Biographical Note

Hans Fredrickson was born on February 3, 1909 in Småland, Sweden. Two of Hans' sisters died at young ages of whooping cough, but his nine other siblings survived. Hans’ father, Frederick Anderson, was a farmer, and Hans grew up helping him with milking the cows and picking the potatoes. Hans' mother, Omilia Jonsson, helped in the fields as well, but she also did the baking and washing. For about six years, Hans attended school; his family did not have enough money for him to go beyond the sixth grade. As a child, Hans delighted in the traditional Swedish celebrations of holidays like Christmas, Easter, and Midsummer. Although he loved the Swedish heritage, Hans disliked the work in Sweden and chose to move to America in 1928. He first settled in Chicago, employed in the concrete business. Hans attended school to learn English and picked up the language quickly. After a short time in Chicago, Hans moved to a variety of places like South Dakota, North Dakota, and finally, Tacoma, Washington; he worked on farms, dams, and logging camps. In 1931, Hans met Elsie Danielson, whom he married in 1934. The two of them visited Sweden in 1936, 1959, 1974, and 1980. They had four children, all of whom spoke Swedish until they began attending school. Each one became a National Merit Scholarship winner. Hans enjoys gardening and belongs to the Valhalla Lodge and the Order
Hans Fredrickson Oral History Interview, 1981
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv26678
transferred to compact disc. We deliberately did not transcribe the entire interview because we want the researchers to listen to the interviewee's own voice. The transcription index highlights important aspects of the interview and the tape counter numbers noted on the Partial Interview Transcription are meant as approximate finding guides and refer to the location of a subject on the cassette/CD. The recording quality is good.

The collection was transcribed by Mary Sue Gee, Julie Peterson and Becky Husby.

**Bibliography**


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**Detailed Description of the Collection**

The partial interview transcription highlights important aspects of the interview. Numbers may be used as guides to important subjects. Two numbers separated by a slash indicate that the first number is for cassette and the second for CD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassette</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 92, side 1  | 008: PERSONAL BACKGROUND  
Born Smålând, Sweden, February 3, 1909. |
| 92, side 1  | 015: PARENTS  
Frederick and Omelia Anderson. Custom for son to take father's first name for his last name plus son. |
| 92, side 1  | 022:  
Ten brothers and sisters (see previous) |
| 92, side 1  | 031: WHOOPING COUGH  
Two sisters dead during epidemic. Many people were victims of disease. |
| 92, side 1  | 045: FATHER'S OCCUPATION  
Farmer, when younger, employed on railroad in North Norway. |
| 92, side 1  | 048: MOTHER'S MAIDEN  
Jonsson, maternal grandfather employed as builder. |
| 92, side 1  | 057: GROWING UP IN SWEDEN  
Work for all, woods backbone of farm, selling timber, taking care of children, housework. Rough life, but a good life, learned discipline. |
<p>| 92, side 1  | 076: COWS |</p>
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113: POTATOES</td>
<td>Lots of potatoes it took weeks to pick them, kept out of school to pick and sell potatoes.</td>
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<td>123: PIGS</td>
<td>Slaughtered for family use, salted meat for preservation and also smoked them.</td>
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<td>138: MOTHER AND FATHER</td>
<td>Mother did all baking, washing, etc. and worked in the field. Lived until age 75. Father died in 1946.</td>
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<td>163: SCHOOL DAYS</td>
<td>Started at age 7. Learned to read before school days. Lasted for 6 years. Loved school, not much of it. Teacher gave special instruction in arithmetic encouraged studies. After 6th grade you had to pay for school. Speaks of his children's education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>228:</td>
<td>Speaks of birth of grandson.</td>
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<td>238: CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN</td>
<td>Snow. Found tree in the forest, decorating the tree, big breakfast and noon meal. Opening presents. Church on Christmas Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>257: SPECIALITY FOODS</td>
<td>Dopparedagen - name for Christmas Eve. They dipped boiled pork in juice, homemade sausages, meatballs, ham, lutfisk, &amp; potatoes for breakfast. Evening - rice pudding with almonds - whoever got almond would get married next. Many baked goods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>295: CHRISTMAS PRESENTS</td>
<td>Little money, children bought presents for each other/ knock at friend's door, throw packages and run.</td>
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<tr>
<td>307: JULTOMTEN</td>
<td>Same as Santa Claus here. Christmas lasted almost 2 weeks.</td>
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<td>Bible instruction when child, confirmation, first communion. He was Lutheran.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 92, side 1 | 394: RECEIVED A BIKE  
Really could get places fast. |
| 92, side 1 | 397: FOLK CUSTOMS  
Told troll stories, scared to go to bed after. |
| 92, side 1 | 415:  
| 92, side 1 | 441: OFF TO CHICAGO, 1928  
Wanted adventure. Tired of work in Sweden. Speaks of brothers and sisters. Parents didn't like to see children go. |
| 92, side 1 | 485: BOAT TRIP  
9-10 days. Borrowed money from brother in Chicago area (Drottningholm) cost of voyage $100. |
| 92, side 1 | 545: LANDED NEW YORK CITY  
Sent telegrams to brothers. Couldn't speak English. TOOK TRAIN TO CHICAGO: Nobody to meet him. |
| 92, side 1 | 568:  
Didn't go to Ellis Island. Processed by American Council in Sweden. |
| 92, side 1 | 574: FIRST IMPRESSIONS  
Never saw black person before. Couldn't speak English on train, not much food on train trip. |
| 92, side 1 | 596: EMPLOYMENT  
In Chicago, concrete business - basements, steps, mostly foundations. Hard work, but big money 90 cents an hour. |
| 92, side 1 | 626: LEARNING ENGLISH  
Went to school 5 days a week. Mostly worked with Swedish speaking people. North side of Chicago large proportion were Swedish. Picked English up fast. |
| 92, side 2 | 007:  
Cold winters in Chicago area. Worked as bricklayer during winters. |
| 92, side 2 | 059: SOUTH DAKOTA  
Threshing. Weather not very good. Lived with farmers - moved from farm to farm. Compares weather in Chicago with South Dakota. |

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| 92, side 2  | **088: ON TO NORTH DAKOTA**  
| 92, side 2  | **118: ON TO TACOMA, WASHINGTON**  
Came at time of fair. Picked apples. Talks of his family living there. **UNCLE:** Axel Anderson, 19th & M in Tacoma. |
| 92, side 2  | **147: LEONARD ANDERSON**  
Outstanding musician (Tacoma area), played the accordion and piano, everyone took lessons. |
| 92, side 2  | **155: EMPLOYED TIDE-WATER SAWMILL**  
Eventually burned down. Many mills burned down. |
| 92, side 2  | **164: CUSHMAN DAM**  
Employed for period of time. Depression: Not bad, got a job through employment office. Didn't like working on the dam. |
| 92, side 2  | **191: EMPLOYED FOR PACIFIC NATIONAL RAILROAD**  
Describes work building RR toward the mountain. Job also working south of Olympia. |
| 92, side 2  | **212:**  
Describes improving the saw mill production and work at the smelter. |
| 92, side 2  | **225: DEPRESSION**  
No work, hit 1932-33. Various odds and end jobs. Built a cabin in Milton ($200 an acre/total cost for cabin $17). Friend from Alaska brought salmon and ate food from the garden. |
| 92, side 2  | **284: RASPBERRY PICKING**  
Salary 35 cents a crate. Fired for not working on the Fourth of July. |
| 92, side 2  | **329: MEETING WIFE**  
Met at a dance. She from Puyallup. Wife's name Elsie Danielson. Speaks of wife's family, also from Sweden (see 363-II). |
| 92, side 2  | **355: ALASKA**  
Gold dredging and life with mosquitoes. |
| 92, side 2  | **363:**  
 Married fall 1934. Three years after meeting (see counter 329-II) |
<p>| 92, side 2  | <strong>369: EMPLOYED WITH WEYERHAUSER</strong> |</p>
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<td>Describes his work. Part includes building railroad. Made $15 a day. Laid off, later wanted him back. He describes several logging camps - Weyerhauser good food and treatment. Bordeaux was a bad camp.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 92, side 2 | **481: MOVED TO LITTLE ROCK**  
Prices for food cheap, “lived like kings.” Lived in Little Rock because camps had bad food and were expensive. |
| 92, side 2 | **530: DESCRIBES WEDDING**  
| 92, side 2 | **595: JOB AT TACOMA GRAIN**  
Unloaded wheat, wasn't steady work. |
| 92, side 2 | **604: SAW MILLS**  
Bad strike in 1930's loggers came to strike too. |
| 92, side 2 | **644: EMPLOYED VARIOUS JOBS**  
Work not steady. Employed at a flour mill, worked on tracks switching them. |
| 92, side 2 | **667: VISITING SWEDEN**  
In 1936, Was wonderful. Took bus to New York from there to Sweden by boat (Tape 93 Side I concludes trip back to Sweden). He stopped... |
| 93, side 1 | **001:**  
In Oklahoma City to visit his brother on the way to New York. CONCLUDES TRIP TO SWEDEN: Not many changes. Returned for another visit in 1974 (see counter I-242). |
| 93, side 1 | **077:** BROTHER VISITED NORWAY LAST YEAR (1980)  
Outstandingly beautiful. Drove to Gudbrandsdalen in his new Volvo. |
| 93, side 1 | **080:** CHILDREN  
Oldest son, Gary Lee, went to Stanford and became an engineer at Boeing, married and has 2 boys, Erik, who now goes to Dartmouth College and Mark, who is a very ambitious worker. Donald Hans is a doctor in nuclear physics at the University of Washington. Fixes machines for cancer treatments, does wood working and lives in Seattle. Karen Marie is a librarian director at Stanford. Glen Evert is the youngest, father of the third grandchild. |
| 93, side 1 | **147:** CHURCH LIFE  
Goes mainly at Christmas time, not every Sunday. |
| 93, side 1 | **157:** ORGANIZATIONS |
Belongs to Valhalla since 1934 - soon 50-year member, Order of Vasa, treasurer for Swedish Order of Valhalla and plays the accordion.

187: EMPLOYED VARIOUS JOBS
Carpenter after quitting the smelter. Worked for Western Boat until the War was over (in conjunction with Navy). Retired from Puget Sound Plywood Cooperative after 30 years.

221: DESCRIBES PRESENT HOUSE
Added on many times, once was a small house. All children born and raised here.

242: TRIPS BACK TO SWEDEN
1936, 1959 with all children, 1974 & 1980. Prices are high, farm still standing. Some family is still living there. Big family reunions in Sweden and in U.S. (see counter 001-III)

287: Growing, washing, cooking, eating "wonderful corn". Has a big garden and berries, fruit trees, flowers, everything.

305: Wife cooks Swedish foods. Continues to have Christmas like in Sweden: meals, trees, church and presents.

317: Children spoke Swedish, but lost it when they attended school. Son studied in Sweden for awhile; learned to speak and write Swedish and later studied in Munich.

373: Closes in Swedish.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Christmas
Depressions -- 1929
Education -- Sweden
Emigration and immigration
Family -- Sweden
Ocean travel
Sweden -- Economic conditions -- 1908-1928
Swedish-Americans--Social life and customs
Swedish-Americans--Northwest, Pacific--Interviews

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Personal Names:
Fredrickson, Bert
Fredrickson, Donald Hans
Fredrickson, Gary Lee
Fredrickson, Glen Evert
Fredrickson, Hans--Interviews
(creator)
Fredrickson, Helen May
Fredrickson, Karen Marie
Jonsson, Alma Omilia
Jonsson, Kristina
Andersson, Ott Fredrick
Fredrickson, Elsie Marie
Fredrickson, Hans
Fredrickson, Sven Fredrick
Jonsson, Ole
Målsson, Anders

Corporate Names:
Puget Sound Plywood Company (Tacoma, Wash.)
Swedish Order of Valhalla (Tacoma, Wash.)
Vasa Order of America. Lodge No. 233 (Tacoma, Wash.)

Family Names:
Andersson family
Fredrickson family
Jonsson family
Målsson family

Geographical Names:
Chicago (Ill.)
Milton (Wis.)
North Dakota
Småland (Sweden)
South Dakota

Form or Genre Terms:
Oral histories

Occupations:
Carpenters
Farmers
Loggers

Finding aid prepared by Kerstin Ringdahl and Amity Smetzler
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