

LS 0042

Detta är intervju nr 42.

Det är idag den 9 december 1974. Jag sitter tillsammans med Ture Reinhold Jacobson. Han var född 1902; i Sjögård, Öggestorp, Tenhult, Jönköpings län.

Lennart Setterdahl: Ni var inte mer än fyra månader gammal när Ni kom till Amerika?

Ture Jacobson: My dad, he and mother were married here at June 1901. And a part of the marriage agreement was that he took here back to Sweden, to visit her folks. She hasn't been back since she came about 1894. And so, they were married in the 1 of June - and shortly there after went to Sweden - and I was born the following June, in Sweden.

L: Jaha. Vad hette Er far? Your fathers name?

Ture: Gustaf Alfred Jakobsson, och mor var Augusta Vilhelmina Gustavsson.

L: Var de båda ifrån samma plats i Sverige?

Ture: No. Det vet - Jag var född - I was born in my mothers home. And daddy came probably from Mariefred, nära Jönköping; no, I mean, near Stockholm. But they also talked about Värmland, so he may had been born in Värmland. And I understand that hes father was a church custodian at the Lutheran church in Mariefred. So that's much of the history, that I know. He was the youngest of nine, and came to this country, because that hes older sister had married a Swede, in Sweden, and moved to this country, some years earlier. So; another brother and another sister came to this country too. And this brother lived here - and never married - and hes sister went back to Sweden.

L: Så när Er far åkte till Amerika då, för första gången, 1894. Vart åkte han då till i Amerika? Eller Var kom han till?

Ture: He came from around Georgetown -

L: I Texas.

Ture: In Texas. And then; moved down here - and they were married in Galveston. And before they were married, they were through the 1900 hurricane storm, in which 6000 life were lost. And they were married in a Swedish Methodist church. He had a reverend, hes son was a pastor at that time. And in connection with the church, in the basement of the church, they ran a seamens (?), for Scandinavian seamen, - and later on that was expanded, in - about, 1913, to the Edo Seamens (?), which was located were The American National Hotel is now. Were The American National (?) building is now situated. And the (?) was built by a lone, or by a grant, from a man by the name of B. A. Edo. And he operated that to about 1910, he was also a pastor of the church! So, when the (?) was built, why the reverents son took over full time and we got other pastors, at this Swedish Methodist Church. They operated that church until 1946, when it was (?), because the old swedish people were fading away - and the church were fading away, so then; (?) and various people went to various churches in Galveston.

L: Jaha. Var det bara svenskar med i den kyrkan?

Ture: No. That became - a lot of Americans came into it, too. But it was more Swedish, then there was Americans. Course; they had Swedish morning services for quit a while and then the old Swedish people dropped off, why they (?) that. And then they had it once a month and then finally they didn't have it at all.

L: Var det predikningar på svenska varje söndag, ända upp till 1946?

Ture: No, till about 1924,, mabee, or something like that.

L: Hölls det på engelska efter det?

Ture: Engelska after that. Mornings, and Sunday evenings, at that time.

L: Under den stormen nu, år 1900, som var så svår. Kyrkan var belägen nere i stan, eller i själva centrum?

Ture: Yes. I don't know what damage was done to the church at that time. I understand there was some, because the water was high down there.

L: Berättade Er far och Er mor om det här? De var ju med om det hela.

Ture: Yes, they were here, but; they were not married, so they were in separate places. My mother spent her time in The Rosenberg School. She was working for people right across the street, from the school.

L: Var det många svenskar som förolyckades under den här stormen?

Ture: I don't know.

L: Ni har inga siffror på det.

Ture: No, i don't know. no.

L: De gifte sig här i Galveston, och Er mor, hon ville åka tillbaka till Sverige.

Ture: Ja.

L: Varför?

Ture: Yeh, right away.

L: Why?

Ture: Because; she hasn't seen her folks in about eight years. She was the only one - the oldest in the family, - and the only one that came to this country. So: she felt like she ought to go back, and see her people.

L: Kom hon hit till Texas också?

Ture: Yes, in around Georgetown too, I think. She also worked in Fort Worth.

L: Så hon kom före Er far dit då?

Ture: Possibly - so - as I understand. She was only 16 years old, when she came to this country, which we would found out now!

L: Alone?

Ture: Alone; but a friend of hers, who was a little bit older then her, came to this country first. She sent my mother a ticket to come to America, so; that's how she came to America, of course, not having any money of her own, as a young girl, 16 years old.

L: Var hon först i Fort Worth, och sedan i

Ture: Georgetown.

L: Georgetown, ja.

Ture: And then she came down to Galveston.

L: Jaa.

Ture: And possibly, because of her friend, that sent her the ticket to this country, was living at Galveston, at that time.

L: Arbetade hon i familj då?

Ture: She was a made in a house, in an American family. And daddy; he took up skomakare in Georgetown, and later on, when he came to Galveston, he took up a carpenter work. And he adventurously became a contractor of his own for about 25 years, doing only a small business, employing only about 8 people. Busy - all during that time, except five weeks during the 1929 depression. So he spent a few dollars for a flyant, and some bill heads, and that was the extend of his advertising. One person told the other person about him to beeing a honest man, why he was able to keep employed, all during that time, without any particularly advertising. He had three sons and one daughter, and I was the oldest of the boys.

L: Och Ni följde i faderns fotspår som snickare, eller?

Ture: None of the boys followed the trades. One boy worked with him for about a year, during the depression, I think. I went to work, adventurously, at the age of 17, for the United States goverment, as an injeneer. I worked there for 44 years and retired about 11 years ago. I'd a nice retirement, having (?) a good grade as a chief of (?) in the district office. So I have a good retirement.

L: Så; då känner Ni till vattenstånden här i Galveston, så att säga. Om ni har varit i ingenjörskåren.

Ture: Yes. I did all the river- and harbour work at that time, until the war, when they were given the ofsignment of the constructional (?). So that was in 1940, to about 1950, - when the

military construction was transferred to the Fort Worth district. I resumed only the river- and the harbour workers then.

L: Den här stormen år 1900, som tog så många människoliv, det var 6000. Ni har naturligtvis läst tillbaka om bakgrunden till det hela. Vad hände egentligen? What was the reason for it.

Ture: There was no sea wall in front of the sea.

L: Det var öppet precis.

Ture: Va?

L: Det var öppet mot havet då.

Ture: It was open to the sea, yeh. The storm took all the houses down for about 6 block area on the outside parameter. And piled them up in a pile, and so when they have to recover the bodies, they have to go through all that (?) and all lumber and things like that. I understand that they took the bodies up the sea and berried them out there.

L: Detta skedde givetvis väldigt hastigt. Det gavs ingen möjlighet att få någon varning innan händelsen.

Ture: You know. They didn't have any warning system to amount anything, as I understand. So it came on, quit suddenly.

L: Började det på kvällen, eller?

Ture: Well I don't know, it was before I was born. The one, that I went through, was in 1915. It began in the late afternoon and came mostly through the night. So that was also (?) to go to the constructional 17 foot high sea-wall,, concreet sea-wall around the sea part of the city, why there was very few life lost.

L: Är det en betongmur som ligger runt hela stan?

Ture: Yes. They have extended it now, so it lengthen the sea-wall about 7 miles and goes all around the town, on the golf side.

L: Så nu är det skyddat.

Ture: So it's pretty well protected from the wave action, but the (?) will still come in from the north side of the city.

L: Under de år som Ni har bott här i Galveston - Ni har bott hela Ert liv här i Galveston.

Ture: All my life, yes.

L: Ja. Är det många svenskar som har kommit hit över årens lopp - och bosatt sig här. Sjömän till exempel som kom på båtar och som stannat kvar?

Ture: Yes, quit a few. Course now, that I know, it was much in the early 1890- and 1900s.

L: Då kom de flesta.

Vad fick de för arbeten. Eller vad tog de sig för arbete?

Ture: ?.

L: De som kom från Sverige, vad blev det för arbeten de tog?

Ture: Lot of them took up low shure work.

L: I hamnen, ja.

Ture: Common labours, and handeling cargo on and off the ships. And of course a lot of others they got away from that, and in to more profitable ockupations. I don't know of any in Galveston that really became a great man as far as in financial abilities. I don't remember any here in Galveston, in particular.

L: Men det var väl en svensk som var mycket med i politiken. Vad hette han? En som var ganska känd. Var det Anderson han hette eller?

Ture: Well. There was a Soderman, I think. That was in a Swedish book. He became a city (?) -man. He was a supervisor - a shure man, on the warf.

L: Var han republikanare, eller demokrat?

Ture: Well. They were probably all democrates - because - all people in the south were democrates at that time. There was very little republicans.

L: Republicans hade inget fotfäste.

Ture: Not at that time, no. More now, but not at that time.

L: Så denne Soderman, han var intresserad av det politiska.

Ture: Yes, he was in the politics, some.

L: Jaha.

Men det var också en kapten Anderson som har betytt mycket för den Lutherska kyrkan här.

Ture: Well. He was - Captain T. G. Anderson - he worked for The Warf Company. I don't know just exactrly what he did, but he supervised probably the operations of the warf. He was a big member of the Sion Lutheran Church, I know that.

L: Var han sjökaptan, eller?

Ture: I understand he was. Yes, he was always called captain Anderson, so I understand he was a sea captain, that stayd over here.

L: Jaha.

De flesta som kom hit till Galveston, de stannade här. De flyttade inte vidare till andra platser i Texas och blev tex farmare.

Ture: Well, I don't know if they went up state. I just don't know. I think some did come here. Because; some of the Swedish settlements were up state, rather than in Galveston. Particularly around Austin was apparently one of the early settlements. I think there was settlements in Brady, well, a number of settlements around Austin. That's why his book will give you more information.

L: Det har bara varit två svenska kyrkor här då - metodistkyrkan och den lutherska. Ingen baptistkyrka?

Ture: No. The Norwegians had a Lutheran church at one time. Course; the Swedes had their Sion Lutheran church on the 18th of Market, but I don't remember whether they -

L: Låg de nära intill varandra, den lutherska kyrkan och metodistkyrkan? Closed together? in downtown?

Ture: There were a block a part, about two blocks a part. Both of them were located close to downtown.

I was born in Sweden. When I went to work for the government, I had to have a (?), which my folks obtained in 1932. But, before that time, I had to have my daddy's naturalisation papers and a certificate from two people, who knew me, and knew my father and believed me to be his son. And so; that's the way I established my naturalisation under my father's naturalisation.

L: Men fanns inte de uppgifterna i Metodistkyrkan då?

Ture: They were married in the Swedish Methodist church and went back to Sweden for a year. And then I was born there. Then, later on, they went back to visit in 1932, and so I asked them to get me a (?) and they got that from the church in Sweden there and brought it back to me. Now, some 50 years later, I found out that I could get a certificate of naturalisation of my own. My wife had privilegedly got one for five dollars, so I decided to get my own. I went to the immigration people and got a form to fill up. It was just two pages long. And the questions they asked was: "When did you come over" and "where did you land". So I know that I came in to - that folks came in to Ellis Island, in New York, and I knew about the time, but didn't know the ship that they came on. So the immigration people went back 50 years and found the manifest, and the ship, that I'd come on. My name was listed on it as a passenger on that ship. So I've got my amount Certificate of naturalisation. By making that application, I have to be very careful, I've found out, by going back to the law books in the office. And the law at that time required that you'd be a citizen of the United States, a resident of The United States for one year, after you have declared your intention to become a citizen. Well. That declared your intention, and then you got married. And then they went back to Sweden for a year. So, I had to be careful to say, that it was a temporary visit to Sweden in order to not get court 50 years later and declare an illegal citizen. Because; you didn't tell them the truth. But the story which goes with that is one of my former sister in law - whose husband emigrated from Ireland, in the age of seven years. His daddy was a sergeant of the police there and was an upstanding citizen of the city, and voting in all the elections and he was a little bit in the politics. He passed away. When they were going through his papers, to look for the naturalisation papers and they found one paper, they took it to the emigration people and said: "Here! This is what we've found. Is this daddy's naturalisation paper"? And they said: "No.

That's only the decoration of the intention to become a citizen. Didn't You find anything else"? He said: "No". So they said: "Well. Where did he live all this time"? He said "Oh he was living in Galveston, all his life". They said: "Okey! Come back". So the emigration people went through all the court records in Galveston and they couldn't find where he had been made his naturalisation, in the United States. So when they came back; they told; they were sorry, but that they couldn't find any naturalisation papers - and he was an alien. So they asked his wife: when she married this man. She said; "1921" and they said; "Well, hello! In 1921 was anybody that married an alien also became an alien". So she was not a citizen of The United States, even though she'd been born in the United States! Anybody that married an alien also became an alien. So they both had to go back to the school and study the history, taking an examination and declare their pleasure to live in The United States.

L: Your wife - Er fru, hon är född i Sverige?

Ture: She was born close to (?) in Sweden. They went back - after the folks had two children - and decided to go back to Sweden - with the intention to stay, I suppose.

L: Vad var hennes namn som flicka?

Ture: Elvira was her flick - was her wife.

L: Jaa. Och; hennes efternamn var?

Ture: Pearson - and of course they spelled it Pearson - but I understand, in Sweden it is Pehrsson. Pehrsson. And, so; She came - They came back to Minneapolis and then migrated down to Arcadia, Texas, where she lived, and went to school.

L: Så hennes föräldrar åkte hit ner till Texas.

Ture: They also, ja. And; there was only a Christian church in Arcadia, so they became members of the Christian church. But; after she moved to Galveston. She became a friend with many of the Lutherans here and attended to The Lutheran church, at least with the Missionary Society and things like that. So when I married her, I really thought she was a Lutheran, but I found out later that she was a member of the Christian church, in Arcadia.

L: De flyttade ifrån Arcadia då till Galveston; hennes föräldrar.

Ture: Yes. No! Her people were still in Arcadia Texas.

L: Var ligger det ungefär någonstans? Vilken stor stad ligger nära Arcadia?

Ture: It's 20 miles north of - 22 miles north of Galveston here. So it's real close by.

L: Ja, på så vis - ja.

En annan fråga som jag kanske kan ställa. Olivia; var ligger det någonstans?

Ture: I don't know. Olivia Texas ...

L: Ja.

Ture: I've heard about it, but I don't know.

L: Där fanns det en svensk kyrka.

Ture: Ja. I've seen it in a Swedish book, but that's all.

L: Ni vet inte var det ligger någonstans. Det ska ligga i Calihun county, tror jag.

Ture: I don't know.

L: Nej.

Ture: I don't know.

Slut på intervjun med Ture Jacobson, Galveston, Texas.

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