

Lina Dahl Stakset Oral History Interview, 1981

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Stakset, Lina Dahl
Title	Lina Dahl Stakset Oral History Interview
Dates	1981 (inclusive) 1981 1981
Quantity	3 file folders 3 photographs 1 sound cassette
Collection Number	t106
Summary	An oral history interview with Lina Dahl Stakset, 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

Lina Stakset was born on April 7, 1904 in Refvik, Nordfjord, Norway. Her parents were Anders and Ragnhild Dahl, and there were seven other children in the family: Haldor, Anna (Strom), Ingeborg (Trongedahl), Dina, Martha (Kvamme), Anders, and Alf. Lina's parents were farmers, and the family lived on a farm with cows, horses, sheep, and pigs. Lina attended school from the age of seven to fourteen and was then confirmed. After confirmation, Lina began to do housework for her aunt and uncle and then worked in a hotel in Måløy for several years. Lina's uncle, who lived in the United States, encouraged her whole family to emigrate, and Lina left Norway in October 1928. The trip took nine days, and Lina got very seasick. Upon arrival, she and friend took the train to Seattle, WA. Lina had friends in Seabeck, WA. Lina's first job in Seattle was to care for sickly babies. She met her husband, Henry Stakset, at a friend's wedding. Henry was from Gjerdsvika, Norway and was a fisherman. They were married by a preacher in Vancouver, WA and settled in Seattle. They later moved to Tacoma, WA. Lina and Henry had three children: Christy (Jacobsen), Allen, and Henry. All of the children learned Norwegian at home, and Lina continued to cook traditional Norwegian foods. She has been active in Ole Hanson's church and meets with a Norwegian organization once a month at

Gloria Dei Church. Lina has also returned to Norway six times, and her Norwegian heritage means a lot to her.

Lineage

Full Name: Lina Dahl Stakset. Maiden Name: Lina Dahl. Father: Anders Dahl. Mother: Ragnhild Dahl. Paternal Grandfather: Haldor Dahl. Paternal Grandmother: Ingeborg Dahl. Maternal Grandfather: Anders Jerstad. Maternal Grandmother: Olina Jerstad. Brothers and Sisters: Haldor Dahl, Anna Dahl Strom, Ingeborg Dahl Trongedahl, Dina Dahl, Martha Dahl Kvamme, Anders Dahl, Alf Dahl. Spouse: Henry Stakset. Children: Christy Stakset Jacobsen, Allen Stakset, Henry Stakset Jr.

Content Description

This interview was conducted with Lina Stakset on October 26, 1981 in Tacoma, Washington. It contains information on family background, emigration, employment, marriage and family, community activities, and Norwegian heritage. The interview also contains photographs of Lina and her family, Lina's husband's boat, and Lina at the time of the interview. 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 Inger Nygaard Carr 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	
106, side 1	004: PERSONAL BACKGROUND Lina Stakset. Maiden name is Dahl. Born in Refvik, Nordfjord, Norway on April 7, 1904.
106, side 1	013: PARENTS Anders and Ragnhild (maiden name was Jerstad). Dahl means flat place. They were farmers with 4-5 cows, horses, sheep and pigs. Fished in the ocean in the winter. Caught cod (torsk).
106, side 1	032: GRANDPARENTS Paternal grandparents were Haldor Dahl and Ingeborg Dahl. He died when he was 40. he was the only one out of eleven brothers and sisters to stay in Norway. All the other went to America. He took over his father's farm.
106, side 1	051: FARM Cows, horses, sheep, corn and potatoes. Dried the corn and took it to grind for flour.
106, side 1	060: MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS They lived further up in Nordfjord. They were Anders and Olina. They were farmers and he built house also. They raised crops for their own use.
106, side 1	070: FATHER Sold milk. Talks about taking calves away from the mothers early.
106, side 1	080: BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Container(s)	Description
	Three sisters had five but they died early. Three brothers. Haldor came to Tacoma, Washington and started Tacoma Boat in 1932-1933. They build boats. Ingeborg and Anna are twins. Came to the U.S. Martha's husband is a carpenter. Speaks of her brothers and sisters some.
106, side 1	120: CHILDHOOD School, work on the farm and working with fish.
106, side 1	137: SCHOOL Seven years, age 7-14. Confirmed after school. School two days a week.
106, side 1	153: WINTER Went sledding and ice-skating.
106, side 1	157: CHURCH Walked an hour to church. Went as a family. Taught some at home. One preacher for three churches.
106, side 1	172: Took care of her grandmother for one year. She was bedridden.
106, side 1	180: CHRISTMAS Tree. Went to neighbors and sang around the tree. School had a Christmas festival. Good food. Presents were homemade things like sweaters, socks, etc.
106, side 1	197: Lina also did knitting and weaving in the winter.
106, side 1	202: HOME Simple house with one room. Ate, worked and did everything on the one room.
106, side 1	207: CHRISTMAS EVE FOOD Julesteik, dried meat steamed, flatbrød and potatoes. Christmas Day they had rømmegrøt.
106, side 1	222: Mother did lots of baking, lefse, waffles, søtkaka, and cookies. Bought eggs and sugar.
106, side 1	234: Tree stayed up until February. Homemade decorations on the tree. Talks about getting the tree.
106, side 1	258: HEAT

Container(s)	Description
	Had a wood stove and an electric stove. Had an electric heater in the later years.
106, side 1	274: CHURCH Went to church on Christmas Day if there was a preacher. Father read the Christmas story on Christmas Eve.
106, side 1	288: WORK After school, she went to do housework for her aunt and uncle. Worked many years in a hotel in Måløy, Norway.
106, side 1	342: Her father died from choking. Describes when he died. A terrible way to go.
106, side 1	367: Lina's uncle came to Norway from the U.S. and encouraged the family to come to the U.S.
106, side 1	383: TO AMERICA Anna in 1926, Haldor in 1926 and Ingeborg in 1927.
106, side 1	397: The rest of the family went to Bergen to get passes for the trip to America. Mother couldn't get a pass because she had an open sore and a sister couldn't get a pass because she didn't have an eye. Describes this in detail.
106, side 1	440: EMIGRATION Left Norway at the end of October 1928. Didn't feel good about leaving. Came over with a lady from the same place.
106, side 1	471: TRIP Sailed from Bergen on the "Stavangerfjord" straight to New York. Didn't go through Ellis Island. Only some had to go through.
106, side 1	492: ELLIS ISLAND Brother had problems. Nine doctors checked him. He had an open sore.
106, side 1	520: TRIP OVER Very seasick. Rough seas. Took nine days.
106, side 1	536: Lina and a friend went to Seattle. Had friends at Seabeck, Washington.
106, side 1	542: TRAIN TRIP

Container(s)	Description
	Couldn't speak English. Held onto purses. Made coffee on the train. Had Norwegian food with them. There was a lady to watch over them the whole trip. Sold sandwiches on the train.
106, side 1	567: THINGS BROUGHT TO AMERICA Rye toast and butter.
106, side 1	576: TRAIN It was dirty. Had a bed so they could sleep from Chicago to Seattle.
106, side 1	599: FEELINGS ON COMING TO AMERICA Lonesome. First job was to take care of sickly babies in Seattle.
106, side 1	633: LEARNING THE LANGUAGE Talking to a little boy helped her learn the language. Picked up the language by herself. Describes her living arrangement and job.
106, side 2	005: PAY AT JOBS \$50 per month. Good pay for the times.
106, side 2	024: HUSBAND Met him at the Norwegian church in downtown Seattle while at a friend's wedding. His name is Henry Stakset. He was a fisherman.
106, side 2	047: WEDDING No wedding. Went to a preacher in Vancouver, Washington. Her husband was from Norway too.
106, side 2	055: Settled in Seattle. He went to Alaska from April to November. Their daughter was born when he was gone.
106, side 2	062: CHILDREN Kristy lives in Virginia. She has three boys. Two are married so Lina has three grandchildren. Daughter's husband works with the government. She talks about her grandchildren.
106, side 2	085: Mother lived in Seabeck, Washington and her brothers worked in the woods and fished too. Lina lived in Seabeck for four years.
106, side 2	100: Lina's husband built a house.
106, side 2	109: CHILDREN

Container(s)	Description
	Allen is the oldest son. He's a plumber with the Tacoma Heating and Plumbing business. He has three sons.
106, side 2	123: HENRY Second son worked for Ford in South Tacoma. Got his own shop, fender and bodywork. He had three children, one is adopted. His wife is Arlene Faulk (?).
106, side 2	139: Other daughter in law is Bonnie Klink. Her daughter married Harold Jacobsen.
106, side 2	147: After marriage she worked a little. Had a few cows she milked. People came for cream to make butter.
106, side 2	162: CHURCH Active in Ole Hanson's church. Left the Lutheran church. Went to a Pentecostal church in Norway. Used to baby-sit in the church. Ladies Aid, missionary work.
106, side 2	189: NORWEGIAN ORGANIZATIONS Group meets once a month in a church. Everything in Norwegian. Attends Gloria Dei Church.
106, side 2	208: TRIPS TO NORWAY Six times. In 1949 the whole family took the "Oslofjord" ship over. They were in Norway for six months.
106, side 2	221: CHANGES Hard to buy things after the war.
106, side 2	236: In 1960 Henry and Lina went from October to January. In 1976 they had a big party for Henry's brother and his wife.
106, side 2	250: 1974 Home for six weeks. In 1976 she was home for birthdays.
106, side 2	265: CHANGES IN LATER YEARS They are modernized. No shortages. They buy frozen things like we do in the U.S.
106, side 2	293: Mother died in 1958. She was over 80.
106, side 2	297: LANGUAGE

Container(s)	Description
	Lina's children knew Norwegian. They learned it from home. They spoke it at home.
106, side 2	312: CITIZENSHIP In 1949, went to classes for this.
106, side 2	325: Lina has a sister in Fife, Washington. Her husband is Oscar Quamy. He's a builder.
106, side 2	336: FAMILY REUNIONS Large gathering of Nordfjord people. Four sisters and her brother attended. All live in Tacoma. Talks about family reunions. Golden Wedding anniversary.
106, side 2	380: NORWEGIAN CELEBRATIONS Food, language, gumball, krumkake, fattigmand, and kringla.
106, side 2	390: IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE Means a lot to be Norwegian. Likes the people and the place.
106, side 2	400: Met some Swedes and Danes in Seattle when she first came over.
106, side 2	
106, side 2	418: NORWEGIAN SPOKEN Good example. Talks about changing church in Norway in Norwegian.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Christmas
 Confirmation
 Education--Norway
 Emigration and immigration
 Family--Norway
 Marriage service
 Naturalization
 Norway--Social conditions--1945-
 Norwegian-Americans--Ethnic identity
 Norwegian-Americans--Northwest, Pacific--Interviews
 Norwegian-Americans--Social life and customs
 Ocean travel
 Railroad travel

Personal Names :

Stakset, Lina--Interviews
(creator)
Dahl, Haldor
Jacobsen, Christy (Stakset)
Stakset, Allen
Stakset, Henry Jr.
Dahl, Anders
Dahl, Ragnhild
Jerstad, Anders
Jerstad, Olina
Stakset, Henry

Corporate Names :

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Tacoma, Wash.)
Stavangerfjord (Steamship)
Tacoma Boat Company (Tacoma ,Wash.)

Family Names :

Dahl family
Jacobsen family
Jerstad family
Kvamme family
Stakset family

Geographical Names :

Gjerdsvika (Norway)
Refvik (Norway)
Seattle (Wash.)
Tacoma (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Oral histories

Occupations :

Domestics

Finding aid prepared by Kerstin Ringdahl and Amity Smetzler
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