

Trygve Bloch Nakkerud Oral History Interview, 1981

Overview of the Collection

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| Creator | Nakkerud, Trygve Bloch |
| Title | Trygve Bloch Nakkerud Oral History Interview |
| Dates | 1981 (inclusive) 1981 1981 |
| Quantity | 2 file folders 1 sound cassette 2 compact discs |
| Collection Number | t057 |
| Summary | Transcript of an oral history interview with Trygve Bloch Nakkerud, a Norwegian immigrant. |
| Repository | Pacific Lutheran University, Archives and Special Collections Archives and Special Collections Pacific Lutheran University 12180 Park Avenue South Tacoma, Washington 98447 Telephone: 253-535-7586 Fax: 253-535-7315 archives@plu.edu |
| Access Restrictions | The oral history collection is open to all users. |
| Additional Reference Guides | |
| Languages | English |
| Sponsor | Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. |

Biographical Note

Trygve Nakkerud was born on June 22, 1903 in Oslo, Norway to Andreas Nakkerud and Elise Bloch. Andreas was the President of a pulp mill and owned two farms. There were six children in the family, including Trygve: Ingrid, Sverre, Mads-Egil, Trygve, Eilert, and Ruth. Trygve attended public school and then went on to Agricultural College and training. In 1924, he decided to emigrate, but could not buy a ticket to the United States and went to Calgary, Alberta instead. In Calgary, he was hired by Lord Calendar to work with his horses, but when he failed to pay Trygve, Trygve left. He then went to New Westminister, British Columbia, where he joined the Sons of Norway and got a job as a carpenter. After this job, Trygve got a job extinguishing fires on the M.S. McCormack and then moved to Seattle, Washington. In the late 1920s, he worked as a non-union carpenter and later as a logger. At a logging camp near Vail, Washington, Trygve was asked about the logging conditions in Norway, and after he talked about conservation, he was fired. From there, he went to Aberdeen, Washington and wrote his first resolution on replanting and protection of forestry, after which he was unable to find any jobs. Trygve then began fishing in the Bering Sea and wrote two more resolutions, one of which Senator

Jackson took to Washington D.C. In 1948, the Seafarers International Union of North America asked Trygve to be their International Representative. Trygve was active in the Union for thirty-two years. Trygve has also been a member of the Denny Park Lutheran Church, the President of the Leif Erikson League, and the 17th of May committee treasurer. Trygve married Inga Amanda Treland, originally from Lyngdal, Norway, and had three children: Elise, Gladys, and Arnold. The family settled in Seattle, Washington. Trygve has enjoyed life and his accomplishments.

Lineage

Full Name: Trygve Bloch Nakkerud. Father: Andreas M. Nakkerud. Mother: Elise Gradert Bloch. Paternal Grandfather: Martinius A. Nakkerud. Paternal Grandmother: Johanne Kolbjørnsdatter. Maternal Grandfather: August Gradert. Maternal Grandmother: Christine Bloch. Brothers and Sisters: Ingrid Nakkerud, Sverre Nakkerud, Mads-Egil Nakkerud, Eilert Nakkerud, Ruth Sofie Nakkerud Rojahn. Spouse: Inga Amanda Treland. Children: Elise Katrine Nakkerud, Gladys Irine Nakkerud, Arnold Olav Nakkerud.

Content Description

The interview was conducted with Trygve Nakkerud on May 27, 1981 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. It contains information on family background, emigration, work, union activities, community activities, and marriage. The interview also contains: a postcard from Trygve, a program from Leif Erikson Day (1968) from the Norway Center in Seattle, Washington, minutes from a special board meeting at the Norway Center (January 5, 1972), an article on Trygve receiving the Ballard Exchange Club's "Outstanding Senior Citizens Award," correspondence with the Seattle Post Intelligencer, correspondence with the US Senate, articles on the fisheries in the Northwest, an article on Trygve and his real estate business, and an article on him from the Western Viking. Also see Amanda Nakkerud. The interview was conducted in English.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

There are no restrictions on use.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

The Oral History collection project was started during an experimental course on Scandinavian Women in the Pacific Northwest. Students in the course were encouraged to interview women and learn about their experiences as immigrants to the United States. The project was continued and expanded with support from the president's office and by grants from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, from the Joel E. Ferris Foundation and the Norwegian Emigration Fund of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project was directed by Dr. Janet E. Rasmussen. The collection was transferred to the Archives and Special Collections Department.

Acquisition Information

Related Materials

To search and view Pacific Lutheran University's digitized images, visit our [Digital Assets Website](#)

Processing Note

The interview was conducted by Morrene Nesvig using a cassette recorder. A research copy was also prepared from the original. To further preserve the content of the interview, it is now being 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

Rasmussen, Janet Elaine. *New Land New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* Tacoma, Washington University of Washington Press 1993

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.

| Container(s) | Description |
|--------------|---|
| Cassette | |
| 57, side 1 | 007/06: PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born on June 22, 1903 in Oslo, Norway. Family's home is in Nakkerud near Ringerike. |
| 57, side 1 | 037: Father's side of the family were farmers. Maternal grandfather was an architect. |
| 57, side 1 | 043: POST CARD FROM AUNT AMANDA Reads in Norwegian and translates. Left Norway on March 28, 1924. |
| 57, side 1 | 074/07: PARENTS Andreas and Elise Nakkerud, how they met. The name Nakkerud came from the Nakkerud farm. They have a Bible from King Olaf Trygvason from the year 1000. Father was president of a pulp mill. |
| 57, side 1 | 128/08: SIX BROTHERS AND SISTERS (see lineage) |

| Container(s) | Description |
|--------------|---|
| | Ingrid had polio. |
| 57, side 1 | 154: GRANDPARENTS Maternal grandfather operated the Nakkerud farms and was a district representative. |
| 57, side 1 | 164: GROWING UP IN NORWAY Swimming, boating, and walking around Tyridfjorden and Mjøsa, Norway. |
| 57, side 1 | 185/09: CHORES ON THE FARM Taxi driver (drove horses). |
| 57, side 1 | 197: SCHOOL IN NORWAY Public school, agricultural college and training. |
| 57, side 1 | 294/10: He was an agriculturist after college. |
| 57, side 1 | 300: CARL'S STORY America was an awful place according to the Canadian pamphlets. He put two and two together. |
| 57, side 1 | 352/11: LEAVING NORWAY Family's reaction. Gift was a Knepes book which is a book of early medical practices. |
| 57, side 1 | 375: TRYGVE THE ATHLETE Won first prize in a walking competition. He tells about the Knepes cure for varicose veins. |
| 57, side 1 | 425/12: Bought tickets to Canada. Couldn't buy one to the U.S. Should come to Vancouver, B.C. |
| 57, side 1 | 455: ARRIVAL HALIFAX, CANADA Five to six day train trip. Warned about the IWW's so he got off at Calgary, Canada. |
| 57, side 1 | 475: EMPLOYMENT OFFICE (CANADA) Hired by Lord Calendar. Wasn't getting paid (see counter I-596). Worked with the horses. |
| 57, side 1 | 558/13: FEELINGS ON CANADA |
| 57, side 1 | 596: |

| Container(s) | Description |
|--------------|--|
| | Not getting paid. Demanded payment (see counter I-475). Was offered land and Lord Calendar's daughter ended up taking some animals to town and sold them to get his money. |
| 57, side 1 | 660: Met three friends from the train trip in Calgary. (Side ends abruptly) |
| 57, side 2 | 004/01: Finished a mining job with friends. Went to Vancouver, B.C. One friend went back to the Old Country. |
| 57, side 2 | 034: NEW WESTMINISTER Joined the Sons of Norway. |
| 57, side 2 | 044: Got a job as a carpenter, had an accident and landed in the hospital. |
| 57, side 2 | 059/02: NEW JOB ABOARD THE M.S. MCCORMACK Put out fires. Emigration experience onto the U.S. |
| 57, side 2 | 071: Arrived in Seattle via the Queen (?) Ship. The taxi driver tried to cheat him. |
| 57, side 2 | 103: LATE 1920S Worked as a non-union carpenter. He was a scaler and later a faller when he worked in the woods. |
| 57, side 2 | 129/03: LOGGING CAMP (NEAR VAIL, WASHINGTON) Stormy day when they couldn't work and he was asked about the logging conditions in Norway. Trygve talked of conservation and was later fired. Went to Aberdeen, Washington. |
| 57, side 2 | 179: WROTE FIRST RESOLUTION Replanting and protection of forestry. No jobs available after the letter. IWW got a hold of the resolution. |
| 57, side 2 | 223/04: FISHERMAN IN THE BERING SEA Wrote two resolutions. Japanese came in and the Bering Sea was declared a disaster. |
| 57, side 2 | 246: Senator Jackson took the resolution to Washington, DC. |
| 57, side 2 | 256: SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA |

| Container(s) | Description |
|--------------|--|
| | Asked to be the international representative in about 1948. Scabs and Stool pigeons at work. |
| 57, side 2 | 347/05: HARRY LUNDEBERG There was an attempt to kill him. He was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific. |
| 57, side 2 | 358: On March 15, 1955 a bomb was thrown at Trygve and another backer of this act. |
| 57, side 2 | 372: 1915 Seaman's Act got through. No more walking the plank. People were kidnapped and made to work on ships. This act prevents this. Andrew Furuseth was |
| 57, side 2 | 416/06: active for 32 years in the union. Harry Lundeberg was the best union man in the world.Norway Center: Past President. |
| 57, side 2 | 460: Member of the Denny Park Lutheran Church. President of the Leif Erikson League and Treasurer of the 17th of May celebration. |
| 57, side 2 | 482: FISHING STORY Pacific Queen ran aground with a loaded ship. |
| 57, side 2 | 571/07: UNION STORY Stand up for your rights. Trouble with the union, he demanded his money back. |
| 57, side 2 | 646: PREVIOUS JOBS Owned a real estate office, and also wore a sheriff's badge. |
| 57, side 2 | 664/08: CLOSING REMARKS Enjoyed life and accomplishments. Nakkerud farm is now a Christian Center. The barn was destroyed by the Germans during the war. His son died in Vietnam. Trygve has two daughters. |

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Education--Norway

Emigration and immigration

Family--Norway

Norway--Social conditions--1945-

Norwegian-Americans--Northwest, Pacific--Interviews

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv73874>

Norwegian-Americans--Social life and customs

Personal Names :

Kolbjørnsdatter, Johanne

Nakkerud, Arnold

Nakkerud, Elise

Nakkerud, Gladys

Nakkerud, Martinius

Bloch, Christine

Bloch, Elise

Gradert, August

Nakkerud, Andreas

Nakkerud, Inga Amanda Treland

Nakkerud, Trygve--Interviews

(creator)

Corporate Names :

Denny Park Lutheran Church (Seattle, Wash.)

Leif Erikson League (Seattle, Wash.)

Norway Center (Seattle, Wash.)

Seafarers' International Union of North America.

Family Names :

Bloch family

Gradert family

Nakkerud family

Treland family

Geographical Names :

Calgary (Alberta)

Lyngdal herald (Norway)

New Westminster (B.C.)

Oslo (Norway)

Seattle (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Oral histories

Occupations :

Carpenters

Farmers

Loggers

Finding aid prepared by Kerstin Ringdahl and Amity Smetzler
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