

Nordic American Voices
Nordic Heritage Museum

Interview of Marguerite Anderson

February 20, 2010

Auburn, Washington

Interviewed by Gordon Strand Mari-Ann Kind Jackson and Rune Nilsson

Gordon Strand: [0:06] Today's date is February the 20th, 2010. We are at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn, Washington. My name is Gordon Strand, and I'm here with Rune Nilsson. We are both volunteers for the Nordic American voices project, an oral history initiative of the Nordic Heritage Museum. And we will be interviewing Marguerite Anderson. Marguerite could you identify yourself [0:30] and when you were born and where?

Marguerite: [0:36] I was born in Seattle, at Lakeside Hospital, which was just a part of Swedish Hospital at that time. Haven't heard of it but I've tried to trace it. But anyway, I was born there on July 23, 1917.

Gordon: [0:56] Could you tell us about your parents and what their history was, where they came from, and a little bit about what you know of their story.

Marguerite: [1:07] My father, Thomas Lee, was christened Thomas Bretonius Thorsen Nedrelid, but when he came to Ellis Island he changed it to Thomas Lee to make it shorter. And he was born in Hjørungavåg, near Ålesund in the year 1875, May 31st. And he came here because there was not much work over there. He was fishing with his father and his brother Olaf and it seemed that, by the time he was 25, he felt like he wanted to go to America.

[1:46] He came over here, and right away he bought 40 acres in Brownsville, Washington. And he bought land up in different places - he was always buying little acreages here and there -- because he thought that was the way to make a living; also because he could use the woods to take out his timber.

[2:10] But he had a chicken ranch in Brownsville for many years. He came in 1900, over on the Cunard Line, and he went directly there to that place. He got 40 acres and his wife [Lena] came later and they lived there for many years. He was going to call for his wife in Norway, Lena, by the time he could make \$1,000. He made \$1,000 in one year instead of three years.

[2:50] So he called for her and they were married on Christmas Day, 1904. So he continued there, and then later Lena died [in April, 1913] so he married my mother, Edith [September, 1916]. She didn't like farming so well so they moved to Seattle and lived in the university area. And he was a watchman there [University of Washington] for years until I was three; he quit that job then.

[3:26] they left Norway because of the economy and all they wanted was to come here and make a living. Dad settled also, well, when he first came in 1900 he went to [Preston Mill Company to work]. He went to Alaska in 1901 and he was there in 1902, [commercial fishing and searching for gold in his spare time.]

[3:56] I went to Nome to see where he was at that time, he lived in a tent along the water. Now it's changed, they've changed the course of the land and the water. I was up there not long ago and saw it. And saw how they're still mining for gold. And I've got a nugget from him, he gave me. [My sister and I did a little gold panning while visiting Nome.]

[4:19] So he just pursued buying land. He bought land in Issaquah and up in Vaughn's Hill and Avalon Grove down by Lake Sammamish and just here and there to make a living. But in 1910 he had an accident in the mill in High Point, Washington. He was repairing the saw. Somebody turned the electricity on and it took his hand. So, he felt, I imagine, pretty bad about that because he used to go commercial fishing in the summer time in Alaska. Now, he couldn't do that anymore. He wasn't good [for commercial fishing] because he only had one hand.

[5:03] But then he went to Norway. He took his wife and went on a trip. It's so interesting - he never had insurance - and the people in High Point that were in the mill, they took up a collection and there is the list of all the people in High Point that paid some money to help him on his trip. And a dollar was a lot those days and two dollars and some gave five dollars.

[5:38] I was talking to my friend. He said, "Oh, my dad gave the most." He saw the list. You'll see all these Scandinavian names on there but that's what they did those days. They helped one another. He went to Norway and came back. And just continued his lumber business in Issaquah.

[6:07] He had a truck and he would take out timber from his land and make a little money that way. And I would help with the books. I remember when I was with him.

Gordon: [6:23] How about your mother? Tell us about her and her past.

Marguerite: [6:26] Well, my mother was from Brooklyn and her folks were David and Karin Brattstrom. They had come over from Sweden. Grandpa was put on a boat when he

was 15. He was incorrigible at home. He had only sisters at home. No, he had a brother, Gustav, that died at 21. He was restless and they put him on a boat and he went everywhere in the world and learned languages in every country. [He travelled for two years until he was 17 then stopped off in New York.]

[6:59] And he was very adept at languages. It was something very easy for him [to learn]. And then he was very musical also. I remember him playing the guitar and the uke, and the banjo and the piano and he traveled all over. He was only 15 years old when they put him on the boat. So, he landed in New York [after two years traveling around the world]. He saw my grandma Karin sitting on a stool outside on the street and she was playing hymns.

[7:34] She was playing for the Salvation Army. The [William] Booth's [daughter, Evangeline], had come from England and they landed in New York and they were having meetings out on the street like they used to years ago. And Salvation Army may still do that. They did in Anchorage. I know because I was with them in Anchorage and played accordion with them [on the streets].

[7:53] Well, my grandfather could play all these instruments. It was wonderful. He just fit right in and he fell in love with my grandma as she was sitting there playing an organ. And they got married and he was only 19. And they had four children and they came to Seattle later. And then he worked for the Swedish American Line which he established.

[8:22] He had an office in Seattle. And he and his brother, Eric Bradstrom later became the Vice Consul to Sweden so they worked together there. Then grandpa, [Dave], opened up a music store, a violin store and he taught violin. I don't know where he learned all this but he was just very good in any music and he would entertain.

[8:52] He would book the parties to go to Sweden and then there was a lot of literature that Nordic museum has, that I gave them regarding that. And he would book [folks for trips]. Besides, he would be the entertainer. I have a list of all the things he took. Piano was the first thing then guitar and all the things that he would take that he would need on the boat.

[9:19] So it was just kind of a one man entertainer then. I didn't bring that book but he entertained from Seattle to New York on the stage. He was "Ole Olsen" he played in that play Ole Olsen and Yon Yonson. The clippings are from Seattle to New York, and probably 30 or 40 of them. How much they enjoyed his entertainment because he was such a good actor, too. So, that's my grandpa and my grandma Brattstrom. She died of cancer when she was 60.

[9:55] Grandma took care of me. I had to go there sometimes. My mother was a beautician and she would leave me there when she went but daddy saw that mother didn't like farming [in Brownsville]. That's why he moved to Seattle. It was at the University of

Washington. I fell into [Frosh] pool twice. He [dad] was a night watchman so he would have to be sleeping in the daytime.

[10:26] Ray was a year older and he kind of watched after me. Pop Bloom, was on the police force on the university campus. His son [Lloyd] would push me [into the pool]. I was one and a half and he was two and a half. And we weren't being watched well enough I guess. [But then we were two lively kids.]

[10:53] But one time, Ray and I went on the street car. I was one and a half then. Almost two then and then he was three. And we got on a street car and we were ready to go. The conductor says, "Where are you going?" We said, "To Grandma's." Mother told me about this [when I was grown]. That was in 1919.

[11:20] Everybody knew everybody it seemed like. The university was small. So they got a hold of Pop Bloom and he knew who we were and got us home again. But that is one little experience I had when I was little and I went to another home then, up in White Horn, in Blaine, Washington. That was an interesting home. That little town was called White Horn and but it part of Blaine, Washington.

[11:55] But they had a church. They had a school house. Everybody talked Norwegian. Everything was in Norwegian in the church and everything was in Norwegian at school. A lot of the children couldn't talk English when they started school because Norwegian was their first language. And in the summertime, we had to learn our A, B, Cs and then we had to learn words.

[12:27] It is all in German script. It isn't easy to learn but you do learn. It looks kind of like Roman numerals... And then there's interesting stories that we had to read and relate to our teacher. And so, it kind of was connected so much because everybody was in the [same] Lutheran Church. Then you go to the catechism and this is my catechism.

[12:54] And in it, it says, Miss Marguerite Lee. That one says it's mine but this one says "This is mine. It is nobody else's, Marguerite Lee, Route One, Blaine, Washington."

Gordon: [13:18] Why did the family move to Blaine?

Marguerite: [13:22] [Uncle Oscar had friends in Norway that came and settled there.] When?

Gordon: [13:23] What was the reason?

Marguerite: [To make a living farming on his 40 acres.]

Marguerite: [13:24] Oh, I lived with my uncle and aunt after I lived in Seattle. I went to my uncle and aunt and dad wanted me to stay there and be raised Norwegian, I believe. [laughs] But anyway, they took me at three years old and I stayed there until I was ten. And I got a good dose of Norwegian because we had to learn it to be confirmed [in the church].

[13:52] So, I don't regret any of that. That was really an interesting life there. Then they had to take care of one of their relatives - Mrs. Strand, her name was. And Mrs. Strand was getting old and she needed care. So, I went to Woodinville, to some people that talked only Swedish. So they would set me down with books that were Swedish. So I learned Swedish. And I'm still taking Swedish down at the senior center, they have a class down there.

[14:28] And so I lived with them 'till I was 12. Then Dad thought he was able to take care of me, so he took me up to his place in High Point. And there we had about 100 people and they were very close-knit. We had a little church there and we had a little schoolhouse -- one room for a while and then [later] two rooms.

[14:52] And I was in the seventh and eighth grade there, and the fifth and sixth in Woodinville.

[15:00] When I was in the school in Ferndale, I want to relate that a great man came. His name was [General] John J. Pershing, and he was head of the armed forces during World War I. He came to our school. I was in the third grade. [Miss Robinson was my teacher.]

[15:19] You know, it didn't dawn on me until later in life how wonderful this was, that he took me by the hand and - he just grabbed any child, I'm sure - and walked down out of the schoolroom and then marched down so all of the other children could see. Because he had chosen the third grade to go into. And I walked down the aisle with him holding his hand. So that was one great thing in my life, I thought, that was good. [Pershing was now retired, a real hero.]

[15:46] Another time I saw Roald Amundsen, when he came [to Seattle]. He had been to the South Pole; he was the first to get there. He came to the civic auditorium. And my dad always wanted me to know historical things about Norway [and Norwegians], and he brought me there. And they'd taken Amundsen and put him up on shoulders [of somebody] and just [walked] all around the auditorium so you could see who Roald Amundsen was. And they honored Fridtjof Nansen too, after that. But I got to see some great men, anyway.

[16:19] Do you want to say something?

Gordon: [16:22] You're doing fine.

Marguerite: [16:23] OK.

Gordon: [16:24] But, where did your grandparents live in Seattle, then?

Marguerite: [16:27] They lived in Green Lake. It's still standing, 6514 Second Avenue Northeast. And the house is still there, I've been there to see it. And that's where my grandparents lived.

[16:47] And then Ray and I would stay with Grandma and Grandpa a lot, and Raymond is gone. My brother Louie is gone, he was 71. Ray was 81 when he died. I have my sister Barbara at present, she's visiting my sister-in-law - who is Ray's wife - in the hospital today, because she had a stroke. And so I'm going to try and go see her, too.

Gordon: [17:23] Did the whole family go to Blaine, then? Your brothers and sisters?

Marguerite: [17:27] No, they stayed with Mother and I went with Dad's brother, Oscar. He lived [near Blaine (White Horn)]. And he was one of those that came over from Norway after Daddy, [about 1907], Then he brought his wife, [Jacobine], over from Norway and they had five children. And then I was with them for seven years [until I was ten].

[17:47] And then I went to my Mother's when I was 14, for a while. And then when I was 18, after high school, I went and stayed with her for a couple of years, too. So I got to know my brothers and sisters better. So that was an interesting life, too, knowing Mother [and my siblings].

Gordon: [18:12] What was interesting? Why do you say that?

Marguerite: [18:16] Because I had been separated from them and that was my greatest joy to be with my mother. So I was very glad that I [could meet her]. And my sister, she wrote to me not long ago and said how happy she was that I came.

[18:35] One time we didn't know exactly where they were in Snoqualmie and so we went up and drove [around]. Dad drove around Weyerhaeuser Mill and I saw a little boy -- I'd never seen my little brother (this is half-brother) - big blue eyes. I thought, I bet he's Mother's baby. And we went in there and it was the place.

[18:57] And so I stayed with her for a week, then. And we had a good time. My brother was a good swimmer; we swam across Snoqualmie River. And I can't believe I did, when I see it now. He was a good swimmer and we did that. And we went swimming a lot. We're all very athletic, all the kids. They loved swimming. [Mother went in swimming with us too.]

[19:19] This is my grandma here, in the one picture and that's me when I got baptized.

[19:26] The other picture are of mother. My husband's family came over from Norway, Arnold Anderson, landed in Alaska and I met him up there when I had a Children's Home in

Alaska. He helped with the Children's Home a lot. His folks landed in Minnesota after they came from Norway and lived in a sod hut.

[19:56] They had three children there before they moved to McNeil Island when they had six more. So, he came from a large family. And we have a lot of reunions. They had started it back a long time ago. They had started this reunion business. They all met at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, under a tree, a certain [oak] tree they would meet.

[20:25] That's when Arnold's mother's sisters were all alive, the four sisters. They always got together. Then we kept the tradition up after Arnie and I. We had four children and we kept the tradition up. We had it every year at our place for many years and when son Tom grew up he had it at his place [in Issaquah] and it's been a... I don't know if Karen's had it but we've had it in several places of the cousins.

[20:55] So, Tom [and Karen] have several cousins, they still keep in touch. They still continue this tradition. They go out hiking together and so that's wonderful and we're so happy for that. We have kept up [other traditions too]. We had entertainment at home and, you know, our entertainment was just what we would do [ourselves]. Well they'd make the toys if we had anything. I had a little stick and we'd take a wheel.

Gordon: [21:40] What traditions as a child did you have? Either Swedish or Norwegian? What are they?

Marguerite: [21:46] Yes. The traditions followed a lot of the Norwegian traditions. We had kransekake, fatigman and lefse and things like that and turkey at Christmas. Thanksgiving was turkey [too]. Home entertainment, I think we made our own.

Gordon: [22:18] That must have been special with your grandfather being so musical too.

Marguerite: [22:22] I didn't see him that much until I was in high school. He would come out a lot and he would take me out and he would entertain me that way with his music and stuff. When I was going to business college in Seattle he would come and get me because his office, or his brother's office was right across from the Metropolitan Business College up in the White Henry Stuart Building in Seattle.

[22:52] So, I would see Roland [Brattstrom] my cousin in there and I would see my Uncle Eric, the second Uncle Eric. He was my grandfather's brother. He had Consul business there. So, grandpa would be in that office a lot and he would take me out a lot. Probably more than the other children, but he knew he was getting older then. He died at 68 [in 1938] though, so he died quite young.

Gordon: [23:19] So why don't you tell us how you ended up in Alaska and operating a Childrens' Home.

Marguerite: [23:24] Oh! The Persenius from Ketchikan came down and they were showing us pictures of the children in Alaska that were needy, that needed someone to help with them. They had a man and wife up there in Juneau, but they needed somebody to do their business - to type their letters, to try and get help for the Children's Home. [Other duties like helping to care for the 23 children they had adopted.]

[23:47] So, I went to church that Sunday morning and I listened to them and I thought, "Oh, I'd like to go." Well they had others that wanted to go and do mission work up there. They had about three others. Then in the afternoon, they had a business meeting and they were voting as to whom they should send because there were people forty five and older and I was young, you know but they chose me to go. So I went up there and brought my typewriter of course, Grandpa Brattstom had given me his Swedish typewriter which had the ø, ä and å on it and I did a lot of typing up there for them [and trying to get help in operating the home].

[24:33] After I worked there, I started my own children's home,

Gordon: [24:40] Where?

Marguerite: [24:41] [In Juneau]. And I took in three of the Anderson children. They weren't related to me and then I adopted a little baby, he was needy. He was left in a hotel room and he was very sick and I went to the hospital to see him and they had him out in the hall, they never even had a room for him so I took him and I asked if I could take him home 'cause he was so desperately sick. He had a prolapsed rectum and he had other problems, pneumonia and his mother that had left him, she had T.B. and they were afraid of that so I took him. [I had him x-rayed every three months for T.B. but he never got it.]

[25:16] And to make a long story short, I had him as my own in six months I guess it was. He was born in June and I got him in December. January first was the last day that I could do this and make up my mind [about adopting him] - the mother [worked in a cannery] but never came back for six months. She'd left him at the hotel room [and the proprietor was to look after him but he was so sick and was brought to the hospital.]

[25:42] So that was what I did and I raised him and at thirty years old he got killed. A drunk driver hit him down at Walla Walla area but he grew to be a fine young man and married and had a little girl. They were in the car too but they survived. [David's wife was hurt. She was unconscious for three weeks but she recovered.]

[26:10] Anyway they had a daughter, Sherl, and that daughter's married and she has a little boy so I have a lot to remind me of my son, David.

Gordon: [26:25] Where was this children's home in,

Marguerite: [26:27] In Juneau.

Gordon: [26:28] In Juneau.

Marguerite: [26:28] Yes.

Gordon: [26:29] How many other children were there that you took care of.

Marguerite: [26:33] Twenty three, there were twenty three when I came [to the first children's home]. There were forty five that it grew to be. And we had a lot of babies. The war broke out in 1941 and I was up there. I was out at Auck Bay and I didn't know [the war broke out]. I had lights on and I had a lot of children. I had nine under five years old and then this baby and the [Chief of Police] came and knocked on my door and said, "You have to be blacked out and you can't have any fire in your stove." Well that's pretty hard you know with all these babies. And I had to go outside where the water was running from the mountain down to wash the diapers in cold water and everything so that was an interesting development.

Gordon: [27:20] How did you meet your husband?

Marguerite: [27:22] I met him up in Juneau, Alaska on the street. Someone introduced me to him, one of my friends. And he had been in Kodiak and he had been working for Siems Drake so he knew about the children's home and had been helping them a lot before I ever came along. And he continued to do that. So we didn't get married 'til we got to Seattle and then I met his family. We got married in 1943.

[27:59] And so we had the four children, David and then Karen and then Thomas and then Daniel.

Gordon: [28:11] And he was of Norwegian descent.

Marguerite: [28:13] Yes Arnold was of Norwegian descent too. And when he was forty nine he started writing poetry. He was working at Boeing and I've just got hundreds of poems of his that are just very valuable to me. I'm getting them together now in books, and he published a book too for the children and the grandchildren. He made a poem up about each one and so he had that published. And then he has, "The Word of Life," that's another poem that was accepted for publishing. He has many of them where he just wrote down

his thoughts, I see them all around the house. He died in 2005, September, he was ninety three. He was born in 1912.

Gordon: [29:03] Yeah.

Marguerite: [29:04] Yes so that was quite a loss, too. But I have these children that really help [me so much].

Gordon: [29:11] And how many years were you married to him?

Marguerite: [29:14] 62 years. We were married in '43 and then he died in '05 so we had a long life together. Oh, I have some kind of interesting little anecdotes too. We always gathered around the table and we always ate at the table, our meals. Boy, that is a must in Ferndale and Whitehorn when I lived with the Oscar Lees.

[30:00] And sometimes we had little games at the table. We'd say now, "no English to be spoken. If you speak English, you'll get a little slap on your cheek." You know just for fun. And so we had to talk in Norwegian everything. And if we wanted something to be passed, we had to say "Vaere"[Norwegian language] . They don't have a word for please in Norwegian. It is [Norwegian language] . I guess you know that. [laughs]

[30:33] And so, my cousin who was a year older than I and his name was Lief. He didn't know what to do. He couldn't think of the word for egg. What is the word for egg? I want the eggs. And so, he says [Norwegian language] . And oh, everybody laughed because that is hen's ball. And so, we kind of broke down and laughed. Egg is the same in Norwegian. Only it is "Eg" instead of two Gs.

[31:10] But that is one funny thing that happened. And we could have fun in little ways like that. And Dad one time, he had an old Chevy and it was headed for the Issaquah Creek, We had property in Issaquah where my son Tom lives now. And this old Chevy was headed for the creek and Daddy jumps up on the hood, breaks the window and stops the car someway [with his hand]. And then he comes in and asks me to sew up [his badly cut hand].

[31:48] I said "Oh,Dad, I got to bring you to a doctor." Great big L [laughs] . No, he said. No, no. He never went to a doctor. He went once at 90 I think and that's about it. But anyway, he said, "no, I won't go to doctor." So, it healed very well. I don't remember him having a scar. [I repaired it the best I knew how. It was an "L" shaped cut on top of his hand.] And one time we had a picture of him and his chickens. He had a chicken ranch in Brownsville.

[32:22] My mother's nephew, [Roland] was there with the chickens – Roland was 12 years old then - and Daddy on the picture. And then on the back of the picture, it said, "My brother Hans". Well, Daddy never had a brother Hans and for 35 years, I wondered about

that. Well, when Daddy was 90, we took him to Brownsville to see the old house [he had built in 1904]and the cherry trees that he had [planted], the roses he had started.

[32:52] And he said, I want to see the old brooder hen place. So we took him under the house. It was still there and the place that he had built for the little tiny brooding hen. It didn't dawn on me that day but when I got home and looked at that picture, "Brooder Hens", that was what he meant. But he had spelled it "Brother Hans." I couldn't believe it but Daddy never stopped writing to his nieces and nephews [even though] he couldn't spell. [I could always read his writing – well almost always. Ha!]

[33:29] He would just write anyway. I have letters from him just before he died. But when I found in this autograph book, what Daddy had written and everything is perfectly spelled. It says, "Dear Marguerite, purity of mind, of heart and of soul comes happiness, love, and prosperity. Your father Thomas Lee". High Point, Washington, March 23, 1931. So he was very careful to see that that was spelled right. Then my grandfather wrote in here, too.

[34:08] And this is my grandfather's writing. Grandpa says "Dear Marguerite, someone is sad then speak a word of cheer. Someone is lonely, make him welcome here. Thine own heart in sorrow, mention but in prayer and carry sunshine with you everywhere. Your Grand Dad, David Brattstrom." And he also wrote something of Shakespeare and that was really good. "This above all, to thine own self be true." That one.

[34:41] And those all meant a lot to me. These are all from kids at school. We used to do that. I don't know if they do it anymore. Well, they wouldn't allow some of them to be read. This is what we would say every time we'd sit at the table. [foreign language] . Then we had a prayer we said after wards, too. [foreign language] . Now we have eaten. We thank Him for the food after wards.

[35:21] I have a list of all of my father's brothers and sisters – ten children - and when they were born and everything. And then Thore Nedrelid was my dad's father and then Thore was of ten children also. So they have...I have all of ten children when they were born christened.

Gordon: [35:45] Let's get copies of that if we could.

Marguerite: [35:48] Yes, you sure can. I found all these in the bible in Norway. It was all locked up. Snypsaver[Norwegian language]. That was his [great grandpa's] name in Norway. Also my great, great grandfathers. But Snypsaver was his name but he took his wife's name, Nedrelid.

[36:18] Anna Nedrelid. He took her name. "Thank you great grandpa" says Marguerite. Hah. I wrote that down. So that's their 10 children.

Gordon: [36:31] Did your father maintain contact with his family over the years?

Marguerite: [36:35] Yes he wrote and they wrote and we kept contact all those years. Oh, yes, we sure did. Now, Thomas, [my son], has been in Norway twice and we just went in 2006. Some of my cousins were gone but there were still Haakon and a few others. And so we got to see them.

Gordon: [37:02] Were you able to go with him to Norway?

Marguerite: [37:04] I went with Tom and his wife, [Tina], and their two children, [Kristen and Katherine].

Gordon: [37:08] But not your father?

Marguerite: [37:09] [In 1910 Dad went back]. I got all ready for him to go in 1968. We were going to Norway. And then Daddy turned back and said, "I'm afraid I am going to be a burden to you. And I'm afraid maybe I'll get..." He was 90.

Gordon: [37:29] Yeah.

Marguerite: [37:30] I said, Daddy, please go. And he said, "no, I've decided not to. I'll take care of the place and everything while you are gone. I'll be here to watch everything."

[37:52] No, he just wasn't going to go so we were at Nessel's one day in Ballard some friends. He says, "I don't think I dare go Marguerite. Maybe I'll be a burden." He was worrying about that. He says maybe I'll even die in Norway. You know you don't know.

[38:14] And so, Mrs. Nessel says "That isn't so bad. You were born in Norway, why not die in Norway." So that was kind of funny. But he didn't go and then lo and behold, I get on the plane and I sit by a 90 year old man and it should have been my dad. That was how I felt.

[38:35] Anyway, it was an interesting trip because I got to see both my Swedish relatives and my Norwegian relatives because I went to a convention they had...in Zurich, Switzerland - or in Berne - a Billy Graham meeting.

[38:54] We were counselors. There were about three counselors and [thirty] children. They were 15 to 18. It was good for them. They were from high school. So, they got to go to the meetings and then we did other things, too. We had to see other things. [We traveled in eleven countries in Europe.]

[39:20] See, getting back to family recipes. Yeah, we do a lot of that yet. My - Tom's children are learning to make Lefse. They are getting professional at it. Karen is doing it, too.

Gordon: [39:36] OK. which kind of lefse?

Marguerite: [39:37] Well, we get the potatoes. You can do it the night before and then you roll it out in the morning. I have made the butter milk ones too – the hardanger you know. But we like the potato lefse really well. And then there is the rosettes and fatigman, Swedish sprits, I make them.

Gordon: [40:02] You haven't mentioned Lutefisk.

Marguerite: [40:04] Oh, Lutefisk is a tradition that was kept by my daddy. He'd go out and fish. He'd get the fish himself and then he would dry it and then he would put it in lye. And then I remember he'd say, now, when you come home from school. You be sure and change the water. Did you change the water today? Yes, I did.

[40:25] And that took three days all keep changing the water, getting all the lye out. So, we have that, yes and at Sons of Norway which I belong to, they have that Lutefisk dinner, too. Now, we are having the Torsk dinner in March. So, we have that tradition to keep up.

Gordon: [40:47] Marguerite, I was just curious, you mentioned that up in Blaine that there was this effort to learn Norwegian even... Which seems kind of atypical from a lot of immigrant families – it was to become as Americanized as quickly as possible. Why was that so different...

Marguerite: [41:07] Yes, it is very unusual because everybody I talked to said, "Oh, our parents wouldn't let us learn Norwegian because they didn't want it to get mixed up." You can't mix up a child. They are so adept at learning anything... Norwegian was so easy for me to learn to read and speak it... Daddy said I was five years old when I was reading out of the Washington Posten.

[41:31] That old Washington Posten had Norwegian in it and he was surprised. [A child] can pick up anything. That is why they can pick up computers and they are better than their grandparents. That is for sure.

Gordon: [41:44] Was this a community thing up there?

Marguerite: [41:45] Yes and everybody knew everybody. And everybody went to the same church and the same school. It was just - maybe there was only 26 of us in the whole school and it was all month. And then we only had it to the sixth grade and then when you were in seventh or eighth, you had to go to Blaine. So, my uncle Oscar was the bus driver and he would take them to Blaine for seventh and eighth grades. [Oscar was also on the school board.]

[42:09] But we had the six grades there and we had to wash our hands in the creek across the road. We had to go wash our hands every day. We had some soap there and then we [would] go into the school and we [would] have hot cocoa. Some family would be responsible for a big pot of cocoa that you would get to start your day with which was nice. [Someone kept the fires going in the stove, probably the teacher].

[42:34] Because you came from a long way. We drove... We walked two miles you know and it was terrible weather up in Blaine because it is all flat land. It is not conducive to kids. I lost my hat many times walking home from school. The wind was so bad there. It was awful. No mountains to shield you at all. But my uncle would go after us in a big sled that he made and he'd take the kids home from school, sometimes that way.

[43:05] But Ferndale, we walked two miles, at least too. We were way out on the road that was quite a ways from town but before we went to school, we all had duties to do and we knew them by heart. We had to know them in order. I had to slop the pigs and feed the chicken and the shoe room had to be just so. And upstairs, I had to do the duties of bedroom duties and outside, if we had other things to do.

[43:49] Like giving hay to the horses and things like that. That is another thing I would go down to the barn a lot because sometimes my uncle needed a lot of help there during the working season on the farm. We got to sleep in the barn and sometimes we slept in the hay. So, I fed the horses [and the cows, chickens and pigs].

[44:15] I'd eat the chicken food, wheat germ and the wheat berry and [the mash] all of that. I never got enough to eat at the table it seemed like so I'd go up in the orchard and eat and I'd go and pick carrots out of the garden. And we had a very healthy living there. Very good living. I wasn't afraid of horses or anything and in Woodinville one time, a team of horses had come and they couldn't control them.

[44:50] They had a bunch of rope or whatever they call it, bridle I guess you'd call it, stuck around their feet, around their legs and they didn't dare do anything because the horses wouldn't let them do anything even the man who brought the horses - he may have owned them or rented them, I don't know. But they looked out the window and saw me [a ten year old under the horses].

[45:14] I heard what the trouble was and I went out and I just lifted up the horses hooves. Took the bridle out, took the other hoof up. And I wasn't afraid of horses. They [my foster parents] were just scared at looking at me do that. I had been friendly with horses before and ridden them a lot because we used to ride horses [for fun and for work]. We'd have to change our 30 cows' pastures once a year.

[45:40] We had over 30 cows. We'd have to change them from White Horn to Ferndale because Uncle Oscar had 40 acres in Ferndale too and he had 40 and 20 acres in White Horn. But we had to change where the cows grazed. So we had to send horses [to lead the cows] and we would be on the horses. Some on the front, some on the back. [It was nine miles to Ferndale].

[46:00] And then we'd lead them clear through town all the way up to the Ferndale farm and that was every year they had to do that. And we would have our choice of staying with Uncle Oscar or staying [at home]. And I always wanted to stay with my Uncle Oscar so I always went up with him. They had to divide the kids up and [the] work.

Gordon: [46:31] Why don't you tell us about how you became involved with the museum? You said you were a volunteer for many years.

Marguerite: [46:36] I got letters from them. Somehow, I got on the list maybe through a friend or something. I thought well I'd like to go in there and I had visited it before and so, they asked me to come and I did and I worked in the gift shop, volunteer work. It was very interesting. I really liked that.

[47:05] Because I met so many people. People that I knew. My relatives would come in there, too. So, I did that for a long time. Got really acquainted with Marianne and the rest of them that were there. I don't know if any of them are still there anymore. I don't think so. They are probably around my age too that worked there.

[47:33] But I remember when they came out to the house, the historians and they wanted all of my grandpa's [pictures and clippings, that is, David Brattstrom's]. Because he was a quite well known person in Seattle because being a businessman – in the paper a lot and things. And so, they [borrowed] a lot of his stuff, some original things which I didn't get back but it's probably in the archives. [I have seen Grandpa David Brattstrom in the Swedish room, his pictures on the wall, also my mother Edith's picture at sixteen years as a dancer with 12 ladies and 12 men.

[47:58] But I have some of it too that... Yeah, there was a... When my dad... Well, I guess, Tom's dad, my husband, had a little thing he always... His father did to him was this [Norwegian language] . And then they go down with their knees. That was a lot of fun with our children. And then Daddy would always tell you Scott Scott the Rott and then there was Sip Sip Her Nip.

[48:50] And they... I guess they have a lot of children and got married. Oh, yeah, Scott Scott the Rott married Sip Sip Her Nip. And then they had children and Daddy would just go out laughing when he in tell and then they had children named Scott Scott the Rott, Scud Scudil m Rott. And then the other girls were Sip Sip her nip, Sip sonselium Sip . So that was always

kind of funny. He would tell about that. And then he'd just burst out laughing when he was saying it. Kind of cute.

[49:24] Tom's brother, [Dan], one time didn't tell my dad and didn't tell my Uncle Erik that he was recording them. He had this [recorder] in his lap. He was ten years old then and the things that they said and laughed at it was so funny. We have that yet to remember them by. I have my dad's voice and Uncle Erik's voice and [their stories were quite humorous].

[49:49] Another interesting thing were [the letters from America from the three young men who left Norway – Lauritz, Thomas and Oskar Nedrelid Lee. Their letters were] found up in the attic [in Norway] - old letters that the parents had kept. Thore and Berte Nedrelid had kept the letters from the children [who had gone to America] and daddy was one of their children. They would write home to their mother and dad often and all daddy puts on the end here is Tonka... I don't know if that is one but one of them says SS Tonka Alaska and he got mailed that way. [That was the name of the ship he was on].

[50:25] Can you imagine that? This one says Oscar Lee, Ferndale, Washington, Post Office - no number - Whatcom County. That's where they wanted them to send their letters. And then Lauritz wrote a lot. Lauritz landed in North Dakota. [He wrote home to Norway often as did Oskar. Lauritz changed his name to Lewis Lee and Oskar to Oscar Lee.]

Gordon: [50:44] These were you father's letters home?

Marguerite: [50:46] Right and what does this one say? Lauritz, he was Lauritz. He [homesteaded] in North Dakota. He had eight children there. In 1902, that's when he [Thomas] was in Alaska. That is all it says - Tonka, Alaska. So I guess that is the address [and I guess Dad got the letters from Norway under that address.]

[51:26] So, I thought that was so nice because they did write home to their parents. Daddy said he had the best parents in the world. He [said] one time when he was 11 years old he took his father's boat without permission and he went out on the water and he capsized. And when he capsized, he would have been lost but his cousin [Louie Engen saw what happened].

[51:59] He saw him... Louie Engen should have been a Nedrelid but he changed it to Engen. Anyway, he was his cousin and he saw him from his window and he saw this ship upside down. And he went out to help him. He brought a boat over and he saved my dad when he was 11 years old. And he said, when he came in, his dad and mother never spanked the kid.

[52:25] He never put... He said he never did anything like that but all he had to do was to look at his dad and see the disappointment in his eyes and that was enough to hurt my dad

Tom and he went to his room, I'm sure. But he said that was all that it took to see the disappointment in his dad's eyes. So he tried not to ever disappoint his dad again, he said.

Gordon: [52:50] Did he ever talk about how he felt when he left them? That must a bit hard for him.

Marguerite: [52:56] No, I don't remember him saying that but I saw that dear, cherished love that he had for his parents because I have the thing he wrote out about his life, I have that [in the Tom Lee file]. And, so he must have had a wonderful bringing up.

[53:19] They used to ski from the house down to the school. Of course, everything was homemade. Skis, they made everything they had. And, he had some... I know he told about his little sister, that he was rocking. And he told his mother, "My sister is all asleep now." And she was 18 months old, she was dead, she had died of pneumonia. And they lost, I think, two other children that way. Yes, I think there were two others that died early.

[53:59] They named one of them Berta Martia Nedrelid. She was born June 11, 1878, baptized July 7, 1878 and then died July 20, 1878. Then, the next child was the same name, Berta Augusta Nedrelid, who lived and had several children. And then there was another one... But it was usually from cold, I imagine, pneumonia. Something like that.

[54:32] I don't know if I put that up to show or not, that picture there that shows where my father came from. And his father [Thore] and his sister Anna took care of him until he died at 94, he was 94. This is a picture of my father that I have, when he got older .

[55:01] Let's see, what else do I have here? Put this up first, Tom, my son, prepared this. This is our trip to Norway that we had in 2006 and this is our itinerary. And then all the children, [Kristen and Katherine] and his wife, [Tina].

[55:21] This is Lillehammer, our cousins, [Svein and Mabel live] there. And I know I put something in here. Frogner Park, Vigeland. Left Kristen and Katherine [there also in Oslo].

Marguerite: [55:55] Yeah, we had that when we were over there. That was a nice work too, if I remember. And Tom went up Mt. Melson? Have you heard of Mt. Mels-?

Gordon: [56:06] Melshorn.

Marguerite: [56:08] What was it?

Gordon: [56:09] Melshorn.

Marguerite: [56:11] Melshorn, yeah. Mount Melshorn. My dad had gone up there, and my grandfather had gone up there. And so [son] Tom made it up there too. And there's a

picture of him here. [papers shuffling] There. And I took a magnifying glass to read what [the sign] says, "Hjørungavåg. Ålesund, 1994."

[56:41] Did you know that? That's what it says on there. Tom got on top of that [mountain]. There's a picture of him in here, I think of the three boys. It's probably back here. There they are [Thomas Anderson, Nils Petter Nedrelid, Nils Rise].

Gordon: [57:01] Those are your three sons?

Marguerite: [57:03] My son and his cousins.

Gordon: [57:06] Oh, they're cousins.

Marguerite: [57:07] They're second cousins.

Gordon: [57:12] The last thing well is in scenario...

Marguerite: [57:14] Mount Melshorn is] in Hjørungavåg, right down by Hareid, not too far from there. But it was nice that that many generations got to go up there.

[57:26] Now on my husband's side, he had a big family of nine children. And so Tom had made these little pictures of the family and some old pictures that he found of the family, too. That's kind of a nice thing to have.

Gordon: [57:48] Wonderful.

Marguerite: [57:49] Interesting for them.

Gordon: [57:51] Maybe you can talk a little about life in High Point, the community of Scandinavian... mostly Swedish and Norwegians. Did the Swedes and Norwegians get along OK?

Gordon: [58:01] Could we pause for one second and I'm gonna...

Part 2 of 2

Gordon: [0:04] Would you tell us about your life with your dad in High Point?

Marguerite Anderson: [0:08] OK. My father was the only Norwegian up there besides Henry Fosse. All the rest were Swedish people. They got along just wonderful. [laughs] There were always little jokes, of course. There always is. We had a little church and we had a little school, and that's quite similar to White Horn. Just everybody knew everybody and looked out for each other. [0:37] I had a lot of good experiences in High Point with the school kids. We had a schoolroom that was only about, well, we made it into two rooms.

Lydia Bouchard [was our teacher]. I have her little writeup in my autograph book, too. I used to go and wash her hair, I remember. She was a very friendly lady [and a good teacher].

[1:03] And we had that one teacher, and we learned a lot in that school, especially the main things that you have to learn, like about George Washington, Lincoln, all of our presidents and things that I don't know if they stress so much now. And then we would go to school. We could go on the bus, or we could run the three miles to school if we missed the bus. That's happened to me.

We had an awful flood in 1931. Daddy's donkey came down from the hills up in the mountain. He was a worker in the logging camp up there. Years before, I used to go up there. Daddy would want me to be taken care of in the daytime, so I'd go up to the logging camp and stay, and sometimes overnight because Dad would have to stay there and get up and get to work at 4: [1:36] 30 in the morning. And he only got \$4.50 a day. He worked about 18 hours.

[2:17] So I would get to go on the speeder down from there, and then he would get a family to take me in while he was working up there, until he could get home. So I got a lot of experiences with all this lumber. They put me on top of that. And then there would be these fellows that would help me and get me down from the mountain. But this one day was a terrible flood, and his donkey came down. A donkey engine operated to cut the timber down, and he was the operator on that. And it came down. Well, it landed close to a house, but the house was lost. The bottom part just floated down to Issaquah.

[3:05] It was a terrible flood. And the Johnson family was in it, and they had, Gunnar and Knut and Hazel. They had four children, and little Gosta was drowned with his dad. And Daddy got there. He heard a cry. He heard Mrs. Johnson crying, and he got up. It was three o'clock in the morning. I said, "Where are you going, Daddy?" He was getting on boots clear up to his hips, because that's the way he had to go. And he dragged Mr. Johnson out, he and Mr. [Ivar] Alme, who was a friend from Norway that had come to work with Daddy.

[3:41] And so he went down there, and Gosta was drowned, and then the father was still warm but he [Dad] dragged him out. And then little Hazel was on his arms like this when they found her. And she's still my friend. I write to her all the time. She's still living. Mrs. Johnson lived. She was upstairs. And Gunnar lived because he was upstairs. Knut made it. He made it, too. But that was a sad time, for the father and son to both be lost.

[4:19] The whole Highway 10, you know, that area, it was all washed out. Of course, they don't have that now, that goes right over where the mill was, where the water and the mill were. They don't have the mill there [but Highway 10 is there now].

[4:32] But, we couldn't get to school. We couldn't even get down to the road, there was no road, there was nothing. So we were out of school for a while until they could repair things. But that went down in history, that terrible flood, it was 1931. It's probably in the archives of Issaquah [history], probably, a lot about that.

[5:02] Music has been one of my, I don't know, just childhood memories. I always liked music a lot. Now I still do, I play my accordion at nursing homes and [SAGE events], but I don't like to give it up. It's awful heavy, though. [SAGE is a senior club I belong to.]

Gordon: [5:22] Strand: When did you learn accordion?

Marguerite: [5:25] Up in Beacon Hill there was a man name Giuseppe Baltrama and he was a friend of Pietro Deiro, which was the greatest accordionist in the world. And he said, "You know, I've got Pietro Deiro's accordion here, would you like to buy it?" And I said, "Sure." So I got a beautiful concert accordion from him. I gave it to a blind boy years ago, I've had several other accordions. But he [Baltrama] gave me lessons, I think five or six, I couldn't afford any more. I couldn't afford any more and so I quit. [5:59] It was like piano. When I was 11, Dad could afford one year. In High Point I started taking it, then it went up to a dollar and a half, I think or something. Made it too much for him, because he made \$4.50 a day at that time. So I just learned the accordion by myself after those lessons. I hadn't gotten training on the bass yet, but I kind of just picked it up. And I'm glad I did.

[6:26] I told Daddy when I got up to Alaska, please send my accordion up. And he did, he sent a big trunk [with the typewriter] and my accordion. Well, luckily I took my accordion out before I sent that trunk back, because I had my trunk filled with my clothes and my valuable books and my love letters and everything and it went down with the [Battleship] Juneau. I guess mines or something blew it up. I never got my trunk back. But that's the way it goes.

[7:02] See I didn't take it with me when I first got on the boat, I couldn't. And these people were my friends that I'd taken in, because the Aleutians were going to be evacuated. And they just took the boats and let people off on docks here and there, "You know, make it yourself, do what you can."

So the churches got busy and we took in families. I took in a family of five. And then I took in the Mercurief boy, they had 12 children. They just put them on docks here and there, Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines and, to make their own way.

Gordon: [7:45] Were these native Alaskans?

Marguerite: [7:47] Well they were Aleutians. But I took in another family too. He was in the service -- and his wife had no place to go and neither her mother and her brother and

then her child. But there were five of them that I took in. And then I took Alex Merculief, too. But I don't know. You'll go up to Fairbanks and you'll go in the museum and you sit down they'll have a TV on, you'll just have to press [a button], and you'll get the whole story about how they treated the Aleutians.

And the Merculief girls will come on. There were three beautiful girls that the church members took in and we were warned not to let them out at night. I mean, they were that beautiful. And now they're 90 years old and they're up there telling their story. And I was so surprised, I turned it on and here were the Merculief girls and they were telling how horrible they were treated.

[8:50] They put them off in camps where there were no facilities for bathrooms or anything. It was just really [horrible]... That's a good history to listen to; those people, how they were treated.

Gordon: [9:05] Were they all brought to Juneau or [overlapping discussions] ?

Marguerite: [9:07] Well they were afraid of being bombed like they did Adak. They were afraid the Aleutians were getting bombed so they just evacuated them. [9:15] There was nothing prepared when that war broke out. The boys up in Juneau were so sick, and in Anchorage also. There was the 200 boys they sent up to Alaska. And they had no facilities, just tents, during that winter of '41. It happened December 7th and they sent the boys up right away with no facilities, hardly.

[9:40] The same [thing happened] when they made the Alaska Road in 1942. I was on the battleship Juneau at that time. Marion and I, the only girls, and there were 200 boys. They were sending them up to make the Alaska Road. And they let them off there in Valdez.

[9:56] And the boys had almost gone crazy because we had to be out on that water for 11 days before we could get General [Simon Bolivar] Buckner to come and show with periscopes where the mines were [located]. Because there were mines all around there and outside of Valdez and the Pacific Ocean. But we had to wear life jackets all the time while we were on that boat, because we never knew when we would have to jump or be exploded.

[10:27] Anyway there were 200 [boys]. And I entertained with the piano, we had the piano onboard, and they would show us their pictures of their wives and children and girlfriends. So we tried to entertain them while we were waiting. We couldn't use water; we had no food. They weren't prepared for more than two and half to three days, between Juneau and Valdez or Seward, yeah, Seward and then to Juneau.

[11:06] But, those boys went off and I felt so sorry for them. Because some of them just grabbed my arm and said, don't let them take us. And those boys died on that road, making that road - many of them. They had crosses put up for many of them that died. I don't know which ones died. I know two boys that died, that I took in on Christmas. Because they liked to be with children, and I had this children's home. So I'd always invite boys up. It was kind of sad [to lose so many young men].

[11:44] And then they gave the wrong serum at one time in Anchorage and Juneau and the boys got yellow fever. I went and visited them in the hospitals in these forts that they were in. Kind of sad.

[11:59] I played the accordion on the streets at night. Then these fishermen would come up and say they're Norwegian fishermen, you know, and they asked me if I could sing something in Norwegian. So I knew some songs in Norwegian, too, and so I sang Norwegian songs to them.

[12:24] Then they started to give me money, like \$5.00 here and \$5.00 there. And I said, no I don't take money. And they says, "well, we know what you do" and so they give me money.

I never got a bill from a dentist or a doctor up there. And I had the doctor many a night for my son David, because he was sick so much. I'd go out [12:35] two o'clock in the morning and wake up Doctor Rood, because I didn't know if [baby David] he'd live or not for six months. But, never a bill. And I asked Fredrick Fredrickson, he was the dentist, why I never got a bill. He says, "Well, I know what you do. I don't do that to missionaries."

Gordon: [13:07] So, were you associated with the Salvation Army through them?

Marguerite: [13:09] They wanted me to join in Anchorage because I worked with them. And I went to their meetings and they wanted to dress me up. I kind of didn't go for it because my life was so uncertain, what I was going to do, and I didn't want to get entangled with something I couldn't finish. Then I had to leave Anchorage anyway. I had to get back to Juneau and start my children's home. But I went up to Anchorage to work for the Area Engineers-the War Department, you know, and I got a job. I took short hand and typing and stuff like that. Typed 13 copies at a time. [13:48] General Buckner would come in. I was the only one that could take shorthand so he didn't want me to leave. And then he sent Howard Miller, my first boss, down to Juneau, clear out to the children's home. How he ever found me, I don't know. We were seven miles out towards Mendenhall Glacier. He came out there and had money he was going to give me, so much money if I would come back because General Buckner needed a secretary. [laughs]

Gordon: [14:17] Oh yeah.

Marguerite: [14:18] He had three ships ahead of us to get us out of those mines, too.

Gordon: [14:30] Oh my.

Marguerite: [14:31] He's the one that saved our lives, probably. He knew how to find the mines with whatever he had, whatever scopes he had. What I went to Anchorage for was to make some money, or to find somebody. They had no children's home in Anchorage, so I thought I could start one there. Well, we got one started out in Palmer and that's who took my children. [14:58] Because my dad wanted me to come home. But I made enough money. They double-raised me in one month there at that Area Engineers. And I got 350 dollars a month. That was a lot. I started out at about 150, or so. Anyway, we worked overtime, too, though and into the night. So I had enough money to start my own home, but I didn't have enough for rent. And the rent was 25 dollars a month.

[15:34] Above the Baronoff, I had 167 stairs, now it's 176, they've made more stairs, but I went up them not long ago. I was 89 then, close to 90. And I went clear to the top and two guys saw me and they says, "How old are you, anyway?" [laughs] It was kind of funny. But I wanted to go. Lee Johnson, my friend, she wouldn't do it. She stayed down below and waited for me. But I was determined to go up to see that house. They let me in. I got to see the house again; very lovely people living there.

[16:14] I had to go home to my dad because he was alone and I needed to get back home. So, I took my baby back home with me. Then, I married when the baby was two and a half. So that all worked out. I don't know if daddy was real reluctant to have me bring a baby home in those days, you know. Anyway, I'm glad I did.

Gordon: [16:48] So, in kind of summing up, in a way, what values do you think you inherited or that you can identify with your Norwegian heritage?

Marguerite: [16:59] Well, I think I'm very stubborn. That's what I was told all my life. It kind of helped me go through life, though. I mean I was determined, if I made up my mind, there was nothing [that could change me] and if I believed something was right, you couldn't change me. It was pretty hard. I know one time I wanted to be baptized in immersion and my Lutheran friends came and they told daddy, "She was baptized already." You don't need, you'd better stop this. They all came down to the campgrounds in Lake Sammamish. We had Strandvik. It's a name, Strandvik. Swedish mission people started it. [17:53] And Dad says, "No, Marguerite has her own mind. I couldn't change it." So, anyway that's. I don't know, maybe that's just a trait or something. But, if I'm determined I'll go through with it. Believe me. Just like going to Alaska and leaving daddy and going up there. That was something I had to do. Just something I had to do. I don't know.

[18:30] We hold reunions all the time. When I was first born, I was stillborn. And the doctor worked over me until I could breathe on my own. But he had told mother, already, I was stillborn. But, here I am. [laughs]

[18:52] Brownsville was my first home. Yeah. I sold that land though. I don't have it. I had the privilege of staying with a lot of my relatives. So, I got acquainted with my cousins, which is so nice, I think, to know your [kin].

[19:11] Out in Brownsville, I got to stay with the Liasets. Nels Liaset was daddy's double cousin. And I kept in touch with Ferndale too, of course.

[19:32] I'm going to see if there's anything else. I enjoy the Sons of Norway meeting here, as far as community is concerned. We have Sons of Norway meetings twice a month, because I'm on the board. And so, I go twice a month.

[19:51] We have 17th of May festival. We go to Ballard and have the festival there, and take walks; long walks. [laughs] I walked with the Queen of Iceland one time. One time, I went into [Mel] Bellerud's 1931 Chev. I was in the rumble seat with a couple of grandkids. I've done that a couple of times.

Gordon: [20:20] You can come and walk with the museum sometime. Well, we've done that every year too. In the parade, you mean?

Marguerite: [20:25] Yes. Oh, yes. They're there. And then you get to see your friends. And then we meet down where they can have something to eat at the end of the walk. We meet there. It's quite a walk. It's nice. [20:43] And then we also have Auburn Days. We call it Auburn Days. And they participate, the Sons of Norway, in that. And go down in some cars. Mr. Bellerud still has his 1931 Chev. And he still participates and does that. He's here today, too. He's in another group.

Gordon: [21:06] Have you ever had a bunad?

Marguerite: [21:08] Yes, I did. They made it. It took them two years to make. A beautiful Ålesund Sunnmore bunad. I loaned it to somebody. And I was trying to get [my grandchildren] Mike and Casey on the plane, that day. And I was really pressed for time. And so, this friend, she wanted to use it for Auburn Days, for the parade. And so, I loaned it to her. I thought it was her son I gave it to on the street, but it was not her son. I never got it back. That was a \$2,000 loss, there.

Gordon: [21:49] Oh, my.

Marguerite: [21:50] Yeah. That was too bad. Because I lost the solje [broach or pin] and I lost the little pocket [or purse] that goes with that, too; that my grandma had from Norway.

[22:05] Anyway, I had one made. But, it's just kind of an everyday one. But, I use a bunad when we have our Heritage Nights and various things. So, I have that. But. Well, we advertised on TV for it. And People Helping People tried to help me get it back. Evidently, they wanted it.

[22:33] I've been to various places to see if it's there, like Leavenworth and Ballard. What would anybody want it for?

Gordon: [22:42] I know. I mean, what would...?

Marguerite: [22:45] Yes. But this man looked just like Tim. I said, "Are you Tim?" and he nodded like he was. And he says, "OK." I said, "Give it to your mother." Because she was going to use it in the parade. So, that's what happened there. [23:07]

Now, we have a granddaughter in Alaska that loves music, too. She took up piano. Now, I gave her my accordion. [My husband Arnie gave her his guitar. Our son Daniel bought her a ukele. She plays piano and sings]. So, she's active in music.

[23:39] Yeah, my dad, even after he lost his hand, he built a couple of houses.

Gordon: [23:44] That's amazing.

Marguerite: [23:47] Yes, it is. We went up to the old stua in Norway. And that's where my father was born. And it's down now. [We cold stand on the foundation of the stua in 2006]. And we just went in there. It had been taken down [a few years ago]. But I'd been in it many times. They had the dishes in the kitchen up and down like this instead of straight up. They had their...

Gordon: [24:30] Oh, yeah.

Marguerite: [24:31] ..kind of.in little corridors, I don't know what you'd call it. But, that was the kitchen. And then they had a birthing room for the mother. And then they had one other room. And then upstairs they went up on, just on a ladder, where the ten kids slept. [24:54] I found a lot of interesting things there. They gave me the old [church hymnal]. But, it's a book they take to church and they sing out of, all the songs. I got two of them. I gave one to Clarence, my cousin. [That one belonged to Thore Nedreliid. I've got Anna's. We saw the little wooden cradle and the crib my father slept in as did the other siblings. These were made by Thore].

Gordon: [25:15] I think this is maybe a good spot then to stop for today.

Marguerite: [25:20] OK.

Gordon: [25:21] And I'm wondering... [tape stops and then starts]

Marguerite: [25:24] My father had a recipe book in Norwegian. It never had directions how to put the stuff together, all the different ingredients. And so I asked him, "Well, how come there aren't any directions here how to put them together." He says, "Well, everybody in Norway knows how to put them together. The girls learn from their mothers." [laughs] [25:49] So, they just had the recipe [no instructions] ... [laughs] . I went by that recipe book a lot. And I didn't know how to cream. It says, cream the sugar and butter. And so, I would put cream in it .I was only 12. And it got so tough, that cake. And I thought, well I can't make that cake. It's going to be tough. So, I made cookies out of it and added more flour.

[26:14] And they were so hard you could hardly bite into them. And my dad never said a word. He never complained. He ate them.

Gordon: [laughs] That's great [26:22] .

Marguerite: [26:25] Good old dad. [cuts off]

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