

LS 0093  
Oliver Carlson

Lennart Setterdahl: Jag sitter tillsammans med Oliver Carlson, i Jamestown, New York. Han kom till Amerika 1913 från Holma, Höreda, i Sverige.

Det är idag den 17 juli 1985.

Lennart: Du var född i Holma, Höreda i Småland, 1896.

Oliver: That's right.

L: Ja.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Pappa, han var jordbrukare.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Hur stor var gården?

Oliver: Den var ungefär 3 - .. Jag kan inte säga hur stor.

L: Hur många kor hade ni?

Oliver: Vi hade 20 kor.

L: 20 kor!

Oliver: Ja.

L: Det var en stor gård det!

Oliver: Jaa. Pretty good.

L: Det var inte mycket stenar där på markerna. Du hann inte med att plocka bort allihopa medan Du var hemma!

Oliver: Ja! (Skrattar gott).

L: Jag sitter med Torsten Petrus Oliver Carlson i Jamestown New York. Han var född 1896, den 28 februari, i Holma, Höreda i Småland och kom till Amerika 1913.

Oliver: 1913 ja.

L: Men Du får berätta lite nu. 20 kor, det var en stor gård det, för att vara i Småland!

Oliver: Ja. Det var ungefär, - I think, - 3 - ja - jag vet inte.

L: Nej. Men ni hade två par oxar.

Oliver: Två par oxar hade vi. Och vi hade tre fyra hästar.

L: Då var det en stor gård då.

Oliver: Ja - och så 'kora' var ungefär; - ungefär 18 kor.

L: Hade pappa dräng?

Oliver: Va?

L: Hade pappa någon dräng?

Oliver: Jaa. Course- hans bröder.

(En anhörig finns i närheten under intervjun. Framöver visar det sig att hon är hans hustru Elsie. Hon stöttar Oliver lite grand allt emellanåt).

L: Och de hjälptes åt tillsammans.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Din .. farbror, eller farbröder.

Oliver: Och jag körde 'mjölka' åt Eksjö.

L: Vad för någonting!

Oliver: Pärla och Miranda.

L: Och det var två hästar det. Pärla och Miranda. När fick Du börja att köra mjölken?  
Oliver: Vi började och lämna 'ifrå' Holma. Jag var ungefär 13 år gammal. Eleven. Eleven år när jag körde mjölken - see.

L: Så de släppte iväg Dig direkt då, till Eksjö?

Oliver: Ja - med två hästar. Ja.

L: Vinter och sommar.

Oliver: Jaa just så.

L: Var Du en utav de äldre?

Oliver: Jag var den yngste.

L: Yngste. Utav - Hur många barn?

Oliver: Elva. Elva bröder och en flicka.

L: Man skulle tro att Du skulle få det lättvindigt med så många bröder som var före Dig! De lät inte Dig springa iväg, utan Du var tvungen att hjälpa till.

Oliver: You mean - för och komma hit?

L: Nej, men jag menar: Det fanns så många bröder för att hjälpa till på gården.

Oliver: No. Det var Simon och Gottfrid then, än två mer, som köpte oxar och stutar och körde till Värnamo. Över hela Småland.

L: Gjorde dom det!

Oliver: Ja.

L: Vad körde dom för nånting?

Oliver: 'Di körde oxar rätt till städer, och sålde dem.

L: Sålde dom!

Oliver: Shure.

L: Så de var stutahandlare då.

Oliver: Å ja. Simon och Gottfrid, och en annan, som gjorde.

L: Så Du fick börja att arbeta när Du var liten pojke då.

Oliver: Oh shure!

L: Vad var Ditt första arbete på gården. Gick Du i vall med korna, eller?

Oliver: Jag arbetade hemma i Småland. I Holma. Ja.

L: Hur gammal var Du när Du fick börja hjälpa till på gården?

Oliver: Jag undrar det va? Can You tell me?

L: Hon var inte med!

Oliver: Hon var inte med då. Va!

L: Vad gjorde Du för någonting? Fick Du valla korna till exempel? Eller hämta korna till mjölkning?

Oliver: Jag mjölkade korna. Själv.

L: Det också.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Men det var ju fruntimmersgöra.

Oliver: Va?

L: Det var fruntimmersgöra, sa dom.

Oliver: När 'di var hemma i lagårn, på vintren see, så mjölkade jag korna.

L: Säger Du Det!

Oliver: Ja, jag fick mjölka en fem eller sex kor.

L: Ni hade inga pigor som hjälpte till med det?

Oliver: Ja. En piga.

L: Hon hjälpte till med mjölkningen.

Oliver: Ja, så en flicka, med min mor.

L: Så gav Du katten mjölk då, efter det Du hade mjölkat klart. Katten, han satt och vänta på att han skulle få någonting att dricka i fatet. Ni hade ingen separator?

Oliver: Yes. Vi hade en mjölkseparator. Våldigt fin. En sån där hög.

L: Vem drog den?

Oliver: Va?

L: Vem drog den?

Oliver: Well.

L: Det var handdrift.

Oliver: I think pigan gjorde det mycket. Också. Vi hade två pigor, se, som hjälpte 'te.

L: De andra bröderna. Så fort de blev äldre. De skaffade sig eget arbete då. Att sälja stutar och oxar.

Oliver: 'Di höll på.

L: Men de stannade hemma på gården?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Bodde hemma.

Oliver: Jaa.

L: Men var ute och sålde och gjorde affärer.

Oliver: Jaa. Simon gifte sig, och sen kom han tillbaks och köpte Holma.

L: Så En åkte till Amerika, 1901. Vem var det?

Oliver: Erik - ja.

L: Det var en av de äldre det.

Oliver: Jaa.

Hustru Elsie Johnson: 1899, I think.

L: 1899. Hade han någon släkting här som han åkte till, eller åkte han ensam över?

Oliver: Erik går alone - väl?

Elsie: I think Erland Holmkvists uncle lived here, Gus Holmkvist. I wonder if he didn't come to Gus Holmkvist, when he first came here.

Oliver: Holmkvists family se. De bodde - bra nära Holma.

L: Grannar.

Oliver: Ja. De var med, över tiden, se.

L: Kommer Du ihåg att Din bror; Erik, att han skrev hem till Holma och berättade hur det var i Amerika?

Oliver: Jaa.

L: Du kommer inte ihåg något särskilt?

Oliver: Jag har mitt brev - ligger där.

L: Pappa hade inte varit i Amerika?

Oliver: No. no. Han har aldrig varit här.

L: Erik var den ende.

Elsie: Erik - and Oliver.

L: Var det många - runtom i bygden - som åkte till Amerika? Som Du kommer ihåg?

Oliver: Det var inga 'pöjkar

L: som gav sig iväg.

Oliver: Nej.

L: Erik, han skrev då hem till pappa och mamma och talade om hur det var här i Jamestown.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Han arbetade på Erie - vad hette platsen?

Oliver: Det var inte Erik.

L: Var det inte Erik som kom hit. Ja Erik! The oldest one.

Oliver: Ja. Och - höll på med järnvägen. I Jamestown. Ja.

Elsie: He worked on the railroad, - in Erie. So when Oliver came here, the day after he came here, he went to work at the Erie Railroad.

Oliver: Ja.

L: So he had a job right away. Berätta lite grand hur det gick till. Han skrev brev hem och ville att en av pojkarna skulle komma? You tell me!

Oliver: Tell that!

L: No, You tell me! Han skrev hem till pappa och mamma och ville att En utav pojkarna skulle komma.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Ja. Och de valde Dig.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Hur gick det med mjölkskjutsen till Sävsjö då?

Oliver: Det gick bra. Jag hade två hästar. Två hästar för 'en åtta mjölkfora.

L: Jaså, åtta.

Oliver: Ja. Det var 'möcke' mjölk.

L: Var det allt Du gjorde under dagen?

Oliver: No no! Jag kom 'te Eksjö då. Lämnade Holma and kom 'te Eksjö ungefär klockan åtta och åkte genom stan där. I can't talk.

Elsie: Oliver's brother worked in that market in Eksjö. Oliver helped - han var 'springpojke.

L: Så Din andra bror, han var i Eksjö?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Så Du besökte honom då under dagens lopp.

Oliver: Det var Simon och Gottfrid som var slaktare and gick 'te Eksjö med dom. De slaktade på fredan and åkte 'te Eksjö, på torget, på lördag.

L: Så dom sålde i minut då. Köttstycken, och

Oliver: Ja. Ja.

L: Gjorde de korv och sådant med?

Oliver: Ja för all del. Allting. Och fisk.

Elsie: Det var Gunnar som gjorde det.

Oliver: Va?

Elsie: Det var Gunnar som lagade korv, och sådant.

Oliver: Ja, det sa jag ju.

L: Så - när kom Du tillbaka - med 'skummjölka?

Oliver: Han blev väl; en och en halv timme - en timme.

L: Jaså så pass fort.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Orkade hästarna då?

Oliver: Det gick bra.

L: Det var Miranda, och, vad hette den andra hästen?

Elsie: Pärla.

L: När använde ni oxarna på gården?

Oliver: Oxar använde vi nere på 'mössen', på 'mössa' see. 'Di kunde inte, hästarna, där.

L: De sjönk igenom.  
Oliver: Det gick på tok.  
L: Jaså men oxarna gick bra.  
Oliver: Oxarna gick bra ja.  
L: Så - Det var deras arbete - det.  
Oliver: Ja.  
L: Ni harvade inte med oxar?  
Oliver: Yes! Vi harvade också.  
L: Jaså. Jaha. Var de istadiga ibland?  
Oliver: Ja en del  
L: var besvärliga att köra.  
Oliver: Ja. En del utav hästar var.  
L: Så hästarna var istadiga med.  
Oliver: But - Det gick bra i alla fall. På Det viset.  
L: Så gick det till.  
Oliver: Ja.

L: Nu när Din bror skrev ifrån Amerika. Han ville att en utav bröderna skulle komma över hit till Jamestown. Vad berodde det på att Du blev den som blev utvald? Det fanns ju så många flera? Varför föll lotten på Dig?  
Elsie: He was the youngest.  
L: The youngest.  
Oliver: Det var ja. De tog mig.  
L: Vad sade Du då? Var Du inte bekymrad att de skulle klara sig där hemma?  
Oliver: Jag gick i 'alle fall!

L: Det var inga kontroverser, utan Du packade kofferten.  
Oliver: Ja. Och sen åkte vi in.  
L: Du fick till prästen först och ta ut betyg.  
Oliver: Oh - sure.  
L: Vad sade prästen?  
Oliver: Prästen - i liked him.  
L: Sade han någonting - när Du skulle ha flyttningsbetyget - och åka till Amerika. Han varnade Dig inte och sa att Du inte skulle åka den långa resan?  
Oliver: Vi hade ju andra som kunde göra det?  
L: Jaså en annan som skrev papperen åt Dig? Du behövde inte gå till prästen?  
Oliver: No. Det gjorde jag inte.  
L: Inte det!  
Oliver: No.  
L: Och Du behövde inte skriva till Kungen heller för att komma ifrån exercisen? Din bror skickade biljetten då?  
Oliver: Ja.  
L: 52 dollar, en väg. Ända till Jamestown.  
Oliver: Ja. 52 dollars.  
L: Då åkte Du tåget från Eksjö till Göteborg?  
Oliver: Ja. That's right.  
L: Och sedan båt till .. Hull?  
Oliver: I England. Ja.  
L: Vad hette båten?  
Oliver: Asch! Jag kommer inte på 'at!

Elsie: Don't You remember the name of the boat?

Oliver: No.

L: Var det en bra resa över? Det var inte mycket sjögång, Gungade och så?

Oliver: No. Det var väldigt bra.

L: Jaså Väldigt bra.

Oliver: Ja. I remember that - ja.

L: Kommer Du ihåg när Du kom till New York - till Ellis Island?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Hur gick det till?

Oliver: Vi behövde inte gå till Ellis Island, mer än en gång?

L: En gång?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Och då fick Du en lapp på bröstet var Du skulle gå.

Oliver: Ja. Och sen skickade 'di mig hem 'te

L: Till tåget.

Oliver: Med tåget ja.

L: Till Jamestown.

Oliver: Ja. Och det gick bra.

L: Och där blev det arbete, med en gång?

Oliver: Yes! Ja.

L: Men Du tyckte inte om det jobbet, för Du slutade efter några månader. Vad berodde Det på? Tyckte Du inte om järnvägsarbetet?

Oliver: No. Det gjorde jag inte. För jag lagade mat.

Elsie: He saw an add in a newspaper. A restaurant wanted a night counter-man, who spoke Swedish. And that was All he could speak! So he applied for the job - and he got it. And he worked 12 hours a night, seven nights a week.

Oliver: Seven nights a week ja.

L: Seven nights a week.

Elsie: I guess there was one night You had five hours off - and were going to work at 12, or something.

L: Då hann Du inte gå till kyrkan på söndan heller!

Oliver: Jag gick inte 'te 'körka' på Den tiden.

Elsie: No. He didn't have time.

Oliver: Jag går nu!

L: Nu har Du tid!

Oliver: Ja, nu har jag tid. Så det går bra!

L: Du höll på där ett tag då?

Elsie: He worked at that restaurant - I think - until he went in to the service.

L: He was drafted then.

Elsie: He was drafted And when he was drafted, he had hes first papers, so he wouldn't really have had to go. But - he went. So when he went back, he got hes second papers, You know.

L: So then he was a citizen.

Elsie: Yes.

L: Did he go over the sea?

Elsie: Yes, he was over the sea - to all those battles.

L: Du klarade Dig igenom Europa utan en skråma.

Oliver: Det gick bra. Inte dåligt. Det är bra, ja.

L: Var det många svenskar ifrån Jamestown som var med?

Oliver: Ja, det var en väldig massa.

L: Jaså.

Oliver: Kan det vara en 50, på en gång.

Elsie: It was more then that. I think it was over 100 that went.

L: Och Du var där i två år?

Oliver: No. Jag var inte där i mer än ett och ett halvt år.

L: Ett och ett halvt år ja. Men - det är inte lite Det.

Oliver: No. Och det gick bra då. Det var jåkligt på sätt och vis också see. I skogen.

L: Blött och så.

Oliver: Jaa, vad som helst. Ja.

L: Och sen kom Du tillbaka till Jamestown.

Elsie: He worked in several different restaurants. (?) and (?) and Adolfs Restaurant.

L: Var de ägda utav svenskar?

Elsie: Well. (?) and (?) weren't. Were they?

Oliver: (?), she was. Där var four ladies och så var det tio 'pöjkar, som 'hjalpte till.

Elsie: The (?), at that time, was a leading restaurant in Jamestown.

L: It was located at?

Elsie: On the 3rd street.

Oliver: Ja. På tredje gatan.

Elsie: You know were the drug store is? (?) drug store. It was right next door to that.

L: I see. And it was the buzyest restaurant in town.

Elsie: It was the leading restaurant at that time. It was in the early 20s.

Oliver: I think so. Ja.

L: Then You married Elsie Johnson; 1926.

Elsie: No. We met in 1926. We were married in 1929.

L: 29. Jaha.

Elsie: Yes. I worked in a store, on Market street, in Jamestown. There was a little restaurant next door to that, were they had gone broke. The store, that I worked for, was one of the creditors, and several other concerns, like John's Bakery, and (?) - and C. R. Nelson Creamery. The both creditors desided to take over the restaurant and run it. C. R. Nelson, - the creamery man, said: - "I think, I know a man, I can get to run the restaurant for us" - and that was Oliver. That was right next door to (?) company, were I worked, - and I did the book keeping and typed the manuals, and things like that for the restaurant after we took it over.

Oliver: Det gjorde 'di mycket bra.

Elsie: That's how we met.

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: And then he was with them here. This place upon Maine street was for sales - and he bought it. He bought it 1927.

L: 1927. John's bakery - was that Swedish?

Oliver: Ja. 'Di var svenskar.

L: John's?

Oliver: Ja. Men det är 'bört' alltihop nu då. 'Di har sålt det 'te någon annan.

Elsie: John's family. Isn't it some of the young once?

Oliver: Okey.

L: This restaurant, 1927, what was it's name?

Elsie: The name of it was The Main Lunch. But when Oliver took it over, he called it Oliver's Restaurant.

L: And then You became a landmark of Jamestown.

Oliver: Very nice.

Elsie: (? Kring lokaliseringen, med några namn).

L: That was a restaurant with breakfast, lunch and dinner?

Oliver: That's right. And; nattöppet.

L: 24 hours a day!

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: At that time.

Oliver: 24 hours. För många år.

L: Och det var full speed. It was a lot of traffic.

Elsie: You know: the immigrants came in the 20s. They had rooms on the 2nd street.

L: They had to eat.

Elsie: That's right.

L: They had different shifts. They had to eat; at - every time.

Elsie: Yes. We packed the lunch for them, and they came for breakfast and they took lunch with them. They came back for supper at night. The meal tickets - it was 5,50 value for 5 dollars, and it was just about a week. It was a little bit different.

Oliver: Det var dåligt in the 30s too.

L: Det var dåligt att ha en restaurant under depressionen.

Oliver: Igen; - ja.

L: Svårt. Men folk var ju tvungna till att ha mat? Var tog dom vägen då?

Oliver: Well. Vi gav dom mat i 'alle fall, men; jag fick inga pengar.

Elsie: They didn't have any money. What do You want to do?

Oliver: What do You want to do - ja?

L: So You felt a lot of people

Oliver: in that way.

L: Mer än Frälsningsarmén.

Oliver: Ja. Dom, too. Ja! We had them too.

Elsie: The Salvation Army, at that time, sent their trunches - for meals. That was 15 cents for a meal.

Oliver: Yeh we had that too.

L: 15/ meal!

Oliver: Ja. Vi gav dem. 15 cents. But de betalte det.

Elsie: Because the Salvation Army took that.

Oliver: Ja, dom betalte't.

Elsie: Well. It was pretty good for 15 cents!

L: You had a lot of waitresses for Your help?

Elsie: Oh!

Oliver: No, det var mer 'pöjkar.

Elsie: During the war, the second world war, we were very buzy, because of the defense working, and everything.

L: Then people had money.

Elsie: They Did, but the restaurants were on the ration, so You couldn't get enough food really.

L: Not enough sugar,

Elsie: Meat.



Oliver: Och 'potater.

Elsie: And: Everything. No potatoes.

Oliver: Vi fick betala 8 dollars för en säck av 'potater.

Elsie: That's nothing compared to what they are now.

L: No, but, at that time, it was a high cost.

Elsie: Coffee; and al sugar, and all that was rationed. So we had to give a certain of number of points, they called it - during the war, - and - they sent it to us in a check - and we deposet it. Then we wrote checks, or points, You know. So the people, that came in, didn't have to give any (?) or anything.

L: Now adays You can see families comming out, having dinners at the night. Did they do it in the 20s too?

Elsie: No, I don't think so.

L: There was workers that went in to the restaurant? They came in for Sunday dinners?

Oliver: They came in på kvällarna också.

Elsie: They came in for coffee, or something.

L: I see. But the main meal, they took in their home.

Elsie: Yes, I think so. It wasn't really families as much, then, more than Sunday dinners mabee.

Oliver: Oh - sure.

L: When did it start, that the families went off, after church? Was that during the war?

Elsie: I think during the war.

Oliver: Det var väldigt dåligt, se, because de kunde inte betala 'at se. So - that what it was. Det var väldigt dåligt. Ja.

L: How many years did You carry on with this restaurant?

Elsie: We carried on until after the war.

L: After the war?

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: We sold the restaurant right after the war was over, - in 45.

L: Were You tired of it?

Elsie: Well - we were tired. We worked pretty hard, You know.

Oliver: We tog - till Sverige.

L: 46. And You sold Your restaurant, then.

Oliver: Ja. We got 20 000 för restauranten.

Elsie: Afterwards he was a manager at two loges - two years afterwards.

L: I see! Wasa?

Oliver: Wasa Park.

L: But; You mean: The Wasa Hall?

Elsie: No, at Fine street.

Oliver: Fine street, ja.

L: You were a manager for 20 years!

Oliver: Jaha.

L: It's the biggest loge in The Unated States. You took care of the restaurang there, You mean?

Oliver: Ja. I was supposed to be the head man.

L: There were lots of dinners for them - every weekend - I suppose.

Oliver: Ja ja. Ja. Så det gick .. bra.

L: Then You met Peter Peterson and Gert Blomkvist, and All of them.  
Elsie: Gert Blomkvist - I think he did his first meal in Jamestown, in our place.

L: Then You stayed on with that job until You retired?  
Oliver: Yes.

L: I see. But it was an easier work?  
Oliver: Jag gjorde 'et rätt så bra. Very good.

L: Do You remember Sven Carlson, the Mayor?  
Oliver: No.

L: Sven Carlson!  
Elsie: Sure You remember him! He lived on Marple street? He was the Mayor.  
Oliver: Ja, he was a Mayor, ja.

L: He was a Mayor for 26 years!

Oliver: Ja.

L: And Everybody did like what he said, except buying the milk. Was he a good Mayor though?

Elsie: He was a good Mayor.

L: Was he liked of everybody in Jamestown?

Oliver: I think so.

L: Because he had also Italians; and other groups. And he gave You both electricity and good water.

Oliver: Ja.

L: How about the police in Jamestown? Were they a lot of Swedish constables, and sergeants?

Oliver: Ja. 'Di var svenskar, för det mesta.

L: De var svenskar?

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: Henry Carlson.

Oliver: He worked here too. Är det något annat som jag kan visa Dig?

L: Du kan berätta hur det var på den tiden? What did they eat for breakfast?

Oliver: Pancakes.

L: What kind of pancakes? Were they the thick American ones, or the Swedish thin ones.

Elsie: Oh no, they were the thicker ones, I guess. I have got a manual here, in some place. Do You want to see it?

L: Yes! But the workers. They probably used the standard manual all the time. Did they read the manual when they ordered? It was a Swedish restaurant then?

Oliver: All Swedish.

L: All Swedish.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Who was the cook. Did he come from Sweden?

Elsie: We had several, during the years.

Oliver: We had good ones.

L: Och det var kvinnliga kockar? Kokerskor?

Elsie: They were; what?

L: Kvinnliga?

Elsie: Yes. They baked pies, and everything. We had to have '\*fläskpannkaka. Kåldolmar. Lutfisk.

L: There was not only Swedish people that came in there. There were other people too?

Elsie: Oh yes!

L: Much Italians, and Albanians.

Elsie: That's right.

L: They liked the Swedish food?

Elsie: Oh yes. We served ham, and pork, and everything. At that time we served the pork sandwich, a pork that we had roasted ourselves in the kitchen. And; ham; in the same way.

L: Was it The open face, or was it the double?

Elsie: The double.

L: Did they like rye bread more than the white?

Elsie: I think they liked the rye bread pretty well. Cause there were some that liked the white - You know.

L: The immigrants were still coming over in the 20s.

Elsie: Yes, they were still coming.

L: Did they eat all the different kind of food, the ones, who had been here for 15 20 years?

Did You see any change in their choice?

Elsie: I wouldn't really say that there was that much change in their taste.

L: They all liked '\*bruna bönor, och fläsk.

Elsie: Yes! And we had lutfisk, You know, which we lutade ourselves.

L: When did You start serve lutfisk at the Christmas time?

Elsie: The first week in December.

L: The first week.

Elsie: Yes.

L: And continued all the way through December.

Elsie: All through December.

L: And How far did You go after Christmas? When did You stop?

Elsie: I guess, until it was all gone! We bought the herring by the cage - You know.

L: - Det var saltad sill.

Elsie: We sold the lutfisk for 30 cents a meal.

L: 30 cents.

Elsie: Yes. That's what it was.

L: Did You see any changes - in the 40s - for instance? Were people ordering different food?

Did they go away from the Swedish food?

Elsie: I don't really think so. Up until that time, 45, You know; Jamestown was pretty Swedish.

L: Yes.

Elsie: So they liked the Swedish food, and even other nationalities, too, liked our food.

L: How about hash browns. Did You use hash brownies for breakfast, with egg.

Elsie: Potatoes You mean?

L: Yes, potatoes.

Elsie: Yes. Well. I just don't remember that, that much. I didn't really work the breakfast hour that much, You know. I came just at noon. I came in and took the cash at noon and typed the manuals for the supper time and during the war I went to work steady in the restaurant.

L: How about French fries? When did they start to come in? The French fried potatoes?

Elsie: We started with French fries in the restaurant.

Oliver: Yes.

L: Was it in the 20s?

Elsie: Mabee; I think we served home fries, with a little bit more

L: That were the biggest.

Elsie: Then The French fries.

L: To the meal, did they drink coffee: to the meal, or after the meal?

Elsie: Most of them drank it to the meal.

L: With the meal.

Elsie: Yes.

L: They started with a cup of coffee, and waited for the food?

Elsie: Yes. Cause: the coffee was free in those days.

L: You didn't charge for it!

Elsie: They got coffee free, with the meal. As You came in and bought a cup of coffee, there was 5 cents. Coffee - and 3-5 kex - was 10.

L: The breakfast was the standard. It was unjon, bacon and hash browns?

Elsie: Yes.

L: Did they have any milk with the breakfast, or just coffee?

Elsie: Most of them just the coffee.

L: And then, for lunch, it was the dinner.

Elsie: That's when we really served a big meal.

L: It could be pork, and

Elsie: Beef and fish, almost anything; You know.

L: Sweet water fish, or salt water?

Elsie: Hadock. Hallibut.

L: They came in; every day?

Elsie: We had, You know, two big fish markets in Jamestown, at that time. So there was a very big supply.

L: You can read the menue then:

Elsie: Okey. This is Sunday, Januari 29, 1939.

-- The Special for Sunday was: chicken rise soup, or tomatoe juice.

Southern styled fried chicken. Buttered pieces and carrots. Waldorff sallad. Selleri and pickles.

Tea, or coffee, or milk, and dessert.

All for 65 cents. --

L: For the hole thing!

Elsie: The hole thing.

L: There was nothing but coffee to drink.

Elsie: Right. And fish; we had that day: fried scalops, with hash brown potatoes, 30 cents. It was in January. We still had lutfisk. Lutfisk with cream sause, 30 cents.

-- Now we had (?) steak, with French fried potatoes, 40 cents.

(?) pork, with apple sause, 40 cents.

Swiss steak with unjons, 35 cents.

Swedish fläskkorv, 30 cents.

Fried eggs with hash brown potatoes, 30 cents.

Dessert: Home made cake and icecream, 15 cents. Or; home made cake and ice cream with the meal; 10 cents. Apple-, berry-, sherry-, coconut-, pumpkin- or; (?) -pie, 10 cents. Pinapple (?) cake, 10 cents. --

This was 1939.

L: In 1939, the times started to get better, but it was not good.

Elsie: No. This was before the war.

L: But there was not to many families comming up to the restaurant?

Elsie: No, not really.

L: But: How could the families make it any cheaper, at home?

Elsie: I don't know.

L: Most of the people couldn't do it.

Elsie: No. It was, really, depression then, and some people were bringing home much money, You know.

L: Did You have any refrigerator? for for example icecream? Did You make your own icecream?

Elsie: No. No. No we didn't make it. We got it from the Jamestown Icecream Company.

L: And You had the ice-box. You took ice during the winter, or?

Elsie: Well. We did when we first opened up. They came with the ice.

L: The ice-man came.

Elsie: Yes. But, then, after a few years, we put in a kulminator system and we put in a refrigerator room in our basement, for the restaurant.

L: The evening sessions has not changed so much then, as in the 1920s?

Elsie: I think it has now. You could go and get a home-cooked meal. These were all - more or less - home-cooked. If You go to a restaurant now, it's, more or less, all grilled, steaked and fried, and a toast sallad. You don't get really home styled cooking, like You did then. It's cooked after You give them Your order, You know. But, ours was cooked and ready to serve, when they came in. Just like You prepair a meal at home.

L: I see. The fish was boiled, mostly. You didn't have much fried fish, or sill! Hade ni stekt sill?

Elsie: Yes. You could have fried, or baked. But - I don't think they had much deep fat frying, like they do now, deeply.

L: In oil.

Elsie: Yes.

L: How about sallad. Did they use sallad in all; green, fresh vegetables?

Elsie: I don't think they used it as much then. What they Did use, I think, was a part of a head of the lattuce. They used That quite a bit, in those days. They didn't really cut it up, they used more the piece of the heart of the lattuce, You know.

L: I see. But they didn't serve it, like they do now, with green pepper, carrots, radishes?

Elsie: They served radishes. That was a little difference - than it is now.

L: It's more vegetables now a days, do You think?

Elsie: Fresh vegetables, I think, perhaps they do.

L: Like the carrots yesturday, they were always with a sause, or with butter.

Elsie: Yeh, buttered.

L: People are more afraid for fat now adays.

Elsie: Yes!!

L: They could drink coffee, as much as they wanted.

Elsie: Yes. That was all we served with the meal. You never paid anything extra for Your coffee. I guess that started up after the war.

L: Did all the restaurants do at this way, as You did?

Elsie: Yes, I think so.

L: So; that was the way to do it.

Elsie: Yes. Cause - now the coffee costs as much as we paid for the full meal.

L: There was no liquor licenses in Your restaurant?

Elsie: You had a liquor license. Yes. Most restaurants had, You know.

Oliver: Det gick så dåligt, så vi var tvungna att ha det. And: det gick bra.

L: Det gick bra. You know that. At the Wasa club; I mean: the Tulip. There were doings every week.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Most of the weeks.

Oliver: In Sundays.

L: Sundays.

Elsie: But they weren't open on Sundays?

Oliver: There could be lately.

Elsie: There weren't open in Sundays.

Oliver: No. Okey.

L: There was the different groups, like: The Ladies group. Did they have dinner parties also?

Elsie: Oh yes. They had in Friday nights and Saturday nights.

L: And All were Swedish!

Oliver: Ja. But; de är gångna. But; the other people got in there. Se; 'di var gifta - personer.

Elsie: But they were not Swedes at all!

Oliver: No.

Elsie: You know, there are not That many people coming here. Immigrants, You know.

L: They had their girl friends. They didn't notice the differences between nationalities.

Elsie: No.

L: But I suppose the Swedes, they didn't like it the first, when they met the Italians, and the Albanians.

Elsie: No. They didn't. They didn't - years ago.

L: No.

Elsie: But now - somebody marry an Italian.

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: They didn't like that. But Now - You know. there is a lot of Italians and Swedes that intermarried. All nationalities.

L: The religions was probably the biggest question.

Elsie: The Italians most were nearly all Catholics.

Oliver: Mhm. Ja.

L: How did the marriages work out; between the Italians and the Swedish, for example? How has it worked off?

Oliver: When they got married?

L: Yes. Did they stick together?

Elsie: I think they do! I think they do! As much as any.

L: who has the turn to the other ones religion? When a Swede marry an Italian? Do they necessarily have to be a Catholic follower.

Oliver: Well I think just what they are.

Elsie: The Protestants would probably turned Catholics, in the most cases, I think.

L: The kids usually follow their mothers.

Elsie: That's right.

Oliver: I don't think that the Italians make so much now for the money that they should get.

Elsie: What do You mean by this?

Oliver: They were given so much money, and so on, - but I don't think they'll taken it.

Elsie: You mean; to the Catolic church. That's what You mean?

Oliver: Yes, that's what I mean.

L: They have lost memberships also.

Elsie: Yes.

L: How about politics. Were You a Republican or a Democrate?

Oliver: I'm a real Republican!

L: Real Republican. Number one.

Oliver: Number one! I have been.

Elsie: All Your life You have been a Republican, since You came here, I think.

L: Did You study it Yourself?

Oliver: Well. You know - during the good times, we had here in Jamestown, - we had a good time. The mostly was

Elsie: Jamestown was Republican - mostly.

L: Mostly. Yes.

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: Oliver has always been a Republican.

L: How about Rosevelt. Didn't he do a lot of good things?

Oliver: Franklin D?

L: Yes - Franklin D.

Oliver: I voted on him.

L: Then You changed to the Republicans after that.

Elsie: I think he was really a Republican before, but during the war he voted for Franklin D., I guess; everybody thought that mabee it wasn't wise to change.

L: A lot of Swedes voted for Rosevelt in the 40s?

Elsie: Yes. He was elected four times. You didn't work when he was put in the first time.

Oliver: I don't remember. Ja. And You've done the same thing.

L: Then You voted for Mr Hoover.

Oliver: We did.

L: That's the story about the Jamestown politics.

Oliver: Ja.

L: What church have You belonged to then?

Oliver: The First Lutheran.

L: It was Doctor Julius Lincoln .. and Westerberg. And someone between?

Oliver: Westerberg. 25. 25 years he was.

L: And Lincoln was before him. Wasn't he.

Elsie: No. There was Johanson, and Nyström, and someone else. I Joined it under pastor Westerbergs pastory.

L: Oh I see.

Elsie: I was confirmed in the Covernant church in the Mission. But I was baptized in the Lutheran church, in Iowa.

Oliver: Cause; I did more work for myself.

L: And You did it pretty good.

Oliver: That's it.

L: How about Your brother? He worked for the railroad, all hes life?

Oliver: Jaa

L: He stuck with that.

Oliver: Erik.

L: What did he say when You quitted the railroad work? Did he like that, or did he warn You against leaving a good job?

Oliver: Well - I don't know. That's a long time ago. I can't remember it.

L: I don't blame You!

Oliver: I can't remember it. Va?

L: But - if You look back. If he had written that letter.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Do You think that You had been staying in Höreda, as the rest of Your brothers and sisters did?

Oliver: To go home?

L: Then You had continued another 15 16 years to drive the oxes and mjölk 'te Eksjö. Do You think You made a good choice?

Oliver: Yes. Ja. I've done pretty good.

Elsie: You'r not sorry that You came to the Unated states?

Oliver: No. I've learned good.

Elsie: No.

L: So: 1946 You both went home to Sweden, -

Elsie: Right.

L: on the boat, and You came back to Höreda, and Your brothers. And they had the farm then.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Were Your parents gone then - by that time?

Elsie: Oliver's mother passed away when he was only eleven. She passed away in 1911. So; that's why he came here.

Oliver: Yes.

Elsie: She was gone - when he came here. And his father passed away in .. 1920; I think, or; 21. They were gone.

Oliver: It could be.

L: What did You look for when You came back in 1946 - on the farm? Was it something special?

Oliver: In 1946 - I had

L: You took the car with You home.

Oliver: From here?

L: Yes. From here, to Sweden?

Oliver: No. From Sweden to here!

Elsie: No! You took it to Sweden and then Your brother brought it back.

Oliver: Okey. Ja. Ja.

L: Tur och retur!

Elsie: I think: he wanted to go back to the place where he was born.

Oliver: Well I did.

L: How did it look to You?

Oliver: Oh Wonderful!

L: The same?

Oliver: To get to Småland.

L: How did it look to You? Did it look the same as when You left it?

Oliver: No. But; I knew how it looked.



L: That was enough.

Oliver: That was enough ja.

L: The barns and the house - and the trees.

Oliver: Ja. Och 'päronaträd som vi hade.

L: De fanns kvar.

Oliver: De fanns kvar, ja!

Elsie: But, You see; none of the family were living there then. They had sold to others.

L: I see. Och Miranda och Pärla, they were gone too.

Oliver: Ja. So; in Jamestown here, I was down to Olson.

Elsie: I don't know what it is. He has been tired now.

L: Jaa ja.

Oliver: No, I am not tired.

L: Det var lättare än att servera hash browns!

Oliver: That was good!

L: Det var bättre.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Has Jamestown been a good place? A lot of good companies, during the 50s and the 60s.

Oliver: Sure. Ja.

L: If You had been staying in Småland, - for instance. There was not much You could do with the money?

Oliver: No. Well -

L: You could save the money, for the next day.

Oliver: I had the same "film" in Småland, then what we get here.

L: I know! But, I mean: when You were home,

Oliver: Ja.

L: You couldn't spend any money on something that You couldn't take a risk on? You had to be sure what You bought.

Oliver: Yeh, that's right.

L: Miranda och Pärla! Dom var gångna, 1946!

Oliver: Var det 46?

Elsie: Yes, when we went back.

L: Dom fanns inte kvar längre.

Oliver: Och det gick bra.

L: Det gick bra ja.

Elsie: They were gone.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Men bröderna - som stod på torget och sålde kött i Eksjö -

Oliver: Ja.

L: dom levde väl fortfarande, 46?

Oliver: Å ja.

L: Vad gjorde dom för nånting?

Oliver: Well de handlade med oxar.

L: Inte 46 - väl.

Oliver: Yes they did.

L: They did!

Oliver: De hade 'vågslaster med oxar.

L: Jaså dom höll på med det!

Oliver: 'Di höll på med det, Simon också, se. Han hade en stor 'plånebok här se som han drog ut. Tog ut!

L: Han tänkte att bräcka av bror sin, när han kom ifrån Amerika! Nej! men När Du kom hem. Då visade han 'plån'boka' för Dig, så han skulle bräcka av Dig!

Oliver: Ja! Det var förskräckligt! Va! Han gjorde så.

L: Vad tyckte bröderna när Du kom hem till Sverige; - med bil, och fru? Tyckte de att Du gjort det Bra då i Amerika?

Oliver: Jaa.

L: De tyckte väl att det var bra, det Du hade gjort!

Oliver: They liked me.

L: Dom gjorde det, ja.

Oliver: When I came back. And; I was with them for a little while, see.

Elsie: The other brother didn't understand that Oliver would want to stay in the Unated states - och bli begravnen på 'främmad' jord - he said.

L: Å, han sa det.

Oliver: Yes.

L: Jaså han ville försöka få Dig att stanna kvar i Sverige.

Elsie: But Oliver had been in the Unated States much longer than he had been in Sweden, because he was only 17 when he came - You know. He was 32 years after.

L: Förvånade de sig inte över att han kunde prata så bra svenska då. Ni pratar ju väldigt bra svenska. Förvånade han sig inte över det?

Oliver: She is very good.

L: Å ja!

Elsie: I read and write it, too.

Oliver: Ja. She can do that. I can do that too.

Elsie: Course; they knew that Oliver had married to somebody, that was born here- and they were a little bit worried: That was back in 46, that they couldn't talk English as much then. The younger people were starting to. They were afraid they weren't gona be able to talk to me - and - they said: Oliver har tolk med sig hem. They thought I was talking better Swedish then he did!

L: Det var inte snällt sagt! Det var inte snällt sagt.

Oliver: Det gick i 'alle fall.

Elsie: But Oliver made it up a little bit more. I tried a little harder, You know.

L: Han har lärt sig här i Jamestown.

Elsie: He talked a Jamestown Swedish in Jamestown, You know!

L: Så han vaktade inte orden när dom kom ut.

Oliver: Men; vi gjorde Good.

Elsie: I could talk pretty good Swedish. But - You know - there are some things. When we came to Sweden, we said: "han bor på andra golvet" and - vi skulle ha sagt: "han bor på andra våningen". Here, we say: "He lives on the second floor", You know.

L: Till att översätta direkt. Ja, det är inte lätt.

Elsie: And - at That time - it was right after the war - and - nylon stockings were very scarce. They sold them down in Warren; at The New Process Company, so I bought a lot of stockings to take with me, to give to the family in Sweden. They wondered how I'd get so many stockings. "Ja" jag sa: "Jag fick gå och stå i lina en lång tid". I should have said; "stå i kö"! We say: "I stood in line a long time"!

Oliver: Var det nere i Vetlanda?

Elsie: In Warren.

Oliver: In Warren. Ja.

Elsie: When You were going to Go some place - like we say here: "We are going now. We're going; to Jamestown, or such and such a place". But; in Sweden, they said: "Ja, nu reser vi hit och dit".

Oliver: Ja.

L: Men det var inte gott för er att veta det.

Elsie: No.

L: Ni använder aldrig sådana uttryck därhemma.

Oliver: No.

Elsie: So - Oliver's sister in law - she started saying the same thing: "Nu säger jag likadant som Oliver gör. Nu går vi dit och dit", sa hon!

Oliver: Och det gick bra, va?

Elsie: Ja. We had a lot of fun.

L: Hur många utav syskonen levde när ni var hemma?

Oliver: Tyra var den siste.

Elsie: In 46, there was Simon and Gottfrid and Gunnar.

L: Och systemen.

Elsie: That's all.

L: Systemen, var hon död?

Oliver: She died.

Elsie: She had gone since 1922.

Oliver: Ja, just det. 22.

Elsie: She was the oldest - You know. They were only four; with You, and Erik here. There was five brothers then in 46. And Oliver had a brother now, that passed away in March - and Oliver was the last one.

L: Han var den siste.

Elsie: He was the last one.

L: Så de har uppnått en hög ålder allihop?

Elsie: Oliver's brother, that passed away, was two years older than he was. He would have been 91 in April, he died in March.

L: Du hade inga funderingar över att stanna i Eksjö då?

Oliver: No.

L: Inte det.

Oliver: No.

L: Det hade ändrat sig för mycket.

Oliver: Jaa. Det var inte så många som jag kände igen nu för tiden. Så - vi är tillbaks här.

L: Inget drug store i Höreda?

Oliver: No! But vi hade en fin lärare då. Han 'hetade Johansson.

L: Henning Johansson.

Oliver: Det var en riktig 'pojke.

L: Jaså.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Ja, pojke. Ja det var en farbror till er!

Oliver: Sure!

L: Henning Johansson.

Elsie: Oliver:: when we went there 46, what was his name? Ankar?

Oliver: Ankarberg.

Elsie: Ankarberg.

Oliver: Det var - ja. It was - pastorn. - I Höreda.

Elsie: He had died just about a month before we got there. And Oliver had one brother, that had died, just before we got there, too.

Oliver: Jaha.

L: Det var inte många kvar.

Oliver: No. No. I liked that though, to go around and see the old places.

L: Just att få komma tillbaka och se de gamla lekplatserna.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Hann Du leka någonting som liten pojke?

Oliver: Ja, visst gjorde jag det!

L: Vad gjorde ni för någonting?

Oliver: Åh, vi 'gravde rovor.

L: Ja, men det var väl ingen lek!

Elsie: It was a work!

Oliver: Åh -när vi hade 'fleckan med oss! - Då!

L: Hon gick först i raden, så fick ni följa efter!

Oliver: Det var förskräckligt det! Och vi 'sprunge' 'te Emmån - och hoppade in - se!

L: Så Du kunde simma när Du bodde hemma?

Oliver: Jaa då. Det gick bra. All the time!

L: Kunde de flesta pojkar och flickor simma på Den tiden?

Oliver: I think they did, ja.

L: Dom gjorde det.

Oliver: Väldigt bra.

L: Ni bodde intill vattnet då, förstås.

Oliver: På landet.

L: Jaha.

Elsie: I must tell You something. There was a little boy, that lived in the house, where Oliver's brothers lived. He was eleven years old - and - he was with Oliver all the time - in the car.

And all the time - they let me Go with them - You know. We went to Kalmar. Oliver said - on

te way, he said: "nu, Bernt, när vi ser några 'flicker så får Du inte vifta åt dom"! Då sa han: "Å"! sa han: "inte Jag som viftar, men tant Elsie till Mig! Det farbror Alvar som viftar åt

'flickerna"! "

Oliver: Sa 'pojken det!

Elsie: Yes.

L: Du var en spjuver. Jaså det var mycket rovor att luka. Luka rovor.

Oliver: Well we hade många kor.

Elsie: And Oliver's nephew went for fishing, one day. He came home with such a nice lot of fish. We cleaned the fish, and we had a real good fish dinner. That was in 46. And in 64, we

went to Sweden again. We flew over. All the sudden Oliver said; "well" he said - he said:

"that fish, that we caught, when we were there in 1946. We didn't catch it. We bought it"! "

L: Där kommer sanningen fram ibland.

Oliver: We hade 'möcke' roligt! Va? And höll på, se. Jaa.

L: Det var roligt att få komma tillbaka och höra göken gala.

Oliver: I know it.

L: Och björkarna.

Oliver: Ja. That's pretty good.

L: Det är ljust och vackert. Det var ingen av bröderna som bodde inne i skogen längre? De hade flyttat till stan - eller - var bodde de? HES brothers.

Elsie: They stayed around.

Oliver: De hade två hus, se.

L: På gården?

Oliver: ja.

L: Och - de hade tagit undan ett hus, som de sålde då, eller?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Så; de bodde fortfarande kvar i Holma?

Oliver: Ja.

L: Å ja.

Elsie: Your brothers?

Oliver: Ja.

Elsie: One brother lived right in Eksjö.

Oliver: Gunnar.

Elsie: One had just died. He had his meat business, in Eksjö. Han var chark...

L: Charkuterist, ja.

Oliver: Charkuterist ja. Gunnar Karlsson.

Elsie: But the others - they stayed. Simon; He had a big farm.

Oliver: Oh sure he did.

Elsie: And Gottfrid never married, and he stayed with Simon, You know.

L: Varför tog ingen över hemgården? Det var ju en stor gård.

Elsie: Simon bought it,

Oliver: And Gottfrid too.

Elsie: The two bought it after Oliver's mother passed away. But then they sold it to a new family. He had bought a big farm: Åkersberg gård.

L: Var det en större gård?

Elsie: It was a big place. And a son still lives there. But Simon has gone, and - Gottfrid also.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Så Du har haft ett intressant liv.

Oliver: Jag har vart med om 'möe'. Very good, ja.

L: Du har varit med om mycket. Du har kört oxar i Småland.

Oliver: Sure.

L: Vad sa Du till oxarna när ni skulle gå?

Oliver: Vad sa jag!

L: Du fick väl säga till dem nånting. Hej och hå!

Oliver: ""Kör upp! Ja. Nu går vi"".

L: Och då gick dom?

Oliver: Ja då gick 'di.

L: Vad sa Du när dom skulle stanna?

Oliver: ""Du kan stanna nu, om Du vill""!

L: Jaså dom kunde prata också.

Oliver: Men det gick bra då. Ja. And hästarna, - fina. Vi took care of dem.

Elsie: Rykta.

L: Ja. Rykta dem.

Oliver: Vi ryktade dem ja.

L: Och la stödränder på golvet.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Skaka ur skrapan.

Oliver: Det känner han igen. Va!

Elsie: You are coming from a farm?

L: O ja. Det är ett bra liv.

Oliver: Ja, jag minns, vi 'brukte komma ihåg 'mjölkvåggen - och smörja den. Ja.

L: Skruva av muttern och dra ur hjulet.

Oliver: Ja. And then hade vi en liten - som tog upp det - and held it.

L: Men Du fick smörja den ofta då, för Du åkte varje dag till mejeriet.

Oliver: No. No. Jag gick inte mer än en gång i veckan. Två gånger.

L: Med mjölken!

Oliver: Ja. Course; 'di andre, som hade mjölk, 'di gick.

L: Ni hjälptes åt.

Oliver: Och min far, han gick, ibland. Då fick jag 'va hemma.

L: Då satt Du där och vissla på lasset.

Oliver: Det var ungefär 'en sån där högt, Du vet, 'te 'våggen. Å ja. Det 'geck bra. En 50-litershov gick bra, se. Så vi arbetade rätt bra.

L: Det gick i regn, och snö.

Oliver: Oh sure. Well, I got pretty good i skolan.

L: Jaså. Du hade bra betyg. Ja, jag såg det. Det var ett bra betyg.

Oliver: Ja.

L: Det var sången då, den var lite vek.

Oliver: Var den?

L: Vad berodde Det på? Men det stod: - tal- och läsövning, var högsta betyg. Du var god på och tala.

Oliver: Jaa.

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