

LS 0040

Detta är intervju nr 40, med Carl Oscar Theodor Olson, som var född i Galveston, Texas, den 17 oktober - år 1900.

Hans fader var Carl Petter Olsson, född i Askims församling.

Modern var Ester Sofia, född i Helsingborg.

Lennart Setterdahl: Ja. Ni förstår inte svenska, säger Ni.

Carl Olson: No. I never was privileged to learn the Swedish language. My parents, mother and father died, when I was two years of age, in Galveston. My mother had two other children, besides me. She was among the English speaking people to make a living for us three children. Therefore, in the home, we never did hear the Swedish language spoken, or, we were talk. And I just never did learn the Swedish language.

L: Nej. You were born in 1900. It was the year of the hurricane, wasn't it?

Carl: I was born in October the 17th 1900. The Galveston storm, it was in September the 8th 1900, one month before I was born. Over 6 thousand people perished, from the island and they were washed out in the sea.

L: How about Your parents. Did Your father at that time -

Carl: My father was living at that time. My father died in 1902. He was - one of what they call down there: a long shore-man. He worked on the warf. And after The 1900-storm of September the cotton closed; all over the island, all over the inland. And they paid so much a bale to recover, those bales of cotton. So my father was securing a large number of bales and he got sick, developed pneumonia. And in 1902 he passed away.

L: You don't remember him.

Carl: I don't remember him att all, no.

L: And he was born in Askim, Göteborg.

Carl: That's right. In April 24th, in 1867.

L: And he came as a sailor to Galveston, or?

Carl: He came to Galveston, some times - about 18 89, or 18 90. He married in 1894, in June the 9th.

L: And Your mothers name was?

Carl: My mothers name was Sofie Nilsson.

L: She was born in Sweden, too.

Carl: She was born in Sweden - but I don't know exakt were. Exactly were.

L: Did they know eachother before?

Carl: I don't know. I don't know about that. I have been trying to run down at genialogy of my parents bye writing to Sweden, but, so far, I haven't been able to establish suburb, date, or her actually madame name, but I think it was Sofie Nilsson. But; I'm still trying to gather the information. Both parents of my side, of corse: my parents, all away back, are from Sweden. My parents are the only ones that came from Sweden to America, to Galveston. Some time about 1889, or 1890.

L: So Your parents, they were living in Galveston?

Carl: They were at Galveston in the time of the 1900 storms and they lived in the middle section of Galveston, and were quartered up on a (?) store(?) building on the 15th and the Strand street, when the huricane came. It's the information I had, passed on down to me. So they stayed in their home, were they lived, during the storm.

L: They were not hurt?

Carl: They were not hurt. I ones had a brother - 4 years elder then myself - he was born in 1896. He was there with them. The parents. My parents.

L: Does he remember the storm anything?

Carl: Frankly. Because I have spoken to him about it. He was 4 years older then me., he was born in 1896. He mentioned a little. He remembered something about it. He was 4 years old, that's not to much.

L: Nej. So; Your mother then, she were married after

Carl: No. No my mother - she started working, after my father died, and my mother passed away in 1914 and she died in Del Rio, Texas. her remaines were brought back to Galveston, she is berried in Galveston, by the side of my father. She went to Bernie, Texas, in january 1913, for her health. My brother, and I, went with her - and she stayed in Bernie, Texas - until March 1914 an then the doctor told that she should go to a higher climate and she started out, with my brother and I, to Alpine, Texas. We had to go through San Antonio, to Alpine, and my mother told my brother that he'd better go back to Galveston, so we put him on a train to go back to Galveston. I went with my mother, from San Antonio, west to El Paso, to go to Alpine. But: we got as fas Del Rio. She had tuberculosis, and we got as far as Del Rio - and we had to get off the train! And; we found a place to stay in Del Rio - and she died in March the 7th, 1914, in Del Rio, Texas. Then after she remaines back to Galveston. I think we berried her on Match the 9th, 1914, in Galveston.

L: You were 13 years of age, then!

Carl: 13 years of age, that's right.

L: So You remember what happened.

Carl: I remember quite a bit of it! I do. I do! Yes. I stayed in - 1914, we stayed in Galveston, three of us. And in 1917, another young lady in Austin, by the name of Naemi Ståhl. And we came up here from Galveston, two other young men and me from the Swedish Methodist church, in Galveston. In those days, when You attended the convention in The Methodist church, they put the delegates up in various homes! of the members of the church! So we were privileged to stay in a home of Mr and Mrs Karl Ståhl, in Austin, Texas.

L: They were also Swedish!

Carl: They were all Swedish. And there I met my wife to be!

L: Jaha.

Carl: And I married her in June, the 22th, 1921.

L: Jaha. You mentioned, You were a delegate for The Methodist church.

Carl: The Methodists. - We used to have, what they call, a (?) convention, once a year. We met at different towns. For instance; we'd met in: Huddle, Texas; for instance in Georgetown, Texas, Galveston, Texas, Huston Texas, Dallas Texas, wherever they had a Swedish Methodist church. And we did go from these various places, to the various places, that had delegates! And we were coming in 1917 to the home of Mr Charles Ståhl, so far a (?) league of the Swedish Methodist church.

L: Your parents, they were Lutherans?

Carl: My parents, they were Lutherans -

L: In the Galveston church.

Carl: In the Galveston church. And: when I had to establish my birth, after my work at the railroad, establish my birth for retirement purposes, my birth were recorded in the Mount Sion Lutheran Church, at Galveston Texas, and there my record was established for my birth. My sister is still a Lutheran. My brother is still a Swedish Lutheran. My brother still lives in Galveston. He is retired from the (?) Pacific railroad and my sister lived at Farmington, New Mexico.

L: Jaha. Did You join the Methodist church, then, or did Your mother enjoy it?

Carl: No. My mother never did leave the Lutheran church, my sister never did leave The Lutheran church. My brother never did leave The Lutheran church, but I did! I was raised with a family - that is - I wasn't raised exactly, but I was so closely associated, and living, with Mr and Mrs Farner and he was at one time a pastor of the Swedish Methodist church and we lived across the street from the Swedish Methodist church. So I just fell into the Methodist church. I was associating to the Methodist people.

L: Jaha. Det var efter Ni kom back from Del Rio.

Carl: That was after my mother died in 1914. And I left Galveston in 1920, In August 1920. I had been with the Santa Fé Railroad from 1915, so I started with them when I was 15 years old. And I worked there for five years at Galveston. And then I got a job up in Austin, Texas,

with the Southern Pacific. I worked with the Southern Pacific: from 1920, to 1965, 45 years, and then I retired.

L: Jaha.

So, Your first job then at the railroad in 1915, what was that?

Carl: That was in Galveston. The Santa Fé railroad.

L: What were You doing?

Carl: I was an office boy, with 27 dollars and 50 cents a month. At Galveston, Texas.

L: Running aronts and

Carl: Running aronts, and mealing up meal and opening meal and such as that what an office boy would do.

L: And it was a good job to You.

Carl: 27,50 was a good job. With 50 cents for hospitalisation, that gave me very little to live on. But we made it.

L: Jaha.

Then You moved to Austin.

Carl: Then I moved to Austin, in August 1920.

L: Yes. Then You married.

Carl: I married her in June 1921. I were here in ten months before we married. We have two children. I have a grand son, he is 29 years old. I have a grand daughter, she is 22 years old.

L: So, You have been at the railroad, for 45 years, You said.

Carl: At the railrod: from 1920, to 1965.

L: And then, You belonged to the Methodist church.

Carl: I belonged - We belonged to the Methodist church.

L: Because; Your whife was a methodist, too.

Carl: Yes, she was a methodist. We both belonged the Methodist church!

L: Here in Austin?

Carl: In Austin. And then we joined The Free Church in about 1946. Here in Austin, Texas.

L: And You have been living here in Austin?

Carl: Ever since August 1920. Except a few months back in Huston, for a short time, and I was moved back to Austin. But I didn't say - it was only a few months there.

L: The preachers, they have been, what You call, Swedish, all the way through. I mean: Swedish preachers. Did they preach in Swedish the first time You were here?

Carl: Oh yes, yes. Even in the Methodist church.

L: Oh, You belonged to the Methodist church!

Carl: We belonged to the Methodists, first. And during the first time there, under the reverend Howe. The Reverend Howe; he died in December 1918. But we did hear him preach for several times. But it was switching to the English language then, But they would have occasionally Swedish services. And that when the reverend (?) came, well, then they switched over to English entirely. But the Priority at that time, they had maybe one service a month in the Swedish language. After about 1926 or -27, somewhere, near to, they switched over entirely to the English.

L: You can remember here in Austin: the Methodists, the United Methodists.

Carl: Well - it was what they called The Methodist Episcopal church North, and The Methodist Episcopal church South.

L: And it was located close to The capital?

Carl: It was to The capital.

L: Was it entirely Swedish in the church. There was no American in it?

Carl: I would say, 99% were Swedish.

L: Yes. And then; more and more Americans came in.

Carl: More of them came in with demand of the English language.

L: Yes. Did they marry into Swedes then?

Carl: Yes. They're married in to the Swedish families.

L: Just the way they came in to the church.

Carl: That's correct.

L: But how about; like today now, for instance. They are other families today. This is pure Americans.

Carl: The former Swedish Methodist church was all Swedish, but after they regionated with the Methodist church. So now they call them The Memorial Methodist church. I understand that there are predominantly English speaking now, and the Swedish is very, very few left.

L: Yes. And: did this Methodist church now connecting with the Illinois - the Swedish concurrent, up in Illinois, in Chicago.

Carl: The Methodist church?

L: Yes. The Swedish concurrent?

Carl: Well. I don't know. But the head-quarters, I guess, that the head-quarters of The Methodist church was in Chicago, yes. That will be a part of it.

L: You have exchanged them with other Swedish pastors, from other parts of the country, when You were calling a pastor.

Carl: Oh yes, yes. When You call a pastor. We do that in The Free Church!

L: Jaha. When did You joine the Free Church?

Carl: We joined The Free Church in about 1946.

L: And that was the one that was founded up in -

Carl: That church originaly was founded - - the president of the Evangelical Fre Church was originaly founded at Decker - and also at Elroy, Texas. There are both small farming communities, south of Austin; country churches. And in about 1923, The Decker Church, a Free Church; and The Elroy Free Church, desided to fold up. But the members got together between Elroy and Decker; and they said: "Let's form a church - and begin at Austin! And have a Free Church in Austin"! So: in 1925, or 1924, they did that. They bought some land and finaly built a church, established it in the congregation from the former Elroy and the Decker Fre church, that They moved into Austin. And the church in Austin started in April 1925. And then: Carl Nelson was the first pastor of that church! I guess it was Carl Nelson - - C. G. Nelson. And a lot of the Swedish were using them! In fact; a lot of the records, of the earlier records! were mabee in the Swedish language.

L: So: the members, living at Decker, at that time, did they go in to Austin for forshiping, or do they enjoy other churches.

Carl: A lot of them went to Austin. Some of the original families, very few of them, are still living at Decker! They belong to the Austin church. Well, some of the originals are here, farmers.

L: How came this Free Evangelical church! They have a little group always, like in Georgetown, or Decker, or in Elgin.

Carl: That's right.

Fru Olson: The one in the Elgin is just a new church.

(Båda personerna pratar i munnen på varandra - en mindre dialog - som sekr inte får ut meningarna ur).

L: Ja Ni, Ni Fru Olson, Ni förstår svenska, i alla fall?

Fru Olson: Det gör jag visst!

L: Era föräldrar. Vad hette Er far?

Fru Olson: Karl.

L: Jaha. Och han var född; Var någonstans? i? Almersåkra var det väl?

Fru Olson: Grimstorp, ja. Almersåkra.

L: Er mor, var var hon född någonstans?

Fru Olson: Hon var född i Almersåkra, Småland, Grimstorp, ja.

L: Så det är på samma ställe ja.

Så Er far nu. Han hette Ståhl. Det var väl ett soldatnamn det, eller. Han berättade aldrig om det - Er far?

Fru Olson: Vad säger Ni?

L: Er far. Er fars namn var Ståhl. Det är ju ett typiskt soldatnamn. Han berättade aldrig om att han hade varit soldat - eller om hans far hade varit det?

Fru Olson: Jag vet inte det. Det vet jag inte.

L: De berättade inte någonting om Sverige?

Fru Olson: Nej. Inte för mycket. Inte

L: Men ni pratade svenska - sinsemellan.

Fru Olson: Ja, det gjorde vi.

L: Och han kom hit vilket år; till Amerika, eller till Texas, rättare sagt?

Fru Olson: I don't know.

L: Ni känner inte till det. Vart någonstans kom han? Hit till Austin, eller?

Fru Olson: Det tänker jag att han gjorde.

L: Blev han jordbrukare senare, efter ett tag? Han köpte en gårdbit väl.

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Ute i Timbro?

Fru Olson: Timbro.

L: Och; var ligger det någonstans?

Fru Olson: Well. What did You say?

L: Var ligger det? Where is it located. Det är nära Elgin, väl?

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Hur stor gård hade han?

Fru Olson: Ja Det vet jag inte.

L: Det känner Ni inte till.

Fru Olson: Han arbetade på järnvägen också.

L: Jaså. De hade bara gården som en liten - och bodde på ja.

Fru Olson: Ja. Han gjorde det.

L: Så Ni är född där ute i Timbro då?

Fru Olson: Nej. Jag är född här i Austin. Men jag hade en bror som var född där ute och en -

L: Hur många syskon var ni?

Fru Olson: Tre. Vi var tre.

L: Två flickor och

Fru Olson: Två.

L: Så Ni var enda flickan ja. Jaha.

Och föräldrarna; var de Lutheraner? Tillhörde de Lutherska kyrkan; i Lund - kanske?

Fru Olson: I New Sweden.

L: I New Sweden! Jaha.

Fru Olson: Och då gick vi 'te Timbro, till Frikyrkan där i Timbro.

L: Så då gick ni där efter ett tag. Jaha. Jaha. Så då är ni uppväxt i fri evangelisk -

Fru Olson: Yes. Först var vi metodister och sedan vi gick till frikyrkan här i Austin.

L: Jaha.

Fru Olson: Våra föräldrar var - de hade - what do You say? Död. De var döda

L: Döda.



Fru Olson: när vi gick till frikyrkan.

L: Och på så vis. Men de tillhörde frikyrkan då Era föräldrar sa Ni i Timbro?

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: Det gjorde de, ja.

Det är väl en annan känd man som var frikyrkoman i den fria evangeliska kyrkan. Gus Jonson. Var var han född någonstans?

Fru Olson: Jag tänker det var ute i Georgetown. Bridgewick, var han födder.

L: Ja, det är norr om (?)?

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: I närheten där ute ja. Så hans föräldrar, de tillhörde den fria kyrkan?

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Ja.

Fru Olson: 'Di kallade honom Texas-Jonson. Men 'di kallade han - gick till Chicago och Minneapolis. Men 'di kallade honom Texas-Jonson.

L: : Så Ni kände honom kanske? Eller hade barndomskalas med honom, eller? Nej, han var äldre än Er? Men Ni känner honom mycket väl?

Fru Olson: Yes. Jag tänker han var 25 år äldre än jag.

L: Er make känner bra till honom?

Ja; Han tycks inte känna till så mycket, men Ni kände honom kanske bättre då. Er mor -

Fru Olson: Hon kände igen 'hönöm' bättre än .. än

L: Än vad Ni gjorde, ja. Jaa. Alltså; det var när ni bodde här i Austin?

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: Var det efter att han blivit predikant som han blev bekant med Er?

Fru Olson: Yes, det är det.

L: Han kom ofta på besök då.

Fru Olson: Yes. Vi hörde han. När han predikade så gick vi där. Han var i Chicago and Minnesota.

L: Och i Minneapolis.

Fru Olson: Men han kom ner här för revieveling - jag vet inte -

L: Å, sådana här evangeliska väckelsemöten.

Fru Olson: Yes, väckelsemöten. Då gick vi till dem.

L: Ja Ni har ju en skiva här som han har pratat in, en predikan. Vi ska väl höra på den lite, kanske.

- - Anden, som har varit hos Herren under vilotiden, kommer åter till jorden i Jesu' sällskap, för att inträda i kroppen, vilken uppstår förhärligad. Detta sker innan de levande församlas. Ofta har vi talat om att få möta våra kära i himmelen - men vi skola få möta dem redan här. Hör Du ensamme gamle, som sitter där ensam i Din koja, med endast minnena kvar av de lyckliga dagarna. Snart står en ny dag upp för Dig. Den trogna makan som Du lade i graven skall trycka Din hand igen.- -

Lennart Setterdahl: Så den rösten som Ni hörde nu, den har Ni hört predika många gånger.

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: Och Ni förstod svenskan, vad han sade?

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: De äldre svenskarna vilka gick till en sådan väckelsekampanj - fick de en god, upplyftande predikan, tyckte de?

Fru Olson: Yees!

L: De tyckte han var bra.

Fru Olson: Yes.

L: Men han var lika - vad man säger - fluent - på engelska som på svenska. Så det var inga svårigheter, på vilket språk som helst, att förstå.

Fru Olson: No. He could preatch English and Swedish.

L: Hur länge tillhörde han den fria kyrkan, Jonson?

Fru Olson: I don't know.

L: Gick han till skola sedan efter ett tag uppe i Chicago? Eller hur kom det sig att han gick över till Missionsvännerna?

Fru Olson: Det vet jag inte.

L: Ni känner inte till det. Eller gick han i skola här nere i Texas?

Fru Olson: Han 'blidde' ju där, jaha. Jag tänker han gjorde det. Ja.

L: I Ert hem nu, Fru Olson, pratade ni mycket svenska?

Fru Olson: Inte mycket.

L: Inte det.

Fru Olson: Nej.

L: Men Ni gick i den svenska skolan väl?

Fru Olson: Ja. När jag var ung, jag tänker jag var 'tölv' år, när jag

L: Det var vardagsskola på sommaren det ja.

Fru Olson: Ja. I sommaren gick vi till Svenska Skolan.

L: Och det var kyrkan som anordnade den.

Fru Olson: Ja. Metodistisk kyrka.

L: Här i Austin.

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Hur länge höll det på? Var det bara några

Fru Olson: Det var bara .. tre månader, tänker jag.

L: På sommaren.

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Vad läste ni för någonting? Vad var det för ämnen? Var det religionskunskap och så svenska då, naturligtvis.

Fru Olson: Jag vet inte!

L: Var det många i de där klasserna? Ja men Ni kommer väl ihåg vad Ni lärde Er! Ni kan ju fortfarande svenska!

Fru Olson: Inte för mycket! Jag har förglömt det!

L: Jaså.

Fru Olson: Vi var inte många som gick till den skolan. Det var prästen som var - what do You say - lärare?

L: Ja, som var lärare.

Era barn har inte kunnat tala svenska? Eller språka?

Fru Olson: Nej. Vi har En dotter. Hon kan inte tala svenska. Hon kan inte förstå.

L: Så Ni har en dotter, det är enda barnet.

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Ja. Och hon är gift med en flygplanspilot, eller med En som kör de stora planen.

Fru Olson: Ja.

L: Hon bor i Huston.

Fru Olson: That's right.

L: Jaha. Vilket bolag arbetar han för?

Fru Olson: Pan American Airways.

L: Men De flyger inte ut ifrån Huston, inte.

Fru Olson: Nej, det gör de inte.

L: De kör på Västkusten eller Östkusten.

Fru Olson: Yes. San Fransisco - and Los Angeles. He flies from Los Angeles.

L: Jaha. Och Han bor i Huston.

Fru Olson: Ja, det gör han.

L: Så då har han en 2000 miles dags-areaa! för att komma till sitt arbete!

Fru Olson: Det är sant.

L: Så han flyger långa turer; utomlands - till Japan, eller?

Fru Olson: Yes. Japan, Saigon in Vietnam, and he flies to England, France.

L: Jaha.

Fru Olson: And .. to the South-American countries.. Guam, all of the South American countrys.

L: Så han är borta länge i taget?

Fru Olson: Yes. Ja. Han är gången, mera än är hemma.

Slut på intervjun.

Det var Carl Oscar Theodor Olson och hans fru, i Austin, Texas, som berättade. Det är idag den 4 december 1974.

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