

LS 0062

Lennart Setterdahl: Conrad, Adolf, Göte Rynell var född den 14 november 1901 i Tingsryd, i Småland och han kom till Amerika 1922.

Det är idag den 26 april 1985.

Mediapolis, Iowa.

L: Göte var Ditt riktiga namn då?

Conrad Rynell: Jaa.

L: Conrad Göte.

Conrad: Conrad Adolf Göte.

L: Conrad Adolf Göte.

Conrad: Det är mitt förnamn.

L: Men; Göte, det gick inte så bra här över i landet.

Conrad: No. They couldn't translate that. Well. My nieces, they said Göte to me. And I had an accent the first years.

L: Jaha. Du kallade Dig för Conrad. Rynell.

Conrad: You call me that.

L: Och pappa hette Konrad - ja. Och mamma hette?

Conrad: Matilda.

L: Matilda. Var hon född i Tingsryd också?

Conrad: No. Från Kalmar län.

L: Kalmar län. Vad hette Hon som flicka?

Conrad: ... Gustavsson. Gustavsson I think.

L: Jaha. Kalmar län. Och pappa. var han ifrån Tingsryd?

Conrad: No. No. I don't know were he came from. He never told me. He talked about Sundsvall, so I think he was born up north.

L: Jaha ja! Så han hade kommit ner till Småland. Och träffat Din mamma och så hade de gift sig.

Conrad: Well. They both were from out of town. They moved in. You see; they started a railroad. In 1900 - a couple of years before I was born - You see - they built a railroad.

L: Jaha.

Conrad: Is this what You want to know about?

L: Ja! Det är intressant att se början.

Conrad: Is that what You want to know?

L: Ja jag vill ha reda på Var de kom ifrån och Hur de bosatte sig. Vad arbetade pappa med då nere i Tingsryd? Hade han köpt en liten gård, eller?

Conrad: I don't know. I don't have the answers to all this questions. You know. This is so long. I could write a book about my life. (?) because it is to much.

L: Jaha. Men vi försöker att få lite grand bevarat för eftervärlden.

Conrad: Well. I don't know much about my dad, or mother, either. I never saw my grand parents. But, as I got it, my dad. They built this railroad: from Växjö till Tingsryd se. There already was a railroad from Tingsryd to Ronneby - and Karlskrona se, down to Blekinge kustbana, the hang on by Ronneby, in Blekinge see, on the coast. And he was the head about

it. Hes name was Viktor. And they just got out to this Town; Tingsryd, just after the railroad opened up. And I think - because I saw some equipments. They were buying; grain from the farmers, You know, and they tested it, - and they analysed the grain. And; I don't know wether they dried it, or what they did. And they sold it, back to the farmers. (?).

L: Jaha.

Conrad: And then they started to buy. But; it split up before I was born.

L: Han hade slutat på järnvägen då?

Conrad: Ja järnvägen, det var färdigt!

L: Det var färdigt.

Conrad: Ja. But - anyway - he didn't work på järnvägen se. (?). So; They split up, and Viktor went Hes way, and dad stayed there se. Han stannade se.

L: Han gifte sig då?

Conrad: Ja. Well. I don't know were he met my mother. I don't know! He must have been around. He had a sister in Kalmar, in Kalmar län and he probably was around somewere, because my mother was born; I think in - up around - not around Emmaboda - by Örsjö - Nybro! Nybro!

L: Nybro. På vägen till Kalmar.

Conrad: Ja. They met up there.

L: Du var äldsta barnet?

Conrad: Ja.

L: Född 1901.

Conrad: Ja.

L: Hur många var ni?

Conrad: Seven.

L: Sju stycken! Jaha. Hade pappa en gård då, så ni kunde försörja er?

Conrad: No. He probably had some money. He used to be in the tannery business before he got down there. He was an expert on shoes You know. He allways (?) the hole familys shoes, all the time, when it was good lether, and things like that. He was in that business. I think: connected with the lether business, something. But - anyway. He stayed with that line - se. He started to buy tjärkol, from the farmers; and bark, and wood. It was probably in the later years, when he started handeling with core-wood. It was up at the first world war, when he was handeling with core-wood.

L: The bark, was it for the tanning?

Conrad: Yeh. The bark was for the tanning.

L: What kind of bark? Was it gran, - or?

Conrad: Well. No. We bought gran, ek and burch; björk You se. 'Björker - in Småland - was just the prodominating.

L: Jaha. Och; ni använde barken där?

Conrad: Yeh. We took - (?) took of barken. We took it up that outside - and näver - You know.

L: Ja näver ja.

Conrad: And then we took the bark of, see.

L: Så ni använde nävern till någonting annat då?

Conrad: Ja. We bundle that, You know. (?) mening). And we sold that to the farmers and we checked up on it. They put out the bad pieces; that curls up You know - when You take it of. We had to cut them of, You know. You have to slate it, so it couldn't curl up.

L: This is interresting. This is history, You know. When You talk about stuf like this. How old were You then, when You started to help dad with this business?

Conrad: Well. I was .. seven, I guess.

L: Seven!

Conrad: Oh yeh! He started me. And he - I helped him - with All hes business see. My dad. I even go out and meet the farmers. Helped them out from town. They crossed the railroad - and I - course - I could see them - when they went around, and I met them up. Closer to home. (?) we were buying bark in town and I call them up then. Told the farmers: "come around this way. Kom med denna vägen. Min far betalar det högsta priset, se"!

L: Du hade reda på priser och sådant. You've got it.

Conrad: Oh yeh!

L: You've got it.

Conrad: And - so - I was helping in (? meningar)

L: Was it a good business?

Conrad: It was a good business.

L: And it was good for the farmers so then?

,Conrad: Yes, sure.

L: When they took the näver of the burch. Did they cut the näver the burch tree down, or could the tree still survive if You took the näver?

Conrad: No no. They cut down the tree at their first place.

L: They did.

Conrad: Yes. The burch, the 'björket, it, det goes, very fast.

L: Yes.

Conrad: And; in otherwise, it will come out a stub.

L: Yes. But You can't take the näver off and - låta det växa?

Conrad: No no. They kill them.

L: They kill them.

Conrad: There was another thing they did with the burch, You see. When the bark was open free, there, from tjärkol, the wood rased in value, see. Because; it did any more of the tjärkol. If it's gona be bark fly, they can't be any bark in the good tjärkol, see. So; out in the farm, he bought that.

L: Oh, I see. You didn't make any tjärkols, then?

Conrad: We did, later on. We made a lot of.

L: Jaha. Så Du är trained.

Conrad: Oh yes.

L: To build up?

Conrad: Well. We used two methods. The farmer made it himself up. Do You know how to make tjärkol on the farm?

L: Well. .. Not much.

Conrad: They gather it up. The wood - You see. Ten pieces. They put them up, like a cupid. And; when they stood up, they put in a hole (?) square. A flame, a wooden flame see. So it's an open hole - cave, down, see. It is made out of wood, You see. Just like a cage, or something like that. Or a box.

L: They dry it first inside, and then burn too.

Conrad: Then they put the wood a (flera meningar).

L: Is it a drying wood, or is it a raw wood?

Conrad: Well, it can be either one. No. This is dry. Because: when You take the bark of it, it's the spring of the year see. So it comes up easier when the sap is in the tree, You see. Then the bark (? meningar).

L: So; when do You build this cupid?

Conrad: You have to follow it during the winter.

L: So it has dried then.

Conrad: We used to take long with it. All there is, it's moist on the wood, so it takes more time. But; what I just got to say, They stoped. It's a frame in the middle, which is high as - vad 'di kallar en 'mila.

L: Mila.

Conrad: Mila ja. M i l a, ja. Det är en mila. Kolmila. But here it is older wood cover, there is something.

L: Som tio meter.

Your dad touth You to do this mila-work? Mila.

Conrad: Well. No. I don't know much about that, because I'm used to just watch him.

L: Oh, watch him.

Conrad: Because; I was to small. Something like dust, something like that. If You ever had one 'mila, burned on this particular (? meningar). They put the fire, like under the mila. Some killing, see. Something that burn in any way, for two or three hours; a couple of hours. good, and heavy. And then: it spreads out. Just like - if You start a fire against the wind; - but the same thing is spread slowly, see. And of course, the smoke first comes out, - just like steam - or things like that. It have to be aer-tight see. Just when the skills comes in! They have good wooden-clogs - You know. And they clime up on the sides on this. And it burns on the (?) the hole thing just to goes to the outside see. And it can't be Too tight exaktly, the smoke, or the vibrations; the gases, will come through the covers, (?). But It can be air enough, You see. The hole things catch fire, in the dust, at some time. But, anyway; it's keep on burning, from the middle, and as it burnes, it tistes down. Because it's getting smaller and You have to keep this clogs. It almost takes two men -- - if the wind comes up - You better have two men ready there (?). meningar).

L: There is an dangerous business, though. You've got to hold On in it!

Conrad: You have to be up some partner. (?). That's a risky business.

L: And it's hot on it.

Conrad: Oh! It's all one blow!

L: One blow.

Conrad: It's hot too!

L: How do they finish it of now? When do they know everything is finished?

Conrad: Well. They can see when it comes out. When it comes out to the end You know. (? många meningar). (Conrad redogör vidare inom området skogsbruk/ kolmilor samt kommer även in på ämnet Första Världskriget).

L: You were about 17 18, at that time?

Conrad: No no no. I was much younger then this. They came in. They said: "Anybody who can fire"? se. And me and my brother, at that time ..

L: Well; 14 15?

Conrad: It was before The First world war.

L: Ja. It was Before The war!

Conrad: Yeh - it was before the war!

L: You were only 12 13, then.

Conrad: ... Yes, something like this. It was before I was confirmed - I know that.

L: Jaha.

Conrad: Anyway. .. And anyway; we could fire - and we have to fire that all night. And we fired that things, that's what we could do. It was only time to fire; to the steam - or the moisture - quick comming up see. It is quick comming, out, and gets in to the green and yellow, when the gases inside there start to burn You see. Then; You have to change this (?) and got these gases down on the outside, and let that down into the fire-place, in the (?).

L: Jaha!

Conrad: And close it up on the edge. So the gas, from the wood inside, You know, I might say, it's digging it's own grave. Because: the wood inside furnace the gas, to make it hotter, and to finish the coal, and (?).

L: But it was after the moisture was off?

Conrad: Yeh. After the moisture was off.

L: Do You have to watch this over, the smoke?

Conrad: Oh yeh yeh. We were watching that, see. And right if it was ready, we gona make a change over it. (?) for a couple of hours. (?) and then; we closed it off. (mening). And: there was very critical. They want not let us even be closer by. They had guys, You know, specialiced in that. And, because; the pressure went so high You know. Well, I don't know how hot it was (?halv mening). Those high chimneys - when we started to go in there - it gets so hot; that the flames was comming out of that 100 foot chimney. You could see for Miles at the night! Higher, 25-30 feet up! And everything, that's an awful, it's a terrific pressure - You know. There was the railroad iron, it was 1 ½ foot around this others - was the railroad iron stands up and down. The iron rounds from outside. Tired up. They were heavy. (? mening). The hole, it was split, and exploded. And; they got, however, one night, (?) outside the doors. In the dawn, it was so hot. We couldn't have it closed. It was so hot. "Just walk"!

L: So - Your dad was running an operation, like this?

Conrad: Yes. Oh, he was in it.

L: Jaha!

Conrad: And he was in the business as a young. Course; I don't know what he did before the war. He was (?).

L: Jaha.

Conrad: Some Germans came. They were just disguised, You know.

L: Jaha.

Conrad: And; corse; dad knew about it - but nobody else did. He was down in Landskrona, there is some coast. Some guys got in. (?) was the name. They post as a sead company.

L: They are still living in business?

Conrad: No. They came in from Germany! And .. they (?). They wanted this (?). In Germany, before the war, they put a kaiser, see. And: The kaiser - and I think it was The queen of Sweden - at that time. They were brothers and sisters!, so they were in The kings family. Kaiser Wilhelm.

L: But; for shure, they were very closed in relations.

Conrad: We had nights and days to prepair for the war.

L: And Germany, they wanted the power.

Conrad: Yes! They - they wanted the tjärkol!

L: Sweden was very important then. We had to give them steel and (?), and bark, and everything.

Conrad: Yes. That's right.

L: So: Your dad, he met the German buyers then - and the English buyers; and All of them.

Conrad: Well. You know. He met them.

L: Yes. He was a very good business-man.

Conrad: Yes! Well. Anyway. He - he - You want me to continue on this line?

L: This is history! Yes! Because - this is interesting.

Conrad: Well. He was buying this before he ever heard anything about the war comming on, or anything like that. He was buying this bark and tjärkol. But he used to extended that, a little bit. And he got to be (?), or superintendent for the shipmen. The Germans. So; he went down on several railroads, down in the Skåne and Småland You know. And from Småland he was comming directly, You see. (? mening). He went up, along these railroads and (?). So he bought it. (?). Then he arranged when the ship came in to (?) (?). He had a motorcykle. The first motorcykle in the county! He had a motorcykle. And he were going up and down in these places. He (?). And he ordered in (?) empty cars. And he ordered in - the first he had to space to the empty cars - and then he ordered just them in and picked up all the cars from the railroad; a particular day, over two or three days. So the ship didn't have to wait to long for loading. (?) that particular day, or week, and they loaded that ship. They went to Germany. And he was a head of that. So he had quite a job. But he was gone. I guess I was 12; 13. I tried to ride that motorcykle. (? meningar). I went up to the hill, You know, and my brothers and sisters, and the neighbours, they pushed the motorcykle up on the top of the hill. (? meningar).

L: What was the name of it? Was it Indian, or?

Conrad: Indian. Indian was the name of it! No geers. (? meningar). Oh yeh! It was a real motorcykle! Those guys gave that to dad.

L: So he had to drive it.

Conrad: Oh yeh. He was selling some mashines - and stuf, like that.

L: How was Your dad?

(Skr kan inte till fullo uttolka dialogen dem emellan för en stund varför sekr ej heller försöker föra vidare denna. Handlar till stora delar om Conrads far samt om faderns affärsverksamhet).

Conrad: And the money came in, and You had to put the money in the bank. I was doing all that things.

(? Några meningar).

L: Did You make any mistakes in any time?

Conrad: No, I didn't. No, I don't think I made any mistakes.

L: You know; You are young, You have other things taking place in Your head.

Conrad: Well. (?) He would not let me have my time at all. He would not let me out of his sight! I might say. He was awful. Course; I was the oldest one, see. And he was gona put me (? resten av mening).

L: And the other boy then?

Conrad: Oh yeh. He was five years.

L: It took a long time for You to get a help of him?

Conrad: Yeh. He was five years. And right - he didn't let me go out at all. When I got up to be like 10 12 years. (? Många meningar). My dad, he was tuf.

L: How about Your mother?

Conrad: She was my body. Because; if I had any money, I didn't give it to him. My mother and I had an account. I could make as much as 20 cents a day, when I was taking a man's job. He paid me By so many sacks.

L: 20 cents a day, it would be about 1 krona om dan, eller? No.

Conrad: Well. I don't know what it will be here. It wouldn't be more then 5 cents here!

L: 5 cents.

Conrad: 10, mabee.

L: 20 öre om dan.

Conrad: 20 öre. Är det 20 öre?

L: Jaa. Jaså, Det var vad dom gav Dig.

Conrad: Something like that.

L: Did You keep that money for Yourself?

Conrad: Yeh. Yeh.

L: And You were paid every week, or?

Conrad: Yes, something like that.

L: But You could keep that.

Conrad: I kept that money, You see. I didn't spend any money.

L: Did You get a chance to spend them?

Conrad: No. That's right.

L: But; what did you do then? Did You save it out of home?

Conrad: He was all right. I think he (?) in some money the day I was born. I didn't know it for many many many years. My mother told me. She said that "Your dad. He've got an account for you in the bank". Course; he was in the bank - all the time - and were doing banking. And; nobody told me, but anyway, I found it out. So: I told my mother. She said "I don't want You to take the money out" she said. (?) meningar). I started put the money in there, see. Some of it. (?) mening). So; he was all right about that. He wanted to save my money. He wanted to rase my life. And that was all right.

L: You went to school then in Tingsryd?

Conrad: Yeh. I went to a good keeping school, he put me in there. He wanted me to learn. Some time they had some kind of summer school. He forced me "Go there".

L: Did You like that?

Conrad: Well. I didn't mind it, any way. They called it 'Fortsättningsskola. Jag minns; fortsättning, efter.

L: And it was easy for You to go?

Conrad: Oh yes. He was all right to give me these little short courses You know. (? mening).

L: You had to write well.

Conrad: Oh yeh. We had one guy, he came in from Växjö, den staden, that town. I were taking a course then - I remember - and they called it Skönskriva! Skönskrivning. We'd got pictures we had to write. (? meningar). And we got Betyg, You know, they said this in Swedish You know.

L: And then You went to Tingsryds kyrka för konfirmation.

Conrad: That's right.

L: För prästen/ kyrkoherden.

Conrad: Yeh yeh.

L: Det är en stor kyrka det i Tingsryd.

Conrad: Oh yes, en stor kyrka. Big.

L: How many were You to be confirmed?

Conrad: Well, I don't remember. We were over 100. I don't know were my pictures are.

L: So; when You were in the church before the confirmation. Was anybody talking about America? How did You know about America?

Conrad: Well. It's another long story. (? meningar). Dad was in this business. And; this was after I was confirmed. And he was buying stuf from the farmers. Far away, about 2 svenska mil, You know.

L: Ja.

Conrad: It's about 15, 15 and 20 miles. That's a long way.

L: Ja.

Conrad: Far away.

L: How did You handeling the business with horses?

Conrad: That's what I'll comming till Now! He bought the tjärkol from the farmers, far from the station. This guys were (?) in Karlshamn, and in Växjö. They had to go Tingsryd see. And (?) and it costs a lot. There was almost to far in a day, You know, for a team, to go. (?) and back home, the same day. These people out there, they made tjärkol. (?) They were shipping up to Stockholm. They were shipping up the coal. They couldn't get any coal. It was during the war. We were (? meningar). And they loaded up the wood.

L: Skottkärror.

Conrad: Skottkärror. That's right, it was. And they loaded it up, holding up at the flat cars, see. (? Många meningar). I was connected with the fleet. But anyway: You go in for a year or

so. And then You've go back and repete every two years, for the next ten years, to brush up, the first ten years. But then, that second year, after two years - You've go in and repete. The artillery was pulled by horses and they didn't have any railroads, or anything like that. So they had to have (halv mening). And; now, when the manouvers came in, they needed many horses, for 45 days! Well. There was farmers down in Skåne, I don't know who they were, but they had thousands of horses, put together, down in there. They just had these horses. But these 45 days, the goverment paid them enough, that they could aford to do it (?). So when these horses got back after the 45 days, they had to free them, to the next year. That was in November. No! - September. September. From the 1th of October, to the 15th of November, I think. That was the 45 days. So the horses got back home. Now; if You had this repetition, and if You could sign certain papers (?) You could get these horses for the hole year, exept the 45 days!

L: How did You find it out?

Conrad: Well. I don't know. Somebody told me about it. So I told them "let's go in to business". (? Många meningar). And he said: "Go, and get them"! So; I got myself a suitcase and I have to start over. It took a couple of days to change trains down to Skåne. I were down by Kristianstad, Landskrona, Sösdala, that was One place I put them up. And; I went down to get these horses to home. And I had a time with these horses. And; because; dad, he wanted not to talk to us. So: it was all up to me. And he fixed up a place to keep them. (?) Många meningar). The first time I was down, I followed the big roads, the big railroads: even up to Älmhult, and cleared up to Alvesta. This way isn't short to Tingsryd see. But I've got vice. The next time I'd got the horses. And it was a hole gang at that time, that were going up. I think it was 20 of us, to get these horses. They helped me get the first horses. Not the big horses, they brake their legs. Svanska - We called them Svansk.. - there were Ardenner, I guess they were. But they were All sizes. But we wanted small, but fast.

L: Ja. Nordsvenskar.

Conrad: Yes! Ardenner. But instead of going up her. I took them up, and took the linjal You know. - From there, to Home. Then I took out; from this town: here. Then I asked: what's the next town - and what's the next town - and I went through timbers and pastors and (?) instead of go right out.

L: You had to crawl fly.

Conrad: That's right! That's the way I was going! Going home.

L: Didn't You have troubles with fences and gärdesgårdar?

Conrad: Oh! I didn't go over them, or open many gates. It was always a little road, a back roads - I probably used timber roads.

L: How did You eat on a trip like that?

Conrad: Well. I'll tell You what I had when I started that. In this suitcase I had a pound of butter. And - do You know what palt is?

L: Ja. Blodpalt.

Conrad: Blodpalt, ja.

L: Ja.

Conrad: That's exaktly what I had. And the hole suitcase was full of blodpalt into pieces - like big biscuits, You know.

L: Hade Du lingon med Dig? Lingon? Kröser?

Conrad: Ja krösnamos.

L: Krösamos! So; You had plenty to eat, then.

Conrad: Yes. When I stopped over in the night with the farmers. When I'd got feed for the horses.

L: Oh, I see! You had to buy it then?

Conrad: I had to buy. I had to buy the feed. I had money with me, to feed the horses.

L: So; While You returned from Skåne, and You were in business?

Conrad: Yes.

L: By Yourself; almost?

Conrad: That's right. It was all over to me.

L: What did Your father say? Was he proud of You?

Conrad: No. I didn't have any problems - after that, or anything like that. (? 2 meningar).

L: How long time did it take?

Conrad: Well.

L: To what to do, and So on?

Conrad: .. I think .. .

L: 15? 16?

Conrad: That happened when I got these horses. (?). Well; I don't know how it comes. I think I was 16. I kept on, in several years, with this things - and I saved up some money. There was amount of 1.000 dollars about. And I had that in the bank. Well - anyway. Dad; he bought a couple of acres - by the railroad track there - when he came in with the built of the railroad. And he sold that, for improvements and things, after That. That's right across the street from us. - it was a mejeri. All that they had the single guys in there. They had steaming, they had (?), they had pasteurising - and things. I was small - and inquested. They had three (?). and I got acquainted of these young guys. And; I was very small. I think; they were three or four. Ahlin(?), Sandin, Bror .. Brors - what ever hes name was -. But - anyway. They stayed, these guys, they were single, In this small mejeri. - And; I was in there, All the time! Boys, they liked it, see. And; they said: "Do You like that kind of work"? "Yeh! When i'll be big, I'm gona like to do something like that". And one who was in there - det var - Bror Nilsson - was hes name. And he married a girl from the county. And; I knew that girl - course she was five sex years older then I was. But I knew her; and her dad. And he married her! And she was in contact - she moved to Skåne, with this guy. That was one of the guys who ran this mejeri, You know. But; by the way. My mother was a midwife. She learned that while I grow up. And she went to Stockholm for two years. And; she wanted to be a midwife. Well. And; when I had these horses - sometimes -in bad wether. A guy that didn't have a team - he probably lived himself, 15 20 miles away. He called to get the telephone. Probably; he had to go long ways, to get the telephone. But; anyway: he called in. We had some taxies in the Tingsryd town You know. And those guy - they couldn't always get them. So; he was called up my mother a night to go out. And I took her out. In the middle of the night. We couldn't see the horses! (? Ett långt textshok).

L: There was a school into the aerea?

Conrad: Yeh, You might say: a school. It was a'landstingsman who owned it. Him, and hes four suns. They had a lot of farms around this town. And; they started out a lot of business. I stayed there for a year. (?).

L: What did Your father say about this moving out from home?

Conrad: If You want to be there, You're gona stay. Or in the army, You'll stay there. He didn't like it, at all. And; he didn't give me any support. I didn't care.

L: But, I mean: You were old enough to take over the business from Your father.

Conrad: Yes!

L: Didn't You have in Your mind that -

Conrad: No.

L: No interest?

Conrad: No. After I came home that time. He were talking about all that, but he was not enthusiastic when I came home. I asked dad, and my mother. I said: "Do You want me to take over the business here", or something like that. "No". He said: "I don't want You to do that". So I just went to the telephone - and called the employment office - they had one in Uppsala. They almost took care of the hole United States, You know, on that line. A kind of exchange, för 'elevs', from this particular courses, You see.

L: So; You were supposed to go ahead and learn something, or?

Conrad: No.

L: Oh. You said: the Unated States! You ment: Sweden!

Conrad: Yes! Excuse me! But - Anyway. So: I just went up. I have been at home - a couple of weeks - To be aquainted of it. I had a little brother when i Came home !It was 19 years between us. I was the oldest; he was the youngest! (?)

That was outside of Uppsala. Course: - now - I was capable to take any job - supposed to be - You see. (? Många meningar). They had an union. And they had a scale set up: second year, or third year, or four year, after You took these course, or Your experiences see. They went by experience. I had one year. I could (?) any cheeze. I've got a little more money. (? meningar). outside of Uppsala. And I was staying there for quite a while. Then I quitt there, and went to another place in Sweden, at first Stockholm, and I stayed there for sex months - I think.

L: And there was also a mejeri?

Conrad: Yes. That's all. I stuck with that.

L: The first place; in Svalöv.

Conrad: Ja.

L: You said You'd got in trouble there with The Union.

Conrad: Well.

L: Did they fire You? or let You go? or?

Conrad: We were three boys there, together. Then we changed over. That night that happened, that week, we were three boys - and we had to take care. We had to run it about until midnight. (? meningar). and the vassle.

L: Vassle, ja.

Conrad: Ja. And all it was the milk(?) practically, left. So we had to boile out the water in the way, You see. And we had to stay until midnight. And us three; we had to start about noon. We were tired up any way, and we were going to had help. (? mening). We had to stay at home at That Sunday. And; we took the hole down (?), to a dance! (?) and they had fixed up wagens, special wagens, You know, with leeves around, and 15 20 in each team. And we spent All the afternoon, and All the night, over there. And we had to stay at home! (? meningar). We didn't negotiate, or anything. We didn't get anything for that. No compensation, - and nobody either said: Thank You for staying over. (? meningar).

L: So You didn't get to work?

Conrad: We didn't get to work that night! We said: "We are not doing that".

L: And; You didn't get any Letter of recommendation either?

Conrad: No no. (? meningar).

We had been for three months! And; we never had a day off. Not a single day! in three months, to be off! (?). They used the workers like slaves! (? meningar). We had to fire in the 12 o'clock at the night. We were making the .. the - what You call it mesost. Mesost.

L: Ja.

Conrad: That is just what they called it. That milk-sort. It looks like peenuts, - but it's just the Same thing.

L: Was this the rool they had in the most business, at that time, to work the young people hard?

Conrad: Yes.

L: But You spoke up, then.

Conrad: I spoke up.

L: Was this the first time You'd gazed Your problems?

Conrad: Oh No no no.

L: But; here You found Your chanse.

Conrad: Well. It was another guy - hes dad was an ileagel fisherman - and a see capten, - I think - from the eastcoast, closed to; opposit Öland. He was pretty outspoken too. (? 2 meningar).

L: How about The Union, at that time?

Conrad: No union.

L: No unions.

Conrad: No union, what ever. No. But there was a lot of (?) - it was small. 25 miles away, around us, something like that, You know. Today they could start an union, like -

L: You were not afraid to be black pooled?

Conrad: No!

L: You had no troubles, up in Uppsala, with any things like that?

Conrad: No no. Well. When they saw my recommendations, they did come and ask me (?). I didn't send that in - You see - when I applied for the job. They came!. (? meningar).

L: But: If You did a good job, in Your next job, they didn't care about the previous employers.

Conrad: No. In The Union - in Sweden - If You have a good job, or Have a job - and You're hyred out, for 6 months, or something like that - they can't fire(?) You, it get to be awful. And You can't quitt, either. This is emergency. But; if You lose Your job! and You get a (?) like that (? resten). I learned a lot (? meningar).

L: What kind of work did You take after the Uppsala?

Conrad: Well I get in another type of plant. A plant that made pasteurised milk for the (?) in Stockholm. (?).

L: Oh, I see!

Conrad: We did it hole sales.

L: So this was Your work, then.

Conrad: Yes. That happened, when I was in this place, it was closer to Enköping; and Uppsala. They called me. I was by Uppsala see. (? mening).

L: For the service?

Conrad: For the Service. (? Mening). I was in Uppsala. They assigned me to the fleet in Stockholm, see.

L: Gå till Flottan.

Conrad: Flottan, ja. Stockholm. Because; I was in that territory. I said; I am from Småland: He said: "That's what You row". Because: in the district, if You were down in Småland - they had a (?), in Jönköping. They go direct through, from coast to coast in Sweden, and half of it is Karlskrona. I would be (?) if I was at home! And I had been away from home for four years, at that time.

L: Oh yes.

Conrad: So; (?) from Stockholm - back to hela altet - södra Småland see. So - I (?). I didn't have any tire - any things, set up me in this particular place. (?). We were shipped out the milk to - what was the name of the town - (?), I think it was. (? meningar). So I could quitt, I didn't have any troubles. So I moved down, in below Småland; Aneby. And I came into Småland see. If they gona call me, they called me from Karlskrona see! I could get home from Karlskrona in an hour and a half!

L: So You figured out that well.

Conrad: I figured it out. I have saved 60 dollars when i was going home; see.

All right. So I have done my service. I came home right for Christmas in 1922. I haven't been at home. When I came home they said: "We want to go to America! Come! Go along with us"! Jag kom till Amerika på Det sättet. (? meningar).

L: How did You pick this idea about America?

Conrad: (? Meningar). "Come on with us"! So; I said it to dad. I was going in the spring. I went to dad. "Dad. I have some money her from 4 or 5 years ago). (Meningar). I went with those sex guys.

L: They were from Tingsryd all?

Conrad: From Tingsryd; all of them!

L: Do You remember them?

Conrad: Yes! I remember, very well! That people. Before, and after. I knew everybody!

L: Which were those guys? Do You remember the names?

Conrad: Oh yeah. I remember the names. I think it was.

One: we went to school together. All way through.

Two of them, or three, we were confirmed together.

I don't remember two, or three of them.

We were seven.

I've forget the names of them.

We went to Duluth, Minnesota.

L: What kind of work were they doing? Were they from farmers. Farm boys?

Conrad: Yes. One two three; three were farmers. Another sun. Four of them were farmers, I think. One guy was working for the paper mill in Lessebo. The other guy - I think he was a - he was making furnaces.

L: Oh I see.

Conrad: Furnace maker.

L: So; they actually didn't have any job either?

Conrad: No. Nobody had a job. But the other had relatives in America and they had been in connection with them.

L: But You didn't have any?

Conrad: No. I didn't have any. I had relatives. I had not written to them. I had a lot of cousins here, You see. Because: my mother had three sisters, up in Montana.

L: So they had correspondence between them - letters - and so on?

Conrad: No. I didn't have Any correspondence. No. I knew a guy over there, in Minnesota. So he gave me hes name. I was gone with a girl! in Tingsryd You know.

L: Å ja. You were not engaged?

Conrad: No. What ever. She was an operator, a telephone operator.

L: So - You had to tell her that You wanted to leave?

Conrad: No. You were supposed to have any sponsor.

L: Yes.

Conrad: That's the idea. But nobody ever sponsored me! And I didn't have any to sponsor me! He had an uncle over there. And he was a bachelor. Taking care of a city park in a little town, about 50 miles away from Duluth. I'd got hes name see. This girl in the telephone office, she gave me a blank, telegraph blank. And I had her writing down. "I'll be glad to see You come to this country, any time".

L: And This was Your passport to the Unated States.

Conrad: Well. That's right. But: no one were asking for it!

L: You were prepared.

Conrad: I was prepared for it!

L: So: who got the idea of Duluth?

Conrad: Well. This guy - he was not so very far from Duluth. And it was another guy -

L: What town was it?

Conrad: Cloquet.

L: Cloquet. South of Duluth.

Conrad: Ja.

L: There is a nice little town - south in the woods.

Conrad: Yes. But it burned, three years before we got there. It burned down.

L: Oh yes. 1923?

Conrad: It burned down. 1923. I think; three years. And it took every house in the town, exept the Catholic church - and all the factories, down along the river. There was a big paper mill, and there were three big saw mills and a bark factory. (?) and they were right along the river bank to save that. So they were intact. But they had just built up a kind of shanties - or shacks, for the people to live in. (?). There was tomatoe lands nearly, which started the fire. And it burned out - the timber - all around this town.

L: You've got the ticket then - in Växjö?

Conrad: Yeh. Well I had to go to Växjö city. I had to work fast, You see. They were going in April.

L: Did You have to write to the king for the permission?

Conrad: Yes. That's right. (?). When I come to the preachure- The preachures is taking care of all that things.

L: Kyrkoherden.

Conrad: 'körkoherden, ja.

L: I Tingsryd.

Conrad: That's right. (? Mening). And; he came right out of the service. I told who I was. And I said. "Can You give me my Flyttningsbetyg, or what ever You call it"? "Jaa" he said. "Some different things is got to be done before that". Like this I said: "I already had a permission from the king"! I knew how to do that! They tell You in the manual books, too, how to write to the king. If You want to write a letter to the general, You know, or admiral, or some thing like that! They tell You; how to send it, too.

L: You did it Yourself?

Conrad: I did it myself. "Who did this"? I said "I did it". (? meningar rörande hans far). I was afraid about my mother, she could be in trouble. Because; she was in the state (?) like he was, see. But he had a (?) over her.

L: She was?

Conrad: She was a midwife. She was (?). Nothing happened. He didn't say anything at all about it. I told my mother about it. He might take it out on her. But; he didn't.

L: You were one of the few emigrants who went to The Kingdom. Not to many did?

Conrad: No. There was something like that! (?).

L: What was hes name? Han var kyrkoherde?

Conrad: I have forgot it. (? Meningar). He came in, after I had left. He never was confirmed me. There was a young fellow: Titzell, I think hes name was. He had husförhör, You know, in those days.

L: Do You remember that?

Conrad: You know. Everybody came in.

L: It was before My time.

Conrad: I went for Husförhör, se. Dad; he was a kind of (?) for these things. He was right in the church board, and All that sort of stuf, You know. So; he was gona get me in there. I said. "I dont Want that, at all"!

L: But You couldn't refuse?

Conrad: I could refuse to my dad! You didn't Have to go. You had to take in Your kids in there. (? En del meningar).

L: How old were You, at That time? Before the confirmation?

Conrad: It was before the confirmation.

L: After You were confirmed, (?)

Conrad: No. It was just the small kids. We had one year with religion, every day. There was about a duzen kids in there. We lived in the town, we didn't have a farm. And they had different places, where they had these husförhör. I knew the answers. I was mad in it, so I didn't look. I was sitting and looking down! I was'nt looking at the young fellow, and he was an assistent to the preacher, at that time. To though Kyrkoherde. So I was sitting down, like This. When he gona ask the questions: i looked down. So he couldn't call me up - he didn't know my name, see! So; I (?) a lot of the questions. And he said: "Now this question goes to You" he said. "The sleeping guy". And I looked up. "You"! he said; when I looked up. You som sover, see. That was a Bad thing You know, that he was pointing me out.

L: Embarrassing.

Conrad: Embarrassing! Like Nobodys business! I answered the question. (? Meningar).

L: You remember that insident.

Conrad: I remember that - and How i got embarrassed. A couple of years later i got the confirm. And he was giving some lestons. We were going once a week, I think. During the winter time. Or twice, I guess. We had meetings in noon - examens in sakristian.

L: Sakristian, ja.

Conrad: In besides the church.

L: Ja.

Conrad: (?). He embarrassed me. He did that in a way, but (?).

L: You've got the ticket, and You've got flyttningsbetyget och utvandringsbetyget and the hole thing from the pastor.

And the way You went to Unated States.

Conrad: Ja.

L: You went on Drottningholm, or?

Conrad: I went on - I don't know which one. Kungsholm! I think was the first. Kungsholm.

L: Kungsholm. Yes. Direct to New York?

Conrad: Right New York, från Göteborg.

L: You saw The statue of liberty. about Ellis Island, at that time?

Conrad: We went to.

L: Do You remember anything about it?

Conrad: We came in.

L: What did they do to You? Did they ask You questions?

Conrad: Every country had a quote in those days. But there were probably 25 30 ships laying in the harbour. On the night before the 1th of may. In the 1 May the quote was opened up again, for the 1th of May, and two three months.

L: So; You came in May then.

Conrad: (?) seven o'clock, eight o'clock in the morning of May the 1th.

L: May the 1th.

Conrad: We were one of the first ship down loaded. I don't know how they could tell Which were was. They came from Canada, and All over the world that day.

L: And then You went to Ellis Island.

Conrad: Yes. So we were loaded. So; I think they got us out of bed at three or four in the morning. And to get things together, You know, the papers were ready, and to get something to eat, before we left the ship! So I don't know what time it was - but they picked us up of the ship - and in those little ferries. A couple of 100 in each of them, and hold us all. And we went into this island - and they were pretty slick. But there was just like comming in a (?). That's how it was.

L: A lot of people.

Conrad: No. There was cases! Like: "I'm the boss"! "Open the door"! All along, You went on. 3 or 4 (?). We were all mixed up. Now: We tried to keep together. We seven, we kept together. Because; we wanted to go out the same way, as long as we could. But anyway: we'd got split up in there. (? mening). There were doctors standing in a lope. One examined Your muscles, and one examined to see what sex You were, You know, and they were looking in Your eyes, looking in Your ears, and tried Your ears. To look in Your head, if You had any lice. All this things - and they asked You a few questions - and let You go. And there was a guy sitting, another guy sitting and had numbers on You. And there was numbers on the

railroad. You were supposed to go out. Someone said: the great nodes; Chicago, New York Central, and Illinois Central You know. And: they put us in one of these (?). We've got the same number. We went into that awfully. They hold us over to the kai, to the big railroad , this was what it was. And they did put us on two different kais, it depends on what number You had. Well. We've got split up there. There was just some - he went down to the south, from New York. They went down to Carolina and to the south east. Some of them went to Canada. A lot of them, they did go clear to Washington, straight to Washington. But We get. I don't remember how it was, now. But we all met in Chicago, the next day.

L: All of You together?

Conrad: Well. A bunch.

L: You seven?

Conrad: Yes. We get together in Chicago. The next morning. And they hold us. They put us in Old railroad cars. I think they only had one axel in them. Old passanger cars. They were painted yellow. (?) things and I thouth they were 100 years old then You looked at them. And there were wooden seats in there, screwed in the floor. That day, they hold us, as fast as they could.

L: It was going towards Duluth then?

Conrad: No. They were going towards Chicago.

L: From Chicago.

Conrad: Till Chicago!

L: Oh! I see!

Conrad: We were in New York, and we went to Chicago. There was the first lay - You see.

L: Yes.

Conrad: I remember - anyway. We got in one of these dume cars. (? mening). but those seats was all hard, it was like (?) in the church, You know. (?). We said: "We gona sleep here. We've stay in here, all the day, and all the night". (? meningar). And then we laid down on the floor. Nobody had any trunch, or anything, in there. Some-one came with trunches, but they were in the bagage car. We had the suit cases and we slept on the floor that night.

L: How about the conductor?

Conrad: Well. It probably was one. They never asked for the tickets. We were just like cattles, that what it was!

L: Because; nobody could speak any English, or anything.

Conrad: No. Nobody could speak any English, or anything. When we got on, they - we could buy a sack. They had a couple of (?) and a banana, and they had some bread, and I think they had some medvurst - or something. You know; some dryed meat You know, Korv, something like that. It costs us a couple of dollars. But we were supposed to have 20 dollars when we left new York.

L: 20 dollars.

Conrad: 20 dollars You had to have.

L: And they checked that?

Conrad: They checked that when we got off, that we had the money. So we wouldn't get in trouble after leaving New York.

L: So they checked that before You left New York, that You had 20 dollars?

Conrad: That's right. Yes, they did.

L: At the railroad station?

Conrad: At the railroad station.

L: And at Ellis Island?

Conrad: And At Ellis Island, probably they did.

L: 20 dollars!

Conrad: Yes. That's right.

L: And; everybody had it?

Conrad: They said they had! They never checked You exaktly. (? mening). They probably said.

L: So You never spoke Swedish at any time at Ellis Island? Were anybody there translating?

Conrad: I think they could talk all the kind of languages. Yes.

L: They had to.

Conrad: Yes. They knew which ship they came from. They could talk Italian, and everything. We didn't have any trouble. We Had to talk. Because: They knew what to do. They put You were You were wanted to be. That was the hole thing in a nutscale. I remember the next morning, about daylight. At five o'clock it was daylight. We were goeing over the mountains. (? mening). We had all the windows open on this cars. So: When I looked out - 2 or 3 Indians were headed that train! (? meningar).

L: You couldn't wash up?

Conrad: No. We didn't wash up for two days. Three! When we got to Duluth.

L: You didn't stop in Chicago?

Conrad: Yes. We all came together there. Not all, but most of us, - and some new from the ship. And - we had to change train there, see. Into different railroads. Because; they all are loaded. I remember. We went, two or three of us, we wanted to see Chicago. We went outside! two or three of us in Chicago. There were some guards. They were guarding us. We didn't knew - there were civilian guys - I guess. They didn't have any uniforms, I don't think. We were not supposed to leave, to go out in the streets! They grabbed us and got us back. (? mening). And I asked another guy inside: "Oh. You can't do that"! They said: "You've got to stay here! We are responsible for You". (? meningar). The first night, they took us away up to Buffalo. That railroad - what ever. They took us up in Canada. We went to Detroit - but they didn't let us out! But we could see.

L: Did You got anything to eat and drink?

Conrad: Well. We had this sack. And; when we left Chicago - then we got on more DC-trains. There were better cars You know, and everything. And then - on Saturday night - we got up to Duluth - or in the afternoon. And we were walking down. We didn't know what to do. (?). In the city, down the street. If You have been in Duluth - There is just right up and down on the wall. And there was a side street went down. And they said. "Come in! Vi talar svenska". So; we went down there. Course: they could see, we had suit cases, and those numbers- You know. They could see that we were immigrants. We couldn't talk anything. So we talked Swedish. They were Judish. Murgeants, selling clothes! Course: they couldn't sell Us anything - But - anyway - we said: "Is it any Swedish place were we can sleep, or something"? We asked for some Swedes. We want to get a job! That's was on our mind, probably. So they were helping us out. They said: "Cloquet - it's a buss goeing out there". So - we got on that buss the next morning. And mabee we had five dollars left. Because; we were playing a little cards, a little poker You know, on the train, And That was the 5th day. (?). I've forgot were we slept that night. I probably think we slept nearly. I don't know. Because we

probably don't let the last dollar go. We had to eat. Now we were on our own ground. Nobody to look after us. But; anyway: we got the buss (? meningar). We got after .. to Cloquet. That night. And I Still don't remember were we slept that night either. But, anyway: Monday morning, we went down just hunting for a job. I think the first stop, we went down to the paper mill. There was a guy (?). It was a forman in there. "You want a work"? he said. "Do You know how to work? Can You work"? but; in Swedish.

L: In Swedish?

Conrad: Yeh. He was a Swedish boss, see. "Yes. We can work". "Kom tillbaka sex o'clock, both of You, on the night shift. We got there sex o'clock. Then we found a place to stay. Yes, whis how it was. (?): So: we got in, and found that place, that night. (?). Well. This boy, and I, we stayed at the same job. One of us, he knew a place in another department. the guy we stayed with. And he had 2 3 children - and he could talk Swedish. He could talk Swedish too - the man came from Sweden, and the girl was Swedish. Anyway; the other boy stayed with me for about 1 month, or two - I don't know. And he - in the room - he was working in the Finish room - this guy I stayed with. And he took my body and put it in a Finish room with cleaning. (?). He was a little older then I was. (?). They were supposed to be a certain (?). that (?) in certain mashines. (? stycken). I had, at least, one duzen, or more, against me, when I was standing on there. Because they quitt, they were so sluppy. You couldn't sit down. You had to stay, and take care of the wood.

L: It was a hard shift.

Conrad: Or something could happen, You know. There was pieces getting in the mashines. Some mashine broke down. The belt were slipping, or something. (?). But the boss knew - he was watching what was going on. (? Många meningar). But the wood was comming in an angel and those knives came across here and cut that up in slices - like a slice of meat, that's the way it looks. That mashine could take 24 inches piece. (? stycke). The boss came: "You want another job"? he said. We got either 9 or 12 dollars a week - i don't remember what it was.

L: So it was a good pay then.

Conrad: A week!

L: Oh, it was a week.

Conrad: Yes.

L: But at that Time that was plenty.

Conrad: You could get along with that.

L: But it was a hard work.

Conrad: We paid a dollar a day for boarding a room. That was high in those days. They soaked us. (? Långt stycke avhandlande hur träet kom in emot maskinerna.).

L: Were You offered this job? You saw this guy all day. Were You afraid to take it?

Conrad: I wasn't afraid. (?). I wanted. But, at first, I didn't know how to make more money. We had to fill up some big tanks and treat the wood that come in.

L: I see. So - the guy ahead of You, didn't he want the job, were does He go?

Conrad: I don't know were he was goeing. He left the country.

L: He left!

Conrad: Yes. He left the town. I don't know were He was going.

L: So what happened now?

Conrad: I'm telling You now. They were loading me up. I was 6 feet high (?) and the wood was coming. He gave me twice as much as I could take!

L: Were they Swedes?

Conrad: No. They were Finlanders.

L: They saw their chance to one from Sweden!

Conrad: We gonna have some fun with them: the Finlanders, and the Polanders. That most in that room. (? meningar). We couldn't talk to each other. Those Finlanders, they have been there for ten Years, and they couldn't hardly talk English! They talked Polish and English and four five different languages, in that room!

L: There was a good noise. You couldn't understand many of them.

Conrad: That's right. And that mashine - there was a noise. I had cotton in my ears. That made a terrific noise.

L: That sounds like dangerous to me.

Conrad: (? meningar). I found out; if I had a piece of bark that was about 23 24 inches, I put the biggest in down first. (?). I found that out. (? meningar). I You had, about 4 or 5 pieces, there was about 22 inches - or something like that - or 23 - so You could feed them in. There was a long belt. That belt was slip - and that slightly slow down. The mashine that was cutting it. And it was made that it was cutting it that fast, they cape the knives and then floud back, against the back of the mashine. It split up, by it self. Do You see what I mean?

L: Yes.

Conrad: (?). and it went out of the mashine in big pieces like this, instead of it supposed to come out like broken matches. Wooden matches, it was the ultimate idea of cutting it up - before it went in to the cooker. And it went to other mashines - that there were cut it fether. (? meningar). But that mashine, it was two men on that. About ten o'clock, they used to come down and went to sleep! About midnight, something like that. Those guys! I just picked out 4 5 pieces, 23 inches pieces, beside. They got to sleep on each side of the mashine. I picked them up. The pieces came out to the next mashine - - while the guys were sleeping.

L: How long time did You stay at this mashine?

Conrad: Well. I were there about 1 ½ year, I guess, all together. My body - he just want to go back home. He just wanted to save money - and he sent money back. But anyway he was saving this money.

L: Go back to Sweden?

Conrad: Go back to Sweden. He had about five years. There were high prizes and they were very (?), those days. So I guess he stayed in the same place were we were boarding, but I was working at the night shift. (?). So I went over, around Superior, in Wisconsin, and around. I wanted to get out of it - because I wanted to learn the English language! Because; he could learn. But he was quiet.

When the paper came out - we couldn't talk to each other.

L: You'd never got a chance to Say anything.

Conrad: No! At home, they wanted to learn the kids. They talked Swedish. So the small kids, they were All Swedish - You know.

L: So You were staying in a Swedish family then?

Conrad: No. I broke away.

L: You broke away.

Conrad: I quitted. I went on the railroad when I got off for the work at 6 o'clock in the morning. (? meningar).

L: So You went to Wisconsin?

Conrad: Yes. I went to Wisconsin. That's all I did! There was finer places over there. There were 5, 6 guys in there. They were selling milk and they were bottling milk there. They were making (?) butter. I used to take a job as a flunky, just to get used to it. Because; I had two strikes against me, You see! The machinery, and things, were different - the Swedish and the English. I had to get to learning All these things. And beside that: we had the meter system over there. I had all these sizes, and degreases. Pasteurizing temperatures, You know. I had that meter system in my head.

L: Fahrenheit.

Conrad: I didn't know anything about inches, and feet and Acres, and things like that! So: I wanted to get in there. It was 3 or 4 girls - and butter makers there. So I was in there. I didn't expect anything. They came, and asked me questions. They learned a few Swedish words. They wanted me to come and taste the milk! When they were pasteurising, and nutrilising, and fixing up the butter, they came to me. "Smaka, smaka, smaka, see". And one of them came over there and making the butter; "Come over and smaka see". It was funny - they came and asked Me these questions! I couldn't explain in English - in any way. That plant. I have been there in Two weeks! I knew all these things in my head that were supposed to be done, but I couldn't tell them. I could have helped them out.

L: So You could see when it was some problems?

Conrad: I could see there was a problem - after I have been there in a week. (? meningar). So: I was landing. You know where South Superior is?

L: Yes.

Conrad: It was a (?) coming; from Superior, up to South Superior. And I was living - me and a Finlander - Swedish Finlander. We rented a room together from an old Swedish lady there, and he worked the night, and I worked the day - and we used the same bed. We cut things in Two! So I still stayed there for a few days. I went down town, to have a look, and to do the employment officers. I could go out and milk cows in a farm, - or go up to Minnesota; to fire, and to fire around the donkies - up in the woods. Do You know what a donky is? The steam pieces, they go around.

L: Yes.

Conrad: (?). But I hated to go up in the woods. There was almost twice as much money to go up and get that. (?). I was in the service. I was in the fire - in

L: Karlskrona.

Conrad: Ja! That's right! Three of us - When vi ryckte ut. We were together most of the time. He wrote us recommendations; the capten! He said: "Boy. You deserve it"! (? många meningar; kring Karlskrona, svart rök och att sikta skepp).

L: So; You went up to the woods then? To run this donky?

Conrad: No, I didn't go to the woods.

L: You didn't go to the woods.

Conrad: Well. I wanted to learn the language, and to go back to the milk business. This was in my head. I didn't go to the woods. I went out to milk cows! It was a farm up there - closed to town. Probably half a mile, from the main town of South Superior. And there was an old man, and his wife. They had a son, and he was enlisted in the navy - were ever he was. He was

their only son, their only child I think. But; they didn't get it alone, when he was inlisted. They had a big farm, awful big farm. But it was not an acre, except the potatoes. (? meningar) They had about 60 cows. The old man died. They called their son, back from the navy. He came home. He had been at home in a few days, when I got there. That's why they advertised for somebody helping them with the milking. They didn't have milking mashines. So we three - we milked 20 cows - morning and night. No farming to do (?). Well - we cut up some hay. We put up 100s of tons of hay. But we had a lot of fun, anyway! My job was to take that milk to the town. Shipped to Minneapolis. It was passing a train about 7.30 in the morning. It was my job to have that milk down there, for that train. We milked 20 cows each.

L: By hand?

Conrad: Yeh. We had to milk by hand. Well; I never told You. But - my dad - When The World war one came on, he went out and bought the (?) licens. We got a card: 6 hecto, I think, a month; for each person of the family. Something like that. By having a farm - You had to work Yourself. You had to fight as a farmer - You were classified as a farmer. You' got twice as much on Your card! So dad went out and bought for (?) acres. We called us farmers, see! We had twice as much on the card! But, at that time, I think probably - at that time - we were 10 - we were just 6, or 7.

L: Why should farmers have more?

Conrad: Because they rased it. They were producers, see. You didn't work with anything else - in town. If You were a farmer, You got twice as much. And that's exactly what we needed!

L: You were used to milk by hand?

Conrad: Ja. Ja. We had a couple of cows. I think we had four cows. So; Me, and my younger brother, milked the most of the time, when I were at home. But - anyway - I knew how to milk cows. My dad, he was a horse-man. He had two (?). Western (?). He probably had the saddle on. We used to milk in the morning, and in the night, and put in a pail. He said: "Do You know about the horses"? "Yes. I know a little bit". (? Många meningar).

L: How about the hay harvest?

Conrad: Hay? Vi hade inte hay. Ja. We had slings. You know - slings. You load up probably 2 feet of hay. Then You put the sling, on the top of that. And then You have a ring in both of the end of it.

L: Yes.

Conrad: So You can take, and lift up, the hay on that sling.

L: In to the barn?

Conrad: Yeh in to the barn. You hoist it up.

L: Jaha.

Conrad: We had three or for rings on each wagen. We got it up high. It was (?) hay these days, so we better took the biggest load, the tallest load - and got it in to the barn. (?) and spredding it out to load one, on the wagen, and spred that out. It was a trick, how to spred it out, so You could go up high.

L: You only used hay. No corn, or silerts, or anything like that?

Conrad: Siles?

L: Silerts.

Conrad: No No. They didn't have any silerts.

L: No silos

Conrad: No silos. He probably had, but we never put up any, when I was there.

L: So he only bought the hay then?

Conrad: No. We cut the hay!

L: Cut the hay too.

Conrad: And hold it in to the barn, to the cows.

L: And to the horses then.

Conrad: Oh! We had horses. We had one - used it one feemale in the morning, and one in the afternoon. (?).

L: And the very costs now. Was it in the wintertime?

Conrad: No. I wasn't there in the wintertime. I was already passed.

L: I see.

Conrad: I were there in the summer - about 6 months. And I had to go with the horses - and the cows. I went out about four o'clock in the morning. (?). The old lady had the breakfast ready, - and we milked the cows - and I took the milk to the town. (? mening). I had no blind horses more at that time! most of the time she wasn't tamed, she didn't move. She went to home. There was two three trains. (?). I had a different horse one morning. I probably used to tire them up but I didn't do it that morning. (?). I went in to a place - for some reason - about seven o'clock; seven in the morning. And Here come the trains. All trains comming threw. They were steaming. The horse - he wasn't used to it. That young, wild horse! They were long trains (?). They all were going down hill. They all had to need the breaks - comming from the mountains. Here that horse took off! For home!! (Konrad skrattar gott åt minnet). He took off, I think, before the train got threw. Course; they were crossing, they were making a lot of noice.

L: You stayed there for sex months?

Conrad: Something like that. I was up in May. Then the first I quitt, the (?) went down.

L: It was hard to get another job, do You think?

Conrad: That happened. We got a snow storm - I don't know what time it was - the first snow; snow storm that fall - It was probably in November - I think it was. I came in, and The cows let up in milk. (?) I saw they couldn't aford to have me during the winter. So I just - well - a few days before that I made my mind up. I had a paper - (?), Do You know? That they made in Wisconsin, that's a daily paper. An Old daily paper. Nothing but business in it - on though producing end of it.

L: Jaha.

Conrad: About cows - rasing them. I think it was monthly. I don't remember. But I got (?)

L: Ja.

Conrad: In that paper - I saw a line there, and I wrote down the answer; it was down Illinois, closed by Galesbury. Do You know were Galelsbury is?

L: Yes.

Conrad: But; anyway - I got out there. There was a sead company. They wanted somebody start a (?). There was a guy - social minded - in the sead company. I stayed with them. That was more or less of a fake. He wanted somebody to do it and I could do that, but didn't get any money and they didn't have any money! But - anyway; he gave me a job that winter. In a (?) You are testing all the corn. I learned more of that. I had never seen! any corn about that time! I came just in the harvest down over there and I worked in (?). And my whifes brother happened to be in that, in the (?), see. We (?) in there. We rased the corn, we tested it. "This is white, this has long (?). You know how to do that?"

L: Well.

Conrad: Think of the corn. (?) then in clots. And we boiled to one out - boiled. We put that on the top of the boiler every day. (?) And then the corn came in. It had already been sorted in a way right out in the field. Because (?). If it's off colour, or something like that, they don't take them. Or if the eire is cooked, or if the eire is not filled up good. Or if the stock is feld down. They had several things. I didn't do much of that, because I couldn't!

L: It was the first corn You have ever seen.

Conrad: The first corn I ever seen. Because; In Minnesota there wasn't any corn, and they are not raised in Sweden! It was warm. We had to keep it in 90 degree, in the night and the day. Course I couldn't the terms of the diseases the corns got: they have some rooth-(?) (På sv: röta-?), stock-(?), scutellum-(?), (?). They had five sex diseases. When You read them. (? meningar). We didn't mark it, we knew from the numbers. So then we took in our left hand, we took out 15 corns all over the all size, all for the particularly eire - and put it right down on that clot, that have been boiled. On top of that. I think we put down - it was either - I think we put down all. Probably 15. I don't remember now what we did. But anyway, we had 6 or 7, at least. We put them in a place to see how clear it was. And we laid that in another box, that we were taking out. So the first box was number one. (?) and we marked the box. So: we laid that right down on that clot. There was the top of the line. Then we had another clot were we got the hole table full. And put on top of that. We sprinckled warm water, about 80 90 degree - like rain water - right on the top - in about two days. 90 degrees. Ideal for corn. And then we watched them, but we didn't do any tabell before they got up to a week old. (? Meningar). that we had a number one, was good enough to go out for seed corn! Anything that had disease, or any trouble with it, just turn it away. But, anyway, they saved it, but it didn't go out for seed corn.

L: This was an interesting job You had.

Conrad: Yes. I liked that too.

L: For how long time did You stay?

Conrad: It was just one winter.

L: One winter. And it was down around galesbury, You said. Knoxville?

Conrad: No.

L: Woodhouse?

Conrad: No, there was far away. There was back in that nighbourhood. But, anyway, that's were I met my wife, see. Her brother was this agronomist see.

L: Is she of Swedish background?

Conrad: Yes!

L: And she was born in ?

Conrad: She was born in Hendersohn County.

L: Oh Hendersohn! It's near Galesbury.

Conrad: Yes.

L: Oh! I see, then.

Conrad: But then I got - I didn't stay there. I went to get a job - in an aquipment company, in Galesbury. It was a big company at that time.

L: Yes.

Conrad: The first thing i was out in a truck. (?). I wanted to go back in That business. That's why I got down from Wisconsin! So; I got in there. I had a (?) every week, different day, in the week. But I went to the place - my whifes home. I was in that not very long - and I got a work in the plant. That's what I wanted. So; the superintendent. I think they had eight big (?), very big places, at that time. Are You acquainted in Galesbury?

L: Oh yes.

Conrad: I got in there. You know Karl Larson; he was the superintendent there. I got along with him, pretty good in the language at that time. I had been out with people. I was reading a lot and I was (?) to my wife. She was writing in English and - How did we do it? No. I was writing in English and she corrected it.

L: So Your wife is born here?

Conrad: Ja. Ja. She was born here.

L: But she always speak Swedish?

Conrad: Yes. She know Swedish. Her hole family can talk Swedish - or could, at that time. Most of them are gone. So I got that job in there. I had a talk with the superintendent - and tasting the cream. He wanted to check me out. I had been in for five plants in the Old country. So I knew what I learned there. I wasn't let that go out the wind.

L: You were determined to learn fahrenheit and degreases.

Conrad: Sure. That's right. (?) because there were all Danes and Swedes over there that ran that plant. It was owned by a Swede. (?) because You got the cream from the farmers - and some of them had certain weed and certain flavours - and they mixed that, all together.

L: How could You avoied that taste. You couldn't taste all the cream?

Conrad: We put it in different bunches.

L: I know. But I mean: when You picked up the cream from every farm, did You taste it all?

Conrad: No. No. I had to be decent. You could have unjons, or something like that. I used to pick that up! (? meningar). He took me out for the first two days and we talked things over. He asked me what ever I could do. It was all right. He took me in to the guys (?). All around, so I got acquainted of the place, and everything. Because; I knew how to make butter before. But; anyway, how They were doeing it! How they were handeling it. I had just brushed up my knowlege how to get these temperatures right. They had another plant in Devenport. "Do You wanted to move? To get up there"? "Let me go". (?). There was a man - he came from The old country. He'd been five sex years longer then me. He was a superintendent there. (? meningar). He was a bachelor, like I was. And the guy, in the office, he was a retired man up there, a (?) -guy. He didn't know anything about milk. Elmer, was hes name. Elmer Hanson. And we had to care of Him a little bit Too in detales, You know. He got in troubles some times - about the different grades. To guide him in the operations, and stuf like that! So the three of us - We're got along - like three pieces in a part! I was happened to get In with these guys! I learned the English -- and I learned the business, and everything like that. I don't know how many years I stayed there, can it be two years? .. And a half. We got a Good butter! We were putting our heads together; he were good at the mechanically. Him and I took care of the hole thing.

L: What was the name?

Conrad: Pionere.

L: Pionere, in Galesbury.

Conrad: Pionere in Galesbury. That was what it was. But - in that time they sold it out. I think: (?), in Chicago, i think, board them out. They came down - changed things along. (? mening). They switched to a lot of business from Galesbury. I don't know if we could make it cheaper up there - I don't know what. (? meningar). They don't Had that. They don't Do that in this country. (?). There was a special bram. It was; like a meat loaf, like a loaf of bred. But this long were two pounds. And they rolled it up. Like You do - big sausages, or something like this. They had boxes, they fixed them right in. There were salt. It was the biggest, the funniest and most complicated butter making mashine I ever did see! They had some girls, doing that. We were selling to another company up there. (?). They couldn't flave it, and they couldn't colour it, to imitate butter. There was a smart guy, up there, in a little milk place, he went to get some butter from Us. Then; he had (?). He had no corn there. A small corn. It held about a couple of a pound. Smaller handled corn. He bought some butter from us. We were

telling the truth - there was not out of the first grade. And then he took it right home, in the morning. I guess his corn was a couple of a pound of butter - and he put that together.

L: With the older?

Conrad: With the older. And then he put a pound in, and sold it for butter! It was olio in it.

L: What happened?

Conrad: Well - the government guarded it.

L: They did?

Conrad: They guarded it! That was up in Devenport. And he came down. He said: This is not my butter. I've bought that butter from Pionère". He came down here, at the 2nd street. That's where we had the plant at that time, right by the river! They came down from the office there. The man, he got All upset. "We never had anything like that" he said. Because; there was colour - but they had the colour of the olio Too. It was a little light colour - but it was natural in the winter. He came up to me. (? meningar). I answered my boss: "We didn't sell the butter that day. That's true"! Did the butter come from here, or there? Elmer and I, we tried to proof. We didn't know where it Came from. We started to get in to the laboratory where we were testing. We tried on the colour, You know. We tried to take the colour out and we tried to put it back. We were supposed to have 80% butter fat, supposed to be in the butter, 80% see. Well. The olio also got fat. We couldn't figure out that - so we split the thing. I don't know how we done it. But anyway; we could see - we had one glass - .. förstoringsglas -. In the test-tube, there was a little slite differens in the colour of the fat! The fat colour! And we put it in the real tester. He had about 40% olio, and 40% right butter fat! This butter fat was upper and there was wastable fat. But; We could see in there! There was different fat, when it got warmed up. And boy boy boy!

L: Did You nail that guy then.

Conrad: No. We didn't nail him! They nailed him.

L: How could the government detect?

Conrad: Oh. They detected! They had big laboratories. They did use different metallic, I think. I don't know exactly what metal they were using in the test of the butter. (? meningar). We could proof it! We proofed the way he did!

L: He had an olio-factory in Devenport?

Conrad: No. He bought the olio.

L: Oh, I see. He bought it?

Conrad: There was not much Call for olio in those days.

L: The people didn't like that? Margarin.

Conrad: Margarin. That's right.

L: They didn't like that.

Conrad: No! But now - they can colour it and they can put (?) in it.

L: Yes.

Conrad: One time; he wanted to go down to the south; South Carolina; and to Georgia. Down in there, and quitt for once upon a time. And we had to figure it out, if You could take olio, and wash it in the butter milk. You could improve the flavour. There was nothing against that!

L: Butter milk, added later on. It wasn't against the law?

Conrad: No! That wasn't against the law! We didn't change the olio anything.

L: No no.

Conrad: But we used to make the flavour.

L: Make the flavour - ja.

Conrad: Because: we added the butter flavour - the butter flavour was in the butter milk!

L: Do they always do that with the margine?

Conrad: No. I don't know. They do something, now a days. I don't know what they are doing.

L: With the flavour?

Conrad: They changed it a lot. The fat use to be so hard. They melt it right now. You could see the olio; - or smell it. But now a days they imitate that. And this cholesterol they use. The fat, see. The women want not to eat butter! But I eat butter.

L: Shall we not eat to much butter?

Conrad: Well - there is fat in it.

L: It's fat in it.

Conrad: There is highing the cholesterol. aspecially the young, they can eat it. I never had a problem with a big stomach. I have been eating butter, and cheeze. Butter and milk, and stuf like that. Milk. I have been eating it All the time. I still do.

L: So; while You worked in the factory, up in Cloquet. Then You could have been eating any butter You wanted.

Conrad: Yes.

L: No problems with Your stomach!

Conrad: No. But You can take care of this fat, when You are young.

L: Yes.

Conrad: When You'll get 30 40 years old it adds on.

L: What's Your whifes name!

Conrad: My God! You insist! Agnes, is her name.

L: Agnes?

Conrad: Agnes.

L: And her last name?

Conrad: Well. Rynell, naturally.

L: Yeh Rynell. But; I mean: before she married.

Conrad: (Söker i minnet).

L: Nelson? Johnson?

Conrad: No no. Erikson!

L: Erikson. And she was from north Hendersohn?

Conrad: She was born in The Hendersohn county.

L: You were married her?

Conrad: No. No.

L: No!?! -

Conrad: This is a long story! I was skipping a lot of it. Here came another man. He had a black mustasch - and were a bachelor too, You know. And; he was a Dane. And He was a stock holder in (?) company. The Pionère sold out - and there was a nation wide deal. There still are.

L: A Big one?

Conrad: It's a big one. And this guy, he came in. He made it tuf for us. He was the superintendent for me. I was on the corn. Hes butter business - he knocked us to make a destroy - and gona make it in hes own way. You got to taste it, and grade it every day. We started 6 or 8 (?), that we set. We used to take a spone, and put it in the (?). This started from the day before. And: these best, of the 6, that goes in to that next 6. We graded it. So we put out it the next day, and we graded it, the best out of 6, that goes in to that next 6. We graded it. The night before, we corned it. We put it in a ten gallon cane, something like that. And the pasteurised milk, we cooked that for two three hours. We didn't care for the fat in that. And; That's it. And probably we had 6-10 gallon canes, 10 gallon canes. We put the (?) in each of them. So; we had 6 canes - and coagulated it over the night. The next morning, that thing is ready, to start for the cream next day. In the night we put 10 gallons of this ready milk, it's

like yoghurt, that's what it looks like, put it in each (?). And that don't coagulate, we don't put that mashine, see, so it want not to coagulate. We didn't let the cream coagulate. We regulated the heat to the right facility over the night. That's another thing You have to do by experiences. And then it goes into the butter, to make the butter of it. And everything is in it! This guy came in - the stock holder. He came from Albana.

L: Yes. South of Chicago.

Conrad: The eastern part of the state. And he started to be hard at me for a couple of times and embarrassed me there. I opened up in the morning. I had to have the butter ready to take out by eight o'clock, right from the canes, into the cars. But; anyway: he embarrassed me for a couple of times - and he was (?) with Elmer. Elmer didn't say anything. "He took hes job"! So: - we were doing the same thing. We had a Good reputation and doing fine! But he had enough power to get me out from the plant, because he was a stock holder. I'm gona quitt. "In Monday morning, I'm going down to Kansas City and The American Butter Company down there". They had the biggest plants - at The 6th Avenue, in Kansas City. "If You'll find a job down there - call me up! You know what I want". he said. He left. To find out something. (? meningar). This new guy, who came in, he did never report. I were doing corn reports all days! "What the hell is goeing on" he said. Eli was the guys name. Not a Thing was going out here. (? meningar). He was making things worse - for All of us. He didn't get a report! (? meningar). I was sick and tired. He corresponded with me, this guy; Elmer, from Kansas City. What happened? You don't want to know?

L: Yes.

Conrad: Elmer was in a town in Missouri, there was 2 300 people, All Germans. They had started a plant with 6 corns; bringing all cream. And they had started up - A fellow came out from the University of Missouri -

L: Columbia.

Conrad: Columbia. And he was from Nebraska, I think. But; I never saw that guy. He got in there. They opened it up, and started. I don't know what happened, but he went home at Christmas - and did never come back. He was supposed to be a manager down there! And they were desperate, those farmers; they were eight, nine men of the board. They got in a car, to Kansas City; to All the plants, up in Kansas City. I think they had seven of them; plants: getting cream from the farmers and making it. (? mening). They tried to find a guy to come out from the plants up there. 60 miles from Kansas City. They got to see Elmer, and Talk to him! So he wrote to me. He said: "They were her a couple of times, and wondered him to quitt hes job, and out - and run that plant"! But; it was to Small for him.

I knew what I wanted to do! I wanted to stick around and gett married see. I wasn't married at that time. I wanted to get married and he wanted me to quitt up there too, You see - and go down to Carolina. Of course: Kansas City was just a stepping stone for him. He wanted me to quitt, and go with him down there - and go in to the Olio-business. That's what he figured out. But; anyway: he said: "They'll come up and see You". "He said: I've got a good job here. I think You can handle it" he said. "They are all good here" he said. "Immigrants, most of them". I wrote him a letter. I told him what (?) was, that Elmer had written. I think they probably knew about it. That they would contact me. I wrote one or two letters down there. I said: "I'll tell You what I can do. I think; under the circumstances, I can handle it. Let me know" I said. He wrote me back a letter; and said: "We want You to be in complete charge, in our new plant. We have (?) costumers". I don't remember probably how many costumers they had, at that time. "We make so much butter - and things like that". He said: "The job is open, as quick as You can get here". But they said too "We hired on these conditions; One months notise. You come down here, If You'll like it, You stay. Or; if You come down here - and You

don't like us, You'll quit". So; it was a fifty fifty deal. Good enough! So - I went out, and signed off. I quit, right then. So I could get out. I didn't wait a week! I just walked out, see! The man - he came up. He almost had Tears in his eyes. I said: "I can't help it"! I even walked out - and picked up my wooden shoes! - and my white clothes. Then he said: "Oh; You'll find out, there is the (?) cream in the world in Missouri. You'll never make a piece of good butter down in Missouri"! I didn't say anything. "Do You have any money for Your vacation"? "No" I said". He went down, and wrote out a check, for a weeks paying.. I Went down to stay about a week - a few days. It was right after the Christmas. It was during the Christmas holidays. I was staying with my wife, and her brothers. She had three. One of them - he was a doctor in The Augustana College.

L: Oh, I see!

Conrad: Yes.

L: A brother to Your wife?

Conrad: Yes. Her oldest brother. he was a Professor in chemistry. He died in cancer, from things in the laboratory. He were testing everything. She had three brothers. So - I went down there - on the train. I had no automobile. I left it up there. My brother - he came while I was up there. He was working in another area up there, so I let him take it over. I just took a suitcase, and went down to Missouri. I came in about eight o'clock, from Kansas City, that morning. And the train stopped - and both these Directors were down there to meet me at the train. It was Cold as the Devil that morning in Missouri! About eight o'clock. The plant was just a half block away. We went down there. They were standing there: "Glad to see You". "We want to tell You what to do! Do what You do!".

L: They really needed You.

Conrad: They needed me. They didn't have any butter making. We had a meeting and I got in on it - I supposed to have a base salary. There were pretty hard up. I said: "How about a commission"? Each so much for each (?) of butter I make? So; I cut down a few dollars. It was: somewhere between 100 and 150 a month. Course; things were different in those days - it was back in 1928. So - they agreed to that! And in the commission deal - i said: "I'll go out and see the farmers. I'll bring the business in"! I'll go out and solicit - and be a solicitor - as long as I can. (? meningar). Course: we had troubles with that guy that quit. He must have put some money in a pocket, somewhere. Because the farmers came in - for two or three months - and asked for their money. We didn't pay cars. The plant, they kept the money a month, before they paid the farmers.

L: You had to trust each other.

Conrad: Yes. The farmers - they didn't have any coop - not a strictly coop - but the farmers got together.

I went out on my own time and cost the gasoline. After supper I had to see the farmers to get the business. And; I'd got it!

L: You got it.

Conrad: Yes! That was the biggest deal I ever had! I stayed there for 16 years.

L: 16 years.

Conrad: And: they tried to get that plant out of the business for several times.

L: Competitors?

Conrad: Competitors around. There was Germans all around - around 20 miles - there was two or three of them. We were further north, we had a bigger territory. This was 60 miles East of Kansas City.

L: Oh East: I see.

Conrad: A big company from Ohio came in there; 20 miles from there. They started a plant. They knocked us out of our business. They were buying milk. I just took the ""bull by their

horn"" and (?) and took the cheeze equipments back home and started making cheeze! In five years! The two million dollar plant - they had to close.

L: So You took them by their horn.

Conrad: Yeh! I took them by their horn. I talked to them all around and they believed me.

L: You came right during The Depression - a couple of years later. You came in -28, You said.

Conrad: I came; when?

L: -28.

Conrad: Yes.

L: And then You had the Depression.

Conrad: Yes. We got right in the Depression!

L: And: no problems?

Conrad: We had the same problems - and we worked together. (? meningar). When we started first together, we started shipping butter to New York. We had an outlet in New York, for special butter. They came right down to me. They came up to Me, You know.

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