

LS 0142

Lennart Setterdahl: It's September the 30th 1985. I'm sitting together with Mrs Alice Steenberg in Moline, Illinois. She was born 1907, September the 3rd, in Fjärås, Sweden. She came to the Unated States 1929. Jaa vi kan väl tala svenska, eller?

Alice Steenberg: Ja visst kan vi språka svenska.

L: Nordhalländska?

Alice: Nja - det -

L: För Du är född i Fjärås?

Alice: Jaa då.

L: 1907, ja. Berätta lite grand om Din pappa.

Alice: Väl det kommer jag inte ihåg, för min mamma dog när jag var bara liten och min far reste hit till landet och vi vet inte något om honom.

L: Jaså på så vis, ja. Ni träffade aldrig pappa då?

Alice: No.

L: Ni vet inte vart han åkte heller någonstans?

Alice: No. Å han var ute i Montana tror jag.

L: Jaha. Var det andra syskon han åkte till?

Alice: No det vet jag inte.

L: Ingenting?

Alice: No.

L: Mor- eller farföräldrar?

Alice: Ja. Min morfar och min moster har - har 'rest oss.

L: Jaha, så ni växte upp i deras hem då. Fanns det något mera syskon i familjen?

Alice: Ja en bror.

L: En bror också.

Alice: Ja. Och så hade jag en bror här i Amerika.

L: Vad arbetade pappa med innan han lämnade Sverige?

Alice: Ja, det vet jag inte säkert.

L: Han var inte fiskare eller?

Alice: No det är väl ingen fisk, där är väl ingen fisk i Montana!

L: Nej nej, jag menar: i Sverige?

Alice: Nej nej nej. Nej de var bara lantbrukare - tänker jag.

L: Lantbrukare.

Alice: Jaa visst.

L: Jaha. Så mamma, hon dog redan

Alice: Jag var 19 månader gammal när mamma dog.

L: Jaha. Och där växte ni upp då; i morfars och mormors

Alice: Ja. Morfars hem. Mormor var död, men morfar levde - och så var det en moster.

L: Och där gick ni till skola, och konfirmerades?

Alice: Mm.

L: Vad hette kyrkan?

Alice: Tjolöholms slottskyrka.

L: Det var ett privat kapell?

Alice: Ja.

L: Det var ett fideikommiss - eller?

Alice: Nja, det vet jag inte om det var ett fideikommiss or vad det var, men det tillhörde greve Bonde.

L: Greve bonde?

Alice: Mhm.

L: Arbetade någon utav - ?

Alice: Nej. Nej, men det var, det var bara några stycken utav barnen som kunde gå där och så var vi så nära, så det var så långt till vår stora kyrka, så vi fick gå där för det, så vi var. Men den pastorn, som var där, han hade Önevalla kyrka, där som Erik är konfirmerad.

L: I Åsa?

Alice: ja. Han hade den också och så Tjolöholm. Och så vi är 'konfirmerad på samma år - och för samma pastor - men i olika kyrkor.

L: Jaha. Så det godset, det låg alldeles nära där ni bodde?

Alice: Jaa, det är ute vid havet, vid Västerhavet; Tjolöholm. Ett stort

L: Så det var ingen av er som arbetade där?

Alice: Nej, nej. No. Nej.

L: Så det var bara konfirmationen som kom att bli där?

Alice: Ja visst, ja.

L: När började ni att arbeta då för att hjälpa till hemma?

Alice: Ja, vi hade ett litet jordbruk hemma och sen så hade jag plats i Göteborg innan jag reste hit.

L: Det var efter konfirmationen?

Alice: Ja, ja visst.

L: Jaha.

Alice: Jag har arbetat på Särö för ett par år, utanför Göteborg.

L: Det är väl också en herrgård, är det inte det?

Alice: Nä. Särö, det är en .. en .. sommar ... Nä.

Erik Steenberg: That's for the kings.

L: Ja. Jag menar inte herrgården, utan jag menar ..

Erik Steenberg: Resort.

L: Ja ja, ja just det!, men jag tänkte på det svenska namnet!

Alice: På svenska, det jag kan inte 'säga. Men det är ju bara turister som bor där and det är ju miljonärer nästan allihop som bor där.

L: Ja men på **den tiden**; det var bara för dom kungliga eller?

Alice: Ja - well det var många.

L: Det var inte för allmänheten på den tiden?

Alice: Jaa det var en del som ville, så de kunde ha den, så det var 'ingen restrictions.

L: Bodde det folk året runt där?

Alice: Ja. Dom som jag arbetade för, dom bodde där hela året runt. Han var en vinhandlare i Göteborg och han reste emellan Göteborg och Särö. Det är inte så långt emellan, det är bara utanför Göteborg. Men det är en ö, där är en ..

L: halvö - ja.

Alice: Well det är mer än halvö men det är en kanal som går across så det är nästan en ö.

L: Jaha. Hur länge höll Ni på att arbeta där?

Alice: Jag var där i ett par år. Sen var jag nästan ett år i Göteborg hos en överstelöjtnant, han var överstelöjtnant på Kviberg - and sen så reste jag hit till landet.

L: Och det var husarbete då?

Alice: O ja.

L: Koka och göra mat, och

Alice: Ja - no - jag var en - vad kallar 'di det - a (?) girl - vad kallas det på svenska: husa, I guess.

L: Husa.

Alice: Ja husa ja.

L: Och sen blev det då Amerikatankar. Hur kom de in i bilden?

Alice: Ja men se; han gick två år före se - and - vi kände varandra.

L: Ni var kända med varandra ifrån Sverige.

Alice: Å ja visst. Ja visst. Sure.

L: Ni hade träffats i hembygden, hemma i Fjärås.

Alice: O ja. Våra föräldrar nu och var andra goda vänner.

L: Så han åkte först.

Alice: Ja.

L: Då blev det bestämt att han skulle komma hem efter ett tag eller?

Alice: Det vet jag inte, men - men jag 'la in ansökan om och komma hit på samma gång som han reste.

L: 1927?

Alice: -27 yes, men så sa 'di då: det blir nog två år innan jag kunde få visa.

L: Jaså två år!

Alice: Ja. Men det var inte riktigt två år innan jag fick. Så han reste i september 1927 och jag fick anmälan att jag kunde komma in till konsulatet på - jag tror det var i mars 1928 .. -29.

L: -29.

Alice: Ja - så det var inte två år då innan - i september då. And så reste jag då i juni.

L: Varför tog det så lång tid?

Alice: Ja, det vet jag inte. Det var så många som kom hit.

L: Det var många som utvandrade ifrån Sverige?

Alice: O ja visst. Det var så många så.

L: Många lämnade Göteborg?

Alice: Ja. Ja det tror jag nog att det var. För det var

L: svårt att få arbete i Sverige?

Alice: Ja. O ja. Det var. Det var nästan inte nåt annat än husarbete som man kunde få, det var inte lätt att få det heller.

L: Nej. Så det fanns inget arbete på

Alice: Nej.

L: på fabrik i Mölnlycke?

Alice: Å - kanske det var, men jag hade inte någon lust för det, så jag tänkte aldrig på och anmäla mig på någon fabrik.

L: Hur gick det till? Skickade maken Erik hem biljett?

Alice: Ja, han skicka hem biljett.

L: Så det var bara att gå på båten

Alice: Ja.

L: och vinka Farväl till Vinga Fyr.

Alice: Ja visst.

L: Vad hette båten som Ni åkte på?

Alice: Gripsholm.

L: Gripsholm.

Alice: Gripsholm was

L: Och det var i mars; eller i april?

Alice: No; det var i juni, den 6 juni, 1929.

L: 6 juni.

Alice: Svenska Flaggans dag. Det var flaggor överallt.

L: Jaha.

Alice: And

L: Hur gick det till när Ni gick till prästen och tog ut flyttningsbetyget? Varnade prästen Er för att Ni skulle åka till Amerika?

Alice: Nej.

L: Han sa ingenting?

Alice: Neej. 'Di var nog 'glaa' att vi åkte!

L: Att Ni lämnade old Sweden!

Alice: Ja!

L: Men det var många som

Alice: Å ja det var många som gick. Jaa då.

L: Det var ingen ifrån Din hemtrakt på samma gång?

Alice: No inte därifrån men det var runt hela Sverige, det var många. Det var 400 finnar som gick till Kanada.

L: På samma båt?

Alice: Ja. We stopped in Halifax and de gick av där.

L: Båtresan över, den gick direkt till New York då?

Alice: mm.

L: Vad pratade ni om, ni som var svenskar? Ni kom ifrån olika orter.

Alice: Jaha! Det, ja, det kan nog hända vi gjorde. Det är så länge sen, så det kommer jag inte ens ihåg. Det var ingenting.

L: Det kan Ni inte komma ihåg.

Alice: Nej. Nej.

L: Att dom sa att dom skulle åka över och åka tillbaka till Sverige?

Alice: Jag vet min kamrat, som var i samma hytt som jag, hon var sjösjuk hela tiden, så hon sa: "när jag kommer på fastlandet igen så åker jag aldrig ut på havet igen"! sa hon.

L: Jaså det var det mål hon hade.

Alice: Ja.

L: Men det var ingen som sa att de skulle åka tillbaka till Sverige efter några år i Amerika?

Alice: Nej. Nej det kommer jag inte ihåg.

L: Nej.

Alice: Å det hade vi nog inte. När jag lämna min bror i Göteborg, så sa han: "Jaa, Du får skynda Dig och komma hem". "Ja om fem år kommer jag hem" sa jag. Men det blev ju inte fem år, det blev nästan 55.

L: Var hade ni hört det där om **fem år**?

Alice: Var?

L: Använde folk det mycket?

Alice: Nej, det var inte. Det var väl bara nånting som vi fick i huvet.

L: Som slant ur! Så resan över, gick den bra?

Alice: Jaa då. Jag var aldrig sjösjuk eller något, jag hade en fin resa.

L: Jaha. Och landstigningen i New York, den var utan besvär?

Alice: Jaa då, det var så fint. Jag har alltid sagt att jag tyckte så mycket om the Salvation Army. Dom var där. Dom var där och hjälpte immigranterna.

L: De mötte vid båten?

Alice: Ja, mötte vid båten och immigranterna och varna dom, att dom inte skulle prata med nån som språkar deras eget språk, utan vara 'försiktig och så här och vi var på - han visste ju vad för kläder jag hade på mig, innan han såg mig i Chicago!

L: Hade dom talat om det?

Alice: Ja visst, 'di var före.

L: Det var den svenska Frälsningsarmén då!

Alice: Ja sure.

L: Jaså de kom ner till båten och

Alice: Ja 'di kom ner och mötte immigranterna. Så vi hade immigranttåg from New York till Chicago.

L: Så ni var aldrig på Ellis Island, för det var stängt då?

Alice: Oh, no, det var stängt då. Det var två år sen som det .. den .. så vi behövde inte gå to Ellis Island. Vi hade examination i

L: Göteborg?

Alice: I Göteborg.

L: Så allting var klart då?

Alice: Allting var klart.

L: Så ni lämnade en del papper i New York när ni kom av båten?

Alice: Jag tänker dom som dom 'lämna där, för myndigheterna, de gick nog till Washington. För när vi tog ut våra naturalisation papper, då hade ju 'di, 'di visste ju allting om när jag kom.

L: Det var bevarat där.

Alice: Ja, sure.

L: Hur kunde maken Erik få vetskap om Er klädsel?

Alice: Ja det vet jag inte hur

L: Ringde de då ifrån New York?

Erik Steenberg: No.

Alice: När 'di kom ner 'te stationen och mötte, så talar 'di, frågar om - han sa då namnet - och han sa: Ja, hon är med - and hon är klädd **så och så**. Men det vet jag inte huru de gör. 'Di hade nog

L: De hade telegraferat till Chicago?

Alice: Kanske, - and 'di kanske hade ett tåg som gick fortare, för 'di stannade ju här och där. Det tog ju ett helt dygn innan vi kom ifrån New York 'te Chicago.

L: Så de kunde meddela då i Chicago, till Erik Steenberg här, att Alice Börjesson kommer och hon är klädd **så och så**.

Alice: A-ha. A-ha. Men - om inte han, om det inte hade varit någon nu. Så nu skulle jag gå till Chicago, jag skulle lämna där. Om inte det hade varit någon som mötte där, så - var det YMCA? Var det YMCA, som?

Erik Steenberg: I don't know.

Alice: Det var nånstans som Immigrantbyrån tog hand om dom som inte

L: Så de fick inte gå ut på egen hand.

Alice: No no! 'Di släppte inte ut någon på egen hand.

L: Så det var bra kontroll då!

Alice: O ja visst.

L: Och dom pratade svenska till er?

Alice: O ja, 'di 'språkar svenska.

L: Jaha. Så det var ju en trygghetskänsla. Fick ni mat på tåget eller hur gick det till?

Alice: Jaa det var, vi fick mat. Det var ju lite dåligt det! Vi redde oss ändå.

L: Den fick ni köpa själva?

Alice: O ja o ja. - O ja.

L: Det var inte lätt då utan kunskaper i engelska.

Alice: Nej. No.

L: Det var lite annorlunda mot att åka in till Göteborg.

Alice: Ja. Visst.

L: Då mötte han i Chicago.

Alice: Mhm.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Ja.

L: Och sen bar det av till?

Alice: Ja sen var vi ett par dar i Chicago med en familj, var han bodde. Men sen så åkte vi ner hit till Moline till se min bror. And då så skulle jag gå tillbaka till Chicago and få ett arbete där, men dom ville inte släppa mig här, så jag fick stanna här. 'Di ville jag skulle stanna här i Moline.

L: Det var Er andra bror? Ni hade en bror i Sverige?

Alice: Jaa han är död nu och den som är här i Moline, han är gången också.

L: Hade han åkt över tidigare?

Alice: Å ja, han var här över tidigare. Var en morbror och 'visita och han tog min bror med sig.

L: På så vis ja. Vad hette han?

Alice: Ivar. Börjeson.

L: Ivar Börjeson.

Alice: Jaha.

L: Och han kom direkt till Moline?

Alice: Well no! Han kom till (?), där som min morbror bodde då - och sen så var han i Joliet for a while and then kom han hit ner till Moline.

L: Vad arbetade han med?

Alice: Han arbetade för Burgenbeck.

L: Burgenbeck. Vad tillverkade de för någonting?

Alice: Det var Scales - var det inte scales? Vad var det 'di gjorde, vad gjorde Burgenbeck?

Maken Erik Steenberg: They made clutches I think.

Alice: Clutches oh.

L: Jaha.

Maken Erik Steenberg: For cars You know. Something like that.

L: För den mobila industrin ja.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Yeah. But then they moved out of here. They moved up to Chicago.

L: Jaha.

Alice: Ja and det sista han 'arbeta för var väl ( ? ).

L: Jaha. Det var väl också en bilfabrikant, var det inte det?

Alice: Ja det vet jag inte. men han var tool maker - jag vet inte vad.

L: Jaså. Så han var gift och bodde här?

Maken Erik Steenberg: Oh yeah.

L: Så han ville att ni skulle stanna kvar här i Moline?

Alice: Mhm.

L: Så blev det också då?

Alice: Ja. And sen så kom ju det. Det var inget arbete i Chicago. Så kom han hit ner. Så han arbetade här. Han arbetade Deers för lite grann, in National Harvester.

L: Jaha.

Alice: And han var ute på farm en del.

L: Så depressionsåren, de var inte mycket bättre i Moline än i Chicago?

Alice: Oh no no. Det var hemskt överallt.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Yes, they walked the streets here too.

L: Jaha. Så; det var många som åkte hem då av svenskarna?

Maken Erik Steenberg: Yeah - if they got help, so they could.

L: Om de kunde åka ja.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Ja.

L: Annars så blev dom

Maken Erik Steenberg: But they had to have the money.

L: Jaha.

Alice: Ja.

L: Så - arbetade Ni?

Alice Steenberg: Ja jag 'arbete husarbete, 'te 1935.

L: Jaha. Men ni gifte er 19 ?

Alice: -35.

L: -35.

Alice: Ja.

L: Jaha. Och det gjorde ni i Joliet?

Alice: Ja, vi gick 'te mina - jag hade släktingar i Joliet, så då gick vi där.

L: Jaha. Varför hade ni väntat så länge! Ni kände ju varandra redan ifrån Sverige?

Alice: Där är fyra år, där är fyra år som vi inte hade nånting. Du kan inte gifta 'sig på en string. You had to have

L: Ja men nuförtiden gifter de sig snabbare.

Alice: Jaa det kan nog hända, men det var då. Det var på den tiden när Lasse levde, nu lever bara Lars!

L: Så det var ingen som gifte sig under tiden?

Alice: Det var inte många. Det var inte många, om Du inte hade nånting och gifta Dig på så fick Du ... - And vi tyckte det var mycket bättre att jag 'arbete och han var på farm.

L: Var den farmen utanför+

Alice: No, den var ut i Iowa.

L: Å i Iowa!

Alice: A-Ha.

Maken Erik Steenberg: I went out and picked corn and in the thrashing time - and - You name it.

Alice: It was closed to Waterloo Iowa, where he was out.

L: På det viset. Jaha.

Maken Erik Steenberg: I was out three years. Well; three winters.

L: So You went out to husk corn though?

Maken Erik Steenberg: Oh yes.

L: Follow the mules! Så det var många stadsarbetare som kom ut då på landsbygden och gjorde det jobbet?

Maken Erik Steenberg: Oh yes sure.

Alice: Ja det var det enda som

L: Då fick dom room and board men de fick inte mycket betalt då eller?

Alice: No. Lite grann I guess.

Maken Erik Steenberg: 1 cent and ½ a bushel.

L: Å det var allt. Det var inte mycket att skicka hem till fästmän i slutet av veckan!

Alice: Nej då. Nej då.

L: Och det gick inte att komma hem varje vecka heller?

Alice: Oh no no no no. Vi såg inte varandra för vecketal.

L: Ja det var hela säsongen då dom var ute på farmen?

Alice: Ja, o ja.

L: Så - fick dom hålla på där.

Alice: Ja visst.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Well - when the corn and thrashing was over - then You go, because they couldn't keep You!

Alice: No.

L: Nej nej.

Maken Erik Steenberg: They couldn't even buy coal for the furnaces out there, so they put the corn in the furnaces for burning.

L: Jaha.

Maken Erik Steenberg: They didn't get any prize for it. I think they sold their corn for: shell corn, for 8 cents a bushel! And the coal costs a hole up more than that!

Alice: Ja.

L: Då var det billigare att använda majsen som bränsle ja.

Maken Erik Steenberg: Oh Boy I tell You!

Alice: Ja.

Maken Erik Steenberg: That was the time.

L: John Deer och International Harvester; de låg mer eller mindre nere också?

Alice: Å ja, det var ingenting. Det var ingenting.

L: Det var inga bönder som kunde köpa några traktorer eller?

Alice: Nej. no. Det var ingen som

Erik: I could have bought farms out in Iowa, and work million dollar, and better for tax.

L: Jaha.

Alice: If You had the money.

Erik: If You had the money. What could I do with it?

L: Så det fanns helt enkelt inga pengar på den tiden?

Alice: No.

Erik: No! Farmers went broke.

Alice: The banks closed and what You had in the bank, if You had a little bit saved, det gick.

L: Så det var bistra tider.

Alice: Jaa.

L: Det var hela tiden upp till 1935, eller kanske ännu längre?

Alice: Det 'börja hjälpa i -34.

Erik: Hoover was the president and he went for the direction in -32 and he lost to Rosevelt.

Rosevelt got in in -33 - see. And then there started to be. Rosevelt closed the banks.

Alice: No, Hoover! Hoover.

Erik: Hoover closed the banks and Rosevelt opened them.

L: I see.

Alice: And he opened up all kinds of work for people You know. They **had to work**. They had to work and it wasn't handed out, like it is now.

L: Så det var ingenting sådant under Hoovers regim?

Alice: No no! No.

L: De hade inte tänkt på det en gång.

Alice: Nej. No.

Erik: I think it was in Hoovers time, there was the soup lines.

Alice: And the people, they came and they marched to Washington and they put the mashine guns on. Because they went to Washington to ask for help, You know, those who had been in the World War one - and things like that - they felt like they had a better (?) and they just put the mashine guns on them.

L: So that people didn't like Rosevelt?

Alice: Oh there was a lot of them. There's a lot of them that liked him - and a lot of them didn't.

Erik: A lot of them didn't either.

L: Ja men **varför** tyckte de inte om Rosevelt, nu när han satte igång folket?

Alice: I think they did. There was more that liked him. Now they're talking different.

L: Men precis efter -35, -36 och -37, var alla för Rosevelt då?

Alice: Well Hur kunde han bli omvald för fyra gånger! om inte - om inte! Det var ju landslide varenda gång.

L: Så han var omtyckt som president?

Alice: Ja, det tror jag säkert.

L: Men det är ju konstigt att inte Hoover kom på någon av de idéerna själv.

Alice: Nej. Hoover; Jag vet inte hur?

L: Han var inte växt för uppgiften!

Alice: Nej.

L: Så - då; - 1935 gifte ni er i Joliet och reste tillbaka till Moline. Blev det arbete här i stan då?

Alice: Ja, han 'arbete då.

L: Vad var det för arbete?

Alice: Construction.

L: Konstruktion?

Alice: Ja.

L: Jaha. Så det började att lossna då?

Alice: O ja. O ja visst. Det börja i början på - ja - 34.

Erik: -34 it started.

Alice: Ja. Det var rätt så bra då.

Erik: From -36, then it got better and better.

L: Det blev en full veckas arbete?

Alice: O ja.

L: Fem dagars arbete.

Alice: O ja, visst.

L: Jaha.

Alice: Men;

L: Och det fanns inga unions vid den tiden?

Alice: Oh yes! Sure they had the Union!

L: Jaha. Men International Harvester och John Deer, var dom organiserade?

Erik: No.

Alice: Var de inte?

Erik: No I don't think so. I never heard of anything.

Alice: Å ja det vet jag inte. Det kommer jag inte ihåg.

L: Utan det var mer eller mindre öppet. Då var det många plogfabriker här inne i stan. Det var the Moline Plow och det var John Deer.

Erik: Yeah. John Deer Plow, and

L: John Deer Plow.

Erik: Yeah.

L: Minneapolis. Moline.

Erik: Yeah.

L: Och John Deer, han tog ju allihopa efter ett tag.

Erik: Oh yes.

Alice: Ja.

L: Var det många svenskar som arbetade på John Deer? De sa ju alltid det att: kunde de John Deer, så släppte de dem inte på nästa ställe.

Alice: Ja.

L: Så de arbetade där de flesta svenskarna då?

Alice: Å - det vet jag inte om det var de 'fleste, men

Erik: And Belgian.

L: Och belgare ja.

Alice: Oh yes.

L: Hur kom belgarna överens med svenskarna?

Erik: All right.

L: Så det var lätt att vara tillsammans med dem?

Alice: 'Di lärde sig och språka svenska och svenskarna lärde sig och språka belgiska.

L: Det gjorde de väl aldrig!

Alice: Å - visst gjorde dom det.

L: Svenskar språkade belgiska!

Alice: De lärde sig. Sure! 'Di 'kunne inte; inte så 'di 'kunne

L: Alltså; ett fåtal ord.

Alice: Ja!

L: På arbetsplatsen?

Alice: Jaa, likadant som the Belgians lärde sig svenska. "Hur mår Du"? och - och allt sånt där. Ja.

L: Så det var en kamratanda på arbetsplatsen?

Alice: Å - ja, visst. Ja visst.

L: Men italienare och svenskar kom ju inte så bra överens under de första åren i en del städer. Men det var inga italienare här i Moline?

Alice: Å det har varit rätt så många i Rock Island.

L: Det var det?

Alice: Ja, det var rätt så många.

L: Men inte i Moline då?

Alice: Well det kanske är några stycken men inte så värst många. Men där är mer i Rock Island.

L: På Din arbetsplats, Erik, var det några andra nationaliteter där?

Erik: There was a mixture. There was Swedes. Belgian, Germans and; You name it.

L: Jaha.

Alice: What was (?), what was he?

Erik: Well - in the building construction.

Alice: Yeah, but what nationality was (?)?

Erik: Who?

Alice: (?), what was he?

Erik: German.

L: Vad kunde förmännen vara för nationaliteter: svenskar, belgare eller tyskar?  
Erik: It depended on where You worked. I worked for one in Moline here; with some buildings. There were Swedes, all of them: formen and workers.  
L: Running the hole thing?  
Erik: Well. We had German brick layers there too You know - see. But; there was  
Alice: A mixture.  
Erik: We were Swede formen and we were Germans - and - a mixture - see.  
L: So You worked for all kind of different formen then: Germans, Swedes, Belgians?  
Erik: Well. Yeah.  
L: Where there any differencies?  
Erik: No.  
L: They said the Swedes there were the hardest to work for.  
Erik: Yes.  
L: They were?  
Erik: Yes.  
L: They always said it in Chicago! You had two years down in Chicago. Du gick igenom ekluten, som man säger.  
Erik: I never had any trouble. I worked in two years.  
L: But in Chicago - I suppose - it was much tuffer though than in Moline?  
Erik: Oh yeah.  
L: It was?  
Erik: Yes, it was.  
L: Because there were more people waiting to get in, to compete.  
Erik: Yeah and then there were so many nationalities - You know. Al Capone was up there too, You know.  
L: That's right. But he didn't have anything to say at that time? Did he?  
Erik: Well. There were a lot of recruiterian.  
L: Yeah but there was no unions though?  
Erik: Oh yes, You had to pay.  
L: Oh; the brick layers were organized in the Labors.  
Alice: The carpenters, and all of them. Yes.  
L: The carpenters were organised - yes.  
Erik: You had to work.  
L: So then it was a favouritism if You belonged to a certain group.  
Erik: Yeah.  
L: But I suppose the brick layers, they were most the Italians. Weren't they amazingly workers?  
Erik: Oh I don't know.  
Alice: No, there's Swedes too. There's lots of Swedes that are brick layers.  
L: But there were more Italians though?  
Erik: No.  
L: No!  
Alice: Well - not right there where You were, I guess.  
Erik: They won't learn the bricks, because there'll be to complicated. You want to make it in some other way - You know. Make it more simple.  
L: The Italians?  
Erik: Yeah. You'll take lots of the Swedes and the Germans - well - the Scandinavians - and the Germans. They work all right, You see. They work together. If You take an Italian ( ? överhoppat ). No.

L: How about the Belgians. They are coming in between there?

Erik: They're most dependent. They worked on, all the time here. I've never met a Belgian in Chicago; I've never met a Belgian.

L: No, but here You met them though!

Erik: Oh yes sure. And they worked as anybody else.

L: Jaha.

Erik: They are all right.

Alice: Look at those birds on the roof there! I guess they're sparrows, but they sure don't look like sparrows.

L: Yeah they are sparrows - young ones.

Alice: mm.

L: So; so You continued then in the construction: Erik, all Your life?

Erik: Yeah.

L: You didn't work for John Deere, or for the International Harvester?

Erik: Well. When I first came down there, I worked for her brother and then they broke up, so that was just a short time. Then I went down to John Deere and that was just a short time there. Then I went down to Farmhall and that was just a short time there. So -

Alice: But they called You back at John Deere; that You had a job. You had a job at the construction and You didn't like - he didn't like the shop; inside. He liked the outside work.

Erik: I liked the building construction outside. Outside.

L: You worked as a carpenter then - or?

Erik: I've done a little bit of everything.

L: Jaha.

Alice: Cement work and

L: Hand carrying?

Alice: Yeah, he

L: To Telegraph them orders?

Erik: No. That, I didn't do.

L: Did You work for Petersons?

Båda: No.

L: Because: There were quite a few construction businesses here in Moline.

Erik: Yeah.

Alice: And during

Erik: I worked for a guy down in Rock Island: Stillfield Construction.

Alice: And during the war he was not in uniform, but he was in the government and the government service.

L: They needed construction workers.

Alice: Yeah they had a job at the Arsenal (?).

L: Oh, the Arsenal. In Indiana - and back to the Arsenal.

Alice: Yeah.

L: You didn't work though when You were married?

Alice: I worked for a family by the name of ( ? ) - and - I was there and there was (?), she's in her 80s and I was there for over 50 years and helped them

L: Oh I see! Cooking - and -

Alice: Yeah; cooking and with different things and how to raise the children, they are three boys, - and ( ? ).

L: So You kept on going then.

Alice: Yeah.

L: You rented an apartment then the first time when You got married?

Alice: Oh yeah.

L: How about the Swedes, - when they came in the early 20s - did they have their own houses usually, or did they rent?

Båda: No.

Alice: Everybody rented. Nobody had any money, so;

L: But the 20s; they said it was pretty good then in the early 20s.

Alice: No. I don't know.

Erik: When I first came to Chicago, I was single then You know. We rented just a room then - You see, we just had a room in some place - You see. And I lived with Germans - and I lived with Swedes - and I lived with - oh - Irish. - So; that went good.

L: But - the ones that came in the first 20s - were they able to buy their own house?

Alice: I don't know.

L: The most they rented then?

Alice: I think they 'do. An awful lot of them rented. And there were someone

L: It was after the war it started?

Erik: Then that started to be more.

L: And it was **after** the war?

Erik: After the war.

Alice: The WWII yeah.

L: Ja.

Alice: mm.

L: Then the people moved out from their apartments and got their own houses. So You came to this house in the 50s or?

Alice: No. We haven't lived here more than about nine years.

L: Oh - I see. So You came in late here, in this part.

Alice: mhm.

L: Then You belong to Wasa, You said.

Alice: Yeah we joined there in 1931.

L: -31.

Erik: 54 years!

L: And then; the Wikings.

Erik: Yeah.

L: Why did You join two organizations? Was that because of the hospitalisation?

Alice: No, not necessarily.

L: New friends?

Alice: Friends, You know - and You go to different things and there are different doings.

L: But it was the only hospitalisation You could get at that time?

Alice: Oh, no. You could get hospitalisation. You could get the hospitalisation if You

L: Yes, but it wasn't usual. The most of them went to an organisation, like Wasa.

alice: Oh yeah; but it was not only for that though, because that was so little, that it didn't amount.

Erik: It was a small part You know.

Alice: That was mostly for the social. No, I wouldn't **say that**.

L: No, but way back. I'm talking about in the 1930s now. There was a good help though: 6, 8 dollars a week, if You got sick for instance.

Alice: You wouldn't believe in this, but I have belonged to it for that many years and I have done 8 dollars out of it.

L: Yes. You are one of the better ones!

Alice: Well - yes.

L: You've been perky then, in other words.

Alice: yes, yes - maybe I have, but I have also reported it and then You have to be sick so long, before you get something.

L: And You then are well again.

Alice: Yeah, so You never got it.

L: But the one that really got sick though in the 30s, it was a good help to have that money.

Alice: Oh yeah I suppose.

L: So; the Nobel, they were pretty big then, the Nobel lodge?

Alice: Oh yes. Yes. Yes.

L: You met downtown at that time?

Alice: There were different. There was a ..

Erik: We joined down in

Alice: Peter hall. It was on the 15th street in the 50th Ave, but after that they moved to the

Erik: Odd Fellows.

Alice: The Odd fellows building You know. There were different.

L: It was in the last years though.

Alice: And then we had the camp, You know, a camp by the river. Camp nobel.

L: Yes.

Alice: And that belongs to some Greeks now, that they have it to a recreation club.

L: Was it by Rock river?

Båda: Yeah.

L: On rock river.

Båda: Yes.

L: It was back in the 1930s they bought it?

Alice: Well - let's see. Det var i .. -37, -37 I think. They done some work in -37 but it was built before, I think. But they built it. The Nobel lodge built it.

L: So You were able to hang on then to the lodge membership, even during the Depression. A lot of people had to drop off.

Alice: Oh yeah. But it wasn't that much. It wasn't that much. No we managed.

L: You paid these dues then in Wasa?

Alice: I did.

L: You did!

Alice: I did!

L: So - Your help was almost needed then; I mean: for two people to hang together?

Alice: Oh yeah.

L: One persons income was not enough?

Alice: No. No not at that way. Because I didn't have to much in salary but I boarded a room and everything.

L: So You could save ( Utelämnat )?

Alice: Yeah, sure, more or less. And I had uniforms and everything there.

L: You said You went out to Waterloo, Iowa, to a farm. Did You have a car then?

Alice: Hes brother had a car.

L: Oh I see.

Erik: My brother came in and got me. So he left Chicago, he was down there first.

L: So he left also Chicago for farming?

Erik: Oh yes sure, oh sure!

L: There was no job to be seen.

Alice: No. No. No there wasn't anything.

Erik: And then he came in and got me. ( ? Överhoppat ).

L: Was Your brother going back to Moline again then, or did he stay out there too?

Alice: No he stayed out there for quite a while. He stayed out there quite awhile.

Erik: And there was even a time when he had nothing to do out there - so he just worked for his bread and his meal - so he could stay out there. They couldn't pay him, so he stayed out there - see. I left there and came in to Moline.

Alice: You picked up a little bit. You were working in a dairy for a little bit.

Erik: Yeah.

Alice: He done all kinds of things, where ever he could get a job.

Erik: In one time I even painted the cars for someone.

Alice: I think that was cute!

Erik: With a brush.

L: A brush.

Erik: And I think I got 2 050 cents for doing it! I didn't care what they looked like, I just painted!

Alice: Yeah.

L: People are talking about the Depression today. Now adays it's a lot of money around.

During that depression it was no money around. You couldn't see any money.

Båda: No.

L: How about the Depression today?

Alice: There's a lot of them - You know - they have been out of work for so long, course; they are in welfare and there wasn't any welfare at that time.

Erik: No.

L: There was no way through it?

Alice: No. No. There was no welfare.

Erik: I even went up to the Welfare here in Moline and asked if there would be anything I could do and they said ( ? överhoppat ): married or single. I wasn't married then see. No work.

L: So a unmarried ones could never receive any help?

Alice: Unmarried - no.

L: Noone without children or wife could receive though?

Erik: If You were married You mabee got

Alice: Then mabee You could pick up something that would help You.

Erik: You could get in the grocery - You see. That was all You got. But the single didn't get it. So I asked: What are You doing with the single guys? and girls?

L: And it was the same thing if You; Alice, have ever asked for it?

Alice: Yeah! If You were single. Cause: if You were Germans and Swedes, You never had any trouble with house work, because they were (?) after. Most of them, they would say: What nationality are You?

L: They asked for that?

Alice: Yeah - if You were a Swede - they wanted the Swedish girls. If You were born in Sweden You didn't have **any trouble at all**. And the same with the Germans too. I don't know about the Norwegians, but I never had heard. I do know that they asked one time, when I first came here, when I put in my application. They asked me if I was German or Swede.

L: In what year did You take out Your citizen papers? Erik: You got your first?

Alice: Yeah. He got hes in .. -36.

Erik: No?

Alice: Yes. Yeah You got Yours in -36.

Erik: Yeah.

Alice: And I got mine in -37, but I didn't have to apply for my first paper, I got on hes.

Erik: On mine, see.

L: Oh I see. Then after the war, it was a different picture of everything.

Erik: It started. Everybody could work in Moline, You know. That took a time before You could start a work.

Alice: But I read an article in the paper yesterday about this credit cards. People had gone overboard with these credit cards. They are just buying right and left and then they hadn't any money to pay for it.

L: And back in that time there were no plastic cards!

Alice: No. No.

L: But what did the people do then, if they couldn't get a job. Nothing to eat and nothing to buy for. What happened?

Alice: I really don't know!

Erik: The soup line.

Alice: I guess that.

L: Who had the soup line, the Salvation Army?

Alice: The Salvation army.

L: Was it the only church that had a soup line?

Erik: ( ? Utelämnat ).

Alice: I don't know what other churches had it but I know the Salvation army, they were very good people.

Erik: Oh yeah and they still have it, I guess.

Alice: I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the Salvation army, because they were so good to everybody. And of course: when I first came here, to Moline, there was mostly Swedish in the Salvation army and every Christmas - You know - they were marching through the streets some time and they were singing. - And now adays they don't speak Swedish any more.

L: So there were a lot of Swedes when You came here in 1929?

Alice: Oh yes. Oh there's just as many Swedish now I guess, but they're Swedish descends most of them. We are not that many. All those are dying off - You know.

L: How about the oldtimers, that were here in the 1930s, that You met?

Alice: They had their Swedish customs, and everything.

Erik: When we joined the Wasa, they spoke Swedish every time.

Alice: They spoke Swedish then.

L: At the meetings.

Alice: Oh yeah.

Erik: But - that died out.

Alice: Yeah. Because there are so many of the Swedish descends, they don't know. We have a son. He understands a few things in Swedish but he can't speak it. He was over in Sweden two years ago, but he couldn't speak with those that didn't talk English, because the most of the yunger people in our families, they speak English You know.

L: Did You talk Swedish when they were growing up?

Erik: No.

Alice: We talked to a certain extent. Well - I remember when he was little, the way he used to say, when ever we talked. He says: "I know what You are talking about". Because if we didn't want him to here it, then we talked Swedish.

L: He got a drift of it.

Alice: "So; I know what You were saying" he used to say. But, still, when he got away from home,

L: He can't express himself?

Alice: No. When he got away from home. Now, he wish that he could.

Erik: Now he wish that he could.

Alice: Yeah. Now he wishes. And, we used to say table prayers, and - and at Night and that in Swedish - You know - until he was around ten years old and he says: "why do we have to say it in Swedish when we live in America" he used to say. So we turned right around there. He was happier with that.

L: Was he interested to join Wasa or Wiking?

Alice: Yes, he was a Wiking, he was in the Wikings for, the Wiking Uniors for quite a while, but then after he got married, then he got out in Nebraska, he dropped it.

L: What's the differences between the Wikings and the Wasa?

Alice: The Wikings is alife and Wasa is dying.

L: So they had their club house; that makes the difference?

Alice: Yeah. But more than half are; they say that they are Swedish, but it can be a Swedish ancestor, way back when. Just that they have a little bit, mabe one drop of Swedish blood in their veins, so they can belong to the Wikings! Which is really not supposed to be. It's supposed to be for the Scandinavians.

L: Are some of the Swedes here married to Belgian people?

Alice: Yeah.

L: There are some?

Alice: Oh yes! Our church, our Swedish church here, they have had Belgians.

L: Which one is that?

Båda: Salem.

L: Oh, Salem.

Alice: Yes!

L: So there are Belgian people.

Alice: Oh sure.

L: Mary Lindén?

Alice: Mary Lindén then, and some, if they, either the woman or the man, ( ? överhoppat ).

L: I see.

Erik: We have even Jewish!

Alice: Yeah!

Erik: And we got one couple. He was a Swedish minister!

Alice: Yeah he was, he isn't now. He is ordained and he is Jewish and hes whife is Jewish, and everything. And they join our church and he is an ordained minister, but he doesn't work as a minister now.

L: A Lutheran minister?

Alice: Yeah!

Erik: He work for the IPM.

Alice: He said that he got better pay there. He had a little church in some place, i don't remember where it was, before he went into Moline.

L: How does it work out when a Swedish girl or boy marry a non Swedish? Which one is taking over then?

Alice: It all (?).

L: In other words: what can You see?

Alice: Well, I don't know! I don't know. I don't know what I should say about that, because - if the girl is a Swedish - she probably want to hang on to some of the Swedish customs and things like that, like around hollidays and things like that. But; I don't think the boy, or the man, is quite as.

L: So it depends on.

Alice: Yeah.

L: How about the Belgians? Are they stronger together than the Swedes?

Alice: Well - not they which belong to our church. They don't stick together no.

Erik: No.

Alice: But he means, I guess, when they belong to the Catholic church.

L: So the most of them are Catholics?

Alice: Oh yeah. Oh yeah all Belgians are born Catolics. Oh yes! Oh yes.

L: But they can cross over?

Alice: Yeah they can cross over. And we have some of them that have been Lutherans, that have had joined to the Catholics too. Cause my best ( ? överhoppat ), their son married a Catholic girl and he has left the Lutheran church.

L: To get peace in their hearts they have to join.

Alice: I suppose. I suppose.

L: What do their parents say about that things?

Alice: Well - it isn't easy, but what can You say? I always wished that our son would marry a girl with the same religion and he did! But; if he hadn't, what could we do then? We couldn't have done a thing.

Erik: Our daughter in law, You've better not call her anything else but a Swede.

Alice: Her mother is Scoth/Irish and her father was a Swedish descent. But she don't want to be called anything else but a Swede.

L: She didn't like!

Alice: No no.

Erik: I said: ""Mary Jean"! I said: "Where was it Your grand father came from"? "Å, han kom från Dalsland"!

Alice: She speakes better Swedish than our son.

Erik: But she isn't born Swedish!

L: So she sticks off for the Swedish then!

Alice: Oh, yes - and around Christmas time they eat all the Swedish food and everything and they buy things from the Swedish shops - and all things like that.

Erik: And she is even on the board for the seminary in Chicago, That daughter in law.

L: You mean the Lutheran school of theology?

Alice: A-Ha - she's on the board there.

L: What's her name?

Alice: Mary Jean Steenberg.

Erik: And she is, for the state of Nebraska; she is .

Alice: She has been in Europe three times for the Lutheran conference.

Erik: Yeah.

L: So she is really interrested.

Erik: She has been in Switzerland.

L: Your son then, is he a minister?

Alice: No no! No, he's a chemist.

Erik: He's a research chemist.

L: And his wife then is from the Nebraska area?

Alice: No.

Erik: She is born in Sioux city

Alice: Sioux city Iowa.

Erik: and raised in Iowa.

Alice: Her mother; her father is dead now, but her mother lives in Kansas. But Mary Jean - our daughter in law - she's an English teacher for the Omaha college.

L: Oh I see!

Erik: And - now - that was the last year - they were in Budapest.

Alice: In Budapest yeah, they went with Johns (?). She went with.

L: It was a world conference?

Alice: Yeah it was a world conference and she went there. They were only four from the United States and she was one of the four. And the year before, she was in Switzerland and the year before that, she was in Norway.

Erik: In Norway.

L: So she is really involved then with the religion.

Erik: She is very very much for the Lutheran churches and the background, the Swedish, - You know and she's (?) of Augustana, and so is the boys of ours too.

L: She carries the Swedish traditions.

Alice: Yes, very much.

L: If You compare the Belgian with the Swedish organizations, like the Swedes have the Wiking and Wasa. Are the Belgians strong in their ethnic groups?

Alice: I think they do.

Erik Visar en bild: It's way up here on the 7th street. That's the Belgium place.

L: Right in town.

Alice: They have their Friends circle - don't they?

Erik: What do You call that hall there?

Alice: ( ? Överhoppat ).

Erik: No no.

Alice: The Friends circle. That's the big hall there where they have all their doings, the Friends circle.

Erik: They had been there and they had their drinks and beer and what ever You like.

L: Did they have the same problem with the young people as the Swedish organisations have?

Alice: I suppose they do. I really don't know, but I imagine so.

Erik: That's neighbour here, he is Belgian. He's born here, and so is his wife. But; You can't meet any better people.

Alice: Oh, no.

L: Your neighbours?

Alice: Oh yeah, we are wonderful friends.

Erik: They do anything for us and I do the same thing for him!

L: What kind of work did the Belgians do then in the 20s and 30s?

Erik: They did work in the shops.

L: In the John Deere, and the International Harvester?

Alice: No. He worked for John Deere. He is retired.

Erik: He was (?) for John Deere.

Alice: I think You find wonderful people in all nationalities, I don't care what You say.

Erik: Yes.

L: Yes, I suppose that! But when many nationalities come to the same place: like Swedes and Italians and Germans.

Alice: Yeah, but, You know, that has been gone on for so many years, so that the people are used to that. It's just what they know.

L: They don't notice the differences.

Alice: No. And I don't think that they notice it as much now, in this generation, as they did when we were young. Because; then it was more so: the emphasize was: he's a Swede and he's a Belgian, but now You never hear that.

L: So that's out, more or less.

Alice: Yeah. But; - like I say - I think You find good people and any bad people in every nationality, it don't care what it is.

L: But the Swedes, they had a good reputation when they came here??

Alice: Oh yes. I think the Swedes have always had a good reputation.

L: You were not afraid to say that You were a Swede.

Alice: No.

L: Did they ask about Your religion also?

Alice: No. Well; I can't remember, yeah! mabee they did, when You had to fill out a paper or something like that, I think they asked for the religion.

L: Because now adays You can't ask the question.

Alice: Oh can't You?

L: No.

Erik: No. They take, when You go to the hospital, ( ? överhoppat ).

Alice: Oh yeah. Or if You belong to a church ( ? överhoppat ). But; I didn't know that they aren't allowed to ask that.

L: They can't do that.

Erik: What's that?

L: If You apply for a job, You don't have to tell what religion You belong to.

Erik: No. I don't think I ever have been asked either.

Alice: I can't remember. When I was with the lawyer family for so many many years. Mr lawyer was Catholic and Mrs lawyer was Episcopalian. Cause there isn't too much difference in those two religions.

L: They went to two different churches though?

Alice: Yes. And the older son went to S:t Andrews in Devenport and he was going to take the Catholic religion in aware when he first started. And the preast came to Mr lawyer. He said: "You might just forget it, because Your son would never be a Catholic. He doesn't believe in it and he doesn't go to the church". He married a girl that belongs to the Episcopalian church and she goes to the church and they have confirmations - and things like that - but they haven't the Lutheran. And the three girls are confirmed there and the mother goes, but Jim never goes.

L: So mabee he saw to much when he where growing up?

Alice: I can't say. Because Mr lawyer was the kind of a person that never would hurt anybody. He never emphasized with any other religions, he just went along. And in those days they didn't eat meat on Friday - You know. And now they do, I mean, now there is all different! But they didn't eat meat on Friday and he never made any essue of it. If meat was there, he would just go out mabee and find himself an egg, or something like that and there was never anything said. Never, never. He was the most wonderful person that ever was. And so was she. And we have been together now since 1933 and I can say honnestly that we have never had a cross word.

L: What kind of profession was he in?

Alice: He was a district manager for an insurance company. It's a wonderful family and they have three boys and they were just marvellous kids. The oldest one is vice president for (?) company and the other one is a doctor and the other one is a president for the (?) in Rock Island. So they have good

L: Good education.

Alice: Yeah.

L: Your son also got good education.

Alice: Yes he has.

L: The Augustana college,

Alice: Yeah - and he has PHC from the University of Arkanso. He tought in Arkanso. He got hes assistentship there. He went to school and then tought chemistry in the university there.

Erik: He tought up in Missouri too.

Alice: He got hes job then. The principal down there, at the University of Arkanso, they don't hire ( ? överhoppat ). So when he was through, when he got hes degree, then he had to get out. So they helped him, so he was two years in (?), Missouri. But then he was all around ( ? överhoppat ). So the younger teachers, they wanted them to work without the certificate You know.

L: You went back then to Sweden after 54 years.

Erik: Yeah.

L: Was it the last year?

Alice: No, four years ago.

L: Four years.

Alice: Yeah four years ago.

L: So what did You find then, after so many years, in Fjärås?

Erik: We found a different country.

Alice: We found a different country yes.

Erik: Absolutely different from - You know - what we expected.

L: What were You looking for when You came back?

Erik: We know - I did anyhow - and; I think she did too - there were changes, like here, we know that - but I didn't think it ever had changed that much.

Alice: No. I was looking for pals, and things like that, and they were all gone. We had a small farm over home and it was all - You know - worked; and everything. And now it was grown; over grown with treas - and that just hurt me, because see all that thing. You couldn't even find that little creek or anything. You walked in the woods, You were afraid to get lost. And it's all for the treas! And the place where he was born, not the home where he was rased, but where he was born, I didn't go down there. But him and hes brother went down there and Erik said, that the treas were big as he couldn't even reach around them with hes arms, in those years.

Erik: When we left Sweden; when I did - and - she left two years after, they were poor, they were so poor in Sweden so there was not even funny.

Alice: Ja det var det fattiga Sverige.

Erik: I will tell You a story. When I was through school You know, I couldn't work for that, that was the contracts. But I was not old enough to be out there yet.