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Swedish Immigrant Oral History Project

Nancy F. Jensen

Aurine Casey

November 3, 1999

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DATE : November 3, 1999

SUBJECT : Interview with Nancy F. Jensen and Aurine Casey,
Duluth, Minnesota

INTERVIEWER : Dr. Joann Hanson-Stone

PROGRAM : Swedish Immigrant Oral History Project
City of Duluth Sister Cities Commission

It's Wednesday, November 3 1999 in Duluth, Minnesota. And I'm with Nancy Fransen Jensen and Aurine Casey. Aurine is Nancy's niece and, um, we are going to have a three-way conversation about the Swedish immigrant grandparents in Aurine's case and parents in Nancy's case. And we will start here in a just a moment. This is part of the Swedish immigrant life oral history project.

Yes I am. I am...just wanted to get some sense of what family members came from Sweden to Minnesota, and that would mean we have Axel Julius Fransen and we have Gerde Christina?

mn mn

Fransen.

So I do

Uh uh. Gerde Christina Brogge.

Brogge, Ok

Brogge

And then could you just tell me a little about both sides, your mom's side of the family and your dad's side of the family. Whatever you remember about who emigrated and?...

Nancy: Well I have it written down here that my dad came in 1902.

Aurine: And he's the only one in the family...

Nancy: ..and he was the only one of seven children that came to this country and from chatter that we heard he wouldn't let anybody else come for some reason or other, I don't know why. But um, I'm not sure when my mother came but she... they went back in...what was it Aurine, 1907?

Aurine: Think it was back, 1909.

Nancy: 1909 ya, cuz they got...

Aurine: got a picture

Nancy: they got married in 1907, wasn't it?

Aurine: Ya.

Nancy: So uh...and they met over here. My mom and dad met over here.

Aurine: They didn't know each other.

Nancy: They didn't know each other, uh uh.

Aurine: Until they came here

Nancy: And my mom was born in Nursherking and my dad was born in Smoland. What else do you want to know?

Um, Gerde, what other members of your mother's family emigrated to United States from Sweden?

Nancy: Well, after my mother, my aunt was here, my aunt was the first one to come here, Anna Anderson. And uh, she was married in Sweden, because my two cousins Margaret and Henry were born in Sweden.

Ok

Nancy: And then my mother came and she stayed with my aunt, and that, incidentally, she stayed at first with her and that happens to be at Glensheen, in the carriage house, the carriage house was new. And she stayed there 'til she married my dad, as far as I know.

And then what was Anna doing for the.. eh eh... living in the Glensheen carriage house?

Nancy: Maid, whatever you want to call it, helper, whatever, and her husband was horses, driving the horse carriage or whatever it was.

Aurine: I can remember my grandma telling me that she was very sad, she was unhappy that she came and she wished she was back.

Nancy: She was lonesome.

Aurine: She was very lonesome because her sister was very busy and she wasn't that busy.

She had time on her hands in a new land and...

Aurine: very scary. Well, when she came here, what happened to her, Nan? On the way here that was quite a story.

Nancy: When she came to, what is it, Ellis Island, she got separated from her Swedish group that were coming to Duluth, and they put her on a train and they put a cardboard around her neck "Duluth, Minnesota" and she had to go, she went all the way up through Canada and came down that way and she was... it was scary...she was...it was a long way to go on the train by herself and come to Duluth.

She had to trust a lot of people.

Nancy: Right, right, and couldn't speak English, No, no just went by the sign on her neck. And who met her I don't know, I'm just assuming that my.. her sister met her.

Well it looks like when we talked previously we thought that Gerde had emigrated 1903, 1904, something like that.

Nancy: Possibly.

When we had talked and then Axel, your dad

Nancy: I've got that he came to America in 1902.

Mm MM

Nancy: So, let's see when.... This is the marriage license. What is the date on here, the year?

Aurine: They both met here. They did not know each other in Sweden. They met here and were married here.

Nancy: 1907.

Aurine: And then they had my mother ... was born, and work--was hard to find good work--and my grandpa wanted to go back to Sweden, so they sold everything.

Nancy: But this was in 1909, now

Aurine: ok

Nancy: ...cuz your mother was almost two or she was two years old

Aurine: Right, right

What was your mother's name, Aurine?

Aurine: Name was Gunhild Aurine June Fransen.

Ladies: Heh heh

And the reason, I think this is really interesting to have you here is that June was born we think, 1907, we know, and then Nancy when were you born?

Nancy: Not until 1923.

So there was quite a difference.

Nancy: S-s-s-s-s-s 16 years difference

Heh heh

Aurine: And there's 12 years between Nancy and I. She was kind of like my sister for many years.

Nancy: I was 11 when you were born.

Aurine: Oh, sorry.

Nancy: Ya, I was 11.

Aurine: 12

Nancy: Thanks a lot.

Heh he heh heh

But what's helpful because you have, Aurine, you have memories that your mother had, sounds like, had talked to you about, so, and that was before Nancy's time. So that's why I really appreciate that you're here we can fill in some of the blanks.

Nancy: That was kind of a happy time even though they were surprised that I was born, because in 1922 they built a new house, and then I came along in 1923. And they were, it was kind of, they weren't so sad after I got here and I was born at home. So.

What was the address of your home?

Aurine: 831 Grandview Avenue and my mother lived in West Duluth when she had my brother. I was living with them when they had an apartment, my mother and dad. And then my mother, my father passed away then my mother moved back to 831 Grandview Ave when she was a widow.

Ah ha, so you had, the house stayed in the family basically.

Nancy: When we got married in 1946, Hank and I, they changed the house into two families, so we had the upstairs apartment.

Aurine: And I was lucky to get there. Nancy would have me as babysitting.

Nancy: And I babysat her.

He he heh hehh

Aurine: Before that, though, I used to come and stay an awful lot for weekends at grandmas's. Grandma and I used to go to a lot of movies together on Saturdays.

What kind of movies would you watch?

Aurine: Anything.

Laughing

Nancy: Movies were a fairly big thing in those days. That wasn't heh heh .. No VCR or heh heh

Aurine: We used to go..have..take a bus down to the movie and then eat at...was it Old Jailhouse, where they used to have chicken in the basket, across the street from where from the casino is now?

Nancy: From Sears?

Aurine: Ya, across the street from Sears. And then you take the bus. Sometimes even go to a double feature.

Now I have to ask you Aurine when were you born?

Aurine: 1934.

So this would have been in the late 30s, and then early 40s during World War II?

Aurine: Probably, when I was 9, 10 years old, I would think.

Nancy: Ya.

Just want to place it in time. You were saying that Axel, and Gerde, and Gunhild when she

was two years old re-emigrated, decided to go back to Sweden. Can you tell me anything about what you heard of that experience?

Nancy: Well, all we had, we had a picture of them on the carriage house steps, of my mom and dad and sister and my aunt and uncle. They were saying goodby and they were going to.....they sold everything and planned to go back to Sweden to stay. When they got there there was a strike going on. I think it was in May that they.....They stayed for three months and they turned around and came back because my dad couldn't get a job over there; there was a strike going on. And where they went from there I wish I knew.

Did you know where they went in Sweden, did they go back to one of their home? Or you know where their family was? Do you have any idea where they.....?

Nancy: I just assume that they did, you know. So. So Hertinger or Smolen, one of the two I imagine.

Could you tell me a little bit about what Axel did prior to coming to the United States? What kind of work?

Aurine: It was carpentry work, I think he was doing, he was a handy man, independent contractor.

Even in Sweden, it looked like he was going to school. He might have grown up on a farm and then went off.

Nancy: Most people, most of those people were farmers, you know, they were. But I have no idea what my dad did over there. Aurine probably heard more.

Aurine: We read someplace, didn't we, what was it?

A joiner.

Aurine: That's it, that's the word, and we figured that was kind of something with your hands.

Construction----

Aurine: mm

related

Aurine: mm.

And it sounds like then...when..maybe you can tell me a little bit about what he did then...when he got here to make a living in Duluth after he emigrated

Aurine: He was a very hard worker, seven days a week.

Nancy: Well he was a chauffeur

Aurine: In the beginning

Nancy: in the beginning, and he and my uncle, my mother's brother, were one of the first ones to drive a car in the City of Duluth and I can remember them talking about that..that was Oscar.

Aurine: uh huh

Nancy: And I don't know, he as I say he worked, they lived...one place where they lived was the upstairs of a garage of a place, and my dad was the chauffeur for them and my mother did their washing and took care of those kind of things, it's like a maid I suppose you'd call her.

Domestic service.

Nancy: MM mm, that's a good word for it. So then, and then I can remember, I don't know if this is important to it or not, June, my sister, was a very sickly child, she had scarlet fever, she had diphtheria, and it left her with rheumatic fever, and so that when I came along 16 years later I was going to be the healthiest child in town and I was spoon fed oatmeal until I was ten. And I'll never forget it.

Aurine: Lots of cream and butter.

Nancy: Yes

Ha ha ha ha

Nancy: So, but my mother always blamed herself because she had to go out and work when June was small and couldn't be home to take care of her.

Aurine: I also can remember my mother telling me that she got to play with the children of whom my grandmother was working for, she played with them but whenever they had a birthday party or something big going on she was never invited. And I remember her telling me that she had cats for a pet and she always taught me that cats had nine lives cause they lived high up on top of the garage and the cats would always jump down and she thought that they shouldn't have lived from that jump. But my grandpa was a very hard worker. What I remember ah growing up and visiting grandma and grandpa is that my grandpa worked seven days a week and he cut lawns for all these big homes by hand with these hand lawn mowers and he had all this different machinery and then in the winter time he did the snow shoveling by hand, took care of their furnaces and changed their windows, the screens and the storm windows on all these big homes.

Mm mm. So it sounded like he had a business---a self-employed...

Nancy: He did, His own business.

Mmm mmm

Aurine: And my grandma took care of the books.

And he did that his entire working career here in the....

Aurine: And I can also remember grandma was so excited when he bought a Fra.... was it a Fraser truck?

Nancy: No no no no no

Aurine: What was the name of it, that it looks like a car but it's a truck?

Nancy: What is the name of that car that ... an Elt Edsel. They bought an Edsel.

Aurine: And grandma was so excited cuz it kinda looked like a car and she didn't have to go in a truck anymore. Always was in a truck and it wasn't the style back then to do that.

Nancy: Before that, Aurine, before that-- see, my dad always had a truck, but in 1933 we bought

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a Pontiac, a four-door Pontiac, brand new. And in 1934, no 1933, we went to the...we drove, your dad and your mom, your mom was pregnant at the time, and myself, we drove to the Chicago World's Fair.

Aurine: I didn't even know that.

Nancy: Didn't you know that? It was a brand new, brand new Pontiac, and we drove that, your dad did most of the driving.

Aurine: Well, when did mother buy her car?

Nancy: 1929

Aurine: Oh, OK.

Nancy: See, she wasn't married. That was.. I was five years old then when she bought that. But uh, no we drove to, as I say, to Chicago in 1934, and then....so the Edsel came later.

Aurine: But I don't remember—yes, it was when I was older—but I don't remember them having a car.

Nancy: They did have a car because

Aurine: I remember him having a truck

Nancy: No, that's what I learned to drive on

Aurine: Oh they must have it that long

Nancy: I was 11 years, well I was 10 at the time, but I was 11 when you were born, cuz that was in July and you were born in October. It must have been '34 when we went to the fair. Sure, it was, not '33, it was '34 sure cuz she was pregnant.

Aurine: Because I was born in October.

Nancy: Sure, right, right.

Do you remember anything about that trip?

Nancy: No, just that it was awfully long, I mean that was 500 miles and I think we made it in one day, which was an awful lot in those times, coming home we made it, coming back, and well we didn't stop coming home, you know we started out early in the morning, we weren't there very long, you know, four days, I guess, something like that.

Aurine: That must have been a big thing.

Nancy: Oh it was, it was to do that.

And to drive rather than take a train.

Nancy: Oh, yes.

You know trains.....

Nancy: '34, yeah,

Trains I'm sure were running in between.....

Aurine: And that was unusual for grandpa to take a day off of work, though, wasn't it?

Nancy: Right.

Aurine: Cuz, he wouldn't even take a Sunday off to come down to the cabin.

Nancy: His day began at 3, 4 o'clock in the morning, and he would go because he he'd have to get those furnaces going for all these people that he had jobs, he would come home have breakfast, a huge breakfast and probably a coffee royale, and lay down for a half hour and then he'd be gone again 'til lunch, he'd come home for lunch, and he'd go back to work, and he'd come back at 5, 6 o'clock at night and he put in big long days, worked hard.

Aurine: Every day.

Nancy: And I can remember snow storms when couldn't get the car out and he would walk to his places. He'd put the shovel over his shoulder and down the hill he would go, pick up a bus and

thumb his way if someone would pick him up so he could open up these places. I mean there were doctors and lawyers that he worked for, judges, and um they had to get out and he had to open up for 'em, so I mean, and as I say, people can't believe how hard, and I tell these stories and they don't believe me. But I mean he's a tough Swede.

Hahaha

Aurine: I got to know my mother's cousin Jahn in Sweden, we went to visit him, and it's the same thing for his sister. Jahn,--all he can remember is working as a child and his mother and dad having their own business and just working hard all the time. They started out with a restaurant. He says he can't...that's why Jahn eats so fast, he can't (check if this is can or can't) remember, cuz he just had a little break to eat and he'd have to run back to work.

So both, I would imagine, your mother as well, you know if she was keeping the books.

Aurine: Yes, she did.

She was part of the business. They might not have looked at it like that then but (ha ha ha) but she worked out of her house.

Nancy: Oh sure, sure, no there was no office or anything. Un un. No, we had bills made up, I can remember, had little bills, pieces of paper, bills made up and she sent em out, you know mom sent em out. And uh..

Accounts receivable?

Nancy: You know I mean, he didn't do badly, I mean but if you think of the hours he put in, I mean it was tough, because we got a new truck here and we got a new truck there. We had that '34 Pontiac for years, '33 I think it was we got it the year before? and that's what I learned to drive on. Now we had, shouldn't tell these things really, a one-car garage, the house was eh...the garage was under the house, but when we got the other car we managed, came in this way and then this way and we managed to get the (do you remember that?)

Aurine: No..

Nancy: We managed to get the car in there and which would be right by the laundry tubs and what have you. Well my folks went out at night and they would take the truck many times, so heh

heh I would have to push that because of the Pontiac wasn't used much and the battery would run. In down those days they weren't the same as this so I would take and push that thing out and once I got it you know down the hill then I could drive it cuz the motor would start so I would use the car.

Aurine: And I can also remember grandpa sharpening all his own tools in the basement. He had one of those wheels and you'd put your foot on, and go round, and I used to play with that.

Nancy: Used to sharpen his own lawnmowers.

The blades?

Nancy: Mm, the blades, and now I'm talking about push lawnmowers. You know what I mean. And he used to like to get 'em from Sears. Sears had the best lawnmower and then they still have as you notice with their heh heh equipment and stuff. Sears has got a good name.

That's good, you know. He knew what was good and he used it. These are going to be because of the differences in June and Nancy's ages-- this is what I also find very interesting is that within those 16 years a lot changed in the life of Duluth. I was...We had talked about language, what language was spoken in your house when you were growing up. Do you remember Swedish being spoken at all?

Nancy: No, they wanted to learn English. So very little was spoken in Swedish, I think. June could talk it better than I could. I couldn't. I took it in school but that wasn't the same as...when I was in high school I mean. The folks both had a little bit of a brogue. Remember that? I mean. You know.

Aurine: I can remember grandma gettin' a Swedish paper of some kind and she'd be real happy when she got it but she wouldn't read it to me or we didn't ... I just learned the numbers and that's all I know.

Do you know if it was a Swedish American newspaper published in the Swedish language?

Aurine: No, I don't know.

versus coming from Sweden?.

Nancy: I think it was. Swedish American sounds familiar to me...that we would get. It came once a week, if I'm not mistaken and, uh...

Did they have Swedish newspapers around, Swedish American like the Svenska Posten or something?

Nancy: Not really. Not that I'm familiar with.

But your older...your sister June, who was 16 years older could speak.

Nancy: A little bit, ya, in the beginning, mm mm, but she lost that, too, and when you don't talk it, you don't...you know. June understood it much better than I did, but as the years went on, I mean, my folks, too, I mean it was Swedish American that they talked, you know, it wasn't really Swedish anymore.

Kind of a combination of English...

Nancy: Right

and Swedish words?

Nancy: Right, right

I know what that is.

Nancy: Yes.

You said you took Swedish in high school. Could you tell me what high school you went to and...?

Nancy: Central High School.

And what do you remember about Swedish classes, and when did you graduate? Like I'd just like to get a sense of when you were taking Swedish in high school.

Nancy: Graduated in 1941. So I suppose it would be '40-'41.

Did you take it all your like four years? three years?

Nancy: No, two years?

Foreign language requirement? Do you remember your teacher?

Nancy: Johnson.

Ha ha ha ha ha

Male, female?

Nancy: Male.

And lot of kids in the class? Was it a popular class?

Nancy: We had a full class.

um hum

Nancy: You know, I don't...25, 30, whatever you know in those days, I mean every seat was just about filled, so, um.

Do you know if the students were pretty much of Swedish descent?

Nancy: Most of 'em, sure.

Mm mm. Do you have any idea how long Swedish was taught at Central? I'm sure after you left you were off into your life.

Nancy: Mm mm

I know it was taught at Denfeld, too, and just was curious.

Aurine: That was Johnson teaching at Denfeld, too.

Ha ha ha

The same teacher?

Aurine: I don't think so.

I'm going to ask Nancy some of your earliest recollections of your family home. You said it was on Grandview?

Nancy: Yes.

What was it like living in your own home? You know just did you have your own room, did you?

Nancy: I shared a room with my sister. They had built the home. It was two bedrooms upstairs.

Aurine: A beautiful view of the lake

Nancy: Ya, and they gave us the front bedroom, it was the same bedroom I was born in as a matter of fact.

Aurine: I can remember Nancy had beautiful dolls and she ended up giving 'em to me and then I gave 'em to someone else and I wish I had 'em to this day... Shirley Temple doll I remember you gave me.

Nancy: Paul was upstairs going through stuff. And we got a suitcase of dolls, I don't know they're probably from my kids.

Aurine: I think they're from your kids. I think you gave me everything.

Nancy: Probably. So anyway.

Aurine: But you had a very nice bedroom. I can remember

Nancy: It was a big bedroom, four big windows that looked out. Ya.

Do you, can you remember anything about what your routine might have been at home when you were in, let's say in grade school, high school? What grade school did you go to?

Did you have responsibilities and jobs at home that you had to do?

Nancy: Well, I went to Chester Park and it was fairly new school which was nice. We walked to school. Did I have jobs to do? No, well, I enjoy doing things outside so I usually mowed the lawn and did all those, shoveled snow and did all those things.

Aurine: It was tough. You had a big hill.

Nancy: Oh, yeah, no I ...and as I say, I didn't, no, I was spoiled, I didn't do anything.

Heh heh

Aurine: Did you play the piano, Nan? Did you take piano lessons? Did you take a long time?

Nancy: I took quite a while.

Aurine: Did you ever take any other instrument? Violin? Like mother was a ..my mother played the violin. She was very good at playing the violin.

Nancy: Yes. She was very good.

Aurine: She was chosen...

Nancy: She took from Floton, if that name means anything to anybody. He was really quite a well known violinist and teacher in town. So...and she was very good. And we'll get a picture of her?

Yes.

Aurine: Is it true that mother bought the piano? Cuz I kind...

Nancy: Yes, yes, yes

Aurine:of thought mother bought the piano and then she didn't have to pay room and board or something like that.

Nancy: Yes, yes, yes.

Nancy: And you have that piano, don't you?

Aurine: No, I do not any more.

Nancy: Oh, ok.

Aurine: Mike would not move it.....

Nancy: Ok.

Aurine:into our house 'cause he said I never played so he asked everybody and no one wanted it so...ok

Nancy: Ya.

Aurine: ...then, which made me feel real bad cause it was a neat piano.

Nancy: Yes, it was a good piano.

Let's talk about your mother.. yes, June. Um, did she play in recitals? You know. How far did she take violin playing?

Aurine: I don't know, but I can remember her telling me that out of her class she was asked to play and be on the radio. Out of her class, of all these that took, she was the only one chosen to do that. We have a picture of her, and then shortly after that I think she was sick.

Did she ever play as a young adult or when you were growing up? Did she ever play?

Aurine: Yes.

And where would she play, you now, what occasions?

Aurine: Just with the family. Once in a great while.

Nancy: Which birthday was it we fixed up the violin and gave it to her because the violin had been sitting for a long time?

Aurine: That also reminds me, uh I don't know if this is true or not, but my mother told me that her grandfather made her a pair of shoes when she was in Sweden and they were high topped black leather.

Nancy: Don't we still have them?

Aurine: And you and grandma had them bronzed for mother. and [they] had a little hole in the front and I have 'em now and that's where my mother wrote a note in those that they were from Sweden.

So that time that they went back for that short period?

Aurine: Ya. Her grandfather.

Ssssss

Aurine: Her grandfather. I don't know, her grandfather made the shoes, or who, but that's what I remember her telling me if it's right or not, and her mother was kind of upset because she had boughten her some cute little black patent leather, but my mother liked wearing those high topped.

Nancy: Heh heh

Aurine: 'Cuz she had a big hole in the front of them you know.

Let us just bring us back to the music. 'Cuz I want to get a sense of if Nancy you played the piano when June played the violin? Was it a family get together, people just started playing music?

Nancy: No. Mn mn. You see, when I was five years old, see, June was out working and she was through playing the violin then, 20, 21, she was through playing, she didn't play any more. Why, they don't even think I knew that she played the violin, you know what I mean, that wasn't something that was....that I knew until later.

When you were living, you know, as a youngster, with your parents, do you have any favorite activities family activities you remember when you were growing up with your mom and dad? And maybe June, if she was around?

Aurine: Well, you used to come a lot with my mother and dad, we used to ... my mother and dad would go on vacation and I was an infant and Nancy would come with us because my grandpa was too busy working.

Nancy: I spent all my summer vacations when they were small, when John and Aurine were small, I spent the two weeks at Welkins Lake just about every summer for about five years there, at least five years, I think it was. No, I had thought that was great because it gave me a chance to get out, cuz my dad worked all the time, he never took a vacation.

Aurine: My grandma loved playing cards.

Nancy: They did a lot of entertaining, my folks.

Aurine: They'd have...I can remember them like on a Sunday they'd have people over all day and I used to go there and she'd have dinner and stuff, then I used to be able to wash the silverware and then you'd count it and put it away. And I can remember like through the night, and then they'd have supper even and still play cards.

Did your parents belong to any Swedish organizations?

Nancy: They belonged to Svidgett Hall?? Oh, name some other ones and they probably....

Vasa

Nancy: Vasa, yes. They belonged to Vasa. Yes, they belonged to quite a few.

Aurine: Didn't grandpa belong to the Elks club too?

Nancy: Not the Elks Club.

Nancy: Let me think. They went to Owls.

Aurine: Oh, the Owls. That's what it was. The Owls Club.

Heh heh heh.

Nancy: That was years later.

Aurine: Ok.

Nancy: My dad went to Owls.

Aurine: I remember them talking about that.

Nancy: That wasn't the same thing.

And what, do you have any idea what happened? Did you go along with them on occasion?

Nancy: Oh, yes, I went along with them. It was the dances on Saturday night, sure. I went along with 'em. My dad loved to dance. Mother wasn't too excited about it. And he always used to say he'd pick out the fattest ones there 'cause they were the lightest on their feet (laughter). But he loved to dance right up to the end, right up to...oh when he wasn't so young any more; he loved to dance.

When did your father pass away? What year or how old was he when he did....?

Nancy: 86 when he died.

We can figure that out from the birth date.

Nancy: I'd have to look.

Aurine: He's couple years, he was he...

60....

Nancy: When did he die, Aurine?

Aurine: I don't have that.

But I know I have his birth date, so if you tell me he's 86, he's 86 and we can figure it out.

Aurine: And he, um, where was the name of his place, Nan...Mother took care of him for a while

at the house.

Nancy: She took care of him during the night, I took care of him during the day because your mother worked and he stayed here during the day and they went to George and Betty's out.....

SIDE 2.

Now what is your address?

Nancy: 2424 west 23rd street

and a nice view of the lake. um. which I really appreciated when I came down Morris Thomas Road. even that hill here. really nice. Just a couple of closing questions. When you think back on your family history what do you think about your parents' immigration to Minnesota from Sweden? Is there any...? How does that make you feel if anything? You grew up in a Swedish household. Immigrant household.

Nancy: Well, I can remember feeling different that my folks both came from Sweden. You know, in those day and age, I mean, have your parents speak with a brogue wasn't the greatest thing. But, I mean, as far as I was concerned I was very happy, I was a happy child except that I was spoiled rotten. And I had two mothers, like her mother June spoiled me just as much as my mother did.

Aurine: And then Nancy spoiled me.

Heh giggle

We're passing down the tradition.

Aurine: I was pretty spoiled, though. You and grandma did a lot of things for me.

Nancy: We were happy to have you. It was fun.

Aurine: Grandpa would fix his own breakfast when he took off early. Grandma wouldn't get up. Then he would fix. Then he would come home and then grandma would fix a breakfast...

Nancy: Whatever he did when he left at four in the morning mother didn't know but he'd come

and then mother would have a big breakfast.

Aurine: Would fix, like this oatmeal or something. Then he'd come home again in a couple of hours and then have something then he would always watch *As the World Turns*.

Nancy: Or it would depend on the weather. It would depend on his jobs. But it wasn't a steady thing if he did do.....

Aurine: But when I was going to grandma's pretty regular when I was pregnant then he'd come, he came home and he got interested in *As the World Turns* and he used to watch that with grandma.

Nancy: Sure.

So this was later?

Aurine: Oh, ya, this is much later.

Nancy: That was around....

Aurine: This is 1957.

So Nancy's memories are from....

Aurine: Ya, better, ya

Earlier?

Aurine: Mine was when he came, maybe when got older and he had to come home and get some more energy heh heh heh....

I got two more questions and then 'cuz I got the tape rolling.

Nancy: Let me tell you before we get off of this, 'cuz I can remember your folks, your mom and dad, you know, they lived in Sampsons' house on 40th there cuz they had the apartment upstairs and it was a nice apartment. They couldn't have the front bedroom, do you remember that?

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Nancy F. Jensen

Aurine Casey

November 3, 1999

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Aurine: No, no, see I was an infant.

Nancy: They couldn't have the...you know why, that was Walters, and Walter was kind of the pet.

Aurine: I thought my dad was.

Nancy: Walter was.

Aurine: I always thought my dad was the pet 'cuz Walter always said he had....

Nancy: Walter was kind of. And that front bedroom, I mean I don't know how the setup is now, the apartment, because I know the gal that used to live there now she passed away, Kollage?

Aurine: Ya.

Nancy: Dja you know her Jan?

Aurine: Ya, she had made arrangements for me to even go there, and bring my husband..

Nancy: Did she really?

Aurine: ...and everything, Ya, and we couldn't get the...

Nancy: How sad.

Aurine: Ya, cuz I would have liked to have gone to it too.

Nancy: But, I mean, it was funny because, I mean, it was a nice apartment but you didn't have the front, ya, you didn't have the front of the house, you know what I mean, you had...you came up the back stairway,

Aurine: I remember them being mean to my mother

Nancy: Yes, they weren't nice to your mother.

Aurine: They were very mean to her.

Aurine: Because my grandma Sampson didn't like girls; she only liked boys.

Not much you can do, when you're married to a boy.

Nancy: Then they moved to 2315 West 7th and I'll never forget that 'cuz I spent an awful lot of time there. Heh heh heh

It sounded like that was maybe a common practice that people newly married not having maybe a lot of money would sometimes end up living upstairs of the family house.

Nancy: Ya.

I mean it seems like it's a common experience.

Nancy: In our case I think...

Aurine: I think Grandma Sampson liked mother better than she liked her boys. She liked my mother better.

Nancy: Well, your mother was

Aurine: So nice.

Nancy: Oh, she was so nice.

Aurine: She took care of her.

Nancy: June was nice June, everybody's knew she was nice June. It was just terrible.

I wish I could have met her and have..

Nancy: I do too. I do too.

asked her these questions too. I think it would have been great. Nancy when someone asks you about your ethnic background how do you answer them?

Nancy: I don't think I get asked very often but I'm very proud of it, very happy with....I think being Swedish is great.

And that was my last question? How do you feel about being Swedish?

Aurine: Well, I think it's really great when they ask me because I can say I'm a full blood Swede. Both sides and they met here. And being in Sweden I liked many more things in Sweden. They knew how to do a lotta things over there better than the United States...I really fell in love with Sweden.

You're a third generation. You're second generation born here in the United States in your family. Your mother was first generation born here. They count the immigrant generation as the first, typically, so you'd be third. And I'm also third or fourth, depending 'cuz I had some great grandparents that immigrated with my grandparents as children so.

Aurine: Oh, what I like about over there, really I think is great is everything is so clean, and everybody rides a bike, they take their time about things, they go to the farmers to buy your food, even if you live in the city, and even in the hotels that we stayed you do not find plastic bags, not one plastic bag anyplace over there, and if you go to the grocery store, you bring your own containers, and I wish we did that here. And another thing I like, I wish they'd have at our hotels, is that they always have covers for the blankets, to cover the whole blanket, and that's clean and sharp for you every time. Another thing I like, they always serve you a nice breakfast.

It's the duvet, right.

Aurine: And they do not do that in the United States unless you went to some hotel that's was way....

Nancy: You see, you know what, it's too bad that I don't know 'cuz the book I'm looking at is from our family. Everything from when I got married. It will tell you just about everything. 1941 my dad was operated on for a fractured skull. They thought he was going to die. He fell down. We didn't know what happened to him. He fell down. It was New Year's Eve and he went to take care of a place, and it was like a trap door, if you remember you open up those, you need to go down, and he fell there and he had enough presence of mind after laying there for quite a while, to get up, he drove home in his little old truck, came home, and there was something wrong with him, he went to bed, and my cousin Margaret happened to be in town, and she was a nurse and she came to the house and she said, told him that you better get somebody get the ambulance here

and get him to the hospital right away. So we got him to the hospital and on New Year's Day he was operated on, 1941, and, ya, I know my cousin Margaret was in the operating room with Doctor Kline and she came out of there, she was just amazed at what he did because he took a blood clot out of his head, dug then, took the old drill, you know, the old ... drill in his head and, and. After that my dad always kind of slowed down a little bit, he wasn't quite as...it took a lot out of him, it took a long time for him to come back and that was 1941. I remember 'cuz it was the year I graduated from high school

And what hospital?

Nancy: St Luke's.

Was there a special relationship between the Swedish community and St Luke's? Do you have any idea?

Nancy: I'm not aware of that.

Aurine: Well, what I remember, most Catholics went to St Mary's and others went to St Luke's. That's what I remember.

'Cuz I'm just curious 'cuz I'm not surprised that your dad went to St Luke's (heh heh) and

Nancy: Well, I tell you, too, because that was the doctor, Harry Kline was, and I think your doctors were more..they went to other places, but that was where Harry was, Dr Kline was.

Well, I'd really like to thank both of you for doing this and let's hope to heck....

Aurine: Don't you want to know the names of my kids?

Oh, ok, sure I'm sorry.

(laughing)

Aurine: Well.... Nancy.

Boy girl boy girl

Now you need to tell me who you married, when, and the names of your children.

Aurine: I had to go all the way to Miami, Florida to get a husband. No one here in Duluth would marry me.

Nancy: Oh, come on.

Aurine: And we got married in Duluth, March 1, 1957, and my oldest daughter will be, was just 42 in September, and she's getting married now the day before Thanksgiving in Las Vegas. Terry Aurine Casey.

Her birthdate...

Aurine: 9/12/57. And then I have a son that was, he was Michael Christopher Casey, Jr., my husband named Michael Christopher, Sr. and he was born May 20, 1960 and at that time we were living at Enger Golf Course, when he was born and Nancy's husband was the pro at Enger and my husband...

Nancy: And manager,

Aurine: and manager, ok. And we used to .. My.. that was back when they had pop in bottles and every night we'd go down to that basement and get bottles and bring up and he'd sweep and clean the whole place and I uh worked on call and that was a neat, neat experience to be able to have have done that. Not many people have lived at Enger Golf Course.

Heh heh

Aurine: And then in 1961 I had another child there, Mary June Casey and when she was about 3 months old we bought a house in Lakeside, and then I had Patrick Clifford named after my dad. 1964 he was born, Feb. 6, and my father passed away Jan 1, 1964, and I think Patrick is very much like my dad.

Mm Mm

Aurine: Very much. So I had to tell you.

Yes, well thank you. Forgive me, forgive me.

Aurine: That's ok, you're forgiven.

When I have two people sometimes I forget things. But I really do appreciate the fact you have come together and done this. And I will make sure you get a copy, each of you a copy of the tape.

Aurine: I want to thank you. It brought us back.