

LS 0094 – LS 0095

Ivar Johnson

Ivar Johnson: Det var en 40 tunnland öppen åker, och skog. Så det var en liten gård - You know. Det var en liten gård.

L: Men det var bra åkerjord.

Ivar: Det var bra jord, jajamensan. Så - när jag väl kom hem - då min bror var hemma då. Då hade han gått hem efter. Jag blev gift här i Cleveland, se. Min bror gick hem och tog gården efteråt.

L: Var Din bror här också?

Ivar: Ja. Han var i Amerika när jag arbeta på gården. Ja.

L: Säger Du det!

Ivar: Jag var ju 16 år då.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: And jag arbeta. Min mamma och jag, vi kom gott överens. Hon klarade det bra. Hon ville inte göra det. Hon sa jag var för ung. "Du är för ung" sa hon. "Det går inte". "Med Din hjälp" sa jag. "Vi kan klara det, Du och jag".

L: Jaha.

Lennart Setterdahl: Jag sitter tillsammans med Ivar Johnson; i Mayfield Hights, Ohio. Han var född den 22 november 1898, i Högström, på Öland. Han blev emigrant 1922.

Idag är det den 19 juli 1985.

Innan vi går in på Amerika-tiden, så vill jag att Du berättar lite grand om när Du växte upp - i Högström. Hur gammal var Du när Du började hjälpa pappa ute på åkern?

Ivar: Well jag var tio år gammal när min pappa dog. And; han var bara sjuk en tre dar. Han fick nog 'en slag; ett slag.

L: Han var inte gammal då?

Ivar: Han var 46 år bara.

L: 46 år. Han hade aldrig varit sjuk?

Ivar: Han hade aldrig varit sjuk. Han hade vart här i Amerika för tre år och kommit hem och jobbat på gården. Han hade - dom hade vad vi kallar en inn - en jästgivargård, på Stora Rör. And när jag var ett år gammal så hade dom en olycka där det huset brann opp. Men det var ju ingen brandkår. Det var ju ingen brandkår till 'ta vara på det där, så den gick, se. Det var en fru och en herre som bodde nästa dörren, dom hade två små barn; men dom har lämnat dom ensammen hemma - and, dom hade en spis som, var lite i, det var papper and det tog eld i den där lille kåken där se. And så gick den över till det stora huset, var min far och mor bodde. Så hon hade bara då tid och .. ta vara på mig och springa ut därifrån, så gick taket ner, and alltihopa. Så: då sluta han där, min far där på gården; på den gästgivargården där. And så gick han opp och köpte en annan gästgivargård i Isgärde and den hade vi för många, många år, se. And min bror kom hem from America and han byggde om stora huset. Ladugården, ladan, den hade jag 'tatt' vara på innan jag kom hit! Så det var nya 'ladugård i ordning, sedan.

L: Så Du skötte om sådana saker!

Ivar: Jag arbetade på det, ser Du.

L: Du var bara 15 16 år.

Ivar: Jag var 16 år. Så. Det var mycket arbete förstår Du. But jag visste inte det att det var så bra för mig 'te göra det. Course jag hade ordnat med det dära. 'En arbetade, ser Du, från tidigt på morgon till sent om kvällen.

L: Så Du fick lära Dig tidigt att använda hammare och såg och sådana saker.

Ivar: Jag learned that over there.

L: Pappa lärde Dig det då?

Ivar: No. I skolan.

L: I skolan.

Ivar: I skolan tog de vara på det ser Du. Man fick gå där slöjdskola. And arbeta med Det, förstår Du, and göra flera olika möbler: stolar och bord och sådant - You know. And vi hade en lärare då se. Men det var inte compulsory, det var frivilligt. But det var vid sidan skolan, You know. Vi sluta skolan vid klockan tre, sen gick man på slöjden till klockan fem och sex!

L: Jaha. Gården var 40 tunnland, sa Du.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Hade ni många djur?

Ivar: Ja vi hade sex kor.

L: Ja. Och Du fick sköta om dem också?

Ivar: Ja. Min mamma och jag. Hon fick mjölka korna och separera mjölken, You know - and göra smör och sälja alla grejerna. For in till Kalmar och sälja alla varorna, som ägg.

L: Sälja, då?

Ivar: Ja. På färjan. Det var båt. Det var båt, det var ingen färja. En båt from Stora Rör och den gick på stora Rör och Borgholm, You know.

L: Ni åkte en gång i veckan då?

Ivar: Ja, hon gjorde det. Min mamma. Jaha.

L: Stod hon på torget?

Ivar: Ja. Hon stod på torget i, där, i Kalmar. Men, sen; när jag växte opp och - You know - 'blitt' lite mera - kom underfund med hur det går till det där. Sen gick jag in själv, se. And jag kunde ha spannmål med mig. Då gick jag till spannmålsbolaget där, You know, aktiebolaget and then köpte spannmålen ser Du för mig. And; dom, dom var så snälla dom gubbarna inne på kontoret, så de just skratta och var glada när dom såg mig där. De tog vara på mig ser Du.

L: Hur bar Du Dig åt när Du skulle sälja spannmålen. Då fick Du köra med hästen ner till båten?

Ivar: Ja väl vi körde ner till båten ser Du. Så tog vi 'spannmåln på båten in till Kalmar. Dom tog det av båten, förstår Du, and så fick jag gå opp på kontoret och säga; så här mycket, förstår Du. Då tog dom ett prov utav spannmålen se.

L: Kvaliteten.

Ivar: Ja. And se hur gott det var förstår Du and så vidare. Sen vägde dom det. Dom tog vara på det. Det var vete och råg, och havre.

L: Så Du körde, och sålde då?

Ivar: Ja till Kalmar.

L: Så Du hade full kommers.

Ivar: Ja. Jag hade mycket arbete.

L: Ja det förstår jag.

Ivar: På sätt och vis - det var Bra för mig.

L: Men Du var ju inte mer än tolv tretton fjorton år när det här hände. Var Du stor och stark för Din ålder?

Ivar: I was healthy - You know. Jag var stark.

L: Du nämnde här nyss att pappa hade varit i Amerika i tre år. Det var innan Du var född.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var hade Han varit någonstans?

Ivar: Han var överallt: from östra kusten till den Västkusten. Han stanna ingenstans. Lite här och lite där. And han var aldrig tillsammans med några svenskar.

L: Inte det?

Ivar: No. Han kom inte ihåg att han mötte 'nån svensk even. Så när han kom hem, ser Du -

L: Vilket år var Det? På 19-?

Ivar: Han kom hem in the 18 ... 78, something.

L: Åh var han så pass tidigt över där!

Ivar: Jaa. Så, han kom hem.

L: Han var inte sjöman?

Ivar: No. No.

L: Nej.

Ivar: Så han 'kund' tala engelska och skriva engelska ser Du när han kom hem. Där i tre år.

För han kom aldrig in contact med svenska folket.

L: Vad hade han haft för arbeten?

Ivar: Han hade olika arbete. Han hade ett arbete, jag kommer ihåg, han körde runt med en häst, förstår Du, för 'en company där. I don't know if it was in S:t Paul, in Minnesota - You know, up through there. And så hängde han då de hära jalousierna se, and spika opp dom och skruva. You know. Då hade dom såna Companies som brukar göra det.

L: Var det Venetian Blinds, eller något liknande?

Ivar: Ja. Ja.

L: Jaha Du. Så - sådant arbete gjorde han. Sedan åkte han hem till Sverige.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Så - sen åkte han hem till Sverige.

Ivar: And han höll på så han kommer ut till Västkusten, You know. And sen, of course, så blev han lonesome för hemma. Han hade ju mamma hemma. But; dom var inte heta, but dom var 'goa' vänner och så och var förlovade och nånting. Så han blev trött på Amerika. Så kom han hem. Så när han kom hem - förstår Du. En massa amerikaner. På den tiden så var det en massa amerikaner, som reste runt i Sverige and dom kom till Öland. And var ever dom gick nånstans, så sa dom att: dom fick lov och gå och hälsa på min far, för han 'kund' tala engelska ser Du. Så han var mycket populär på den tiden, because: han kunde språka engelska, - and - dom var glada. Han skjutsa dom runt förstår Du för 'te se Öland, turistiskt, You know.

L: Så han kom tillbaka och gifte sig då.

Ivar: Han kom tillbaka och gifte sig.

L: Och tog den där gästgivaregården.

Ivar: Ja. Ja. På Stora Rör.

L: Du hade en bror till?

Ivar: Jag hade en bror: Thor. Thor.

L: Så han var äldre än Dig?

Ivar: Han var sex år äldre än jag.

L: Sex år äldre.

Ivar: Jaha. Jag var den yngste, se. Jag var den yngsta, and - så hade jag då tre syskon. Det var Salma, Agda and Alba, and Thor and Ivar. Vi hade en annan syster också; but hon dog.

Hennes namn var också Alba. Så then min mamma fick den tredje flickan, efter, Hon hade dött, då kallar henne Alba, också.

L: Så ni var tre systrar - och två pojkar.

Ivar: Jaa. But det var en som var - vi var fyra - så vi var sex.

L: Sex barn, och en dog.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Din äldre bror: Thor; eller Tor, som man säger i Sverige.
Ivar: Ja.
L: Hur gammal var han när han åkte över?
Ivar: Han var bara - let me see - 19 år.
L: 19 år.
Ivar: Ja.
L: Och Vart åkte han?
Ivar: Han kom hit before innan han 'exerade, se. Jag 'exerade hemma.
L: Jaså det gjorde Du.
Ivar: Jag var i armén. Ja. And; på Den tiden, and jag tror det är likadant ännu. Det är compulsory. Så; rika och fattiga
L: De går in i det - allihop.
Ivar: Ja.
L: Det är ett bra system.
Ivar: ja. And; genom att vi hade en gård, genom att vi hade en gård, jag kunde fått 'blitt ...
L: Frikallad.
Ivar: Frikallad se.
L: Men Du åkte in i alla fall.
Ivar: Ja. But jag tänkte på mina kamrater, You know. Så tänkte jag; nu säger dom: ""Nu är han hemma"". But; jag kunde - jag hjälpte till och försörja min mamma, but jag hyrde en man som tog tillvara på gården. Så gick jag in i armén.

L: Var var Du någonstans?
Ivar: I Visby.
L: Visby. Sex månader?
Ivar: Ja. Det var i kulsprutekompaniet in Visby. The Mashine gun company. It was 1919.
L: Tre månader?
Ivar: Oh no. I was in 18 'månar'.
L: 18 månader!
Ivar: Because det var krig, You know. 1914, kriget bröt ut. Ja.
L: Var Du hemma någon gång?
Ivar: Jag var hemma då, hela tiden, se. And arbeta på gården. Men så blev jag då gammal nog, så jag fick in i armén, se.
L: Hur många gånger kunde Du åka hem från Visby och besöka mamma? Inte någon gång?
Ivar: Jag var hemma en gång. That's all, på en vecka eller någonting.
L: Tyckte Du om det militära?
Ivar: Ja! Det var bra.
L: Det var bra.
Ivar: Ja, det var det.
L: Maten var bra?
Ivar: Maten var ganska bra.
L: Var det någon som klagade över det, när Du var inne? som var less på militärtjänstgöringen? Det var ju många som var rädda för det militära.
Ivar: Ja, ja det var.
L: Vad berodde det på, tror Du?
Ivar: Ja. Det var också bra för mig.
L: Så Du lärde Dig en hel del.
Ivar: Ja, because; 'exera, och det jag hade i gymnastik var bra. 'En marschera, förstår Du.
L: Så Du tyckte det var bra.

Ivar: Åh, Ja. Jag hade bra.

L: Dina kamrater, tyckte dom det också?

Ivar: Yes. Yes. Yes. Ja. Det

L: Det tog ett tag innan Du var igång med 'et då!

Ivar: Ja!

L: Fick ni göra manövrer varje dag!

Ivar: And jag ska tala om för Dig att; när jag kom hit and jag fick mina papper, så. (Här är dom). He asked me: He says: "Do You think You were a good citizen in Sweden"? I says: "Jag tror jag var. Jag tror jag var. Jag gjorde min värnplikt. Jag gjorde mina skyldigheter. And har arbetat på en gård. Jag tror, jag gjorde what was rätt". Så han sa: "Det är jag glad för. För hade Du inte varit en god man, när Du var hemma i Ditt gamla land, så kunde Du aldrig bli god här - 'hellre".

L: Det var ett bra betyg Du hade med Dig hemifrån.

Ivar: Så han just bara fråga mig ett par tre. Han fråga mig om vem som var the supreme court i the Unated States, You know. Så jag kunde inte det, at that time. And hes name was Howard Hubitz(?). He was the jugde in this supreme court. Then he asked me a few other questions, and then he okey-ed me. And then swered me in.

L: Sen var Du färdig för den amerikanska marknaden.

Ivar: Ja. Sedan, efter, när kriget bröt ut här i Amerika, så var jag då - jag tillhörde The New York State Guards.

L: Jaså!

Ivar: Jag was 43 år då.

L: Och de tog ut Dig i alla fall.

Ivar: Jag inlistades i The New York State Guards and that was in Long Island. I was there until I came here.

L: Du gjorde Din tjänstgöring på två olika ställen då: I Sverige, Visby, och på Long Island.

Ivar: I had no trouble to join the New York State Guards, because, they told me that. He says: "You have the military service before". "You've get the fundamental things, how to take care of Yourself, and Your country".

L: They didn't have to help You in.

Ivar: They didn't have to brake me in. I has broken in already, se.

L: Om vi går tillbaka till Din skoltid. Du gick och läste för prästen.

Ivar: Oh yes. Ja. Jaa. Jag hade två år i högskolan. Vad ska vi kalla't för?

L: Folkskolan.

Ivar: Ja. High school. Ja.

L: Och så gick du under sommaren, och läste.

Ivar: Ja. Det var på vintern se. Det 'had to bli på vintern.

L: På vintern!

Ivar: Ja.

L: Och det var för att; de hade inte tid att gå över sommaren?

Ivar: Ja. Because vi 'had min... less arbete då, på vintern. Så - då fick man gå på vintern. Det var inte länge; from klockan nio, till tre på eftermiddan. Sen hade vi då bokföringen, and -

L: Hur var det att läsa för prästen?

Ivar: Ja. Sedan jag läste för prästen i 1913.

L: Och det var i Högström?

Ivar: Jag tror det var.

- (Men för att vara på den säkra sidan så tittar Lennart i Ivars papper). -

L: Glömminge församling..

Ivar: Ja Glömminge ja.

L: Hette kyrkan Glömminge också?

Ivar: No no. Se jag var born i Högström. Glömminge kyrka. then Algutsrum. 'Di tog in dom två socknarna.

L: Så gick ni för samma präst.

Ivar: Ja, Vi hade möte i Algutsrum också. Vi fick gå där och sedan kom nästa vecka. Då kan det hända att vi var i Glömminge - You know.

L: När Din pappa dog, då var Du tio år gammal.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var Dina systrar äldre?

Ivar: En syster var. No dom var alla hemma då. En syster var i Norrköping. Hon com on på en affär där, för ett company.

L: Så alla högg i och hjälpte till.

Ivar: Ja. Sedan så reste hon till Amerika, sen så reste Tor, senare se. But då arrenderade dom bort gården, när Tor gick också.

L: Jaså de gjorde det.

Ivar: Ja. Då var jag ju tio år gammal, när min far dog.

L: Hur gammal var Du när ni fick gården tillbaka?

Ivar: När vi fick den tillbaka, då var jag 16 år.

L: 16 år.

Ivar: Ja. Då stanna jag hemma. Jag arbetade på gården för åtta år.

L: Jaså, åtta år.

Ivar: Ja åtta år. From 1916 till jag kom hit i 1922.

L: Din bror. Han skrev väl brev hem till mamma och talade om hur det var här?

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var var han någonstans i Amerika?

Ivar: Han var i Detroit.

L: Vad arbetade Han med?

Ivar: Ja Han arbetade med Ford. Han arbetade för Ford.

L: Jaså i fabrikerna där.

Ivar: Ja. Ford Motor Company.

L: Hur länge stannade han i Amerika?

Ivar: Han 16 år.

L: 16 år.

Ivar: 16.

L: Och då kom han tillbaka till Sverige?

Ivar: Då kom han tillbaka.

L: Vad berodde det på - efter så många år?

Ivar: Han köpte gården då - se.

L: Jaså han köpte gården.

Ivar: Han köpte gården, but han fick gården billigt, för han skulle ta vara på min mamma se. Det fick han lov och göra se.

L: Så Du gjorde ett byte med honom då?

Ivar: Nej, I was här i Amerika då, ser Du.

L: Jaha Du. När Du var hemma de där åren. Trivdes Du bra på gården? Du hade ju Din mamma, naturligtvis, men var det ett hårt arbete? Fick Du mycket betalt för mödan?

Ivar: Well. Vi klara oss. Det var ingenting.

L: Men; Du såg ingen framtid i det arbetet då?

Ivar: Nej jag tänkte: det är ingen idé 'te vara här hemma på den här lilla gården. Så tyckte jag om och se lite mera utav världen, innan jag gifte mig - or anything.

L: Du hade ingen fästmö hemma i Högström?

Ivar: Jag hade 'goa' vänner - ser Du. Ja det var en sång - i Sverige - på Den tiden - You know - när jag reste hit. And it says: "Med sakta steg jag bort från hemmet drog. Med tårfyllda ögon jag sista gången min vän såg" - and så vidare. När jag reste hit, jag lämna - and it was bedrövtligt! But You had to made up -

L: Du hade ju Din framtid att tänka på.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var det flera i Din ålder som åkte till Amerika? I konfirmationsklassen?

Ivar: Det var ett par tre som hade gått all redan. And - så gick jag. Så var det ett halvt dussin som kom, efter jag kommit hit.

L: Så - det fanns inga möjligheter att gifta sig, och -

Ivar: Det var dåliga tider i Sverige efter det kriget.

L: Men var det inte höga priser under krigsårena?

Ivar: No. det var inte.

L: Det var inte det?

Ivar: Nej. Det var bra under krigstiden - ja. But; när kriget sluta, så - ja - då -

L: Det var dyrt att köpa en ko under kriget?

Ivar: Ja, Du 'kund' köpa.

L: Och hästar var dyra.

Ivar: Ja, ja. Jag födde opp hästar också.

L: Säger Du Det!

Ivar: Yes - sure.

L: Var sålde Du dem?

Ivar: Det var unga hästar ser Du. Ja. And så sålde vi dom, ser Du.

L: Till hästhandlare?

Ivar: Ja. Jag fick bra betalt för dem; ganska bra. Det var inte så dåligt alltså.

L: Vad pratade ni ungdomar i bygden om - när ni var lediga och under lördags- och söndagskvällar. Pratade ni kring er framtid? Vad ni skulle göra om några år?

Ivar: No. Allt vi hade i huvudet, så var det om vi 'kund' gå till en dans, om de hade slädparti på vintern där. Var ute och körde med hästarna, och bjällror and åkte 'etter slädar. Och sen var det vi stoppa in nånstans. 'Di hade dans och kaffe, och så vidare.

L: Det var den enda planeringen. Så ni hade inga bekymmer då, så att säga?

Ivar: No. no.

L: Ni hade mat - och frisk luft.

Ivar: Oh yes. Sure.

L: Låg ni nära vattnet? Badade ni mycket?

Ivar: Var var jag född, - menar Du?

L: Ja.

Ivar: Det var nära Kalmar Sund.

L: Badade ungdomarna?

Ivar: Oh yes, sure!

L: Ni var simkunniga allihopa?

Ivar: Vi får gå och bada, and gick med 'flickerna ned till stranden. And; då så sa dom att: "Nu får Du gå över Där och ta 'å' Dina kläder. Vi ska gå över Där och ta av våra, och sen möter vi i vattnet"! And; då hade vi inga badkostymer. No. Så vi möttes i vattnet.

L: Kunde ni simma allihop?

Ivar: Ja, då simmade vi - ser Du.

L: Ni kunde simma allihop?

Ivar: Ja. Vi kunde simma allihop ja.

L: Det var många svenskar som inte kunde simma förr, vet Du.

Ivar: Det var många.

L: Men Du kunde simma och Dina kamrater kunde.

Ivar: Well; jag var ingen God simmare. Jag 'kund' klara mig.

L: Du klarade Dig i vattnet. Jaha. Ja det var fint där sommartid!

Ivar: Ja; - Så gick vi i land, förstår Du, och tog på våra kläder - and så möttes vi igen. Så gick vi hem tillsammans. 'Flicker och 'pojker.

L: Det var bekymmerslösa dagar. Inga bekymmer!

Ivar: No no. Det var nånting som vi inte tänkte på, förstår Du. No. Vi bara tänkte på hur roligt vi skulle ha och hur trevligt vi skulle ha det, ser Du. Vi hade inga bekymmer. Mesta folket så var dom tillsammans, en hel massa. De unga folket var tillsammans: jämt jämt. Vi gjorde våra egna ... vad vi säger .. nöjen.

L: Och de kostade inte mycket.

Ivar: And dom gamla folket kom och hälsa på oss och kom till dom där nöjena. Dom betalade se. Om vi hade en show, by ourselves, we made it up by ourselves, see.

L: Hade ni någon bildad förening?

Ivar: No.

L: Ni hade ingen studiecirkel.

Ivar: No no. Vi hade - it was common that the hole group of people got together and just let us put on a show for the elder people.

L: Jaha! Ni spelade teater.

Ivar: They paid us, mabee a quarter, or something like that, i inträde.

L: Var hade ni den föreställningen? I skolan?

Ivar: Ja, vi hade Godtemplarföreningen.

L: Godtemplarföreningen.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var Du med i Godtemplarna?

Ivar: Jag tillhörde inte Godtemplarna, because jag var för ung där. Jag even tänkte på att bli med Dom, se. But - when You got to be äldre, då kom jag hit då se.

L: Det var inga föreningar på trakten?

Ivar: No. No.

L: Men - Du hade ju bekymmer kring gården.

Ivar: Ja. Det var allt jag hade.

L: Men; jag menar: Du hade större bekymmer än andra ungdomar, vilka var hemmansägarsöner, om deras föräldrar levde. Dom hade det ju lättvindigare än vad Du hade.

Ivar: Det var ingen klasskillnad.

L: Inte det. Men; jag menar: Du gjorde Dig inga större bekymmer över sådant, utan Du var ute och lekte och hade Dina förlustelser.

Ivar: Ja. Ja. That's right.

L: Du fick ju bygga ladugårdar och ta hand om kor och hästar. Du fick sälja hästar.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Men; - Du gjorde Dig inga större bekymmer över det hela. Du låg inte sömnlös under nätterna?

Ivar: No. But Du arbetar så mycket på gården - and det var samma rutin varje dag, så Du blev trött på det, You know. Inte trött på 'gårn då. Vi måste arbeta. Vi klarade oss. Vi hade god mat, and jag arbeta hårt. Du var healthy, and Du var strong.

L: Du och mamma var ensamma då?

Ivar: Ja. That's it. Vi var ensamma hemma. Ja. Ja.

L: De andra åkte ut och gifte sig.

Ivar: Ja, det var bara jag och min mamma hemma då på den tiden se. Det var bara hon och jag. Så hon kom ner på gården där, You know och hon hade kaffe och smörgåsar och hon sätter sig ned och Jag stannar mina hästar. Satt i grönskan där och hade kaffe och smörgåsar och mådde bra. Hon skratta och hon var så trevlig, ser Du. Ja. Hon var så trevlig, min mamma där. När jag hade lämnat min gård, och hemma på gården där, så var dom unga vana vid 'te komma opp och hälsa på oss, se. And; dom var ute och cykla - You know. Efter jag hade gått till Amerika så var dom ute och cykla. Så säger dom då att; Let's gå upp och se Fru Johansson. Ivar är ju inte hemma, men vi kan ju få reda på hur han klarar sig där i Amerika, och så vidare. Så Dom kom opp, förstår Du. Då hade dom kaffe där och dom språka och skratta. And dom even - dom skrev brev 'te mig.

L: Så blev Du då Amerikaimmigrant. Var det brev ifrån Din bror som gjorde att Du fick lust på Amerika?

Ivar: Yes. Han hade 'vart hemma - jag tror det var två år före - hade han 'vart hemma. Han var gift då, så han var bara hemma och hälsa på några månader. Så - han tyckte jag 'skull' stanna hemma då - You know - och ta vara på 'gårn, and det gjorde jag. Men så blev jag trött på det. Så skrev han brev - ser Du - and - i Amerika var det mycket arbete då, på Den tiden.

L: Var det någonting speciellt han skrev i brevena som lockade Dig?

ivar: Well -

L: Skröt han om Amerika? Eller; vad sa han?

Ivar: Han tyckte bra om Amerika.

L: Han hade en bra plats.

Ivar: Han arbetade i snickeri, också, - se. Så kom jag över, förstår Du. Men när jag kom över. Jag tänkte inte stanna mer än bara fem år. Vi hade arrenderat bort gården, see, and jag skulle komma tillbaka.

L: Jaså Du gjorde förberedelser för att komma tillbaka?

Ivar: Jag 'skull' komma tillbaka, yes. And då arbeta jag, förstår Du, var jag kunde få de mesta pengarna. Jag spara mina pengar och så skulle jag resa hem sedan och ta gården 'tebaka igen, se.

L: Du talade om för mamma att Du skulle komma tillbaka.

Ivar: Ja. And ta vara på min mamma. Så - det var idén. Så jag fick bra arbete. Jag 'la' en massa golv.

L: Jaså golvläggare.

Ivar: Ja, golvläggare, and skrapa golvena. På Den tiden fick man skrapa golvena. På Den 'tin' fick man skrapa för hand, det var inga maskiner. Så de hade en hyvel, ser Du, som man får sträcka ut på golvet och dra 'tebaka igen och ta ett annat stråk. Och skrapa golvena se, för hand. Det är hårt arbete. Man fick ju ett par dollar mer, förstår Du, om dan. Så jag tog det arbetet!

L: Du ville tjäna pengar så fort som möjligt.

Ivar: Jag tänkte att: man är ju stark, så man kan ju hålla på med det här. Det är ju ingenting. Jag hatade och göra det, men det var pengarna som gjorde det.

L: Innan vi går in på Amerika. Berätta lite grand kring hur Du köpte biljetten. Du gick till prästen och fick ut Flyttningsbetyget till utlandet. Hur gick det till? Köpte Du biljetten i Kalmar.

Ivar: Ja. I Kalmar, yes.

L: I Kalmar.

Ivar: Hur gammal var jag?

L: Ja - Du var; 1922, Du var 24 år.

Ivar: 24, ja. 24 år.

L: Vad sade prästen när Du besökte honom och tog ut flyttningsbetyg? Var han van vid att träffa ungdomar som ville iväg?

Ivar: Han kunde ju inte säga någonting, because; lagen var, jag hade då fått kunglig tillåtelse till gå, så jag behövde inte krusa prästen, no. Jag hade ju 'skrevet 'te kungen, ser Du - and jag hade gjort min värnplikt. Så - jag rymde ju inte landet för jag skulle göra min värnplikt. Jag var ju färdig med den.

L: Du var ju fullt klar. Hur gick det för sådana som inte hade gjort värnplikten?

Ivar: En del rymde, ser Du.

L: Så de kunde inte få tillstånd?

Ivar: En del rymde innan dom skulle gå in till det. Dom åkte till Danmark and på Den tiden så kunde dom ju köpa en väst - ser Du.

L: Även på Den tiden, när Du åkte!

Ivar: Nej. Inte när jag åkte. Det var tidigare. Dom köpte en väst som hade alla papperena. Dom hade allting klart i den där västen, Ser Du.

L: Det kostade lite extra då?

Ivar: Det kosta mycket pengarna, men: danskarna, de visste hur 'te göra det.

L: Affärsmän!

Ivar: Ja. Så, de gjorde det. But; jag behövde inte göra det. Om jag skulle gå till Amerika, så skulle de nog få reda på vad jag hade gjort - and vad jag tänkte göra. Men nu hade jag betyg from Kungen att jag kunde gå, - ser Du.

L: Och pastor Arnell, han sa ingenting?

Ivar: Jag tog de första papperena där.

L: Pastor Arnell, han sa ingenting då, utan han gav Dig Ditt intyg.

Ivar: Ja, o ja. Han sa ingenting.

L: Vad kostade biljetten?

Ivar: 100 och 5 dollar.

L: Från Göteborg till New York?

Ivar: Ja.

L: Och det var Drottningholm?

Ivar: Ja. Nej det var Stockholm.

L: Stockholm.

Ivar: En gammal freight, Stockholm, and Vad väder vi hade. Oj oj! Vi hade förfärligt väder.

L: Åkte Du i slutet på maj, eller när åkte Du?

Ivar: Jag tror jag lämna. Jag tror jag lämna i Göteborg den 9 maj.

L: 9:e maj.

Ivar: Ja. Runt den 'ti'n. Men så kom jag hit, var tio dagar senare - and vi kom in på en lördag till New York - and det var sent på eftermiddagen, så vi kunde inte gå till Ellis Island. Vi fick lov och stanna på båten och stanna på söndan också. Så den gick ser Du innan vi kom över till Ellis Island. Så; på måndan så tog dom oss till Ellis Island and så spendade vi hela dan då.

Gick igenom the physical examination igen, You know.

L: Var det en noggrann undersökning?

Ivar: Ja, det var. Om det var nåt fel med Dig, ser Du, så sände dom Dig tillbaka.

L: Var det en del som fick åka tillbaka?

Ivar: Ja, det var det. Jag var ju ung och stark. And det var ju brist på folk 'te och arbeta i byggnadsbranschen.

L: Jaså, de frågade efter folk.

Ivar: Ja. Så dom kom där opp till båten, ser Du, byggmästare, and tog pojkarna. "Se, Du kommer och arbetar för mig".

L: Var det svenska byggmästare?

Ivar: Ja, de mesta svenska byggmästare se. But dom betala så lite, 4 dollar om dan, tror jag jag fick först in början.

L: Men då visste Du inte Vad det var för betalning.

Ivar: No. No. Så blev man då organiserad; och man tänkte sig då att man ska titta runt lite. Nu ska jag väl titta runt lite. Nu ska jag gå på nästa fritid jag har en dag, så ska jag gå och se om jag får bättre arbete och jag språka med byggmästarna. Så säger dom att: "Ja, Du kan komma och arbeta för oss. Det var bra att Du kom". Så: det var lätt då, ser Du.

L: Men innan vi kommer in i arbetslivet. Du såg Frihetsgudinnan från båten då?

Frihetsgudinnan; såg Du för första gången? I New York.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Både lördag och söndag kunde Du se Frihetsgudinnan.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Hade Du läst någonting om Frihetsgudinnan innan resan? Visste Du vad det var?

Ivar: Jag hade inte en aning om Vad det var.

L: Du såg den för första gången då ja.

Ivar: But they said; Du ska gå till Ellis Island.

L: Men det var inga svårigheter för Dig.

Ivar: No. Jag hade No svårigheter. No. No.

L: Men det var mycket folk där.

Ivar: Ja. Ja. Åh yes!

L: Åt ni någon måltid på Ellis Island?

Ivar: Va?

L: Åt ni någon måltid?

Ivar: Ja, de took oss med båt 'te Ellis Island.

L: Ja. Hade ni något att äta på Ellis Island?

Ivar: No, inte på Ellis Island?

L: Ingenting?

Ivar: No. Men 'di födde oss bra innan vi lämnade båten ser Du.

L: Och sedan, från Ellis Island, var tog Du vägen då?

Ivar: När jag kom till Ellis Island så var min bror med. Han var även med på söndan, men de låg i hamnen, så var min bror där. Han stod på bryggan och han kunde inte komma ombord. But; jag kunde ropa till honom där uppe på bryggan. And han sa "adjö" 'te mig på söndan. Så säger han det: "På måndag. I morgon. På Ellis Island".

L: Och han kunde komma över till Ellis Island?

Ivar: Han kommer till Ellis Island but från utsidan, barrikaden där, You know. Sedan, han kunde inte komma in till oss. Vi hade en lapp på oss, ser Du! And. Då. Vi hade en, vad 'di kallar, en huvudskatt. Vi fick betala.

L: På Ellis Island?

Ivar: Ja. På Ellis Island. Vi fick betala 9 dollar.

L: 9 dollar.

Ivar: Jaa. To komma in. And så fick vi lov och visa hur mycket pengar vi hade. Så vi inte kom och bli en börda till Amerika. Att vi var utan pengar och utan arbete. No no.

L: Fick Du tala om vem som skulle möta Dig, att Du hade en bror som stod och väntade på Dig?

Ivar: Ja. Han där.

L: Det hjälpte.

Ivar: Ja, det hjälpte ju, se. And då var jag bara här sex 'månar, själv, och så fick dom ett brev, förstår Du, om en bekant som kom ifrån Åland Island. Det var två pojkar. And; då hade dom alla redan rest till Cleveland; min bror och hanses hustru. Så; då så sa jag till min kusin. Jag bodde vid min kusin. Så säger hon: "vad ska vi göra med det här brevet, med dehär pojkarna, som kommer från Åland Island - and - dom kommer in till Ellis Island i morgon. Det är för sent och kalla dom och säga att vi kommer ner och möter. Så; vad ska jag göra. Vad ska vi göra" sa dom 'te mig. "Jag ska gå ner" sa jag "till Ellis Island själv och ta dom pojkarna ut där. Jag hjälper dom". Så - då så sa hon att "Ja, men" sa hon, "Du kan ju språka ganska bra, but det är inte gott nog till Dig att gå där och ta ansvar för dom pojkarna". Så sa jag: "men det är ju förfärligt att han inte kan få lite hjälp av någon att komma in till landet, när han har åkt så långt. Den unga pojken". Så jag gick ner, and - jag blev ansvarig för dom. Jag fick skriva på papper att jag får ta vara på dom, ser Du. And sedan fick arbete. And - det gjorde jag.

L: Du hade aldrig sett dem förut?

Ivar: Jag hade aldrig sett dem förut, ser Du. But; de var ju bekanta 'te min svägerska se. Släktingar. Hon kom från Åland Island. Jag tog dom, and - så hade dom då adresser för olika släktingar i Brooklyn. Så jag tog dom ut där, förstår Du. Dom ville gå där. Så jag tog dom ut till Brooklyn - and jag bar dom där kappsäckarna dom hade. Dom gick på vägen, och sedan ut där till Brooklyn. And vi fick tag i dom och dom sa att: "ja, det blir bra" sa dom"! "Dom kan stanna här. Dom kan stanna här" and dom fick stanna där och de sökte arbete för dom, se. Sedan: - två år senare så var jag i Cleveland, också, se. And - en morgon - en söndagmorgon - så var det en automobil som stanna utanför and - det var en pojk som kom ut ur bilen. And han fråga mig. Han hade fått adressen. Så: **Då** var det en utav dom pojkarna! Dom arbeta i Columbus. And han körde bil! Så - han gjorde bättre. Jag spara mina pengar, men han köpte en bil för sina, en nice bil. And han kom opp och hälsa på mig, och tacka mig **så** för vad jag hade hjälpt dom med from Ellis Island.

L: Så dom kunde komma in i landet, ja.

Ivar: Ja.

L: I Ditt fall. Du åkte till Din bror och bodde hos honom i Brooklyn då.

Ivar: Ja ja.

L: Hur länge dröjde det innan Du fick ett arbete? Hjälpte Han dig till arbete?

Ivar: ja, han hjälpte mig.

L: Var han snickare?

Ivar: Ja, han var snickare.

L: När Du nu kom ifrån Sverige - var Du snickare?

Ivar: Vål. Jag hade hjälpt till och bygga mina lagårdar därhemma, så jag visste om och såga, och spika - och så vidare - You know. Jag var quick made, ser Du.

L: Du hade inte gjort någon inredning - or finishing?

Ivar: Yes.

L: Du hade gjort det också?

Ivar: Ja. Rothman.

L: Timmerman.

Ivar: Ja, timmerman.

L: Hur gick det till när Du fick det första arbetet? Gick Du ut på en arbetsplats då? Du nappade inte på de där byggmästarna som kom in på båten under söndagen och sa: "Jag vill ge Dig arbete"? Du sa att på båten, under söndagen, när den låg i New York,

Ivar: Ja.

L: så kom det in byggmästare.

Ivar: No. They didn't come down there until we came till Ellis Island, we was through the Ellis Island. Then, when we came down there, on the ferry, 'tebaka from Ellis Island; that's the time they were there.

L: Det var Då de kom in. Jaha.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Var det några präster och mötte er? Som hjälpte er till rätta eller så?

Ivar: No.

L: Men Du hade Din bror där, förstås.

Ivar: Ja, han hjälpte mig. Sure. And jag gick med honom, förstår Du.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: Men det första arbetet jag hade var in The Riverside Drive. Han arbetade där ser Du.

L: Som snickare?

Ivar: Ja. Som snickare.

L: Du var med honom då.

Ivar: Jag var med honom. Men till början, dom första dagarna, så fick man 'var', som man säger; en 'labor', see.

L: Ja ja.

Ivar: Så man stod och hängde utanför fönstrena. Då sände dom opp - då var det En på den andra våningen - You know. Och då när man såg dom där 2 by 6, 2 by 8 are coming up, then You rased it up to the next guy.

L: Det var Ditt arbete.

Ivar: Ja, det var mitt arbete. 4 dollar om dan. And sedan mjölka dom där plankorna opp, hela dan, from 8 till 4.30.

L: Skrek snickarna och levde där?

Ivar: 'Di tyckte jag var strong!

L: Det var inga svårigheter för Dig?

Ivar: It was no problem.

L: Men senare kom värmen då fram i juli.

Ivar: Ja. Dom tyckte det var hårt arbete. Jag tyckte: "det är ju ingenting, det här"!

L: Var det hög hastighet på arbetet? Arbetade dom fort?

Ivar: Yes.

L: Dom gjorde det?

Ivar: Yes, det gjorde dom. And jag arbetade fort och bra. För förmannen, förstår Du, han hade en massa pengar i fickan. Så - om han tyckte att Du inte gjorde nog förstår Du så betala han av Dig, You know.

L: Säger Du det!

ivar: Yes. Om Du bara arbetar 2 timmar - på morgon.

L: Och han inte tyckte om dem, så betalade han mindre?

Ivar: Yes. Han tyckte väl om Dig, men Du kunde inte arbeta fort nog för honom, se. I didn't have that problem, no.

L: Du var ett steg före!

Ivar: I was!

L: One step a head!

Ivar: Yeh, one step a head.

L: Men; det var ingen svårighet för Dig att göra så, för det var fem andra som ville ha jobbet.

Ivar: Yes, that was it.

L: Och det var många svenskar som stod där.

Ivar: Oh - no. Det var inte många svenskar, som jag minns där. But det var andra utlänningar - You know. Det var Greeks and Italians, and -

L: Du började att spara pengar då. Hur länge höll Du på med detta arbetet?

Ivar: Va?

L: Hur länge höll Du på med det arbetet, med Din bror?

Ivar: Det var inte länge. Han gick till Cleveland, I think.

L: Säger Du det! Då blev Du ensam.

Ivar: Så då blev jag ensam där. Men jag bodde med min kusin and hanses fru.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: Ja. Carlson. Det var - min mammas Nephew. Carlson.

L: Jaha. Så då fick Du söka eget arbete.

Ivar: Ja. Han höll på med floor .. golv - ser Du.

L: Det var på Så vis.

Ivar: Ja. Då blev jag intresserad i golv.

L: Och det var mera betalt?

Ivar: Jaa, fick mera betalt.

L: Vad fick Du om dagen då?

Ivar: Jag fick - Jag tror jag fick .. let me see: 9,50.

L: 9.50!

Ivar: 9.50 ja om dan. But; vi arbeta fem och en halv dag - i veckan. Så det blev ju ganska bra, 49.50.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: And - sedan - så när man brokade in, vad vi säger, 'en kunde ju. Då fick jag 2 dollar mera.

L: Se där ja. Och det var att göra för hand?

Ivar: Oh yes. Skrapa golv.

L: Var det gamla golv eller nya?

Ivar: Nya golv.

L: Jaså nya golv.

Ivar: Men vi skrapa gamla golv också, oj oj oj! Men - det var pojkar som kom in och såg oss arbeta med det där, ser Du. "We wouldn't göra det" sa dom, "om de gav 50 dollar om dan"!

L: Jaså var det så jädrigt.

Ivar: Ja. Det var tuf, ser Du.

L: Då vet Du hur många spikar som fanns i bräderna!

Ivar: Yes yes.

L: Vad gjorde ni då när ni körde och spikhuvuden stack upp överallt?

Ivar: Ja vi had to set the nails. But den nästa spik som skulle gå in, så satte vi den på den spiken som Du hade och then give another rap, so they went in to the wood good se. Annars så kommer nästa plank inte opp.

L: Vad var det för slags virke? Var det marple?

Ivar: Ja, det var marple, and oak.

L: Marple and oak.

Ivar: Ja. Oak. Det var hårt - ser Du.

L: Var fick Du mest ont? I axlar, armar eller i knäna?

Ivar: Man blev starkare och starkare, se. För det var arbete; man får bända över and ner the floor and then resa opp again, - and lay out it. We laid out the hole room.

L: Du gjorde .. hela golvet?

Ivar: Ja ja sure.

L: Jaså jag trodde Du slipade bara?

Ivar: No no. Vi 'la' golvet först. And skating rinks then, and things like that.

L: Oj oj. Det var mycket det!

Ivar: Oh, big. 25.000 meters in this skating rink.

L: And - they wouldn't do it for 50 dollars!

Ivar: No. I tried to brake in some of the guys. They said: "No. That's to hard. That's To hard work" - and they quitt.

L: Men Du hängde kvar.

Ivar: Ja, jag hängde in där se.

L: Saknade Du inte hemgården. När mamma kom ut med kaffe, där ute vid dikeskanten!

Ivar: Sure. Jag saknar det, but, man hade så mycket tänka på. Försörja sig själv, och så.

L: Ja ja.

Ivar: Men jag skrev hem jämt jämt.

L: Och Du sparade pengar i alla fall.

Ivar: Ja, jag sparade pengar.

L: Satte Du in pengarna på en sparbanksbok då?

Ivar: Så träffade jag då min första hustru, i Cleveland. Min första hustru.

L: Ja. Men vi har inte lämnat Brooklyn ännu. Hur länge stannade Du i Brooklyn?

Ivar: Ja, i två och ett halvt år.

L: Två och ett halvt år.

Ivar: Så kom jag hit till Cleveland.

L: Men; när Du var i Brooklyn - Du tjänade antagligen bra med pengar, för det var ju ett högt betalt arbete.

Ivar: Ja.

L: Satte Du in dem på sparbanksboken, eller hur bar Du Dig åt?

Ivar: Jag hade på Sparbanken och sedan så hade jag -

L: Du skickade hem till Sverige.

Ivar: Ja. Jag sände pengar hem till min mamma, när jag 'kunne; förstår Du. 10 och 20 dollars, something like that.

L: Det var mycket pengar Du hjälpte henne med.

Ivar: Å ja. Jag hjälpte henne, så mycket jag 'kunne - se.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: And försökte komma hem in några år, komma hem igen se. But; så mötte jag då min första hustru ser Du.

L: Du höll på i 2 ½ år med att skrapa golv.

Ivar: Ja ja. När jag kom hit, det gjordes likadant här. Sure. Dom hade snickare här - förstår Du - 'te och lägga golvena, but jag var ju experten in golv.

L: Du var experten då efter två år.

Ivar: Ja, se. I had that as a profession.

L: Du hade inte ont i armar eller i ben?

Ivar: No no!

L: Inga problem?

Ivar: No! I had no problem. No problem. Men; When they heard that, when they saw that You were coming to lay the floors in the home, or place of work, they quit. - This is nice floors! And I came in here, I became very popular, because that was my

L: That was Your trade.

Ivar: Yes!

L: Du menar: Allan Johnson och Arthur Anderson, they left?

Ivar: Å, ja. They left. They left the jobs when they were coming to floors, see.

L: Säger Du det!

Ivar: Oh sure. Then I came in and were ready for the floors. I told them: jag tycker om och arbeta för mig själv, - Ensam i ett department. I didn't want to work with anybody. So, I didn't, ser Du. I worked for

L: Yourself.

Ivar: This is no problem. You can go in that department and work there, all Yourself. The lumbars is laying there - and the floors is laying there.

L: You laid the hole floors then?

Ivar: So - then, I laid all the floors. And this all my technic, this were how I was doing. Then they came up to me and they says: "You like to lay floors"? I says: "No, not particular". I've got the carpenters wages, You know. "No" I says, "I hate this stuf" I says, "but I can do it". "I see that" they says, they see that. There mabee were two guys in one room and they were laying on their knees, and tried to nail, and then were looking for another bord. I laid out te hole room - see. Laid out the hole room, with flooring - You know. The hole thing until it comes up to the base, and cut these ends. When I had done that, so far, the hole room up to the end, then I go back and I started nailing. And then I stand up and nailed it and pushed it with the hammer, and pushed the boards together, put the nails in. Before I knew it, they were cut already, for length in the end.

L: It was already done?

Ivar: It was already done. So; i had to 'spika', se.

L: You didn't have to cut anything with the saw then.

Ivar: No. I have to fill in some more, and then cut it in, You see.

L: So - the carpenter - he pre-cut it then?

Ivar: Yes. So they saw that. They came up, and they says: "Do You like to lay floors"? I said: "No, I don't like it. It's my work". He said: "I tell You what I'll do. I'll give You five dollars more a day, if You lay the floors Yourself. Yeh. I'll give You five dollars a day more. But don't say anything to the carpenters"! I said: "No". And they told me. They said - they saw me working then. "You're crazy! You do as much as two men in here, Yourself"! So that's why I liked to work for myself. I was going to help the other guy and he got the same pay, as I did, but I was doing most of the working. That's why I want to be by myself. You can't blame me.

L: No. Of course.

Ivar: No. I said: I can do this - and do it myself. So then they came confidentially and they paid me five dollars more a day.

L: The contractors?

Ivar: Yeh the contractors. And there was no objection. Course, You see, they gave them just the same!

L: Well. They made a good job.

Ivar: Yeh, they made a good job. So - when I was through with the floors, in that building, for that builder. No no. Then I went back to carpenter work again; for the same guy. But, then, he was paying me the same wages as the rest of them. It was only when I was laying the floors.

L: At that time, You were single?

Ivar: Yes.

L: How about the unions? Were there a Carpenter Union, in Cleveland?

Ivar: Yes, Yes. I belonged to the union.

L: In Brooklyn too?

Ivar: Ja. Sure.

L: You had belonged to that before?

Ivar: Oh yes. You had to belong to the Union. You had to get this paper before You could even get a job!

L: I see. They were strong then, the carpenters.

Ivar: They were strong. The Unions was strong in Brooklyn New York, that's why I got there. They had the intentions. When You got the papers, the intention, then they hurry.

L: Was the Union stronger in Cleveland?

Ivar: It was strong, but we only paid about - I think that we paid: 1 dollar 65 cents, a month. For the Union, to belong to it.

L: They didn't give much in return?

Ivar: But I still belong! I still belong and now I get a pension - about 29 dollars a month.

L: Did You belong for many years though?

Ivar: Oh, yes. I did belong, all my life. Sure.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: From the time I came here. Sure.

L: You came to Cleveland in 1925 26?

Ivar: 24. 22 I came here.

L: To Brooklyn.

Ivar: Mabee the winter 25. First part of 25.

L: And then You met Your wife.

Ivar: Then I met my wife, yes! Then I met my first wife. Her name was Naimi Ahlberg.

L: Here in Cleveland?

Ivar: Yeh here in Cleveland.

L: She was from Sweden also.

Ivar: Yes. She was born her, but she was also born of Swedish parents - see. Her father and mother: one came from Gotland, that was her father; and her mother came from Göteborgstrakten in there. Dom kom from there. So; then - so: she was regular of Swedish - my wife was. She was born of Swedish immigrants.

L: And they lived on the east side?

Ivar: Ja. When I came, I met her, we married. So my children; they really are full blooders Swedes. Because: the grand fathers from both sides came here.

L: Did You then - at any time, tell her to go back to Sweden?

Ivar: No. No. No - I had forgot that - because they didn't want to go to Sweden.

L: Because she was born here.

Ivar: Yeh she was born here and she didn't apart from her parents, and I don't blame here. She 'wants to stay here and I agreed with her. We went over there for a visit, that's all: 1928.

L: Oh, You went back to Sweden then.

Ivar: Yeh. In 28, we went home for about three months.

L: Jaha! Three months!

Ivar: Yeh three months we stayed at home. I don't think the ferry took more than about 150.

L: But You had it pretty good then during the 20s?

Ivar: I could go. I could aford to go. I had a little money saved up, and we went.

L: How about Your mother. Did she want You to stay then?

Ivar: She was home, my mother.

L: And she wanted You to stay?

Ivar: She was happy to see me. They got bad down in Cleveland - You know - during the Depression.

L: You went home 28?

Ivar: Yeh I went home in 28.

L: Then it was good times.

Ivar: It was all right then!

L: How was it in Sweden at that time?

Ivar: It stayed off. It started there too. It started, but You didn't see much.

L: Your old friends - did they have job?

Ivar: Yeh - they were working in Sweden.

L: I mean; the friends that You left.

Ivar: Oh yes. They were working, all of the time.

L: Where they interestid of Your time here?

Ivar: Yeh! - they talked about it. They talked pretty much about America. I had a nice whife with me. I had a boy with me who was two years old at the time.

L: Oh I see.

Ivar: He had hes second birthday in Sweden. He was born the 21 of August.

L: Jaha. They all understood that You wanted to live in The Unated States.

Ivar: Oh yes.

L: After three months You went back then.

Ivar: I went back, yes.

L: You rented a flat?

Ivar: Yes. I rented down on the 92nd and S:t Peter.

L: Oh I see.

Ivar: It's in my mother in law:s house. My brother in law, he lived on the second floor - and I lived on the third floor, then.

L: I see. For how long did You stay there?

Ivar: I stayed there until I went back to Long Island.

L: So You went to

Ivar: I went back to Long Island. Because it started - the Depression there.

L: In 28?

Ivar: Yeh. In 28. So my cousin, he said: "You can come down here, and help me". He was doing work in the same line, with the floors and things like that. "You can come down here" he says. He was contracting floors and things like that. "You can come down here" he says. "I can give You 10 dollars a day. You can work sex days a week! So; 60 dollars a week. It looks Good to me. I came down then.

L: You had a car?

Ivar: Yeh - I drove down. I drove down, all by myself, to find out just how it worked - You know. I couldn't take my family with. So they stayed there in Cleveland for about three months; themselves - and I sent my whife money - of course - You know - constantly, so she could live, - - and the children. We had two children: Paul and Virginia. Then - there was all right there. I kept on working and I saved money, as I sent to her, staying here in Cleveland. She's gona come down here. So, I says: "You get ready pack and comming down". So: she did. I took them to Long island.

L: She took the train then?

Ivar: Yeh, she took the train - and they came in to that train that going to New York, on Sunday morning. They came in, but; in the meantime, on Friday, they came there. So I had already arranged for a home to live in, in fact: I was interested in buying it.

L: In Long Island?

Ivar: In Long Island, yes. In (?).

L: Jaha.

Ivar: I had a cousins wife, Mrs Carlson. She was there - and arranged and put the curtains up, and everything - and had nice placed the furnitures - and everything. Then I drove in to New York and got my wife and the to kids. They came walking in there, it was fine and they were happy. In the meantime, I arranged, so I bought the house. I bought the house for 9 500.

L: In 1928?

Ivar: Yeh. In 1928, yeh.

L: It must have been a pretty good house for 9.500.

Ivar: Yes. My cousin arranged it. I lost my house. I only had 3.500 dollars to pay on it yet.

L: And they took it.

Ivar: And the bank took it.

L: And there was no way to

Ivar: No - I was through, right there. But, then - before that happened that they took the house - I rented it out for 65 dollars - a month. And I rented another place, in another little village; in the Ocean side, they called it, - for 35 dollars pay in every month. 30 dollars a month, see.

L: But - the house - You didn't get it back?

Ivar: No. They hadn't taken it yet, but I mean: I rented it out. They hadn't taken it yet.

L: You kept it.

Ivar: I kept it then for about 1 year and a half, two years.

L: And You had to pay?

Ivar: I didn't pay nothing. They found, I had no (?) in there - You know. So they took it. And; I had done a lot of work on that house. I had built a pentry there and I had put inside walks and curves and everything. There was no sidewalks, no curves. It was just open - You know. And (?). So I had done a lot of work and my wife, she felt sad about it. She cryed. And; I said: there was just nothing we could do about it.

L: And it happened to many others too.

Ivar: Oh, yes. I wasn't the only one. Oh, no.

L: All the saved money.

Ivar: They lost it all. In all over America. See. There was very very bad, then Rosevelt came in. And then he started the WPA. Work, You know. And put people to work - You know. I was on there and we built (?), put in new (?) and everything - You know. The guberment paid for it, and the state of New York paid for it. So the people were doing it. And then, they started to build (?), so I worked on there. But I could only work there ten days.

L: A month?

Ivar: Per month. Then there was another gang comming in for ten days - and then a third one then come in for ten days. Then, the next month, we worked another ten days, until You gott (?). So we built the hole (?) street, (? resten av meningen). And then, when we was through with that, the guberment was through with that, they turned that over to the state. So they rented these places out. The state was benefit for that we had built it!

L: What year was that?

Ivar: That was -31.

L: -31.

Ivar: Yes.

L: For how long time did You stay up in Long Island?

Ivar: For 17 years.

L: 17 years!

Ivar: Yeah. Before I came back here again.

L: Why did You stay in New York?

Ivar: My children grow up there. There were 3 ½ years I didn't do much more then work for the WPA.

L: And Your whife was working?

Ivar: No. She wanted to go to work, but I says: no. She stayed home and took care of the children. I got a little work! I met a doctor; he was a dentist. We called him: dr Thomas - and he had three houses down there. So I met him and he wanted me; in between. Between these work for the goverment, and him. You see: then: I was okey. Yes. Because: he paid me - and I did all hes carpenter works, with screens and outside repairing, and inside and paint. I was painting and made the carpenter work. I did All kinds of work for him. So he kept me buzy then. The kids come down on the weekends - You know - and they were swimming - and they could go in there, in hes little houses - You know - and take a shower, and things like that when the water come by. They had a good time in the meantime, - and I was working there, for him. So I kept te float.

L: You were saving at that time.

Ivar: I was saving, yes.

L: But You had a car?

Ivar: I had a car. An old car.

L: What did people say though? Were they desperate?

Ivar: Many people - they couldn't exist - until Rosevelt got them the ade.

L: There was completely .. bad?

Ivar: Yes. It was bad in those days - for everybody.

L: So then, in -34 -35, it started up again.

Ivar: Yes. In -34, they started to build again. Oh yes. They got lones and they were building apartment houses. So then they picked it up again, You see, but my house was gone.

L: There was no house then between -29, and up -35, -36?

Ivar: My house was gone.

L: It was gone.

Ivar: Sure. So then; I got to tell You: It got so bad - even for the banks. The banks that closed, they went under. Before they went under; and before my house went. they came to me and says: I had to reduce the mortgage for a 1 000 dollars. I had a mortgage at 4 400, I had to cut it down - You see; 1 000 dollars: to 3 400. So I came down to the bank, with a certified check, because I had arranged to get a new mortgage from another company: from the Funder Bank. So; I says "here's Your 1 000 dollars". And, You know, what that President, in that First National Bank said - he said: "before I sign that paper and I accept that money from You" he said "there'll be 50 dollars for me". So I said to him: "50 dollars! for a check, for the bank. You're the President of the bank". "That's right. That's a personal service" he says" "that I got it". So; I couldn't do anything. I says: "That's pretty low". "That's pretty low" I says. "I come here with the thousand dollars for You, - and - You asked for that reduction of the mortgage, and here is the certified check. And I changed my mortgage to this company, and they gave me a certified check. So; I'll still being in debt to Them. So: I paid it.

L: 50?

Ivar: I paid 50, - and I had no choice. So - about three months later - two months later, I'll see a guy out in the street. I was working for this doctor - and get along pretty good. So - I see him out sweeping.

L: That guy?

L: Yeah, that guy! It was me and the guy though. I'll gona stop, and see this guy. So - I says to him - hes name was Mitchell. So I says: "That Mr Mitchell" I says, "The Banker"? "Yes". I says: "You were a President. I Know! You were". You were the President" I says "for the First National". He says: "That's right". He says: "They went under - You know", "But at the way You were handeling", I says, "it's no wonder that You went under". So I told him about what had happened to me. "I got my old car" I said, over there". He says: "No. I don't". I says: "I don't have to sweep these sidewalks! I don't Have to do this. I have a little better job, see. I worked with my tools and I made my living pretty good" I said. He was Down, just like That, You see.

L: What had he done wrong then?

Ivar: He had done wrong, because: he had no business to colect 50 dollars from me.

L: Because, that was - what You call utpressning. What did he do with that money.

Ivar: He put it personally in hes pocket You see.

L: But he had to go down and sweep in the streets.

Ivar: Well. He didn't get much, mabee 50 cents an hour.

L: He had done something wrong in the investments too?

Ivar: He mabee had done something. They was gone.

L: The President of the bank.

Ivar: Yeh but that still could hold my head up.

L: Wasn't that a good feeling though? So - he asked You for 50 dollars more?

Ivar: Yeh - and he got it. Because: After I was arranged with the other bank, with the lone and I had a certified check from them, my hands was tied. So; even with the 50 dollars, he says he wouldn't sign the paper and accept the money, - the 100 000 dollars in payment - he wouldn't accept that, exept I give him 50 dollars first.

L: And that's pretty low.

Ivar: I walked out of that place.

L: But there was a lot of people, they couldn't take it. They lost everything.

Ivar: Sure.

L: You have went through a lot of things.

Ivar: I went through a lot of things. Yes.

L: Then You started up to lay floors, flor-polishing and stuf like that. How did that work in Your muscels?

Ivar: No. It didn't bather me, because; every now and then there was floors again. Floors floors floors. I worked for different contracts in Cleveland.

L: Did You stay in 17 years off there?

Ivar: I stayed 17 years up there, 17 and ½.

L: Then You left for Cleveland again, during the war?

Ivar: I came here. And then I lived with my brother in law, for a while, - the first I came here. Because they had asked me to come - and my wife Naimi, she says: "Go down, then. Find out, mabee there will be nice to come back to Cleveland again. I got my two sisters there - see, Rut and Hildur". So: I said: sure. I'll go down, and try. So when I came here; Hugo Swanson, he was working for Jack & Hands?). And my other brother in law; Erik Danielson, he had hes own business. He had a (?) shop and repairing, down at (?), down in downtown, 37th street yeah. So: Hugo was working for Jack & Hands. He said: "Come and work for us"!

I'll get You a job down there. So he talked to them and they said: "Send him in". So I came in there". I told them, You know. Course: the building trades was down here in Cleveland then still. They weren't Doing anything, because we were in the war.

L: It was 1943 44?

Ivar: It was in - let me say - 1943.

L: 43.

Ivar: Yeh. So they took me out there and I got a job with Jack & Hands, for 1 dollar and 5 cents an hour, but they worked 12 hours a day; Saturday, and Sunday.

L: Were they belonging to a union skill?

Ivar: No. There wasn't an union skill. Well the Union had a skill - all right - but it was an union, but they didn't join the union there, so far. They put You to work end saw what You could do and I was (?) to learn anything, but that time. So they gave me a job there and it turned out fine.

L: The contractor, he had not to pay the Union skill?

Ivar: You mean: in the building trades?

L: Yes.

Ivar: Yes, they had to. They were still. I was still belonging there - but there was no work! It was all defense work. There was a lot of carpenters that worked for Jack & Hands. There was a lot of people, who worked in different - I mean: there was electricans and brick layers. They worked there for Jack & Hands, the same as I did - because there was no work in the building trades.

L: It started after the war.

Ivar: Oh yes. After the war. After the war was over, there were lack of all homes. But then they couldn't get lumber, they had to get lumber even for the homes. So, then they scrambled around and they got all of what ever they could. They started up a little bit and finally they got a real close up, course they got lumber.

L: So there was a shortage of homes?

Ivar: Oh yes. There were a shortage of homes.

L: And shortage of hard work.

Ivar: Sure. Sure. And You felt good again. You even forgot about the hard times You had and what You were going through. That was behind You, and You started look for another home. I found a home, and I only paid 38 hundred dollars for it. But; it was old. It was in Hamstead. It was so bad that home that I bought, so You couldn't even see the house or go in, for trees and bushes. And You had to lift up the branches practice and come up and see the garage.

L: Nobody had been living in that, then?

Ivar: No. They hadn't been living there. The guy, that sold it to me, - they came from New Jersey - and he came out. There was a young man, hes son to the real estate man himself. He came down to me and he was only about 19 or 20 years old. There was that man and he came down to me and says: "I got a house for You". "Take me there and show me the house". So; I signed the papers for him and I bought it. I had - I had 500 dollars

L: Done?

Ivar: Yeah, Done. That's all I had. But I was working though. I had an income. I was working then. I took all the scrubs out. You'll meet all kind of people, Lennart, and there was a Polack next door, see. He wants to be a good guy to me, talked to me and I guess he found out that I was all right. I was Honnest. So when he saw me, cutting these bushes down, he practically took the axe away from me and; he says: "I'll show You". He said: I'll show You. My God! He's gona show me! I was born on a farm, for heavens sake.

L: But He didn't know.

Ivar: No. He didn't know that. So - he took the axe away from me: "I'll show You". He worked there. He cut and cut and cut, then I pulled it out in the street. He cut, mabee a little more. Then my whife was turning in the back window - or the door, and she stayed there. He says: "You're terrible" he says to me. I says: "What am I doing? What am I doing"? He says: "that tall guy is much taller then You are. He is doing the work"! He was taking tools away from me. "I'll show You, how to do it". He says: "that's terrible! You do the work Yourself. You know more about that stuf then he does". "Well" I says; "He wants to do the job". So; I go along. After this I'd got the house cleared and You could see the garage again. I fixed up the garage, and, Then I needed a new roof. At that time I had met the lumber man: Mitchell was hes name. He had a lumber yard. He was the shief of The New York States Guards. So we talked, him and I, and I joined him. The New York States Guards. That was during the war. After I joined him, he became a (?). He says: "You'll come to me. If You need any lumber, I will come down. I will give You everything You need". I says. "even if I don't have the money for it"? "Even if You don't have the money" he says. "You'll pay me some time. You can give me as little as You want and You can (?) it out as long as You want and take Two years to pay, if You want". He was a good guy. He says: "I like to help You". So I would go to him. He gave me the roof, and he gave me - You know, and I fixed up the roof and put on a new roof on the house. And I got paint, You know. No trouble. So then I stood with him and stood with the guard and we were out really at night. We were in convoys, goeing out. Driving like a crazy and go down in the middle of the night. They were bombing the ships. The Germans were sinking the ships - You know - because they were laying in the lights of New York city. They were laying out here. They could see the ships, seeing the lights. All the tankers, and everything. All was floating in Long Island. Then I got a job at the ship yard after that. In the ship yard. I was working at the ship yard in (?), in New Jerisy, so I had to drive. I had to work at night. You started at 11.30 and You went home at 7.30, or something. So; then the corps, they came out, and they said: "Were are You going"? "I showed them the licens - and I showed them my identification card. He said: "Mr Johnson, were are You going"? So; I says: "I'm going to (?) in New Jersey". "What are You doing there"? I says "I work in the ship yard. We are building (?), for the navy" I said. "Okey". They saw me every night I go in, because I was familier with the guys that travelling". They says: "He is all right! I saw him last night and I see him every night. He's in the ship yard"! I worked there. And one night, - one night, at four o'clock in the morning. Four in the morning. I think we got ten carpenters, or more, at that time, working for the (?). He comes up and he had a big wooden pole. He hit at the table. The thermos fell. The coffee was spilled. He says: "Give that money up here"! He says "this young man is inlisted in the marine. He is goeing tomorrow. Tonight is the last night" he says. "He had worked here" and we were collecting money for him. "So: get money up there" he says. You know: he got 780 dollars, - he collected that night - course: there were lots of guys there. They gave less five or ten dollars each. So he got that money. So - he did a good thing, of course. He collected the money and he sent them away. I worked there. They were built in sections - say: - of a 110; a 100 feet - a 110 feet, I think it was wide, And there goes out the sideway. They lost that. - And then they put the next section to it and finally we put eleven of them together. They could take the biggest air-craft there, that Uncle Sam built. They could take them right out. And they went through the Panama Canal then' in sections. They could take that big (?) to the canal. - And they went to the West coast and out in the Pacific. So: the navy didn't have to bring the ships home! They dived out in various places; in the Pacific, the South Pacific, and all over. When there were ships that needed a repair - there were bombed, and they were hit, You know, they repaired them right there and they didn't have to go back home.

L: How about these young men in the (?)? Was it ruf, the job that You had?

Ivar: No, that was easy in many ways, because we only handled timber.

L: It was all by mashinery.

Ivar: It was tracking up with cranes. (? Resten av stycket).

L: While You were staying in Long Island - and out in Brooklyn - did You join any organizations: at Wasa, or the Wikings?

Ivar: No. I did belong for the Wikings here in Cleveland.

L: Not in New York?

Ivar: No. No. But I joined the Wasa down there, but then You got to buzy in Brooklyn, New York, when I first came over. They got to personal and they were discusing impertinent things. There was disturbence. So; So - I didn't want to listen to that stuf and I didn't want to join people that had troubles with other families and things like that. I thought that was ridiculous.

L: It was in Brooklyn?

Ivar: It was in South Brooklyn. Olympic; I think it was.

L: Olympic.

Ivar: Jaha. I quitt then, because I didn't want to here anything. What the hell had that to do with me. If You had trouble, the other guy had trouble with hes wife, or another one was so and so. So I said: I don't like that. When I came to Cleveland, I joined here in either. I came here.

L: Did You join the Monitor, or the Nobel?

Ivar: I joined the Nobel. And my wife was joining too, but it's so happened that: she told the doctor's the truth. She was the person that want not say anything exept the truth. So when she came up for the doctor, she told the doctor, she told the doctor that she had any sickness, before he took her in. She says; I had reumatic feever then I was 16. Here in Cleveland. She was quite ill for a while. She turned on.

L: She couldn't join it.

Ivar: No. She couldn't join it. But; that was all right. She told the truth - and that's all. That's all. But other people, they wouldn't reveal anything. They said: they hadn't have any sickness of the world. They joined any of us and they didn't reveal anything, they didn't tell them.

L: Then You met a lot of old Swedes here in Cleveland: Arthur Anderson and Allan Johnson.

Ivar: Ja.

L: They were carpenters.

Ivar: Ja. Yes.

L: So - like Arthur Anderson; he turned in to contracts later on.

Ivar: He was always working for some guy. Yes. Herman Stone, yeah. Sure. All them guys. They were working, some times together. Very little with Arthur. Arthur was; Arthur Anderson - I can't remember who I was with. I was with Harry though. I was with Harry Peterson and I was with - what You just mentioned - ...

L: Allan Johnson?

Ivar: Allan Johnson. Yes! I worked for him. Yeah. Sure.

L: And then the Johnson Construction?

Ivar: Yes. Yes.

L: On Mayfield road?

Ivar: Yes. Yeh.

L: Was he a carpenter too? or just?

Ivar: Johnson?

L: Ja. John Johnson. He had an office on Mayfield road.

Ivar: No he was a contractor.

L: A contractor.

Ivar: Yes. I worked for them.

L: They started up in the 50s then.

Ivar: I worked for Willard Chores a lot. carpenters. We built homes. And, it was the same story there. Every builder put a frame in, and everything was all set. We had the roof. And then the floors came in "and there was Ivar again".

L: And You started again.

Ivar: Sure. They put me in. They knew that I was - I got the dirty deal. He says: "You go in there and lay the floors". So; I did.

L: You were the only one in Cleveland then, to do the job?

Ivar: Yes. In Cleveland, yeh. Back here again. Yeh. Then - then my wife got sick and she had a reumatic fever - You see. That defected her. She was 16 and she got a weak heart. But other organs in her was topped. She was good: her lever, and her kidneys. It was just her heart, course it was enough, so She was sick for nine years.

L: Nine years!

Ivar: Yeh. In and out the hospital, all the time. And I spent New years eve, I spent Christmas eve; many Christmas eve and Christmas day and the hollidays. She always got sick - mabee she worked to hard before Christmas and she became sick when the hollidays comes up. She was sick again, in the hospital. So - Nine years. She asked me, many times, that I should go out. See: I had belonged to the Loge. I belonged to the Masons; up there, and she says: "Why don't You go up to the Loge, Ivar! You sit home with me, the night after night". I says: "Well. It's better for me. I don't want to see that anything happen, if I shouldn't be home when You need help". "I can call You"! she says. "I can call You. I've got the large number up there and I can call You. You can come home in ten minutes"! But I didn't go. And then I worked - we had nice neighbours next door, and they came in to see her and checked on here, You know, when I was working. They were nice; and the church people came to see her and the people; the pastors - and the assistens. They came to see, and talk to her. They were very nice. Then she passed away in 19 .. 1959.

L: -59.

Ivar: Yeh. She passed away. She had been sick for nine years.

L: But the children were grown up then?

Ivar: Yeh the children were big then - of course. Sure. And the doctor said: that she wouldn't have lived that long! She couldn't have lived that long, if it wasn't for her family. Her husband took care of here and he was faithful to her and he helped her, and the children were wonderful to her. That's what kept her a life. But then she got bad. She was going to have an operation, - were they opening her heart. She couldn't take the anesthesia. When the doctor said to her, when the doctor says to the anesthesia-man: "You have to give a little more". and he says: "This is so far as I can go. He says: "to bring Mrs Johnson back again". So then they quitt that there, they had her already prepared, otherwise. She lived two more years then, and then; she was gone.

L: The 50s, then, were good years in Cleveland, in the building trade. A lot of houses went up in Cleveland.

Ivar: Yes.

L: The 50s, and 60s.

Ivar: There was a lot of houses.

L: You continued to work?

Ivar: I worked for one company. We built out in the Lake Shore Boulevard - and homes out there. The Willard Chores. They were nice people to work for.

L: And You were still laying the floors?

Ivar: Well. No. I was with the carpenters, and then the floors came up. Then the trim was going to go on. I says: "I take care of the floors and then I put the trim on myself. Go in in one house myself". And, of course, that I was an expert in floor laying, I gave a lot of time there. Because; the floors was - not for me - there wasn't one, two, three, and the floors was in, see. The other guys, they were laying there among their knees and they didn't got Nothing Done - just but the floors. So when they came to put the trim on, and everything - You know. I placed the trim out: an opening there, there was going to be a trim there. I set the trim. I'd cut it. I'd cut it. And; and: neither. Then I'd set the trim. That's for that window, that's for that door, and that's for the closett! You see: I cut it up. They had it laying in the living-room there and they come in with muddy feet and they walk, right over the lumber, see. And then, when they got going, some part wasn't done! They always forgot something. And then they had to go back and finish it, see. And; I didn't work that way. I cleaned out and i had a system for it. So the carpenters; the bosses, said: "We like Your work. When You work. How You are doing". You put the floors in, and that's no problem. You had the trim. You put Your sweep out. You clean up, and You finish one room, all the time. I'll go in and do the bed-room. I do the other bed-room and I didn't go out of there, until it is complete. Then I swept out and put my tools in there; and went home, and came back the next day again. I know what I had left of and I sorted it in. They worked: a little here, a little there; and they never finished it. They had to go back. One time, he came up to me and he says: "I have to go and finish up after the other guys". I says: "No". "If You want to, You can lay me up, if You want to" I says. "But I want not to go and finish anything, when they started and missed there. I don't go back and do anything of their job. You'll get them" I says. "You know what houses they were working in. Pull them back, and give them a hell. and don't leave anything, like that". "You don't go back and do anything from Ivar, hes houses". "No" he said. "You are always finished. It is always finished off".

L: Were those younger guys, or older carpenders?

Ivar: Well they were mixed up. Young people always and they stayed - there was two or three guys in one house - You know.

L: You mean: they didn't have the tools in one room?

Ivar: Yes! (Ivar skrattar). And then they stayed and talked, You see. I didn't like that, because: I figured it this way, Lennart: If the guy is payng me, he is paying me in good wages, and I ein't gona have my hands in hes pockets, so I give him a good days work and I work the best I can, to my ability. And then, after, he's got enough, then he can lay me off, of course. But, at least, I have a concent. and I said: I can always come back and work for the guy - even I did.

L: He was hard to work for.

Ivar: Yeh. Then; they did funny things. I said: I give them a days work any. Because: there can come a day, when they have work, and that I have a good name for them and I have worked for them. I can always get another job from them, see. and that may be in handed. I had eight, or ten, guys that I worked for, here in Cleveland. And every time I came to them. they helped; they had work!

L: They got it.

Ivar: Yeh they got it, because they said: You worked for us: so and so. You Worked for me: so, and so, Johnson. and I says: "yes, I did". "Bring him in" he says. "You can work here. I wish You would have come a little earlier though" he says. "I'm not so buzy now, but I take in You for a few days".

L: You saw all changes in the carpentry - with tools.

Ivar: Jaha.

L: Is it better today than it was 1925, or in the 40s?

Ivar: It's nothing tools today.

L: What do You mean?

Ivar: First of all: they do it to much in the factories. In the factories. They make cases: for schools, and everything else. An order comes up, at a big truck and the orders go out in places there, and it's all. (? Mening). And that's all finished. So that's easy for them today. It's nothing to the carpenter workers. Then they have all the parts, and everything in. We had to cut everything by hand, at that time. Now; everything is finished! Now; place it in, except the doors. The doors, they got to hang, and most of them; the frame is set right, there are fire doors, It's steel. And that's steel doors. So they have to put on it inside.

L: How many doors could a good carpenter hang a day?

Ivar: Well. When You're two together, like that, and the doors are heavy, two guys together, they hang about 14.

L: 14!

Ivar: 14 doors, yes. But: we could hang eight in the morning and then we only had about sex in the afternoon.

L: You worked hard in the morning.

Ivar: Yeh. You work less in the afternoon.

L: How about the floor business, when You came in to this wall to wall carpets.

Ivar: Carpets?

L: It hasn't be a good floor then any more. They just put on playwood.

Ivar: Oh - I see. I see what You mean. Yeh, I know that. They do that, but some time they do the wrong things - You see. You put in the wood floor and they had the radian heatens, that's in the floors. I came to one guy. He asked me. He was a President of the Carpenters Local and he says: "Ivar. Do You know anything about floors" he said. "Yes. He's a friend of mine" he says. "He's got a concrete floor". And he said "that radian heat". "And both him and hes wife" he said "they worked outside". "They came home at night. They haven't been in the house" he said. "You can see dots from the heat in the winter. Dots from the furnitures. What's That from"? "Well" I says "it's the concrete floor, that's got no cover". "So" he says: "What can they do"? and I said: "He has to lay a new floor; a wooden floor, on top of the concrete" So; he says: "would You do it for him"? I says: "Yes, I'm do it". So, then, You have a (? Resten av stycket kring att lägga golv).

L: But You still had to do by hand around the hedges.

Ivar: Ja, the hedges. And I was doing a lot of floors in one day with that big mashine. I worked for a guy there: Harry Paulson. After I came home at night I had to call him, and tell him that I had finished that job; so, and so. "You are! You're finish"? I said: "Yes"! "That's the boy"! he says. He helped me, and I had a job - of course. I was doing what I was supposed to do - and I did. He says: "You're doing great, boy. You can handle that mashine, he says, "better then You can handle a car"!

L: What do You think now, when You look back? Now You have Dagny here. When did You marry?

Ivar: We have been married for 25 years, in September.

L: Jaha.

Ivar: Course I knew her - and my whife - they were good friends, see. And they were together, all the time. So Some times - my first whife - she would surgest; she said - I tell You what she says: "I like to call Dagny". And that's good. She was a widow, You know. She had rasing two elder boys. So; she says: "If I call her, would You go down there and pick her up"? I says:

"Sure! You call her. I go down there and pick her up and I take You both up to Your meeting". So I knew her. But a little bit I think then - course; Naimi was in pretty good health, at the time. She was fairly good. So: I've never dremt that she was gona be my second whife. So my first whife, she told me. She says. "After I'm gone". She told me that she could be with me very long.

L: You are 90 years. You've done a hard days work. Who are the survivors or the old Swedes in Cleveland? The ladies, or the men?

Dagny: More ladies. They took a survey at Wasa loge, not to long ago. There were more women over 65 than men.

L: So the men have died off then earlier.

Dagny: Yes. But I don't remember what the proportions was.

Ivar: You see - I contributed at the old age; I contributed from working on the farm, like that, when You were young. You couldn't be up to much miss used, because: You had a job and You had a responsibility: to Yourself, and to Your mother and to work in the farm. That's all You were doing at the time. It was a hard work, of course. So I see guys, that running here; they're jogging. I was stopped them sometimes. I said: "You guys. You are running here, an jogging and do Your exercises". I said: "I didn't have that problem when I was in Your age. You're running and running". I said: "I had ran; from the early morning, until late at night" and I said "I was active all the time. I didn't have that problems so I had to go, run out, and just keep on going, for about an hour. I had at the hole 14 hours a day".

L: You were buzy in Your daily life.

Ivar: Yeh I think that helped.

L: Ja.

Ivar: So - I came to the conclusion; Lennart, that hard work never kill anybody. Because: I says to myself: if hard work would have killed me, then I should have been dead 30 years ago. (? mening). Hard work never kill nobody. No.

L: How about Your friends which stayed in Sweden. You have visited Sweden many times.

Ivar: Yes.

L: How did they doing their life?

Ivar: The guy that I met, that I were goeing to school with. I said: "What happened to You Herbert"? Hes name was Herbert Svensson. He was all crippled up in rumatism, in bed health. "Well" he said, "that's the hard work". I said: "Herb, no, there can't be, because I've goeing through the same thing as You have, when I was young". And I said: "I've worked hard in the Unated States, So" I said; "it can't be". But, You see, they don't take care of themselves. Some of them were drinking a lot, some of them was; this and then and; how they lived, that I don't know. I've met two or three guys, that I were going to school with. They were in good shape. He was a policeman, in Stockholm. He belonged to the coast guard for about sex or eight years, and then, when he came out - this charge from there. He got a job; down at the docks in Stockholm, were the worst hoglums and sailors was hang out in saloones. They were taking care of that for about sex seven years and then they moved them up in town. But he was in good health.

L: You don't think hard work is bad for you.

Ivar: I advice the young people, that grow up today: get a job. Of course: Jobs is scarce today; - and work hard. Take care of You. Don't drink. Don't smoke. That's the best thing; and work hard, then You live a long time!

L: You never smoked?

Ivar: Yes, I did. I quitt, 16 years ago.

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