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Oral History Transcription with Clarence Anderson

Clarence Anderson

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Talking about Tuk Olla and Cruk? Olla, two Martha's, Mrs Wik and ??.

C-Hogren lived up there, had hens, sold eggs, HE had stove pipe, the boys used to play tricks, they put wire from stovepipe out to tree in back and sczaped on the wire and it made the darndest noise. Scared him almost half to death. They kused to mimic rooster and he didn't mind that, but when they starting going X cluck, cluck etc. he came out with the shotgun.

S-some were a little simple minded and they just made more fun with them. Gene Tuk Olla used to buy dinner for them, they asked him (sw) he said (sw) he wasn't fussy, he's take a piece of pie. R-I suppose he lived off in a cabin by himself somewhere. G-yes. But he wasn't as dumb as they thought he was either. S-someone found a tooth, pig's, he had lost one, so he put in in with shoemaker's wax. You know Faulks, by Madawaska River. they siad he's just lay in there, he's cut a tree and haul in in there and shove it in the stove and let it burn a little at a time. G-one farmer had lost a pig, another a harness, so he went around asking did you see a pig with a harness on? R-I suppose he thought the same guy stole both of them.

S-there was old Andrew Sogerlin? he played the violin. He ~~was~~ worked down here once. John Munston and them used to write him letters and say it was from different girls and he would get so excited. Then they got an old violin and were serenading him, saying he had got married. He sat in the kitchen and said, tooky, tooky, they're all crazy.... John had an enlarged heart, he was in Conn. (dead now) R-was he the one who played all the deviltry S-yes. G-I lived in Hartford for 9 yrs, 40-50, and I didn't know that John lived in Hartford, I heard afterwards. S-he started rooming with this woman and we didn't know if they were still married or not. He had a heart attack on a Sun. morning, they were ready to go to Church. She was German, she went to her Lutheran Church, he went to his. He went out to wash the car and he died. I can't ;remember how long ago that was, not too awful long ago.

C-3 or 4 years ago! He was a good looking boy, I liked him. G-I did too.

R-could he really play the fiddle? S-no, he just made believe, and they had bells and everything. G-he lived right across here, the Monsons. C-he did play accordian. He was down here one Christmas, and had a couple drinks and were feeling good, the boys, anyway someone was going to dance and he was going to play. He was playing and pulled it right apart, had one piece in each hand. The accordian ripped right through. S-Eric Landeen, John used to have more fun with him. He used to drink, and he'd get him to stand near the stove. Then he got all the worse. John would put on his plate and say

you better eat some more. He'd eat until he'd almost burst. G-when the telephone went from 1.25 to 1.50, he went from house to house and said he was going to get them to go back down to 1.25, everyone gave him a quarter and that's the last they heard of it. S-someone was probably talking about it and he went ahead and did it. G-we gave him a quarter. C-I imagine most everyone did. R-you had party lines then too. S-there's plenty on this one now. We're either 7 or 8. Maybe we're not more than 6. ~~W~~Almost everyone on this road except Magnus, he's on Caribou. We're on New Sweden. ~~W~~We were on Caribou when we first had a phone. G-Magnus was pretty smart, a good farmer. S-he doesn't farm now. He used to have hard luck, with a big family. S-he's a go-getter, always was. G-that's what I thought. That boy of his had to use ear phones and never could talk too good. He went and married a deaf and dumb girl, and they're living down there. They're supposed to have an apartment upstairs. They got a little girl. Laura just about raised that little girl. She doesn't have sense or anything, can't even do housework. She's about 8, goes to school now. G-is the little girl alright? S-oh yes. She (mother) got deaf, by measles, there were twins, the other one died. She was about ready to learn to talk when that hit, so she never learned. The child is perfect, smart, cute girl. Where she is like that, they wouldn't let her take care of her. She couldn't even hear the child when it was crying. Laura had custody of the child. I've read lots of times about mothers who were deaf and dumb, and brought up their own children. Now Jackie is a good worker. He is after every cent he can make. If he has a couple hours, he'll help someone else. He'll work all day and night if he can. He probably feels pretty important now, working and taking care of them. C-it broke his heart when he heard about Magnus broke his leg. G-how is he coming along? S-good. He likes to take the car and go places. It's been pretty hard on him. G-can he walk? C-yes, he drove up here the other day. S-he had a cane then. The boys made a walker for him. I guess half the time he doesn't use the cane now. When anybody gets old, it takes longer to heal the bones. C-they never had a cast on his leg, put a pin in it. S-I've got coffee ready....(you moved away from speaker, almost impossible to hear, got bits & pieces. Bru Gustafsons and Wiks had goats, talking about Alfred Wik, drove horses in woods, Superstitions, ghosts, witches etc. One in Madawaska, Cupa Stina..Swedes superstitious, espt from northern part. In Sweden, women took care of cows, made cheese..Osells from around Klovsjo Osells & Monsons were neighbors, Mrs Monson brought up by Osells. ~~d~~John Norell married twice, three children each time. did well, never farmed, had big shop in Caribou. Cat is batting microphone around!).

R-Quite a few of ~~K~~ the Swedes set up shop in Caribou, then, didn't they? Ullrichs have a store down there. S-he had one in New Sweden too. That was Fred Ullrich. G-I don't know what Carl did, bought potatoes. C-he killed himself. He lived with Jacobsons up there. S-what did he do, buy potatoes C=yes, he did. He'd get so drunk, he'd stand there and make out a check and talk to you and laugh, and the check would be perfect. G-I never knew Carl. He had a boy and a girl. (cat came back).....something about 1894, People named Tiltz from Gottenberg, came over. He wouldn't work, made books drank etc. R-in Sweden? C=yes. ~~K~~S-if he had such a good job in Sweden, why did he come over here? ~~S~~ C-they wanted to get rid of him, so they shipped him over here. End of side one.....

C-is that thing picking up what I say? R=yes. G-we have to go see Adolph Soderberg too. C-he can tell you stories. It don't go through my head as fast as it used to, getting slower. G-you're better off than a lot of younger men. C=I'm pretty thankful for what I am, can't complain. I could have been a lot worse. It started off bad in my legs, my right leg. It kept going up and going up, the other leg, then my hip. My muscles seem to be alright. R-you move around just like a young man. C-there's not very much hardening of my arteries. S-you couldn't use your right hand there for a long time. C-I had the dr. up here, he didn't say what to do for it. He ~~said~~ said I broke a little blood vessel in it and that's why it hurt. I don't think he knew what he was talking about. He said it may go away and it may not. He said put limiment on it. \$10. for a couple minutes. S-something has to go. It was up in your head before. You'd fall. It was in your hip first. I was in Portland 2 or 3 days, then dad complained about his hip. I called Alice. She called the dr. and got some pain pills. Then he was worse. Then his finger ached, and I said we are going to stop taking these pain pills. I said take your aspirins like you always did, and he was better. They reacted on him someway. I don't know if it was my imagination or what but we didn't take any more pain pills anyway. C-that wintergreen liniment is the only thing that cured my legs, myknees. It was so bad that I had to have a cane. S-the worse was when he had the fainting spells. I never knew when he was going to drop off and faint. C-it happened 2 or 3 times. I could tell when they were coming, they would turn my stomach right upside down. S-it seems like it was when he went in to shave, because he stood up. R-probably have to grow a beard. S-what would I do if he had to use one of those knives. Lucky we have those electric shavers. G-You should have seen Richard here, 2 or 3 yrs ago, he had a full beard. S-do you live in Stockholm? R-no, Brewer, Used to in Stockholm. S-my cousin lives down there, Rex Miller. On Silk St. He worked for the railroad, R-he's your cousin? S-no, ~~she~~ she is. She is Raph's sister. Raph Was Rudolph's son,

Rddolph had Ralph and Louise. Then Alma married dad's cousin Hjalmer Peterson. They had one daughter. She lives in Presque Isle. She married Jimmy Oake. He used to live in town. G-I've lost track. Lived in Hartford 9 yrs, then Worcester 2 or 3 yrs. G-when Ralph came up a couple yrs ago he brought some girls up with him. S-he had three daughters. G-Anyway, he spoke to me. He looked familiar, so I hated to ask who he was. Finally it dawned on me that he was some relation to you. S-there's no more than a year between Ralph and Louise. She's older. They have a place for Alma upstairs (Ralph) She's been away quite a few yrs to Florida to look after Aunt Helen. G-Richard has a brother that lives there. Where? R-Palm Bch. R-we were talking about shaving. Did your father and grandfather have beards or did they shave. C-my uncle had sidewhiskers. He shaved around his lip and chin. S-did grampy have that too? C-yes. My grandfather was smooth shaven. R-didn't most of them have whiskers.? C-More or less, I don't know Not too much. S-I wonder what the idea was. R-I suppose they didn't like to shave. G-kept them warm in the winter. I know quite a few that would let them grow in the fall, and shave it off in the spring. R-then, I suppose in the early days, in the log cabin, it was inconvenient to shave. C-they had regular straight razors in them days. G-the barber still used the straight razor. C-you get a better shave. Then we got the safety razor, then the electric. I'm glad we got that. R-I wonder who the first barber was in New Sweden. I suppose they had one. C-they never had one. C-they put a wash dish on top of their head and cut around it. S-they'd go to town G-I knew quite a few cut their own. Father Cut hair. C-mine did too. S-I used to cut dad's hair, now the girl across the road does it. Every other month. It doesn't grow very fast. G-Stockholm had a barber. R-I suppose when the mill came in. Peter Carlstrom was. G-Jack somebody was they had several good ones. Peter wasn't too good a barber. G-Remember Peter Nelson in Lebanon? C-yes. G-he cut a lot of hair. He would start out Sunday morning, his scissors in a case, he'd go the Jempland Road, to all the houses there, Oliverbaum, Stensons, Stodigs, all through up to Ek's, He made that trip every Sunday. C-he made money Sundays. G-he charged .10 R-it's still a dollar in Stockholm. G-he is in a shop on Washburn St and goes up to Stockholm two nights a week, and only charges a dollar there. He's good, and fast too. Bishop boy. His father had a blacksmith shop at the mill

No, it was his grandfather. His father worked for Caribou Motor Col
R-what was his grandfathers name, that would be Ted Bishop's father.
G-I never heard his first name. R-there was another blacksmith shop, not
for the mill. ' Allen took over, but wasn't there someone before him?'
G-no, not that I know of. Melvin Gunnerson was a blacksmith. He still does.
Where was it? R-the way I remember, right downtown, near the mill.
G-that must be the one that belonged to the mill, where Bishop worked.
R-who was the blacksmith in New Sweden? G-there isn't any. S-none.
C-Carl Claus was one, by AVR. One time they were driving across the bridge
to CPR, the water was deeper than usual, it came up into the buggy, Claus
said (sw) goodbye father, goodbye mother, I'm going to heaven. S-it didn't take
much to scare him. C-it was a flood in the spring, took the old bridge out.
In Caribou, when you go up to CP railroad. That was the only railroad in
there then. til B&A was built. that was built 1891. We came up here '92,
the summer before and friend and I were up here for a week of vacation,
we were up there, the train came, the cows were down in the pasture, they
were scared of the train, running. '90 or '91. R-it must have been about
the first train through. R-your parents went back to Sweden for a visit.
C-yes. 1894 or 5, I was home, took care of the farm, with my sister,
Nick Wessell's wife, remember her? G-yes I do very well, Matilda. C-and
a man name of Augerstrom? he was a little deaf, he lived up here and had
farm, we run the place, him and I. I think it was '94, that's when the
fire went by. It came down over that big hill, Sandstroms, down the valley
there, Hoglands lived over there where Monsons live, It was a year or two
before we came up. That would be about 6 yrs. I drove a double team 6 yrs.
R-you've never been back to Sweden? C-no. Never had the money. S-Mother
wished she could have gone back. She was really homesick for Sweden, but
then she got over it. R-when your parents went over, they didn't want to
stay over. C-no, they had their place up here. Most of their people were
dead, their parents. It changed quick. R-was your father a farmer in Sweden
too before he came over? C-yes. Not much of one, they couldn't get much
land in them days. (END OF THIS VISIT)

Mrs S-Professor from Upsala, Hedbaum? He says I'm the only one from up here that he hears from. I can write English to him. Adolph has a cousin in Sweden. I usually manage to get a Christmas card off to him. I have a Lexicon and look every word up. I can't spell Swedish. I learned to read Swedish, before I learned to read English. R-did you have a hard time to learn English? Mrs-I can't remember. The town I came from in Mass. is a small town with all Yankees, there were three or four Swedish families. We were rather ashamed because they called us square heads or foreignors. If we did something that wasn't right, they'd say what do you expect of those foreignors? There were a couple Polish families there too, but was English for the most part. R-what town in Mass was that? Mrs_Warwick, it had more people than it does now, it has about 400 people, it used to be called Hackpatack, its a very old settlement, when I grew up, a lot of the old timers could trace their families back to the Mayflower. Of course we weren't Mayflower stock. I played for three Churches every Sunday. My folks were Baptist. At the Unitarian Church, they had so much money, they never passed the collection plate around. I got .50 every Sunday. (other people coming into room, talking about Alaska earthquake.) looking at books.. talking about beer, he says that Anheiser Bush says that we drink 27 gallons of beer a yr per capita. have 12 million barrels, in all their breweries, 102 million barrels. Awhile ago, the speaker of the house in Augusta was saying that we needed more revenue, and would get it in liquor. He talked about how poor the people were, in Texas which surprised me. Mrs-and Kansas, the book before this one, he talked about going through Kansas. The swedes settled out in there, and it was terrible. It was so bad at first that they had to live in dug-outs or something. R-Danny just started subscribing to these. Mrs-we signed up as members and got it at 6.50 that way. It was 8.50 otherwise. A-how many years before I was married I lost a \$35. camera and you Geo. and Oscar Stenson found it, brought it back boy, was I tickled. G-no, I don't remember that. A-It was along the road by Fritz Frobergs somewhere. Mrs-we went to the Mission Church Sunday, and he preached about honesty. I guess you're quite an honest man, George. A-tell them about Rasmussen. Mrs-well, we went to a Church, to a joint meeting, as a special speaker that night they had that Martin Rasmussen, Perham, is it? When he was going to introduce him, sometimes when the introduction is written, it looks different, so he said Mr Ras(myoo)son. He picked that right up and said I've been called everything now. He didn't clarify what the pronounciation was, you could tell how embarresed he was. He could have put

it a little differently. He said he had spoken before and even at the Baptist Church when they couldn't get anybody. Then he said about nationalities, he looked at Dischinger and said I don't know if youre Dutch German, and I don't know what I am. ~~W~~Wall, you know Rasmussen is Danes. Then he said I see we have an Irishman down in the audience, it was Clyde Kokken (sp?) You should have seen the snickering in the Church. A-you didn't tell him when ~~h~~ he came up and shook hands with you and me. Mrs-I was standing near the door with another woman and said that I had never met Mr Rasmussen^{just} on the phone. He swung around and said, is that how you pronounce it? I tell you, I made an awful blunder. I was a young woman in Washington, I had a meeting of the young peoples society once a month, it was one of the prohibition Sundays, I had to introduce this young man to speak, I introduced him as Winegard. It should have been Winngard. But was spelled with an E, and he was getting up to speak against liquor, and there I said Winegard. He said I'm sorry miss, but my name is pronounced Winngard. G-Pastor Mann is asst. dir. in the N.S. band now. A-he and his wife play the trumpet awful nice. G-they both belonged to the Salvation Army band before. ~~S~~ Mrs-I know he comes from Brooklyn,N.Y. ~~Z~~ A-that Dischinger is a live-wire. I have to laugh everytime I ~~s~~we him walking around. Mrs-I asked Pastor Mann where he was from, when he said Brooklyn N.Y., I told him that was one of the places we got lost, ended up in the Bowery. A-when he? came to see us in Florida, got on a bridge and ended up in a big immense bldg. you had to keep going down along the Hudson, nowhere to get off. Theres a big fence, have to keep going to the marketplace, then turn around, Mrs-his sister sent us on the wrong parkway, so we down along the water, and saw all the big liners. A-we went out west 17-18 yrs ago I drove 14,000 miles. I bought a new Packard. The worst place we got into was Dallas, Texas. You talk about traffic in Los ~~Ang~~ Angeles. They got 8 land highways, at 60 m.p.h. Suppose you get a flat tire, whats supposed to happen? R-in this report by Hedblum he's talking about his visit up here, he said swedish is still spoken in the dialect of Medalpart??. A-yes, that's where ~~Z~~ I was born,I was 1 yr old when I came over. (talking about differnt names of towns in Sweden, can't make out)Mrs-what used to get me up here were all the different nicknames, like Long John etc.

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A-you talk about Tup-Olle, when I worked for Carl Peterson, I was 18 then, he had an old dobbin, and we went up there by an old building, he had a relative up there in Stockholm, I don't know what his right name was but they called him Tup Olle (Rooster Olaf) Rhode Island red rooster and put tup olle in the middle, Carl Peterson kind of stopped his old dobbin, he laughed to beat old Harry, ..they moved that old shack down by Gillotte's pond, Carl Johnson became constable or sherrif, they had to take that back up and cost them \$20 each fine, I don't know how they got it back up there it was steep all the way down. right by the bridge where you go up the hill there, where Carlsons used to live years ago, that shack set there on the right hand side. He came doggone near shooting me once there, came from a dance, it was George Lawson and Carl Fredric Ericson. He threw a rock at that shack, he came out with a double barrel shotgun, I could feel the pressure along side of my head,... went in to Carl Petersons, and sat for awhile and then went home by the railroad track, I had cooled off a little then, I was pretty ugly. they wanted to buy something to eat so Carl Peterson got some stuff. George Lawson went with me out west you know. R-did you go out to work? A-yes, he worked for awhile, then he wrote a story that he got stuck on a mad woman there named Nelson, and went to Idaho. I lent him some money and never got it back. Then he wrote to his father, his name was (Roosy?) Grill Larson, lived on the Station Rd. He wrote him a story so he sent him \$60., then he worked in Stockholm for awhile.... after awhile he shot himself. Mrs-did you see in todays paper about the dr from India and his wife, that live in St Louis, Mo. she left him so he cut his hand off and sent it to her. A-in Ft Fairfield there have been three killed. (talk about Everett case).