH DIDN'T WORK OF COURSE.

THE CARS CAME EQUIPPED WITH A FEW TOOLS WHICH WERE STORED UNDER THE SEAT, CAR JACK, TIRE PUMP, SOME TIRE IRONS, TWO WRENCHES, A PAIR OF PLIERS AND ALOT OF BALING WIRE TO TIE THE PARTS ON. WE REALLY HAD TO IMPROVISE IN THOSE DAYS, SERVICE STATIONS AND MECHANIC WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. AFTER MY FIRST TIN LIZZY I BOUGHT A LATER MODEL FROM A FRIEND OF MINE WHO WAS BUYING A LATER FORD WHICH WAS THE MODEL "A" WHICH CAME OUT IN 1928. I BOUGHT HIS

CARS

MODEL "T" FOR \$150. IT WAS A 1925 GREEN COUPE. I DROVE THAT QUITE A WHILE ALSO. ABOUT THAT TIME MY DAD BOUGHT A 1926 OVERLAND SEDAN WHICH WAS QUITE A CHANGE FROM THE MODEL "T"s. IT WAS A FOUR DOOR SEDAN WITH A SIX CYCLINDER ENGINE AND EQUIPPED WITH DISC WHEELS. IT COST MY DAD \$600 FROM THE BUICK DEALER IN TACOMA. ABOUT THAT TIME I HAD A FRIEND WHO OWNED A STUTZ BEARCAT ROADSTER. WE WOULD GO OUT IN THAT QUITE OFTEN. IT WAS A RIGHT HAND DRIVE WITH GAS LIGHTS. I BELIEVE ALL OF THE CONTROLS WERE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CAR. MY FRIEND WAS GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AT THE TIME AND HE WOULD WEAR A COONSKIN COAT WHICH WAS THE IN THING WITH THE COLLEGE SET. THAT STUTZ WAS ABOUT THE MOST EXPENSIVE CAR OF ITS DAY AND THERE WERE VERY FEW ON THE ROAD.

MY NEXT CAR WAS A 1926 DODGE COUPE WHICH I BOUGHT FOR \$15. IT WAS A GOOD OLD CAR. WE MADE LOTS OF TRIPS IN IT THE WHOLE FAMILY, MY WIFE AND I AND THREE KIDS. IT HAD PISTONS ABOUT THE SIZE OF A COFFEE CAN AND WHEN IT CAME DOWN THE ROAD IT SOUNDED LIKE A FOSS TUGBOAT. THE NEXT CAR WAS A 1930 FOR MODEL "A" WHICH MY BROTHER BOB LET ME USE WHEN HE WAS OVERSEAS IN THE ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II. THAT WAS ALSO A COUPE - THEY WERE REALLY A DEPENDABLE CAR AS WERE ALL OF THE FORD PRODUCTS. I HAD ANOTHER CAR ABOUT THE TIME I WAS MARRIED IN 1934. I BOUGHT A 1926 OAKLAND ROADSTER FROM A FRIEND OF MINE FOR \$50.00. IT

CARS

WAS OPEN AIR WITH A RUMBLE SEAT WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS CALLED A MOTHER-IN-LAW SEAT WHICH WAS QUITE APPROPRIATE IN MY CASE AS MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WAS NAMED ANNIE LAW. THIS CAR HAD A WHISTLE ON THE EXHAUST PIPE FOR A HORN AND IT REALLY MADE A NOISE. IT SOUNDED LIKE A LOCOMOTIVE WHISTLE AND IT WOULD REALLY CLEAR THE ROAD FOR ME. I DID ALOT OF COURTING IN THAT CAR.

THE INTERURBAN

THERE WAS AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY WHICH RAN BETWEEN SEATTLE AND TACOMA AND UP TO EVERETT WITH SEVERAL BRANCH LINES, ONE TO PUYALLUP AND ONE TO RENTON. THE TRAINS USED A THIRD RAIL FOR THE POWER OUTSIDE OF THE CITIES AND IN THE CITIES THEY USED THE OVERHEAD TROLLEY WIRES. THE THIRD RAIL WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ESPECIALLY TO DOGS AND COWS WHO WOULD COME IN CONTACT WITH IT. WE USED TO STEP OVER IT ALOT OF THE TIME. ONE OF OUR FRIENDS USED TO WALK ON IT WHICH WAS PERFECTLY SAFE AS LONG AS HE DIDN'T TOUCH THE GROUND. I ONLY HEARD OF ONE PERSON WHO WAS KILLED BY THE THIRD RAIL. HE WAS AN INDIAN STUDENT FROM ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL UP WHERE SPRING VALLEY IS NOW. HE HAD BEEN GAFFING SALMON IN HYLEBOS CREEK AND WAS WALKING DOWN THE TRACKS WITH A SALMON HANGING ON HIS POLE. IT HAD BEEN RAINING AND THE TAIL OF THAT FISH HIT THE THIRD RAIL AND HE NEVER DID KNOW WHAT HIT HIM. I HAVE SEEN DOGS KILLED WHEN THEY TRIED TO CRAWL UNDER IT. I ALSO SAW A COW GET HIT BY THE TRAIN AND KNOCKED ONTO THE RAIL. I COULD SMELL THAT COW BEING COOKED ALIVE UNTIL THE POWER WAS SHUT OFF WHICH TOOK QUITE A WHILE. WE

WE USED TO RIDE THE TRAIN TO GO TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL. WE WOULD GO TO TACOMA AND THEN TRANSFER TO A CITY STREET CAR TO GO UP TO SCHOOL. MY DAD WOULD BUY US A BOOK OF TICKETS EVERY MONTH. IT COST \$2.60 FOR A BOOK OF 40 TICKETS WHICH LASTED US A MONTH.

INTERURBAN

THE COST WAS 6½¢ A RIDE FROM MILTON TO HIGH SCHOOL. SOMETIMES IF MY FATHER WAS FLUSH HE WOULD GIVE US \$3.00 TO BUY OUR TICKETS AND LET US KEEP 40¢ FOR OUR ALLOWANCE FOR THE MONTH. THAT WAS QUITE AN EXPENSE AS SOMETIMES THERE WERE FOUR OF US GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME. I ALSO HAD TWO COUSINS GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL SO IN THE LAST YEAR I DROVE THE OLD MAXWELL AS A SCHOOL BUS FROM MILTON. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT THREE OTHER CARS PARKING AT SCHOOL, SO IT WASN'T VERY HARD TO FIND A PARKING PLACE.

THE LAST TRAIN ON THE INTERURBAN RAN ON DECEMBER 30, 1928. BY THAT TIME THE BUSSES AND TRUCKS HAD TAKEN OVER. SOME OF THE OLD RIGHT OF WAY IS STILL THERE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK OF BUILDING IT UP ABAIN BUT I GUESS ITS CHANCES ARE QUITE SLIM. THE TRAINS STARTED RUNNING IN 1902 AND FOLDED UP IN 1928. THEY WOULD START OUT FROM 8TH AND "A" STREET IN TACOMA AND THEN GO OUT PACIFIC AVENUE TO 24TH STREET AND THEN GO OVER THE PUYALLUP RIVER AND HEAD UP THE VALLEY WHERE THEY REALLY PICKED UP SPEED. THERE WERE ABOUT FIVE STOPS BEFORE THEY CAME TO MILTON AND IT WOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT 15 MINUTES TO GET THERE FROM 8TH AND "A" STREET. AFTER LEAVING MILTON THEY WOULD GO UP OVER THE HILL AND COME DOWN IN THE VALLEY WHERE AUBURN IS LOCATED NOW. THE FAST TRAINS, THE LIMITEDS, WOULD ONLY MAKE TWO STOPS BEFORE SEATTLE, AT AUBURN AND KENT. THERE WAS ALSO A SHORT TUNNEL AT A PLACE CALLED JOVITA. SOMETIMES THERE WOULD BE AS MANY AS FOUR

INTERURBAN

CARS IN THE TRAIN. THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE, WORKERS AND SCHOOL KIDS, GETTING ON AT MILTON THAT THEY WOULD BE A SPECIAL CAR FOR THEM. THEY ALSO CARRIED FREIGHT BETWEEN STOPS.

MY DAD WORKED AS A SECTION HAND (CALLED GANDY DANCERS) FOR A WHILE. IT WAS QUITE DANGEROUS ON ACCOUNT OF THE THIRD RAIL. SOME OF THE PEOPLE HAD QUITE A WALK TO GET TO THE TRAIN STOP. MY COUSINS HAD TO WALK ALMOST TWO MILES AND THEN ANOTHER TWO MILES WHEN THEY CAME HOME. WE ALSO USED THE TRAIN TO GO ON SCHOOL PICNICS, MOST OF THE TIME TO PT. DEFIANCE PARK. OUR MOTHER HAD QUITE A JOB TAKING ALL OF HER KIDS ON SUCH A TRIP WITH ALL OF THE DIAPERS AND THE PICNIC BASKETS TO HANDLE.

WE KIDS USED TO WALK UP THE TRACK FROM MILTON OVER THE HILL. THERE WAS ONE SHARP CURVE THAT WAS CALLED DEADMAN'S CURVE. WE WOULD LOOK FOR BRICKS THAT HAD FALLEN OFF OF THE FLAT CARS THAT CARRIED THEM FROM THE BRICK YARD IN RENTON TO TACOMA. A MAN AT MILTON WOULD GIVE US 5¢ EACH FOR ANY BRICKS THAT WE WOULD FIND. THAT WAS A HARD WAY TO GET A LITTLE SPENDING MONEY. THERE WAS A BIG POWER HOUSE AT MILTON THAT SUPPLIED THE JUICE TO RUN THE TRAINS AND WE WOULD SPEND ALOT FO TIME AROUND THAT PLACE. THE OPERATOR, DAVE ALLEN, WAS A NICE MAN. HE WAS A BROTHER TO SAM ALLEN, THE MAN WHO STARTED THE ALLENMORE GOLF COURSE WHERE THE HOSPITAL IS LOCATED NOW.

MY MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR I

I WAS QUITE YOUNG WHEN THIS WAR BROKE OUT. IT STARTED IN 1914 WHEN THE CROWN PRINCE OF AUSTRIA WAS KILLED WHILE ON A VISIT TO SERBIA, NOW YUGOSLAVIA. THE GERMANS WERE KNOWN AS THE HUNS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KAISER WILHELM AND AUSTRIA INVADED BELGIUM AND HOLLAND. OF COURSE THEN BRITAIN AND FRANCE WENT TO THE AID OF THOSE SMALL NATIONS. TURKEY ALSO JOINED WITH THE HUNS AND GOT INTO THE FIGHT. ALSO OF COURSE THE AMERICANS WERE FRIENDLY WITH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH AND WE STAYED NEUTRAL UNTIL APRIL 6, 1917, WHEN PRESIDENT WILSON DECLARED WAR. WHAT CAUSED US TO GET INVOLVED WAS MAINLY BECAUSE THE GERMANS TORPEDOED A BIG SHIP CALLED THE LUSITANIA OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND AND KILLED A LOT OF AMERICANS.

THE PEOPLE OF PIERCE COUNTY DONATED ABOUT 70,000 ACRES OF LAND TO USE AS AN ARMY BASE. IT IS NOW CALLED FORT LEWIS. THE ARMY BUILT A BASE OF WOODEN BARRACKS IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. ANYONE WHO COULD DRIVE A NAIL WENT TO WORK AS A CARPENTER.

THEN THE DRAFTEES CAME INTO THE ACT AT THAT TIME. THEY WERE DRAFTING KIDS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. I HAD QUITE A FEW FRIENDS WHO WENT INTO THE SERVICE AT THAT TIME. I HADN'T STARTED HIGH SCHOOL YET SO I MISSED THAT PART OF THE ACT. PEOPLE WERE PRETTY INFLAMED AGAINST THE GERMANS. WHAT WAS CALLED HAMBURGER AT THE TIME WAS RENAMED LIBERTY STEAK TO GET AWAY FROM THE GERMAN NAME. WE HAD A GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BY THE NAME OF KERSHEN AND HE WAS DISMISSED BECAUSE OF HIS GERMAN NAME.

I HAD JUST STARTED HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER OF 1918 WHEN THE GERMANS SURRENDERED ON THE 11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY ON THE 11TH MONTH OF THE YEAR. NOVEMBER 11, 1918 WAS THEN CALLED ARMISTICE DAY FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS. I CAN REMEMBER THE TIME THAT THE WAR ENDED. WE WERE PLAYING IN THE STREETS OF MILTON WHEN THE CHURCH BELLS STARTED RINGING AND THEN WE FOUND OUT THAT THE WAR WAS OVER. I CAN RECALL WHEN THE BOYS STARTED RETURNING FROM FRANCE. WE WOULD MEET THEM DOWN AT THE UNION STATION IN TACOMA AND WATCH THEM PARADE THRU TOWN. THERE AREN'T VERY MANY OF THOSE VETERANS LEFT ANYMORE, I CAN ONLY THINK OF TWO THAT I KNEW.

EVERYONE WENT ALL OUT TO HELP IN THE WAR EFFORT IN 1917 AND 1918. ONE OF THE TEACHERS AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, MR. ORR, OWNED SOME LAND IN THE FLATS BELOW MILTON AND HE LET MY OLDEST SISTER AND SOME OF HER FRIENDS PLANT A VEGETABLE GARDEN TO RAISE THEIR OWN PRODUCE. IN THE SAME LOCATION THERE WAS A CRANBERRY BOG WHICH HAD A LOT OF SPHAGNUM MOSS GROWING WILD IN IT. WE WOULD GATHER THIS MOSS AND GIVE IT TO THE RED CROSS TO DRY AND THEY WOULD SEND IT TO FRANCE TO BE USED AS DRESSING FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS. I GUESS THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF COTTON AT THE TIME. ALSO EVERYONE AT SCHOOL

WORLD WAR I (CONT'D)

TRIED TO SAVE CLOTHES TO GIVE TO THE ARMY TO BE SURE THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD ENOUGH FOR THEIR OWN USE. AT HIGH SCHOOL WE WOULD ALL WEAR BIB OVERALLS TO HELP OUT. AT THAT TIME IT WAS CALLED HOOVERING AFTER HERBERT HOOVER WHO WAS THE HEAD OF THAT DEPARTMENT. HE LATER BECAME PRESIDENT FOR ONE TERM AFTER THE WAR.

SPEAKING OF CAMP LEWIS (FORT LEWIS NOW), AFTER THE WAR ALL OF THOSE WOODEN BARRACKS WERE TORN DOWN AND REPLACED BY BRICK BUILDINGS. MY FOLKS DECIDED TO GO INTO THE POULTRY BUSINESS AND THE GOVERNMENT SOLD THE MATERIALS OF THE OLD BUILDINGS. MY DAD BOUGHT ENOUGH FOR TWO CHICKEN HOUSES. HE BOUGHT ALL OF THE LUMBER FOR \$30 TO BUILD A 50 FOOT CHICKEN HOUSE. FOR \$50 HE GOT ALL OF THE LUMBER, WINDOWS, SCREEN AND CURTAINS, ALSO THE ROOFING PAPER AND DOORS. OF COURSE WE HAD TO HAUL IT FROM CAMP LEWIS ABOUT 30 MILES AWAY IN MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S MODEL T DUMP TRUCK. HE BOUGHT ENOUGH FOR TWO CHICKEN HOUSES. THAT WAS REALLY A BARGAIN. I HAVE ALSO BEEN PROUD OF MY FINNISH HERITAGE BECAUSE DURING THE WAR WE LENT HUGE SUMS OF MONEY TO OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE, MILLONS OF DOLLARS TO FRANCE AND ENGLAND. (IN WHAT WAS CALLED LEND LEASE WE LOANED A FEW MILLION TO LITTLE FINLAND) AND THEY WERE THEY ONLY ONES TO PAY US BACK, WHICH SHOWS THE WORLD WHAT A GOOD PEOPLE THE FINLANDERS WERE. WE ARE STILL WAITING TO GET THE MONEY BACK FROM THOSE BIG COUNTRIES.

MY GENERATION

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I CAME FROM A LARGE FAMILY. MY OLDEST SISTER, ELVY WAS BORN IN UTAH IN 1902. SHE WENT TO SCHOOL IN UTAH FOR A FEW YEARS AND WHEN WE CAME TO MILTON SHE FINISHED THERE AND THEN WENT TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADUATED IN 1920. WHEN SHE WAS STILL GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL SHE WORKED AS AN USHER IN THE THEATERS IN TACOMA. OF COURSE SHE WOULD ALWAYS LET US IN TO THE SHOW FOR NOTHING. OF COURSE AT THAT TIME THEY WERE ALL BLACK AND WHITE SILENT PICTURES. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL SHE WENT TO UPS AND GOT A TEACHING DIPLOMA. THE FIRST FALL SHE TAUGHT SCHOOL IN A ONE ROOM SCHOOL NEAR WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON. ALL EIGHT GRADES WERE IN ONE ROOM. SHE WAS PAID \$100 A MONTH OF WHICH \$50 WENT TO PAY HER BOARD AND ROOM. THE NEXT YEAR SHE TAUGHT SCHOOL AT ALDER UP IN THE MOUNTAINS. SHE STAYED THERE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS AND THEN GOT MARRIED IN 1923. IN 1929 THEY MOVED UP TO RANDLE WHERE HER HUSBAND, BILL HICKEY, OWNED A GARAGE AND SERVICE STATION. SHE LIVED THE REST OF HER LIFE THERE AND PASSED AWAY IN 1974. SHE HAD FOUR CHILDREN, THREE GIRLS AND ONE BOY. TWO OF THE DAUGHTERS ARE STILL LIVING, ONE IS STILL IN RANDLE AND THE OTHER ONE IS DOWN IN OREGON. THEIR SON, LOREN, MADE A CAREER IN THE NAVY AS A DENTIST AND RETIRED WITH THE RANK OF CAPTAIN. HE ALSO PASSED AWAY ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. THEIR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, JOANNE, PASSED AWAY IN 1975 AND THEIR FATHER DIED ABOUT A YEAR AGO IN 1989.

MY OTHER SISTER ESTHER WAS BORN IN UTAH ON MARCH 19, 1904. SHE CAME TO MILTON IN 1910 AND LIVED WITH OUR GRANDMOTHER UNTIL THE REST OF US CAME OUT IN 1913. SHE WAS MORE OR LESS OF A QUIET TYPE. SHE WENT TO SCHOOL IN MILTON UNTIL SHE GRADUATED IN 1919, THEN ON TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL WHERE SHE GRADUATED IN 1923. SHE HAD A GREAT LIKING FOR ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY CATS. AFTER SHE GOT OUT OF SCHOOL SHE WORKED FOR A WHILE FOR A MAN BY THE NAME OF TALUM WHO HAD A GROCERY STORE IN MILTON. IN 1933 SHE MARRIED A MAN BY THE NAME OF ED BERG WHO WAS A PRINCE OF A MAN. HE DONE US ALOT OF FAVORS AND WAS REALLY A HARD WORKER. THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN, MARILYN WHO HAS TWO SONS AND TWO GRANDSONS WHO LIVES IN COLVILLE, WASHINGTON AND REALLY WORRIES ABOUT ME. SHE REALLY IS FAITHFUL WHEN IT COMES TO WRITING. SHE DOES ME A ALOT OF FAVORS AND IS A REGULAR PEN PAL TO ME. ESTHER'S HUSBAND, ED BERG, PASSED AWAY IN 1962. HE WAS QUITE YOUNG AT THE TIME. THEIR SON, EDDIE BERG, STILL LIVES IN THE BIG HOUSE THAT THEY BUILD IN MILTON IN THE 1940S. HE NEVER DID MARRY. ESTHER PASSED AWAY IN 1986, ANOTHER VICTIM OF CANCER.

MY OLDEST BROTHER GLEN WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF *Shortstuff* BECAUSE HE WAS ON THE SHORT SIDE WAS BORN IN UTAH IN 1907. HE AND I WERE REALLY CLOSE WHEN WE WERE YOUNG. HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 1925. HE WAS A REAL GOOD MECHANIC AND WORKED IN GARAGES IN SEATTLE AND LATER WAS WITH THE TRANSIT SYSTEM IN SEATTLE AS A SUPERINTENDENT IN THE SHOP. HE WENT TO WORK FIRST AT CARMEN'S FURNITURE PLANT WHERE I PUT IN ABOUT 20 YEARS. HE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT IN 1928 WHEN A WIRE INTO HIS INTESTINES AND REALLY

MY GENERATION

CAUSED ALOT OF TROUBLE. HE SUFFERED ALOT FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS AFTER THAT HAPPENED. I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE START OF HIS CANCER PROBLEMS. HE PASSED AWAY IN 1975 AND HIS WIFE HILMA IS STILL LIVING IN BALLARD AND HAS HER HEALTH PROBLEMS ALSO. THEY WERE BOTH GOOD DANCERS AND REALLY ENJOYED DOING THE SCANDINAVIAN DANCES.

MY NEXT BROTHER CLARENCE WAS BORN IN UTAH ON MARCH 5, 1910, AND ALWAYS WENT BY THE NAME OF "GRANDPA" OR "GRAMPS". HE HAD REALLY WHITE HAIR WHEN HE WAS YOUNG AND SO HE LOOKED LIKE A GRANDPA AND THAT NAME STUCK WITH HIM. ONE TIME IN THE EARLY 1920S HE WANTED TO USE MY RAZOR TO SHAVE. I HAD JUST STARTED TO SHAVE MYSELF AND HE WAS FIVE YEARS YOUNGER THAN I WAS. HE TOOK MY GILLETTE RAZOR, LATHERED UP AND PROCEEDED TO SHAVE. AFTER HE WAS DONE HE TOLD ME TO FEEL WHAT A NICE JOB HE HAD DONE. I LOOKED AT THE RAZOR AND TOLD HIM NEXT TIME TO PUT A BLADE IN IT.

MY NEXT BROTHER, BOB, ROBERT MILTON NELSON, WAS THE FIRST OF OUR CLAN TO BE BORN OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF UTAH. HE WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 9, 1913. HE WAS MY FAVORITE BROTHER. HE WAS ALWAYS SO BIG-HEARTED AND HELPFUL NOT ONLY TO ME BUT ALOT OF THE OLDER PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN MILTON. HE WAS ALWAYS HELPING SOME OF THE OLD PEOPLE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. HE WAS A GOOD MECHANIC AND WOULD ALWAYS REPAIR THEIR CARS BUT HE WOULDN'T ACCEPT MONEY FOR HIS WORK. OF COURSE THE PEOPLE WOULD PAY FOR ANY PARTS NEEDED (SOME OF THE LADIES WOULD GIVE HIM A HOMEMADE PIE OR SOME OTHER BAKED GOODS FOR HIS WORK). HE WOULD ALSO DO THEIR YARD WORK LIKE MOWING THEIR LAWNS ETC. HE WOULD ALSO ACT AS A CAB DRIVER TAKING THEM SHOPPING AND TO THE DOCTORS. ONE LADY HAD A SICK CAT AND BOB WOULD TAKE IT TO A VET FOR TREATMENT. THIS LADY INSISTED ON A SPECIAL VET A LONG DISTANCE FROM HOME SO BOB WOULD GO ALONG WITH HER WISHES. HE USED TO TAKE ONE LADY TO THE DOCTOR WHEN SHE ONLY LIVED ABOUT A BLOCK FROM HIS OFFICE. HE WOULD DRIVE ABOUT 30 MILES JUST TO PLEASE HER. WHENEVER I HAD CAR PROBLEMS HE WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME GET GOING AGAIN. HE WAS ALWAYS HELPING ME OUT IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. I USED TO CALL HIM THE GOOD SAMARITAN OF MILTON AND HE REALLY LIVED UP TO THAT NAME. DURING WORLD WAR II HE DIDN'T WAIT TO BE DRAFTED, HE ENLISTED IN 1940 BEFORE WE WERE INVOLVED IN IT AND HE SPENT ABOUT FOUR YEARS IN THE AFRICAN DESERT WITH THE ARMY. HE HAD SOME INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT HIS CAREER IN THE ARMY. IN 1951 HE MARRIED A WIDOW IN MILTON WHO HAD TWO CHILDREN AND FOUR GRANDCHILDREN SHE PASSED AWAY IN 1974 AFTER A LONG ILLNESS AND HE PASSED AWAY IN 1987 AT THE AGE OF 74. I'LL NEVER FORGET BOB, THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

MY SIBLINGS (cont'd)

I ALSO HAD TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS IN MY FAMILY. SIDNEY WAS BORN IN MILTON ON JULY 28, 1915. HE WAS SICKLY AS A BABY AND I CAN REMEMBER MY MOTHER WOULD ALMOST HAVE TO FORCE HIM TO TAKE HIS VITAMINS WHICH IN THOSE DAYS WAS GOOD OLD COD LIVER OIL OR SCOTTS EMULSION. IT WAS HARD STUFF TO SWALLOW SO HE COULDN'T BE BLAMED. HE STARTED GRADE SCHOOL LATER THAN MOST OF US BUT MANAGED TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE EIGHTH GRADE AT MILTON AND THEN FOUR YEARS AT FIFE HIGH SCHOOL WHERE HE GRADUATED. HE ALWAYS MANAGED TO GET A JOB. HE WORKED IN A FURNITURE PLANT FOR A FEW YEARS AND THEN WEN INTO THE ARMY DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. HE DIDN'T GET OVERSEAS BUT SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME ON AN ARMY POST IN TEXAS. AFTER THE WAR HE WENT TO WORK FOR BOEINGS AND STAYED THERE UNTIL HE RETIRED. HE MANAGED TO GET MARRIED THREE TIMES, THE FIRST TWO DIDN'T LAST LONG BUT HIS THIRD WIFE, MARIE, WAS A NICE ONE. SHE PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO. THEY NEVER HAD ANY CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN. SHE HAD TWO BOYS BY HER FIRST HUSBAND. SID NOW LIVES IN A NICE APARTMENT NEAR LINCOLN PARK IN TACOMA AND HE IS STILL IN GOOD SHAPE.

MY YOUNGEST BROTHER RALPH WAS BORN IN MILTON JUNE 2, 1918, THE SAME DAY THAT I FINISHED THE EIGHTH GRADE AT MILTON. HE WAS QUITE HEALTHY AND WAS CONSIDERED A BRAIN. AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM FIFE HIGH SCHOOL IN 1936 (BY THE WAY HE WAS THE CLASS VALEDICTOREAN) HE WORKED FOR A FEW MONTHS IN A MILL AND THEN WENT TO KNAPPS BUSINNESS COLLEGE AND STUDIED AND BECAME A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT. HE WORKED FOR BUSH AND WEBB CO. IN THE PUGET SOUND BANK BUILDING IN TACOMA AND TOOK A LEAVE WEN HE WENT INTO THE ARMY. HE MARRIED HIS WIFE, DOROTHY, IN JUNE 1941, ABOUT THE SAME TIME

Siblings cont'd

MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, DARLENE, WAS BORN. AFTER THE WAR HE WENT BACK TO WORK FOR BUSH & WEBB AND EVENTUALLY BECAME A PARTNER WITH THE FIRM. HE THEN FORMED HIS OWN COMPANY AND STILL WORKS PART TIME AT THE BUSINESS EVEN IF HE IS OFFICIALLY RETIRED. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN, ONE SON AND TWO DAUGHTERS. THEIR SON BILL IS IN NORWAY AS A SCIENTIST WITH HIS FAMILY FOR A FEW YEARS ON SOME KIND OF GOVERNMENT PROJECT. HE IS A BRAIN ALSO AND TAKES AFTER HIS DAD. THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS NEVER DID MARRY. THE YOUNGEST ONE HAS BEEN IN OHIO FOR QUITE A WHILE WORKING AS AN ACCOUNTANT AND WORD PROCESSER. THE OLDEST ONE IS LIVING IN TACOMA NOW AFTER SPENDING ALOT OF TIME MOSTLY IN CALIFORNIA IN THE NURSING PROFESSION. BOTH ARE DOING OKAY ALSO.

ONE THING ABOUT OUR FAMILY WHICH I TAKE PRIDE IN IS THAT ALL EIGHT OF US GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, FIVE FROM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL IN TACOMA AND THREE FROM FIFE HIGH SCHOOL IN FIFE. OUR PARENTS ALWAYS INSISTED ON US GETTING A LITTLE EDUCATION. OUR FATHER ONLY WENT TO SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS HE USED TO CLAIM, THAT WAS BACK IN FINLAND OF COURSE. HE LEARNED TO READ AND WRITE LATER. MY MOTHER GOT MOST OF HER EDUCATION IN UTAH. BUT THEY BOTH DONE ALRIGHT, IT WAS QUITE A CHORSE PUTTING US THROUGH SCHOOL AS THEY DID.

SOME OF THE ROMANTIC EVENTS OF MY LIFE

I NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF A LADY KILLER BUT I ALWAYS MANAGED TO HAVE PLENTY OF GIRL FRIENDS, IN FACT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I GOT MYSELF INTO TROUBLE BY DATING TWO GIRLS FOR THE SAME TIME. SOMETIME IT TOOK SOME FAST THINKING TO GET MYSELF SQUARED AWAY. IN THOSE DAYS PHONES WERE SCARCE AND IT WAS HARD TO CONTACT ONE OR THE OTHER OF MY DOUBLE DATES AND LIE MY WAY OUT OF THE JAM. I HAD MY SHARE OF GIRL FRIENDS IN MY SCHOOL DAYS BUT NOTHING SERIOUS. THEY USED TO HAVE BOX SOCIALS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH WHERE THE GIRLS WOULD MAKE A LUNCH AND THEN AUCTION THEM OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. SOMETIMES THE BID WOULD GO AS HIGH AS TWO BITS (25¢) BUT I KNEW WHICH GIRLS PUT UP THE BEST LUNCH AND THEN WOULD BID ON THOSE BOXES. THEN WE WOULD EAT THE LUNCH WITH THE GIRL WHO MADE IT.

I ALSO USED TO SING IN THE CHURCH CHOIR AND THEN WALK THE GIRLS HOME AFTER IT WAS OVER. I ALSO HAD SOME RENDEZVOUS WITH THE LOCAL GIRLS AT THE TIME. AFTER I GOT THRU HIGH SCHCOL WE TOOK UP WITH THREE SISTERS WHOM WE MET AT THE SCANDINAVIAN LODGE IN TACOMA. WE CALLED THEM THE RESERVES BECAUSE I AND SOME OF MY BUDDIES WOULD CRUISE UP AND DOWN THE STREETS TRYING TO PICK UP SOME DAMES. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY LUCK WE WOULD ALWAYS DRIVE TO THEIR HOUSE NEAR LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND THEY WERE ALWAYS HOME AND READY TO GO SO THAT IS WHY WE CALLED THEM THE RESERVES. I WENT WITH THE YOUNGEST AND PRETTIEST ONE FOR QUITE A WHILE AFTER I GOT MY FIRST MODEL T FORD.

ROMANTIC EVENTS (Cont'd)

THE NEXT ONE I GOT SERIOUS WITH WAS A NICE GIRL (SYLVIA ASP) WHO LIVED IN OLD TOWN IN TACOMA. SHE WAS REALLY CONCIENTIOUS. SHE LIKED SPORTING EVENTS AND I WOULD TAKE HER TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES IN SEATTLE. WE WOULD ALSO GO OUT TO SUPRISE LAKE TO GO SWIMMING. WE ALSO WOULD GO OUT TO DANCES AT THE DIFFERENT LOCAL DANCE HALLS OUT AT THE LAKES. AFTER WE BROKE UP SHE BECAME A NURSE AND SHE MARRIED A MAY BY THE NAME OF BUZZ ANDERSON. HE WENT INTO THE ARMY AT THE START OF WORLD WAR II AND WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE PHILLIPINES BY A JAP SNIPER. SHE HAD TWO SMALL BOYS. SHE KEPT TRACK OF ME THRU ALL OF THE YEARS AND SHE GAVE ME A SURPRISE A FEW YEARS AGO BACK WHEN I WAS IN A CARE CENTER AND SHE CAME TO VISIT ME AND WE HAD ALOT TO TALK ABOUT. SHE ALWAYS WAS A PRETTY LEVELHEADED AND I WAS DATING HER WHEN I MET THE GIRL THAT I EVENTUALLY MARRIED.

I HAD QUITE A FEW MORE GIRL FRIENDS, MOST OF THEM JUST LOCAL LADIES BUT BY GOING TO DANCES TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK I ALWAYS MANAGED TO HAVE A FEW ON THE LINE, SO TO SPEAK. THEY WERE ALL SHORT RELATIONSHIPS SO I DECIDED TO STICK WITH FRANCES WHOM I MET ON A BLIND DATE THRU A FRIEND OF MINE BY THE NAME OF PERCY SMITH. WE MEET IN NOVEMBER 1933 AND IN AUGUST 1934 WE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED. IT WAS A QUIET WEDDING WITH JUST A FEW PEOPLE PRESENT. MY MOTHER, MY YOUNGER BROTHER AND HIS GIRL FRIEND AND MY OTHER BROTHER, GLENN, AND HIS WIFE WHO HAD JUST

MARRIED A WEEK BEFORE. WE WERE MARRIED ON AUGUST 18, 1934. THERE WASN'T MUCH OF A HONEYMOON, WE SPENT THE NIGHT IN SEATTLE AT A HOTEL AND I WENT BACK TO WORK ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. FRANCES HAD A SON ABOUT 3 YEARS OLD FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE SO I HAD A RUNNING START ON RAISING A FAMILY. WE HAD OUR UPS AND DOWNS AS MOST NEWLY WEDS HAVE BUT WE STAYED TOGETHER UNTIL 1952 WHEN WE WERE DIVORCED . SIX MONTHS LATER WE REMARRIED ON OCTOBER 11, 1952, AND WENT TO PORTLAND ON THE TRAIN FOR OUR SECOND HONEYMOON. WE STAYED TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER 18 YEARS WHEN WE CALLED IT QUITS AGAIN. FRANCES IS STILL LIVING IN AN APARTMENT NEAR WRIGHT'S PARK. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN QUITE A FEW YEARS. MY TWO DAUGHTERS SEE HER ONCE IN A WHILE.

MY OFFSPRING

FROM MY MARRIAGE TO FRANCES IN 1934 I HAD TWO DAUGHTERS OF WHOM I AM JUSTLY PROUD. THE OLDER ONE, PATRICIA BLYTHE, WAS BORN ON APRIL 20, 1935. IT WAS ALWAYS A SORE SPOT TO BE REMINDED THAT THAT WAS ALSO THE BIRTHDAY OF ADOLPH HITLER, THE GERMAN DICTATOR OF WORLD WAR II.

I TRIED TO BE A GOOD FATHER BUT I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THERE WERE TIMES THAT I GOOFED. I ALWAYS MANAGED TO HAVE A JOB AND WAS ABLE TO KEEP A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS EVEN WHEN JOBS WERE PRETTY SCARCE AT TIMES. WE ALWAYS MANAGED TO KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE THROUGH WE DIDN'T HAVE CAVIAR OR PRIME RIB VERY OFTEN. NEITHER ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS GAVE ME ANY CAUSE TO WORRY. THEY BOTH DID REALLY WELL IN SCHOOL. PAT WENT TO ROGERS GRADE SCHOOL AND THEN TO GAULT INTERMEDIATE IN TACOMA AND AFTER WE MOVED TO MILTON SHE FINISHED AT FIFE HIGH SCHOOL WHERE SHE WAS QUITE ACTIVE.

ONE TIME WHEN SHE WAS STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL SHE AND ONE OF HER CHUMS DECIDED TO GO OUT TO VISIT HER GRANDMOTHER, MY MOTHER WHO LIVED IN MILTON. THEY WALKED FROM MCKINLEY AVENUE IN TACOMA ALL THE WAY OUT THERE ABOUT 7 MILES ON OLD 99. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY WERE UNTIL MY MOTHER CALLED UP AND SAID THAT THEY WERE OUT THERE SO I HAD TO DRIVE OUT THERE AND BRING THEM BACK. HER GIRLFRIEND'S MOTHER WAS QUITE UPSET SO SHE FORBADE HER DAUGHTER FROM ASSOCIATING WITH PAT (NOT PATSY) ANYMORE. I GUESS SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS A BAD INFLUENCE.

MY OFFSPRING (CONTINUED)

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL SHE STARTED HER CAREER AS A LEGAL SECRETARY AND WAS MARRIED IN DECEMBER OF 1953. SHE HAD TWO CHILDREN FROM THAT MARRIAGE, A SON BRADLEY MADDOX WHO WAS BORN IN 1954 AND A DAUGHTER MELANIE BORN IN 1958. MELANIE IS MARRIED AND LIVING IN OLYMPIA AND HAS A SON AND A DAUGHTER, RYAN AND WENDY AGGERGAARD. BRAD IS MARRIED FOR THE SECOND TIME AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN, LORI, BRIAN, NATHAN AND RACHEL, LIVING IN TACOMA.

MY OTHER DAUGHTER, DARLENE GAIL, WAS BORN ON JUNE 13, 1941, AND WAS ALSO A WONDERFUL DAUGHTER. SHE WENT TO SCHOOL AT ROGERS GRADE SCHOOL ALSO AND THEN TO MILTON GRADE SCHOOL AND FIFE MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE MOVED BACK TO TACOMA AND SHE FINISHED AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND THEN WENT TO WORK AT THE PHONE COMPANY. ONE TIME WHEN SHE WAS LEARNING TO DRIVE I LET HER TAKE OUR CAR FOR A SOLO FLIGHT AND SHE GOT INTO A MINOR ACCIDENT, NOTHING SERIOUS. IT DIDN'T HURT OUR CAR BUT THE OTHER CAR WAS DENTED UP A LITTLE. SHE WAS NICE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGE TO THE OTHER CAR, HER MOTHER NEVER HEARD ABOUT THAT INCIDENT. IF SHE HAD I WOULD STILL BE IN THE DOGHOUSE FOR LETTING HER DRIVE THE CAR WHEN SHE DIDN'T HAVE A DRIVERS LICENSE AT THE TIME. AT ONE TIME SHE WAS CRAZY ABOUT HORSES AND I USED TO TAKE HER DIFFERENT PLACES WHERE SHE COULD RIDE A HORSE LIKE OUT TO POINT DEFIANCE BACK WHEN THEY HAD A RIDING ACADEMY. SHE HAD QUITE A COLLECTION OF MINATURE HORSES IN METAL OR PLASTIC, I NEVER KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

MY OFFSPRING (CONTINUED)

SHE WAS MARRIED IN 1961 TO BOB DILGER AND THEY NEVER HAD ANY CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN. SHE IS NOW MARRIED TO A RETIRING TELEPHONE WORKER AND LIVES IN GIG HARBOR, DON DELAND.

ALL IN ALL I REALLY APPRECIATE MY TWO DAUGHTERS NOW. I'VE BEEN IN BAD SHAPE FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS AND THEY BOTH HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR ME. ALL I CAN SAY TO THEM IS THANKS A MILLION AND GOD BLESS YOU.

I REMEMBER

BEFORE MY FAMILY LEFT UTAH I STARTED SCHOOL THERE FOR TWO YEARS. WHEN I WAS 5 OR 6 YEARS OLD I REMEMBER THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC IN 1912.

I ALSO REMEMBER THE APPEARANCE OF HALEY'S COMET IN 1911 WHICH ONLY OCCURS EVERY 75 YEARS.

I ALSO REMEMBER HEARING THE FAMOUS EVANGELIST, BILLY SUNDAY. HE WAS THE FIRST OF THE BILLY GRAHAM TYPE OF EVANGELISTS.

THE ONLY WAY OF TRANSPORTATION WAS THE RAILROAD.

I REMEMBER ALL OF THE DOINGS DURING WORLD WAR I.

