

LS 0106 – LS 0107
Oliver Näsman

Lennart Setterdahl: It's August 14th, 1985.

Oliver Näsman: Ja.

Lennart Setterdahl: Your name is Oliver Nesman.

Oliver Näsman: Näsman.

Lennart Setterdahl: And it was Alvar, You said, in Sweden.

Oliver Näsman: Ja. In Sweden it's Alvar.

L: Ja. You were born in Jersey city, New Jersey.

Oliver: Jersey city, in New Jersey, yeh.

L: Your parents, they came from Sweden then in; which year?

Oliver: In? -

L: Both of them came from Sweden?

Oliver: Yes. They both came from Sweden. My dad come from up northen Sweden; Sundsvall.

L: Sundsvall.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: Hes name was?

Oliver: Petter Näsman.

L: Petter Näsman.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Do You know what year he came from Sundsvall?

Oliver: ... She would have it all in the books - at home! I don't know just. Well - it's - It was 1900 - it must be. He was her in. He was here during the war, 1914, so it must be; mabee, around 1900.

L: You were born 1911 here.

Oliver: Yeh 1911,

L: It must have been before!

Oliver: so! - Sure! Yeh! So; before 1911!

L: How about Your mother? She came from?

Oliver: Småland. She came from Långaryd.

L: Långaryd!

Oliver: Yeh Långaryd. Småland.

L: Her name was?

Oliver: Her madam name was Anna; Annie Karlsson.

L: She came at the same time as Your father?

Oliver: Just about - I'd say - just about - mabee - the same time.

L: They came then both to New Jersey first?

Oliver: Yeh. She - She came to Brooklyn, course: she had cousins there - in Brooklyn. So they got her over to Brooklyn. She worked in Brooklyn, in New Jersey, in New York; doing house work, for some of the people, the rich people down there. That was her trade when she came over.

L: And Your dad, he came - to were?

Oliver: He came to Youngstown Ohio, course he had a brother, the oldest brother came. He had an older sister, that came first and she was married to an Anderson and they, they came, and they went, they finally went to California. And they were in California since that. That was Marta, hes older sister. After that, they got hes older brother over here: Ed Näsman. So then, from there on, then they got my dad comming over here. They all got the hole family over here.

L: The parents?

Oliver: No not the parents, just the brothers and sisters. They took them away from over there in Sweden, because hes father got married again.

L: How big was Your fathers family then?

Oliver: Well. There was; Oh, Let's see: one; .. Axel, Ed, and then my dad, it was three. Three boys; and about five girls.

L: And they all came over.

Oliver: They All came over here. And - And some were in Cleveland. Three of the girls married in Cleveland. And then Hes brother got to Youngstown and got in the steel-meals, so he got my dad working in the steel-meals in Youngstown, and then the younger brother came over; it was Axel. And he worked in the steel-meals in Youngstown. And that's were they worked for quite a while. And then they were knocked from there.

L: Your dad, he ended up in New Jersey then?

Oliver: Yeh then he went to New Jersey and got job in the ship yards. Course; he had an uncle in New Jersey. So he got down there and working in the ship yards down there. That's how he met my mother - and she was working down there in Brooklyn. So they all Swedes got together there and that's how that come about.

L: How long did they stay in Jersey city?

Oliver: They stayed there to I left. We were three; that was me - my sister, myself and my brother - was three of us. I was 5 years when I left New Jersey and then my sister was two years older, and then my other brother was two years younger. So then we went up and bought a farm up in Scandia, by Warren.

L: How did that came about - the farm buying?

Oliver: Well. It happened to be; hes oldest brother married a girl, that was in Scandia: Lindstroms. They had a store one time in Scandia, a country store. So; then hes older brother met this Lindstroms, through some of the boys that was working in Youngstown. So then he married one of the Lindstrom girls. So he told my dad to come up and buy a farm up there. He wanted to get out of the city - anyway, so he bought a farm and started to farm and he bought two more farms. Put them together. So we was up there about 40 years, before we went off the farm.

L: 40 years!

Oliver: Yeh. We started the farm. We stayed on the farm till he was not able to.

L: How big farm was it?

Oliver: 100 acres.

L: 100 acres. And it was cleared land?

Oliver: Yeh; well half and half. We had half wood; timber and half of it was cleared. We always had about twelve cows and some young stock and then we had a team of horses. And that's the way we made our living.

L: Do You remember when You moved from Jersey city to Scandia?

Oliver: Not. No.

L: You don't remember at all?

Oliver: I don't remember that. But; I remember when I was about nine years old. I remember that, because that's when the war broke out. I remember when the war broke out and all of them went to World war one. And then my dad had to go. He had to go work in the defense plant, because - You know - or he had to go into service! So - they took him down. He went back there to the ship yards and went to work - because he got defered down there and worked in the ship yards.

L: You mean: You couldn't stay on the farm?

Oliver: No. We wasn't big enough, so he would had still go into the service. We didn't have enough family yet - the family law. He couldn't get defered yet.

L: For three children - and a whife?

Oliver: No. Because he just went down there and went to work. He didn't have to go to the service.

L: Your mother then had to take care of the farm.

Oliver: Yeh. Then we rented the farm to another man up there and he ran the farm, when my dad was in New Jersey. Your father; was he acustomed to farming, from Sundsvall?

Oliver: They had a little farm outside of Sundsvall.

L: He was used to farming then.

Oliver: So - that him and hes dad worked. They didn't do much farming, just enough to live, and then he worked on a boat, .. down towards Sundsvall and up there in Tunderö. The boat travelled by the force. He worked on the boats in the summer. And then dad took off for the woods in the winter. They went up in the woods camp and cut wood for the winter and came back down in the spring and they go on the boats. Then he left Sweden. I think it was - wasn't it: when You were 20 years old, You had to go in to the service?

L: Yes.

Oliver: Exera.

L: Ja.

Oliver: So that he - Then hes brother sent a form, so he just come over here to America, so he never went in to exera. And then the hole family came over.

L: You remember then when he went in to work for the défense during the war?

Oliver: Yeh.

L: For how long did he stay away then from home?

Oliver: He was there about, not quite a year and then a flu epidemic come You know.

L: -17.

Oliver: And it just wiped Everybody up, like flies, here. So he was put in a hospital now and there, then.

L: Oh - He got it.

Oliver: Yeh - and they thought hes gona die. They just shoved them up, he fooled them, he didn't die. So; he got threw it and then he took a train back home. And recovered up there. Came back home, and that was the end of it. And he stayed on the farm and ran the farm. He got out of it and went back to the farm, running the farm.

L: He took over the farm then.

Oliver: Yeh. And that's were we was, for about 40 years.

L: When You got old enough, then You had to -

Oliver: Yeh we all had. We all started in, one by one.

L: What was You doing then - the first job on the farm?

Oliver: Oh we have the plow, we had the plow. You know - You had to plow, so that You had the hole in Your (?). We didn't have no big sulkies or anything! Plowding and draging and put in potatis - and put in the corn, and that's the way. And pick stones! Lot of stones there. So we had to pick all the stones of the fields and we made new fields, built new fields all time. Cleared it up, cleared the land.

L: You were (?) then.

Oliver: Yeh. So we get more land to plant. So; that's the way we lived.

L: You were turning the soil in Scandia then.

Oliver: Yes.

L: Any more Swedes around there at that area?

Oliver: Oh we was All Swedes in Scandia.

L: Did You Talk Swedish most of the time?

Oliver: Yeh. I'd learn to talk. We went to the Swedish Sunday school. They had a Mission church which was All Swedes. So we learned to talk Swede, in the Sunday school. They sang the Swede and they preach Swede, so: we learned to Swede. So - we could talk pretty good and understand all Swede.

L: Did they have summer school during the summer?

Oliver: No no no. We just were on the farm, we had to work. Yeh.

L: The church didn't have any Sunday school?

Oliver: No. No. No we just lived with all them Swedes up there. And Most of the Swedes in Scandia came from Småland! - I found out; You know - figured out - a lot of them came from Småland Sweden. My dad came from - he was about the only norrlänning up there! - my dad! So they were all 'smålänningen'.

L: They had all about the same size then - 80 acres or 100 acres?

Oliver: Yeh. They all cleared land, kept clearing land and they all had about the same and kept about twelve cows, or so - and - that's were they lived.

L: At that time then, when You came there with Your parents -

Oliver: Yeh.

L: there was a pretty wild country You had to clear.

Oliver: Oh yeh, yeh. We all farmers was so we could farm. But then when we bought more farms - then we cleared of more land.

L: And; that was land that never had been cleared before.

Oliver: Yeh. - Then we took some of the woods out.

L: What kind of woods? Hardwood, or?

Oliver: Oh yeh. There were all kind of wood. They had hardwood, they had beach(?), and marple and they had a lot of hemlock, and they had pine, and all these. That's the main trees they had. As a lot of beach, and marple and hickory, and hardwood - like that.

L: There was not that kind of wood; like You had in Kane, or Ludlow or sheffield? That was a bigger wood country.

Oliver: Oh yeah, that was lot more. Course they came in there and cut, cut logs and pealed bark and they worked the woods, course - they had tannerys all over.

L: Where they running them when You lived in Scandia in; 1920? - the tannerys in Sheffield and Ludlow?

Oliver: Yeh. Oh yeh. Lot of them had saw meals all over there. A lot of men worked in the saw meals.

L: Did somebody from Scandia go in to Sheffield to work?

Oliver: Oh yeh.

L: They Did!

Oliver: Oh yeah. They went in to wood camps in the summers and peeled bark. They had wood camps. You just go in there and work and - they'd feed You. They had cooks in the camps, and everything.

L: Did Your dad go in there?

Oliver: No he never went in to the woods - course he ran the farm.

L: That was enough then, to take care of.

Oliver: Yeh. That was enough - so we got. - We was taken care of.

L: You had a younger brother.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: So You both helped off then.

Oliver: Oh yeh. I stayed till I was about 17 years old and then I went to Jamestown. And then I got in the shops in Jamestown. Then I was in work for the shops in Jamestown and worked there till .. till I was about 21 years old. Then I got to Kane, that's I got married. So then I was in Kane ever since. That's about 52 years, or more, I was in Kane, after I was married.

L: When You came to Jamestown - that was the metal factories there?

Oliver: Yeh yeh. I worked at (?) Metal, nr 1, and then I worked to Watson's Metal Furnitures.

L: It was in the 19 20?.. -

Oliver: That's when the Depression started comming 1930.

L: In Jamestown?

Oliver: That's why I was there about two years and the Depression came and - we were leighed off.

L: Were there unions then in Jamestown at that time?

Oliver: They were working at it but they weren't all unions yet.

L: No.

Oliver: No.

L: Were there any Swedish Socialist group in Jamestown - in the 30s?

Oliver: Oh yeh. At That time the Depression came - and of course everybody in Jamestown was out of working and all the Swedes were in Jamestown then, You know. So they started - the Communists started a Communist party, they called it: The Workers club. So - that was out of New York city and they had a Workers paper and they put it out - and then they had meetings all over - and they were signing all people up! course; they didn't know! They just called it: The Workers Club. So they signed up. And - what the best thing that happened; Rosevelt got in then at that depression, Rosevelt went in as a president. So then when he got in and started things going, so everybody got work again, and everything. Then they forgot the Communist club with this the reds - They called it: The reds - and **they** called it The Workers club.

L: Where You with the group too?

Oliver: No. I didn't get in to that, because I still had work. I had some work up there. I've got a job on a summer home in Stockholm. So, I had work. But through that, the Depression comming in like that, everybody started getting work and everything. So - they just forgot that - that Workers Club. So That was the end.

L: What happened then to the Workers party? Did they sign up?

Oliver: No they didn't have to sign up. No no they didn't sign up. They just was organized and going to the meetings. they had a few, that was going in, running for an office in the goverment at that time. A couple of communists.

L: That was outside from New York?

Oliver: Yes. And they were organized in New York city, I think, the papers was printed in New York city. So that: everybody got satisfied and got work and they just forgot that. Then of Course they learned more about it and they found out that was a communist trying to get in! If it wouldn't have been for getting a president like Rosevelt. He got in there and got things back to Normal. So That was the end of that. That was the end of the communists.

L: Were there any strikes, at That time, in Jamestown?

Oliver: No, No strikes yet. Rosevelt made a lot that You Could organize - and You were allowed to organize. So then they Did organize. But before that You weren't allowed to Do that. But he made a law: that they couldn't through You out. they couldn't fire You, they couldn't do nothing just because You wanted to organize! Then, when You were organized, You could vote. And then You could vote the Union in, or vote it out and that's how it started.

L: How long time did it take before the management accepted the unions? It took a long time?

Oliver: Yes. And the coal miners were the first ones that pushed it, they got it in. The coal miner John Lewis. They organized the mines. And from Then on he just went out and kept organizing labours all over. So then one right after the other got organized.

L: You worked at the Art (?) nr 1.

Oliver: Yes.

L: There was no organization there?

Oliver: No. No union then.

L: How much did You pay then, at that time?

Oliver: I think we paid 54 cents an hour at that time and we worked 54 hours a week in the shops up there.

L: You worked Saturdays too, half of it?

Oliver: Yeh half a day.

L: No vacation pay, or anything?

Oliver: No.

L: How about hospitalisation?

Oliver: Nothing. Oh there was Nothing.

L: If You got sick then, or injured Yourself, it was up to You.

Oliver: That's nothing. But they had a conversation. Then New York state got conversation in to Albany You know. So then; if they got hurt, they had to pay. If You lose a finger, or anything like that. They had a hearing and they told them how much You were going to get in compensation if You couldn't go to work. Then You were paid So much till You got back to work.

L: Did You have to pay in to that?

Oliver: No. That was by the state.

L: The management didn't have to pay?

Oliver: No we didn't have to pay to that. I think mabee the management had to pay into it. The owners. They had to pay into the state for this protection for their men.

L: It was easy then for the factories to hire people the hole time?

Oliver: Oh yeh. They were waiting; in fact. Then of course, - after they got the Depression over with - You know - then that Rosevelt put on a 40 hour work week. They called it DNRA. - And then they could just work in 40 hours - and then, if they wanted more - they had put two shifts on. And That's when I got in the factory. They put two shifts on, I went on the second

trick. Course He couldn't work You over 40 hours. They used to make You work Day and night! then You couldn't do nothing about it! If You didn't like to work: Go home!

L: You couldn't refuse.

Oliver: No protection. No no. You've got to go home. And You don't have to work if You don't work, go home! Get out there! So then, after we got NRA (Oliver säger två olika förkortningar i olika meningar, men sekr håller sig enbart till NRA.).

L: What does this stands for? NRA - what does this stands for?

Oliver: .. National Labour .. I can't remember now. National .. NRA was the National .. I've forget just about the abbreviation. That was so: 40 hours. And they had to put on two shifts. If they put on Two shifts. That put on more people to work.

L: And What year was that?

Oliver: It was 19 .. I would say; it was about 1936, NRA came in. And if You wanted an Union, they couldn't Fire You. They had to give You a vote, You could have a vote in the shop. They came in and ran the vote and if the majority wanted the Union, the company had to accept it.

L: How was the feeling? Was it a general feeling that. This is the way?

Oliver: No not until we got the protection from Rosevelt - he made the rules - and laws - to protect the working people.

L: That was like slavery!

Oliver: Oh it's just the same thing. If You worked ten hours a day, and mabee five sex days a week; or seven days, and You couldn't say **no**. And in that way, then You didn't get that much wages. That's why they wanted it that way. That was no Overtime, no overtime, or nothing. So then, after they got 40 hours a week, then the Unions got in, then You started fighting for more work. More protection.

L: No vacation?

Oliver: No. Then when we got the unions in, we had the contracts - and then we got the complications in the contracts. Sometimes we organized ones a shop there with three months in the picket line, before he'd accept it! And he did finally accept it. Would he get to much, we was protected. And we got a vacation - that a weeks vacation - and then we got 50 cents an hour!

L: Was that before The second world war, or after?

Oliver: That was before The second world war - oh yeah - that was before. That was during the -36. Between -29 and -30 was the bad Depression.

L: So You had actually a weeks vacation then in 1937?

Oliver: Yeh. Then we got in, so we got a weeks vacation to start with in the contract.

L: A paid vacation?

Oliver: Yeh. Before they leighed us off, before they shut the plant down for two weeks for the repair - and You went home - and they get nothing. They just went home and sat there!

L: It was the same thing all over.

Oliver: That was all over the world! until they got the unions - got in there. And they couldn't get in there until President Rosevelt made a law, that they had to accept the unions. They had their right to vote for the unions. Until he made that law, You couldn't get no unions, but in that law, they had to accept it. So That would help the workers. That would start the (?) we are now.

L: While You were working in Jamestown, were there any coloured people, or Italians, or Albanians in the plants?

Oliver: Yeh we had some. Yes.

L: But not to many?

Oliver: No, not to many, no.

L: How was the feeling between the Swedes and the Albanians, - and? -

Oliver: Most - in Jamestown, that I had anything to do with, was Italians. But we was getting along with them.

L: Were they in the position to being foremen?

Oliver: No. The Swedish was always picked to be the foremen, course the Swedish people always had an education from Sweden, and a trade. And Most of the shops in Jamestown were runned by Swedes, and owned by Swedes. So they always wanted a Swede to be a boss or foreman or superintendent, because they were qualified. Even from Sweden they had that - You know. Italians didn't have No training, they couldn't even sign their names. They couldn't write!

L: What kind of work were they doing?

Oliver: They would get most (?) labour and do the dirty work, course they didn't have a trade.

L: You had no coffee break?

Oliver: No. At That time, there was no coffee break.

L: Half an hour for a lunch break, or one hour?

Oliver: Yeah, half an hour for dinner. That didn't come in till the unions were all in and then they made agreements in the union: 15 minutes of a nine o'clock lunch break. And when I came in.

L: At That time there was no lunch rooms, or anything?

Oliver: No no!

L: Were did You eat Your lunch or dinner then?

Oliver: You just gona sit - Any place - were You were working; or anything.

L: Did You sitting together with other workers too, like

Oliver: Yeh. But they were After You. They wanted You to eat, and go to work! We didn't have no protection You know. So you just grabbed something to eat and that's it! Then You're working!

L: You were not sit and talking there for five minutes?

Oliver: No no. No no. There was no -

L: That was against the rules.

Oliver: Yeh. Yeh You just eat and work. If You could work and eat, You worked and eat! And the rest rooms - They didn't have any good rest rooms. I worked in a boiler's shop. But in the wooden places; furniture shops, and their mother shops, they had rest rooms, they had toilets and that. But after the Union, they had to fix them up. Your places - course the Union did all this.

L: In Jamestown, during the late 20s and early 30s - all the mashinery were overheded driven?

Oliver: Yeh. Most of them ran off with big belts.

L: For how long did that continue?

Oliver: Well. After the Depression, they were modernizing then. They started making mashines - motors and everything. And had individual mashines and preashures - punsh preashures and All this things. Brakes and - that was modern.

L: Were there many accidents happening with those belts?

Oliver: No, not to much with the belts. But they had more in the preashures and things - You know. Cut Your fingers off. You had to be more careful.

L: After the War was over. What were You doing? You were young, in the early 20s.

Oliver: Oh Yeah. Well they had the sports and everything. baseballs and; what Ever You wanted to do.

L: There were many Swedes in Jamestown. You could see that it was a Swedish town?

Oliver: Sure. Yes.

L: They were talking Swedish on the streets?

Oliver: Oh yeh.

L: and in the factories and the stores?

Oliver: Yeh.

L: How about the sports?

Oliver: A lot of soccer ball. They were all Swedes, and of course they had the Swedish dances and then they had .. Then they had, of course; Jamestown was quite big then. Then they had a night school, were you could go to night school: and learn more about the factory workers, to be a mashinist or learn to operate mashines or a lot of them went there and learned language. - Learned American language.

L: Who paid for that?

Oliver: That was by the city of Jamestown. The school was there, and they had night schools. So You just go down there - and they had the teachers there and You could take up Different things. You could even take up all of mechanics and things like that in the night school.

L: But the factories. like Art Metal and the Crescent Tools, - they didn't have any schooling?

Oliver: No. No they didn't have no schooling for You. So most of them - that wanted to learn something to get some place, even lot of them went to school to learn to speak, and lot of them Did - and learned the language. The Swedes were very - They wanted to. So; they learned the language.

L: So; the Swedes were The king of the heap then - in the town - during the Depression - more or less.

Oliver: Yeh. Oh yeh.

L: What happened to all those people without work? Because You still stayed in Jamestown during -32 and -33.

Oliver: Sure. Yeh.

L: What happened to those people: not married, no work? What could they do?

Oliver: There was nothing they could do - and a lot of them joined together and lived in pure rooms. You know - three four fellows. Mabee some got a days work, or something, and had to buy something, to get something to eat. The Salvation Army always gave them some bread from the bakerys that they through out. They would help them. Course: they weren't citizens, so they couldn't go on Welfair, course very Few of them had become citizens yet. So they went help, that way - and they just helped eachother.

L: You were a citizen?

Oliver: Yeh.

L: Could You get welfair from the state?

Oliver: Yeh. My dad was still on a farm, so I could always go back on the farm and work with him. But I had work through the Depression. I worked on that Resource ..

L: Yes You said; in Stockholm.

Oliver: Yes.

L: Were is it located? Between Jamestown -

Oliver: Jamestown. Right outside of Jamestown, up towards Mayville. And that was R. C. (?), he had a big - owned a big summer home up there. He had about 7 hours working. So I worked on the farm with the care takers. So I got so much a month in my board, so for four years I wored there through the Depression. No I didn't suffer at all. I made it. Then I'd help

some other Swedes to get some products from the farm, or something. I always got some eggs. So they could survive - and I helped them. And - of course - they didn't know that - but - We had plenty. So they didn't know. They didn't miss any eggs, or anything, that I'd get from Them. That's the only way they survived till they got through - got that depression over - and Roosevelt got it.

L: It was bad then for four five years?

Oliver: Oh yeh. They just fished; mabee, and ran around up there - and that's the way they had it. Mabee a few work - mabee a day, get a day, or two days, or something - so they got a little money to live. They cooked themselves of course. That's How they survived.

L: During that time - How about the young people getting to get married. Did they put off the marriage?

Oliver: Oh, they did. They had to put it off. Some of the girls Did work - had work - while the fellows didn't have work. They had silk mills up there in Jamestown, lot of silk mills.

L: Oh - they had silk mills!

Oliver: Oh yeh. So a lot of the women were sewing up there and had some work, when the men Didn't have any work.

L: Were this silk mills runned by English people?

Oliver: Yeh. I don't know What they -

L: There were no Swedes in those?

Oliver: No, I don't think so. I'd forgot. They'd done a lot of sewing - and everything. They took a lot of women in there, so they had some work.

L: Some boys and girls, that couldn't get any job, they went to Cleveland.

Oliver: Oh yeh some took of - but it was no work no place. It didn't do no good. They had to have somebody that could help them, to get them in Some place.

L: They were afraid then to move?

Oliver: Oh yeh. There was No work, no place, it didn't make no difference were You went, the country was down. It was No work - and no work. They just had to wait it of.

L: Which town did they most like to move to: Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Buffalo? New York?

Oliver: I think most of them stayed there until it was over, when it was over and Roosevelt got in, - and got things rolling. The shops came back then and everything was picking up, and it went good ever since.

L: Do You remember if anybody went back to Sweden?

Oliver: Oh yeh there were some-one, a few of them went back to Sweden. They went back to their family mabee, so they had to go back.

L: You mentioned sport. Were You active in anything, like soccer? Baseball?

Oliver: Yes.

L: Did You play?

Oliver: Well - I played soccer for a while with the fellows up there. But I really didn't have to much time, because: being on a farm. We got up 5 o'clock in the morning! and then we worked to 6 at night. So when I got done That, I didn't feel much like getting in to anything else!

L: How did You get in to town from Stockholm, because there is a few miles?

Oliver: I always had a car. I had an own car. Yeh. I had a Model T 26, so I always kept that running and got some gas.

L: It was cheap to have a car at that time?

Oliver: Oh yes. I bought the car for 80 dollars, and I ran it. I got gas for it. But, of course: I was working!, while the others weren't working. So - If I had a car and the other guys weren't working, I had the car and took them with!

L: Were You still looking for job when You had Your job in Stockholm?

Oliver: No there was no other jobs. I had a good thing and I stayed there! I had 40 dollars a month and boarding and You couldn't make that No place!

L: You didn't take a chance.

Oliver: No No not until after; when Rosevelt got in - and he start getting things moving and I moved to Kane and got married.

L: How did it become?

Oliver: Well - I had met this girl in a Swedish dance, we used to go to, up around Jamestown all over. And she happened to come down with her brothers to the dances, and I met her at the dance.

L: And that was Astrid.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: She lived in Kane then?

Oliver: Yeh shi lived in Kane. So - from there; - I went up there and then the things starts moving and that's when I got in to the (?) Brothers, made brush hands and toys.

L: Were You married when You quitt the job?

Oliver: I quitt the job - and then I got married! She had a job up there. She made -I guess she made 15 dollars every two weeks and we lived in with her mother and brother. And that's how we survived until

L: You couldn't get a job up in Kane?

Oliver: No. But then I got on WPA, when Rosevelt got in. He started with WPA: were You go out on the roads - and fix the roads and Everything: - and then he had the C C Camps, were All people from the city, young fellows, went into the camps - and worked in the woods - and - they paid them So much a month.

L: You stayed at a camp then?

Oliver: No, I didn't go to any camp.

L: You didn't go.

Oliver: No. I stayed right home.

L: But the ones, that went into the camps, they stayed for a week?

Oliver: They went in for a month, lots of them stayed for a year in the camps! until things start going - and then they finally quitt the C C camps.

L: They had room and board?

Oliver: They gave them this. - - They got room and board in their barracks; - and worked out in the woods. So: That's when everything started comming back.

L: For How long time did You have to wait for a job?

Oliver: I worked that summer. I worked out in the wood and cut some wood, and made it That way. And then the next fall, then they got WPA started. So I went up there and worked on the roads - it was a lot of work 3 days a week; 5 dollars a day. So - Then You were a millionere. So; then, after that, then the NRA came in. They had to put two shifts on, - and I went up, got a job in the shop. I was there seven years, till the war broke out. And then I left there and learned to weld in Warren (?). And then I worked welding - all through the war.

L: In Bradford?

Oliver: In Warren. I learned it in Warren (?) weld. So I worked there through the hole war. And since That, I've never been out of work.

L: You never went back to the farm then?

Oliver: No no, I didn't go for the farm work!

L: You didn't go back .

Oliver: No no, I didn't want to go back there. I was To hard working though! But - we always got enough to eat!

L: Your dad - he continued himself then?

Oliver: Oh yeh he continued. And then he had the younger brothers - so - as the younger brothers came along - one right after the others. So; they helped him.

L: You were members of the Catolic church then?

Oliver: In Scandia it was the only one they had.

L: How about in Jamestown? Did You enjoy any church there?

Oliver: No. I didn't join any churches there, course; when I was up there on the farm, we had to be there seven days. We worked sex days, and on Sunday, we just had to be there doing the chores. So - I didn't join the church, until we got back to Kane. Then I belonged to the Lutheran church.

L: That guy You worked for, there were seven guys working - You said.

Oliver: Yes.

L: What kind of estate was That?

Oliver: (?) estate. He was the President of a bank; and he had stocks in the Eastman Kodak. And that's were he got all hes money. He was a millionere!

L: So He didn't lose any money during the Depression?

Oliver: No! He had the money!

L: He didn't lose it?

Oliver: No.

L: But there were people that lost their money.

Oliver: Oh yeh. He was pretty well. He had a lot of that stock and he was the President of a bank, so

L: He lived in Jamestown?

Oliver: Yes.

L: How about the people losing their housing and mortgages, and Everything. Did it happen frequently.

Oliver: Oh yeah. Lots of them losed their homes. And lot of them had to move home with their parents and move in, and live together - and everything else to survive - at that time. If You were a citizen, then You could go to the welfare and You could get some food and help from the welfare.

L: But non citizens didn't get anything.

Oliver: No. If You were a non citizen, You couldn't get it, because they couldn't give it to You. Only the Salvation Army, in some of the places, helped them.

L: How about the Mayor in Jamestown: Sam Carlson?

Oliver: Yeh.

L: Do You remember him?

Oliver: Yes. I remember him and he came back from Sweden with ideas of Sweden! So he came back there and he started his own water company and then he started - I think - an electric company, and he ran that. The yesturday of Jamestown had their own water company. And he got that idea from Sweden. Now he isn't living, but; - they still have it there. They still have their own water company, and they still own their own water company.

L: Do You remember when he lost selling the (?)? It didn't work.

Oliver: He didn't get That. There were a lot of Coop stores started in Jamestown, That what he did for Jamestown. Course; now it's changed too, because it's so big. (Några meningar).

L: Was he considered as a socialist, do You think?

Oliver: Yeah.

L: Did they call him that?

Oliver: Oh yes. If he could have had his way, I suppose we had socialised medicine too!

Course he was For that and he was over in Sweden and studied it. He figured that they could do that here, course; in Jamestown was pretty near all Swedes - while he started that.

L: When did the Italians come into the factories all over?

Oliver: They were there when I went there. Italians were in every shop - working.

L: How could it be so many? Was it after the War?

Oliver: That could be during the First world war that they would come in. Yeh. First world war they mabee came in. And then after they get in, I suppose they got their relatives, sent for relatives to come over, just like the Swedes did.

L: They settled in different sections of the town?

Oliver: Different sections, yes. They just lived their own lives. But they got along Good, yeh! They got along good with the Swedes. And the Swedes; You know: they worked for the Swedish bosses - and everything - and - they got along good.

L: Then after WW II - it started with Italian formen.

Oliver: Oh yeh. Course: then they go to schools - the younger came in there - then they learned lot of the trades and everything too.

L: Did the Swedes be more aggressiv union members than the Italians?

Oliver: Oh yes!

L: All over?

Oliver: Oh yes. See - the Swedish people were in the Union when they came over here! The Swedish people - as I understand - the Swedish people, coming from Sweden, they were already in an union in Sweden. They had gone through all that in Sweden. When they came over here, they'd know all about it and they **Wanted** to be in an union, so they pushed to get the unions, course: that's what they had over there.

L: You mean: the Italians, they didn't push it so far then?

Oliver: No.

L: They didn't want to lose their jobs.

Oliver: They weren't get involved. They just go along. They were afraid of their jobs. They didn't know no difference.

L: Of the Swedes, that came to Jamestown, there were not to many land hungry persons?

Oliver: No no.

L: Because all the land was taken, at That time. There was no way to come in there.

Oliver: No. They did start factoring, build factories and there was plenty of land.

L: They didn't look for farming any more.

Oliver: No. Well - they came in and farming too, but they didn't go for farming to much; until afterwards. Some of them came in and rented a farm, and started a farm.

L: Did You join the Wasa, or the Wiking, in Jamestown?

Oliver: Yeh; I belonged to both of them.

L: Both of them!

Oliver: Well I didn't join the Wasa. In Jamestown, they had SFIV (Skr ej säker på den korrekta förkortningen) - in Jamestown, - and the Wikings.

L: Oh John Ericson.

Oliver: Yes. Then, when I came to Kane, I joined the Wasa and then i've been there ever since.

L: You joined All three of them! Why did You do that?

Oliver: Because: they were Swedish. They All had the dances and good times, and everything.

L: They all had their benefits.

Oliver: Yeh they had sick benefits.

L: You could colect from all three?

Oliver: Yeh, You could colect from them with their benefits.

L: So they paid to be sick!

Oliver: It wasn't much! but; it was a protection!

L: Well - but being without a job.

Oliver: And even when we went to work, we always belonged. Course - You had to have protection. We didn't have any Medicare, or all this help. We had to help eachother.

L: Do You think most of the swedes belonged then to one and another?

Oliver: They all joined, so they got protection.

L: Brödraförbundet.

Oliver: Yeh. Yeh.

L: In Kane then You joined: Brahe 2/72.

Oliver: Yeh, that's right.

L: How big loge was it then during the war?

Oliver: Our loge went up to about 325 members at one time.

L: What year was that?

Oliver: That was, mabee, in the 40s.

L: It was that many!

Oliver: Yeh.

L: There were a lot of Swedes then?

Oliver: Oh there's lots of Swedes around here - and it was that high.

L: There was also one loge in Mount Hewett; Småland.

Oliver: Yeh; Småland.

L: But You took the members then from Kane, and?

Oliver: Yeh - just from Kane area was that many - in the loge.

L: Did You meet in a church?

Oliver: No no we had a hall. We rented a hall up town. We had that all time. Then, besides; we had mabee dances, on Saturdays and some would have on Fridays, - a couple of Swedish dances a week.

L: What kind of programmes did You have?

Oliver: Most of the benefits was why they joined. We had sick benefit: we had two classes.

We had A-class and B-class. A-class; I've forget what they paid, about 8 dollars a week - what

ever it was. Then You could buy the second: B, then they doubled it, that You paid more. Then they doubled it, if You wanted to belong to both and then they paid double of money when You were sick. I can't recall how many weeks we had that we could collect. Of course it didn't cost You so much for doctor's, or anything. But then You lost work, so that helped You. Course if You didn't make much money working, either it still gave You something to eat, when You got ready to go back to work. At least You could eat. And That's why they started it at the first place: the Benefit Hodge.

L: So being 300 members, when did they start to drop off then? After the war?

Oliver: Yeh, after the WW II, then it starts dropping, because: lots of the younger people, they dropped first - the younger people. Yeah. Because. then You start getting Medicare and You starting getting Benefits! and protections from other insurance companies. Working like that - then they could buy insurance. That was better then just what the loge could give them. Course - then - they had some money to work with.

L: Wasa couldn't compete then with the insurance companies.

Oliver: Oh no. We still - they still could belong - they still stayed in there, although because we had a lot of talentship, and activities for the Swedish people - and everything - programmes. And we visited eachothers loges and then the loges in Jamestown came down with their drill teams and put on the drills and initiations. So; it was pretty active.

L: You always had a drill team when You initiated new officers every year?

Oliver: We didn't. We didn't Have a drill team, so we'd call on Jamestown, or Warren had a drill team to.

L: They had old drill teams in Jamestown?

Oliver: Yeh, the drill teams comming in, and they came down and initiated the members. They had the drill team, with Uniforms, and Everything. Course Jamestown, they had Everything up there. They had all the Swedes - You know.

L: And You went there also for doings.

Oliver: We went up There for doings, visited eachother - and everything. Lots of fun. Dancing; and everything, all the time.

L: And You went there playing Your accordion!

Oliver: Yeh - I played for some of the dances. Yeh.

L: Then, in the 50s and 60s, You could see it was going to drop off, more and more. The people dropped off.

Oliver: Sure. Yeh. We was about seven of us. So You got to have Seven members to keep the loge. You had to have enough for the officers.

L: Yes.

Oliver: So then, finally, we didn't get enough for the officers - so we had to give it up. Just like lots of loges around here had to do. The younger people didn't go in to this. They had their own activities up Masons, and the Elks, and the Moose. Then they were another generation too. Lots of them couldn't talk Swedish, like we could, - or understand it.

L: What did the officers say? because You were also on the district board.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: The Executive board, to represent Your loge.

Oliver: Yes.

L: What did the officers say; like the district masters and vice district masters? What did they tell You to do to get in more members?

Oliver: Well they always tried to tell us to go out. Go out and Get them, But of course: they didn't know the condition we were up against.

L: What did You say then? Did You explain yourself?

Oliver: Well I said: You can't force the young people - they're gone the other way. And then the most of the young people here in Kane, and in other places, they were moving, because they went up to other cities and got jobs, and **better** jobs. So they were moving out! So then You losed lot of the members too. So finally it was just the old-timers left. Yeh.

L: It was just like whipping a dead horse.

Oliver: Yeh!

L: How about attending the conventions in different cities here. There was hardships for You to pay the delegates to go, and So on.

Oliver: Oh yeh. When our loge was active; we made money. We had money then in the treasure. And then we had the Grand District Loge nr 9, here in Kane, on conventions two times, and entertained them, and everything. We always saw chanches and always seems to rase money for the conventions, to get enough money putting on. And they always paid You So much to have the convention. So we had good conventions here. Lots of activities. We were well known, all over, down to Philadelphia, even All over.

L: You had to work really hard though with the conventions.

Oliver: Oh yeh.

L: Did You have help then from Engelbrekt in Warren?

Oliver: No no. We did it ourselves. We put the hole thing on. We had to get the hotel, we had to get the rooms organized. Then You had to put on a banquette and then You had a dance, and all this, just like they have it today. So: we did All this.

L: But, then; when You had to go out of town though,

Oliver: Yeh

L: Then You had a hardship to go.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: You had to take off from work.

Oliver: If You was a delegate, like an executive board delegate and go on to the convention - usually You had to take off a couple of days - because usually the conventions started - They used to have it on the Labor day. They mabee started on Saturday and Sunday and Monday. But then they changed that. If You was going to drive to some place, You'd have to take off Friday and mabee You wouldn't get back to work on Monday. You had to come back on Tuesday. You had to sacrificies that.

L: Because Your loge wouldn't aford to pay?

Oliver: No. They paid us so much a day; 10 dollars a day, it was a lot for a delegate. The district always paid for one delegate - the district. And You paid - if You sent two delegates. Our loge were 300, - and we were allowed to have about 5! delegates, with that membership. So then we'd have to - You know - to furnish some of that money.

L: And then You got 10 cents a mile.

Oliver: Yeh. They gave us the cheapest way to get there. If You couldn't get there at the other way, they paid You 10 cents a mile.

L: But there was no other choise though from Kane.

Oliver: No, it was pretty near impossible to go to Any place out of Kane without driving Your car. You could get on a buss, but the busses weren't running.

L: Because; If You had taken that buss from Kane? -

Oliver: Yeh. You couldn't got there in time.

L: You had to leave a day earlier though.

Oliver: Yeh. Sure.

L: It was Your expenses then.

Oliver: Oh sure - yeh.

L: You had to take off for two working days.

Oliver: Yeh. Well - they picked people to set up - to take - we turned a (?) according to the way they would pay You. So that's the way we turned the bills in. Then they picked the committee to go and see if everything was Okey. So when they came to This part, they called the buss company - and then the buss company said: You could get the buss down there! But that saved them money, because they didn't have to pay 10 %!

L: Why didn't You question them? I mean: they didn't tell You How to get there?

Oliver: No no. The rules in the district - when we wrote them up - that if it's no other way to get to the convention - if You drow - they gave You 10 cents a mile! Course we come from way up here of Kane, and then we had to go down to Washington; or Philadelphia, or some place. Naturally it costs more money.

L: So they didn't use the common sence then.

Oliver: So then they sat down and figured it out. So when they called the buss station - of course - to find ut the cheapest way - they didn't realise that You could Get here with the buss in the first place. So then they didn't give the 10 cents a mile. Course that dough to the committee they picked, - the committee really wasn't thinking.

L: You didn't explain to them that it was impossible to take a buss?

Oliver: Oh yeah. And they knew that, in any way.

L: But they stuck to the rules.

Oliver: Yes.

L: You have been in many loges: like in Jamestown. You have been to Youngstown and Cleveland and Erie, Washington PA and Washington DC.

Oliver: Yeah - I've been up. And even up into Rochester, we've been in Rochester and we've been up into Buffalo; the Buffalo loges.

L: Jamestown, they have a very active loge; two loges, two different.

Oliver: Yes.

L: They were Also dead in the beginning. Wasn't it?

Oliver: Oh yeh.

L: Tudor.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: What made it live up?

Oliver: Course - they always had more bigger loges - active loges, - who had built drill teams: the Ladies Drillteam and the Men's Drillteam. Then they always managed to have some arrangements so You could have a drink, or something. They started on, just put the money in a cup. Then they could buy some drinks and pay the money, the dough there, in a cup. Then they put the club in. And they started a bar room, and Everything. This really was a drawing card to get the younger members in there - and that really started them.

L: During the Depression, they had the slot mashines?

Oliver: Yeh:

L: Do You remember that time when they were up at the Tudor Loge?

Oliver: Oh yes, they had tuf times too through the Depression!

L: They had.

Oliver: Oh yes.

L: But they had slot mashines - and they rased money.

Oliver: Well. They had all kind.

L: Were they illegal then, at that time?

Oliver: Yeh. At that time slot mashines were illegal - all over in the clubs - and they finally made laws, that they put out the slot mashines even here in Pennsylvania. So that went out.

L: If You compair. Today they have slot mashines in many places - and a tremendous interest.

Oliver: Sure.

L: Was the interest as big during the Depression as it is now?

Oliver: Yeh.

L: It was?

Oliver: When they got the club - the slot mashines didn't come in until after. They didn't get no liquor licens. They didn't have no bar until after the depression, when people start making money. And then they got that - and then there was money to pick up.

L: How about the prohibition?

Oliver: They didn't have any liquor, but everybody could go to a bootlegger and get a pint of liquor. Then usually they just have it and go dance or anything - they just take a pint with them. They get to the bootleggers, were You can go, and get it.

L: So they were still open?

Oliver: Yeah, but the bootlegger had to be careful, so they didn't get him! But they knew who he was. They got and get it, and just take it with them!

L: Was the booze expensive at that time?

Oliver: No.

L: It wasn't.

Oliver: No, I don't remember. I think You could buy a pint for a dollar and a half, or a dollar, from the bootlegger. Yeah.

L: So he shortened it a little bit more though for the risk?

Oliver: Yes.

L: Then it started to move after the war.

Oliver: Oh yeah. They started to go good before the war! During the war then Everything went started to go good - because everybody was working.

L: And then a lot of the young people from Jamestown went out in the war.

Oliver: Oh yes.

L: And then the people, at home, they made doings to support them.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: So a lot of people went to the loges, and to the pool houses then.

Oliver: Sure. They went, because: there was fun to go - there was fellowship - and - You know - they had dances.

L: Did the most people have their own houses during that time?

Oliver: Most the older people did.

L: They had.

Oliver: Yeh, they owned their homes by then. After the Depression was over, and they started to go pretty good in the factories, they bought homes, and they had their homes, so then they start paying for them pretty soon. You could buy a home some day - You know - for a couple of 1 000 dollars You could buy a house!

L: When did You buy Your house?

Oliver: I bought my house in about 1940.

L: 40.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: You were able to get a lone in the local bank then?

Oliver: Yeh. But the houses were so cheap - anyway - it wasn't to hard. You didn't need to pay to much for Your lone. You got a lone for 4 %.

L: Did You have to get a co-signer getting the lone?

Oliver: If You didn't have enough collateral and they didn't know You good enough, You had to get anybody to co-sign.

L: Were people afraid of co-signing? They had the Depression just a few years back.

Oliver: No. Usually Your co-signers mabee could be some relatives - or friends - and then mabee You'd help Them. But there wasn't that much money involved.

L: For how long time did Your farm in Scandia, where You were rased, stay in Your family?

Oliver: We left. It was during the war. Then the youngest boy were taken in the army. So then after that; two boys went in the army, that was on the farm. So then my dad had to run it himself and then he kept on for a year during the war and then he broke hes hip. So that was the end of it. So they took care of him in a hospital - and everything. So - he finally had to give up the farm. Then we bought a house down in Warren, an apartment house, with my sister. Then we had to sell the farm. Get off the farm. We couldn't do it no more. So that was the end of the farming.

L: Did he move to You in Kane?

Oliver: In Jamestown. No no. He moved just Warren. He got a room in an apartment house down in Warren. He moved down there.

L: And that was the end of it.

Oliver: That was the end of the farms. He'd been there about at least 40 years on the farm. He rased all of us; eight of us and he rased us all on the farm. We never went hungry through the Depression.

L: So he did pretty good then - in other words.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: That wouldn't be possible today.

Oliver: No no! We all was home - You know - we always worked on the farm. We always made enough. Everybody had to go to school. We all went to that country school education.

L: So then - when You were in Kane - You married in the Lutheran church.

Oliver: Yes.

L: You became a Lutheran. Were there any other Swedish organizations outside the church?

Oliver: In Kane?

L: Yeah - the Wasa-Order?

Oliver: Well the wasa, and the SAV(?). Yeh they were there the SAV(?).

L: Were they still there in the 40s?

Oliver: Yeh they were still there, - I've forget when they closed up now. But; they were down in Kane i Think, at least, ten years before we went off.

L: The Brotherhood - they collapsed - before the Wasa.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: What was the difference?

Oliver: When we went out and got members, we had the younger members and we were more active. We were really Active and more active in everything. They were the old. They just kept slow. They couldn't engage the younger people.

L: So now You have more years on Your neck.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: You have been living down in Florida for many years.

Oliver: Yes.

L: And You've seen the loges: like Redligheten, Jupiter and Svitjod going down.

Oliver: Yes, sure.

L: and Småland; in Mount Hewett, they're gone. Brahe is gone.

Oliver: Yes. Engelbrekt in Warren is gone. Sheffield is gone. Ludlowe is gone. They're all gone.

L: What do You think is a good prospect for the rest of them? You have loges still in Youngstown, in Erie.

Oliver: I'll say that: some of them are going to go too. They've got no future.

L: What shall the rest of them do - to hang on?

Oliver: The only way they can do, is like Jamestown did! They had to get a club started, the young people. They have to get the Young people in! like Jamestown did. They had to get the young people enjoining in there and run the club, the young people. The old people can't do it. But they don't have it. Like in Erie, they'll meet in a church! They don't have no hall any more. So they never had any club, or anything. So I don't think they can survive without it. If they had a club - the young people - or a summer home, or something - for the young people - that's why they survive. Otherwise they wouldn't survive. No they can't.

L: There got to be a program.

Oliver: Yes.

L: Youth groups.

Oliver: And then they got to let Them run it. I mean: the old people can't run it. The young people take over.

L: You've been on the executive board and in Your own loge, of course.

Oliver: Sure.

L: You could have been a district master. Why did You became side stepped?

Oliver: They had quite a few there, that were in line for a district master. They were a lot older then I was in the activities in the loge. I was one of the younger ones. They'd pick their candidates and got them up for the elections. So: they got in.

L: Du var inte på valkommittén.

Oliver: No!

L: You think there was one of the mistakes they had done over the years. The young people had been side stepped.

Oliver: Yeh, oh sure. And the old-timers want to stay in there. We had One good thing in our loge, because: the older people, they didn't care! They wanted us young people in. That's why we got a big loge. All the young people getting in there. The old people - they were happy we were doing it! But most of the loges didn't have it that way. The old people don't want to Do that! They wouldn't pushing the young people in there!

L: They were egoistic.

Oliver: They were happy with their jobs, and everything - and running it - and everything.

L: You don't think that; an old member, like Gus Lindgren - there are others - that they had invested a lot of money over the years. Do You think they're scared - the young ones is comming in and take over the hole loge?

Oliver: No, I don't think so.

L: But it's money involved though!

Oliver: Oh yeh, but I don't think so. It ain't enough money there for anybody.

L: But You see - like in Warren - for instance.

Oliver: It's just - like I said before: these loges: they don't have a club! so they can't get the young people interested! - so they don't even worry about them!

L: They don't want to come for a meeting and listen?

Oliver: No no. They have to have a club, so the young people can

L: But why didn't the older members understand this?

Oliver: I don't know. I guess: some of them didn't suppose to have a club; and liquor and everything: I still think, the grand loges, You're ain't supposed to have whisky in the Wasa.

Course: They formed a separat corporation and put up a club, and Have it. But You're ain't supposed to have it in the loges, in the loge rooms. So when they form their own club - and have liquor - then they have a club and that would draw the people! But still; I think it's right in the grand loge, and in the district too, that You're not supposed to have liquor in the Wasa loge. But then they go ahead, - and form a club - and they have it! That was good, because it drew in the young people, which You had to have. And a lot of the older people liked it too! I don't think the rest of the Wasa loges has Got clubs, like that. That's why Jamestown got 1100 members, course they got all the young people in there. They got a good club. They got a home, were the young people take their family up in the summer and they have a family gathering; picknicks, and everything! So that's what makes it.

L: And it's runned professionally by a manager.

Oliver: They primarely got a manager that operate that corporation.

L: It's no good when the members help eachother?

Oliver: No You can't volontaire, after the volontaires ain't qualified. There's always somebody that don't manage it! They (?) unmanaged!! There's people that's honnest and (? resten av meningen).

L: (Hoppar över Lennarts fråga)?

Oliver: One was the treasure, and one was the secretary. Or one was the treasure, and the secretary. Between them they handled all the money! You had to pay all Your doughs to the secretary - and then the secretary gives it to the treasure and the treasure has to go and put it in the bank. So - between the Two of them! They could keep a little bit on the side and still the books are all right. But the money wasn't there. So - they didn't have anybody. They trusted these people! They didn't have any detective up there and going check on them once in a while they got away with the money! They finally Didn't get away with it.

L: The temptation was to big though.

Oliver: Yeah. They needed some money and everything - and So they had the money, they get the money! They finally found out that there should be more money in the treasure, than it was!

L: And they were not elected.

Oliver: So. They found out very well.

L: They had to pay it all.

Oliver: Yeh. They made an agreement, that they wouldn't procecute them, if they put the money back again. So they had to pay it back. They had to pay it back to the loge, so the loge got it back again. Yeah.

L: So that was, last and learn - the hard way.

Oliver: Yeh.

L: And that problem was in many other loges too, I suppose.

Oliver: Well - there could have been other loges - course: I don't think You've seen it in any place. That's the only one I know were it happened - personally that I know - in the Wasa-loges.

L: There are always problems when people comes together.

Oliver: Oh yeh. (? För en mening). It should be one and the other, so they can handle the books together. That's the misstake - but they trusted them. They could never believe that, but; some times.

L: How about the loges in Florida? You have one in S:t Petersburg?

Oliver: We have a loge in S:t Petersburg. They ain't doing too good. The big loge is up in Holliday, they have such a pretty good loge and they had up to 300 members. They have all the Swedes all around there join. But - now - all old people, they're losing, that gradually they're dropping.

L: You mean: the people are getting older?

Oliver: Yeah and they can't handle it. They can't keep it going with old people. They don't have enough young people to keep it moving. So eventually they have a tuf time keeping going.

L: How about the people moving down from Chicago, Jamestown and other cities?

Oliver: Oh yeh they go in, and then a lot of them go back home: for the summer, and vacations, and everything. And a lot of them can't drive.

This is the end of the intervju.

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