

Interview with Dr. Glen Seaborg, Berkeley California

March 21, 1996

this interview is growing up in Ishpeming

RM: Dr. Seaborg, could we start with the theme of your Swedish heritage and ancestry? Where did your, you said that your mother, you might want to talk about that, your mother was from Sweden.

GS: My mother Selma Olivia Erickson was born in Dringsberry in the Dollar area of Sweden on March 16, 1887. My father was born of Swedish heritage in the same town as I, Ishpeming on September 7, 1880. His father John Eric Seaborg came to Ishpeming from Sweden in July of 1867. His mother Carloda Johnson the name was later changed to Forrel, arrived with her parents and siblings in the United States from ? Sweden in 1869 and settled in Ishpeming.

RM: Now when these people came to Ishpeming what was there reason for coming to that particular location?

GS: They came to the United States because of the poor financial situation in Sweden at that time there what has been referred to as hard times they just managed to get one way tickets to the United States I'm not quite sure why my fathers father came to Ishpeming he must have had some connection there. I know why my mother came to Ishpeming a number of her relatives had presided her and settled in Ishpeming course the basic reason was Ishpeming was an iron mining town and Greensboro, where my mother came from was an iron mining town and Haliforest where my father's father came from was an iron mining town and he worked in the machine shop there. He was an machinist as was his father a machinist.

RM: Now you said that their were you had relatives or your mother had relatives who had settled in Ishpeming prior to her coming. Was there sort of a migration of people from her own home town?

GS: Yes, there a number of people who came from Sweden just during the period before she came. She came in 1904 when she was seventeen years old and actually returned, her maternal uncle named Headstrom was visiting Sweden and suggested that he would be willing to escort her to the United States and she took him up on that and he was a resident of Ishpeming as well as some of her relatives and as a result of that she went to Ishpeming and settled there. She worked as a maid doing house work and she met my father on mid summer day June 24, 1908 and they were married exactly three years later on June 24 1911. They meant at a Basa that is a Swedish American paternal order picnic in the Dear Lake Grove north of Ishpeming on mid summer's day on June 24, 1908.

RM: Now what did your father do in terms of employment?

GS: My father was a machinist. He just sort of followed in his father's footsteps so my father was a machinist, his father was a machinist and in turn his father was a machinist, and I ponder the same that if I had any talent along those lines perhaps I would have been a machinist too.

RM: And then all of these family members these ancestors then were machinists around the iron mining.

GS: Around the iron mining operation yeah. And the brownstone machine shop where my grandfather John Eric Seaborg, my father Erivin Seaborg worked still stands right near the family home there which is situated at 639 East Division Street.

RM: Could you tell us a little about the theme then will get into another theme, growing up in Ishpeming maybe will start out with memories of your home you know their physical structure and the home or homes that you lived in, in the Ishpeming area.

GS: Yes I was born in what they call the old location. It got that name because there was a mine near there earlier and that gave it the name location, New York location is the more popular but they called it the old location. I was born in the second story of a house standing on a rock 231 New York Street, a house that still stands. Then there was a rented home, then in 1915 when I was three years old my parents together with me and my younger sister, Janette moved to a house on the corner of Wabash Street and Seventh Street. 802 Wabash Street this was a house that we owned I mean that my parents purchased. Interestingly enough we couldn't purchase the land the Cleveland owned the land and so we had the house on the land owned by the mining company. That was common in those days. I might even say that if you didn't behave yourself they would tell you to take your house and leave.

RM: Now in terms of your family life in the home where there many Swedish traditions that were carried on for instance was the Swedish language spoken in your home?

GS: My first language was Swedish my mother of course spoke Swedish. She learned English but she spoke Swedish in the home. My father even though he was born in Ishpeming spoke Swedish fluently so Swedish was spoken in the home as was English. The two languages were used intermingling if you asked me later what language we used I wouldn't remember it might be one sentence in Swedish and one in English. But by the time I started school which was at the high street school in Ishpeming in 1917 kindergarten when I was five years old I had learned to speak English sufficiently to get by but I retained my ability to speak Swedish in fact I went on Sundays to a Swedish mission covenant for sunday school were we had lessons in Swedish in little sessions preceding church services and this way I was kept abreast of the Swedish.

RM: Now were there any celebrations during the year that were either swedish origin or that for instance like christmas that were celebrated with Swedish

GS: Yes Christmas was celebrated with Swedish food, ????, potato sausage and saffehrin bread and in general, a good deal of the Swedish food. We also observed mid-summer's day, June 24. Usually it was picnic near Teal Lake on the northern side of Ishpeming. Yes, we were immersed in the Swedish customs.

RM: Now when you were living in Ishpeming, your family was there. Were a lot of the neighbors in the vicinity Swed's or were they, in particular, from the home town of say your mother?

GS: Our neighbors in the location where we lived until I was three years old were almost all Swed's and the Swedish language was spoken. In fact some of the older people there never bothered to learn english, they spoke swedish their whole life. When we moved to 802 Wabash Street, which was just a few blocks north there were Swedish people in the neighborhood there too but not exclusively. But of course we were in constant communication with our relatives and friends in the old location it was just a few blocks away. I can remember many, many evenings that we would go there for the evening and our parents would be socializing with their Swedish relatives and friends late into the evening and they would put my sister Janet and us, and me to bed for a nap while they were talking. Then at the end of the evening which might be rather late they would wake us up and walk us home back to 802 Wabash Street.

RM:RM: So this is sort of something that has happened with the Italians in Ishpeming and I would like to see if it is similar with the Swed's. A lot of times we think of these immigrants coming to the United States and being kind of lost in this American society. I know what the Italians in Ishpeming they tended to, people from the same area sometimes the same town tended to come together, live together. Would you say that this would also be true of the Swed's, they all kind of reconstructed their...

GS: Yes, the Swed's tended to live together in certain neighborhoods and I can remember my father telling me about the animosity and the conflict between the Swed's and the Italians, for example, and to some extent the Swed's and what do you call the "Cousin Jack's" you know the Welsh people. Yes, there were definite enclaves where people of a nationality lived together.

RM: What caused the strife, antagonism, and problems between these various ethnic groups?

GS: I think it was just sort of a their feeling of ????? for their own people and their own customs. I don't really think that they should have conflicted with the customs and attitudes of the other nationalities but it did to some extent.

RM: Probably with a sense of nationalism.

GS: It was not so much nationalism as was of life and???? for your own people.

RM: Now did you notice this continuing after you went to school?

GS: No, these conflicts had pretty much diminished by the time that I came along. I was speaking of the earlier when my grandfather and father were young during their times in Ishpeming. It pretty much had gone, the animosity and conflicts had disappeared by the time that I came along.

RM: So when you went to school you didn't run across that maybe intense animosity?

GS: No, I don't remember any intense animosity when I went to school.

RM: Now could you talk a little about your memories for your educational experience.

GS: Yes, I had a very good educational experience in Ishpeming. I started Kindergarten in the High Street school in September of 1917 and I continued there for the first three grades. Then I went down the hill to the old grammar school which was just a couple of blocks away for the fourth grade and continued there until the beginning of the fifth grade when we moved to California. I do remember falling in love in the third grade with a girl named Dorice Gray, D-O-R-I-C-E. I was ardent admirer of Dorice but I was to bashful to let her know about how I felt.

RM: Do you remember any interesting experiences, much as the one that you just mentioned, other experiences connected with your days at school.

GS: I remember in the fourth grade they had these tests in arithmetic where you had cards, I believe they are called stodabacka cards where you added a column of figures and then filled in the sum; subtracted or, divided, or multiplied and so forth and as you finished one set and went on to the next. I remember I finished the whole set way before the end of the school year and the teacher had a problem there so she had to start me on the fifth grade set while I was still in the fourth grade.

That is one of the things that I remember. Another one was that I remember particularly in the fourth grade, deliberately misbehaving to the extent necessary that I would have to be held after school because Dorice Gray was the school monitor who had have to stay there too monitor the situation. I can remember sitting at one corner of the room and she at the other corner of the room, that is as close as I got to her but that was still a very satisfactory experience as far as I was concerned. I can also remember after school beginning as early as the summers of 1920-21 and 1922 when I was eight, nine, and ten years old working as a caddy at the Ishpeming/Negaunee nine hole golf course. Working there during the summer but also before school finished in the spring and running all the way from the grammar school to the golf course in order to be there in time to be chosen as a caddy. I had an advantage in any case because I was so tall, they would usually line up the caddies the golfer would point to someone as his choice and I was often chosen because I stood about a head taller than any of the other applicants. These were very interesting players because they had caddy rates that were \$0.20 for nine holes paid by one category of player and \$0.25 charge for the more affluent players. We knew immediately which category we had drawn when somebody had chose us to be a caddy. We knew whether we had a 20 center or a 25 center. Of course, they often played two rounds of nine holes each you see to fulfill the full 18 holes.

RM: In terms of your years growing up in Ishpeming. Could you tell us about I think skiing and maybe some additional sports that you were involved in.

GS: I was involved in skiing, of course, almost as soon as I could walk. I can remember, some winters opening the second story window of my bedroom and putting on my ski's and going out the window to the snow level that existed there. The snow piled up to the second story window and then going skiing. I can remember that very vividly and so we would ski right along the house tops down Wabash Street. And of course I can remember skiing on the hills, it was very popular to have a what we called a "bump" because you had a ski jump and so we would build on the hill deliberately a bump, a leveling off where you could jump off after you had come down the hill. Then we would build a hole just beyond that so that it was necessary to at least jump that far or you would hit right on the edge of the hole there and perhaps break your ski's. So you had to be able to jump at least a minimum distance in order to participate in this ski jumping. Then we would have ski jumping contests to see who could jump the furthest. There was a huge hill in Ishpeming called

Suicide Hill, between Ishpeming and Negaunee where they used to have the ski tournaments..jumping. I remember going there, not to ski of course but to watch the jumping. Ishpeming had some of the champion ski jumpers the Beatala brothers, I believe they were even good enough to participate in the Olympic Games. Ishpeming was quite a center for skiing and the National Ski Hall of Fame is located in Ishpeming. By the way, my cousin John Seaborg who is the son of my father's brother, Lawrence Seaborg is an architect of note and he designed the Ishpeming Ski Hall of Fame. It has been a prize winning design, it is a very notable building.

RM: Now you talk about the ski jumping contest that you were involved in when you were a youth now were these contest that the kids put together or where they somewhat organized?

GS: No the ski jumping contest that I spoke of and of course these took part I took part in these up until I was ten years old were just organized by the kids in the neighborhood.

RM: Now did most of the kids get into skiing and ski jumping when you were a youth?

GS: Most kids got into skiing and ski jumping yes, in fact we used to have a kind of characterization by not asking how old a person was but asking what length skis he was using. We start with short skis as kids and then ya know they got longer and longer as we got older and my cousin Charles board leader son of my father brother Henry started became a ski jumper course after I left Ishpeming he was a good deal younger than I in fact born after I left won some ski jumping championships.

RM: What I like to do is go back and have you just reminisce kind of generically like your home and your home life what kind of food did your mother cook in the home kind of you know on a regular basis was it primarily Swedish fare and what was sort of the kind of physical size of the home and some description of the home you grew up in.

GS: The home I remember the most was of course is 802 Wabash Street. It was a two story house. My mother cooked on the stove she cooked a good deal of Swedish foods but other than that we ate meat and potatoes a very straight forward fare with a great deal of emphasize on Swedish foods on holidays, Christmas and Thanksgiving day and so forth, she was a good cook.

RM: What were some of the foods that she commonly cooked for these holidays?

GS: Well the only one I really remember is the one we call ?? you know potatoes and sausage. She also cooked we also had chicken. I don't remember so much turkey but that was quit a treat. One thing I remember is every Christmas we had an orange not in between we couldn't afford it but on Christmas we would each get an orange. That was a tremendous treat it was a good fare. My father worked of course six days a week and came home every night for his dinner and I came home for lunch from school I could come home in ten minute or so and eat my lunch and then get back I can remember that on many occasions when I came home for lunch I would have my mother test my spelling we had a certain number of words that we had to learn she would pronounce the words and I would spell them and she would say if I was correct or not I won a large number of spelling bees and also arithmetic bees you know where they ask something you answer and if you couldn't they would go on to the next I remember one particular occasion of it must have been about third

grade at the high speed school and we got to the end and there was only a girl and this spelling bee or maybe it was an arithmetic we got down to the end when there was only two of us left I was one and the other was a girl and the teacher I guess was a little tired of my winning so she called an end and said it was a tie and we draw straws as to who was the winner and we drew straws and she immediately declared the girl the winner and I said oh no look I have the longer straw and the teacher turned to me and said oh Glenn ya know well I didn't have any sense of magnatity I just thought that I won and I thought I should be declared the winner of course I've often in retro spec thought what a crazy thing to do obviously I should have gone along with the teacher and let the girl win but this is one occasion that I remember very well.

RM: Now how many were how many brothers and sisters did you have? And did you have separate rooms in the house?

GS: Yes I had one sister two years younger than I, Janette and yes we slept in separate rooms and my parents slept in the other room I don't exactly remember how that was arranged. I do remember I had my own bedroom it was the front bedroom the one with the window that I mentioned that opened out that I could put on my skies and go skiing.

RM: Could you describe the I guess it would be the Wabash street home. Could you describe the kind of lay out of the home?

GS: Yeah, the Wabash Street home had an upstairs was the bedrooms and the bathrooms were by the way my mother gave me a bath every Saturday no Sunday morning before I went to Sunday school then down below was the kitchen through which we entered really and the living room. That was the main those were the main rooms that I remember like to visit the house still stands. I would like to visit it again and refresh my memory as to what the room layouts were like I remember that we had a ? in the living room one of these that you wind up and a with a handle and I can remember spending hours listening to records I just loved the records of including singers like Curso and so forth.

RM: Where there any, how did your family for instance spend the evenings did they were they in the did the sit in the living room listening to music was there anything special about

GS: They my mother and father would listen to the records played on the dacoda on occasion that would be the only source of music that they could have and then they talked of course I went to bed fairly early, however during the summer we would have the neighborhood kids come by and by the way they walked right in. They didn't ever knock. They came right in through the back door into the kitchen were we were sitting or we were eating. We would eat in the kitchen and they would wait until I finished and we would go out and as they say, play. I can remember during the summer having these various types of recreation. One that I remember especially vividly the game run sweep run were you divide into two groups and one group would go out and hide and the other one would go out and try to find you and if they located you then it was a free for all to the home base who got there first. The other one was called red light were there was somebody the central participant and the rest of us would he or she would stand with his or her back to the group and then would try to advance forward as far as we could go while he was facing away from us but then if he turned around and caught you moving then you were out of it and that way you had to move as

far as you could, when he was not looking in order to reach a goal you know and win the game. That was called red light. I can also remember on occasions, and I don't know quite why, but it was quite exciting, of course, these all took place in the summer.

When some of the older kids from other neighborhoods would put together a huge gang and then we would adhere to it and go with them and march around the streets and uptown and so forth. I am not quite sure what the purpose was but it was quite exciting. I would join in on that and march along with them.

In the winter I can remember going on the snow covered streets with the huge drifts of snow on the sidelines to the public library, which is still there. I visited on occasion and in fact I am a member of the friends of the Ishpeming Library and get all of their publications and so forth. We would go there and make a b-line for the area where the books that we wanted to find were, the Rover Boys and so forth. We were hoping to find the one that we hadn't read and then of course head home through the snow covered streets and read the books. I just love to read the books, I remember we didn't have very many books in the home but I remember reading Ben Hur, that is one book that we had in the home. I remember also reading one of Zane Gray's early novels, Riders of the Purple Stage which I thought was very, very good.

RM: Could you tell us a little about the city of Ishpeming and maybe shopping that you might have done with your mother, and just interacting through the city?

GS: Yes. My parents used to take my sister and me with them when they went shopping. Well there was nothing else to do, we did not have baby sitters in those days and we would go downtown and I can remember particularly going into the butcher shop. I can remember even the name of the butcher, his name is, Red Held because he was a German and it was during the war. It was between 1917 and 1918 when we were participating in World War I. He was fervently pro-German and I can remember my father and others arguing with him about taking the opposite side in World War I. He was unabashed, he just spoke right out and just favored the Germans in the war.

Also we went to E.A. Johnson's Grocery Store and Braston's Furniture Store, I can remember all of that going there. There was a store not so far from the old location which was closer, you wouldn't have to go all the way downtown, called ?????? Store. We could buy a number of the groceries and so forth there.

We had really two ways of going to town or really three ways. One was to sort of go through the old location and on past ???? Store and on past High Street School and so forth and down to the downtown area. You know near the Mather Inn and what not. Another one was what you would call the "corner way", where we would go down Wabash Street to about Third street and then turn left and go on down. And the other way was to walk along the railroad tracks and you could just about walk all the way to the old location there and when you got opposite the old location you could come up out of the depths there of the railroad tracks there and come in that way.

There was a street car that ran between Negaunee and Ishpeming and they only had one car so it ran back and forth. It was a single track, it didn't have too have two tracks and that is the way we went to Negaunee. It stopped at a place below the old location there, if you wanted to get on it there and go to Negaunee actually. My Aunt Lillian was married to a "Cousin Jack" named Larson they had two sons, Phillip and Billy; they lived in Negaunee so we went to visit them quite often. When we went to Marquette we had to take the train and we visited there with some friends on a number of occasions but I guess I remember vividly. One thing that I remember really well is that I

saw the Green Bay Packers football team play the Ishpeming Town Team in the Fall of 1919. This was the first year that the Green Bay Packers played on a schedule. They had Curly Lambeau as the quarterback and as the manager, and as the coach. It was quite an experience and as far as I could see, let see this was in 1919 I was seven years old and my father took me there. All that I can remember is two lines would clash together and there would be a big pile of people and I wasn't quite sure why they were doing that but it was a very interesting experience.

As I say this was the first year of the Green Bay Packers, it was before the National Football League and so forth was created. But as a result of I have always had since that time a special affection for the Green Bay Packers.

RM: Two questions here that you can either answer separately or together. What kind of an impact have growing up in Ishpeming have on you, is one question. Maybe related to that you still maintain ties with Ishpeming.

GS: Yes, I think that growing up in Ishpeming had a very favorable impact it just sort of gave me another view of life which I would never would have gotten anywhere else. We were living in sort of a world of our own up there actually and it was a unique experience. I just don't know any of my colleagues who had an experience quite like that. I think it had a good influence on me. It was the second part of your question.

RM: Do you maintain ties, today do you remain ties with Ishpeming?

GS: Yes, I have maintained ties. I have maintained ties with Ishpeming ever since. I went back for the first time in 1939, that is after I come up to Berkeley here to graduate school and finish graduate school and I was beginning to do research. I met all of my relatives and friends and so forth. Went out to the old golf course and played a round of golf. Then I went on a number of other occasions, in 1952 when I was at Chicago with my family to spend some time at the Argon Laboratory, I went up to Ishpeming and showed them all the houses that I lived in and the house of course of my father and his family 639 East Division Street. Then in 1954 I went up and joined my parents for the centennial they had a very impressive centennial observance. The governor was there, Governor Williams and the members of the legislature, and Miss America, it was quite the celebration.

Then I have been back many other times. When I was living in Washington during the 60s when I was the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, I visited Ishpeming a number of times with my family and kids. My kids were very interested to see a number of the places that I told them about. Now I go there every time when I attend a meeting of the advisory board of the Seaborg Center at Northern Michigan University and usually we have a luncheon or something. A year or two ago my cousin Gordon Swanburg in Ishpeming assembled a huge group of relatives, it must have been it must have been 40 or 50 people. We had lunch there at the restaurant that is run by Gordon's son. Yes, I visit there often and I want to visit some more.

It is always a thrill for me when I go back to visit Ishpeming. I always want to go by and look at the houses at the old location, and of course they are occupied by other people now. And my house at 802 Wabash Street which I wish I could visit inside sometime. There is also one of my childhood friends still lives there on Wabash Street his name is Williams. I can't remember his first name but he had a nickname "Burnt Williams" and he is still living there on Wabash Street where he lived when I was living there between 1915 and 1922. So I am very fond of Ishpeming and I

want to visit there some more.

RM: I think I also noticed one day I picked up the Mining Journal and you had a rather lengthy letter supporting the milage election. That was within the last few months I think.

GS: Yes.

RM: Within the year I think.

GS: Yes, that was the...what was it?

RM: It was the milage election for the schools.

GS: Milage election, yeah that is what you call it. I supported the election for the support of the school.

RM: So then your ties have been continuous really since.....

GS: My ties with Ishpeming have been continuous, yes. One of my childhood friends who was living just kiddy corner across the street from me on Wabash Street, Seventh and Wabash. Clarence Larson, and I see him he is just the same age as I and we were close friends. He has lived there his whole life in Ishpeming, actually Palmer and now he is living in Negaunee, I have had close ties with him. In fact, used to write him letters we haven't been writing to much recently.

RM: Is there any questions that I missed asking that you would like to some ideas or comments that you would like to include in this interview?

GS: Well there is the matter those who lived in the 639 East Division Street and that is where my grandfather, John Eric Seaborg and his wife Charlotta Seaborg raised their family. The house was built in 1875 and they moved into it, the family moved into it in the early 1880s. Just about a year or so after my father was born, Herman Theodore Seaborg, he went by the name of Theodore. There was only one sibling that proceeded him who survived. They had a number of youngsters that died but Sophia was born in 1874 also lived there until she died in 1900. In addition, in this house this was the place where my father's siblings were born William Gertrude Constance in 1884, Esther Wilhamenia in 1886, Charles Henry in 1889, and Hugo Lorenceses, actually we called in Lawrence in 1891. Then there was one other John Eric ????? who was born in 1895 but died actually in 1897. The other five Herman, Theodore, Lillian, Gertrude Constance, Esther Wilhamenia, Charles Henry, and Hugo Larenceses all lived on to a normal old age.

I visited the house on a number of my visits to Ishpeming, when I visited there in 1980 the owner Oscar Coreen, the Coreen family who owned it since the Seaborg's moved out about 1913 or so, sold it. Oscar Corren seemed downhearted and I asked him what the problem was and he said "Well my wife and I are getting to old and we really can't maintain this house anymore if we move out it will probably just be destroyed." He was hoping that I would offer solace so I gulped and said "Well how much would you want for it?" I thought my God it might be \$20,000 \$30,000 something like that. He said "Well we have to get back what we really put into it" and I said "Well what is that?" he said "\$6,800" I said "Oh all right, I'll buy it." So I bought it and at that time it

was not, it did not include the land. Just a few years ago we got a notice from the Cleveland Cliffs Company or the City saying that the land was available now and we could buy it. So for another I don't remember what, a couple thousand dollars we bought the land, so now we own the land and the house. My cousin on my mother's side, Bill Swanburg has been living there as sort of a caretaker ever since. Now we are kind of hoping that the City of Ishpeming will take it over as a sort of museum or memorial and were ready to put a lot of memorabilia in it.

RM: So you would see it eventually as kind of a sort of a memorial to the Seaborg Family?

GS: Yeah, and a early representative of a early Ishpeming and so forth. How these people lived at that time and I would hope that they would preserve the Brownstone too, see it is right next door. As I understand it has become surplus now also and possibly torn down. But I would like to see it preserved too.

RM: Would you also like to see sort of the Swedish heritage as a part of that preservation theme?

GS: Yes, I think so although it is more...well that is part of it.

RM: I am thinking in terms of the...there is two ways that such a museum could go. One could be to have a general museum of the Seaborg family in the background, the other would try to reconstruct the house to what it was when people were actually living there. Trying to get representative furniture....

GS: Oh yes, I did want to mention that too you. I told you about Alice Fitzpatrick, I don't know did you get in touch with her?

RM: Not yet.

GS: Well as you know she is in the Marquette phone book, you can get her number there. I asked her if she had any memorabilia and she said that she has a....her daughter Patty has the dining room table that was actually in the house at the time, I would hope that they would contribute that. Also I have the trunk that my grandfather used in his travels across the Atlantic in 1867 and I can certainly contribute that. I also have a marvelous picture of my great-grandfather, the father of the person who came to Ishpeming. Oh other things, letters that he wrote back to his parents and so forth...oh and I think some of my kindergarten productions I don't know what you call them, what you do in kindergarten that I have saved.....

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GS: I don't think that the house has changed that much, I believe that one room has been added by the Coreen's Bill Swanburg would know about that. But otherwise I don't think it has changed very much, of course, it has to be brought up to standards to be safe, earthquake and stuff like that which we'll have to raise money to do. But the house is pretty much the way that it was.

RM: That home was kind of typical of even homes that you lived in and your neighbors lived in so it would be a very typical home at the time?

GS: Yeah, our home of course is a generation later which is a little more modern but it would be typical of that time, the late 19th century.

RM: Okay that is about....we put in a new tape there but that is about, those were all the questions that I had for you. Unless there is something additional I didn't mention or ask that you want to add?

GS: No, I don't think of that until you leave.

RM: Right, that is always the case. Well thank you.

CONTINUE INTERVIEW

GS: Here is a letter that I wrote a few after I arrived with my family in the Los Angeles area on November 2, 1922. This letter is dated November 7, 1922 to my cousins Phillip and Billy Larson the sons of my father's sister, Lillian. Letter reads:

We arrived in Los Angeles all safe, we arrived here on November 2 at 11 p.m. We sure did have a nice journey, we stopped in Minneapolis 10 days for sight seeing and then Denver 10 days for sight seeing. On the way here I saw many prairies, deserts, mountains, and many other things. I like it here very much we've been having fine weather here. How is the weather up in Negaunee? Have you had any snow yet? I have been having a fine time out here. Sunday, Mr and Mrs. Engstrom took is out for a car ride to Long Beach in their car, they took us home to their home from the depot in their car to. One day when we were in Denver we went up in the tower 15 stories high and the people on the ground looked like ants. In Minneapolis I seen a building 18 stories high, downtown of the big cities there was a street car running on nearly every street. They had two street car lines on one street, one line for the cars going up the street and the other line for the cars going down the street. Saturday, they took us out for a car ride out to the orange groves, the oranges aren't quite ripe yet. I have had all the fruit that I wanted since I came out here.

On the way here I seen many big mountains sometimes the mountains were so high that they had to have three engines pulling. We went through about 50 tunnels, we went through some canyons too. We went through one canyon called the Grand Canyon which was very long and had some very pretty scenery. The train followed the river through a narrow gorge.

I was sick a few days in Denver with a cold, my father is sick with a cold but he is getting over it now. The address that we are going by is Glenn Seaborg 3920 South Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. From your cousin Glenn Seaborg.

At this time I changed on my own innuative the spelling of my first name of Glen to Glenn. Evident in this letter is my Swedish mother's influence on my grammar, the first language taught to me by my mother was Swedish. In later years when I talked Swedish, on occasion, it was often pointed out to me that I talk with the early accent of the ????? region of Sweden that my mother came from. Fascinating letter.

RM: Yes. Can you still speak Swedish?

GS: I can still talk Swedish enough to get by when I go to Sweden and talk to my cousins that can not talk English. But it is not the language that I handle as well as I used to. I remember on one occasion when I was in Sweden with my cousins. I was listening with this strong ???? accent, I was listening to the radio and they asked me if I could understand that, the Swedish coming from the Stockholm, Sweden? And I said "No, I can't understand it" they said "We don't blame you, we can't either."

RM: So these are strong dialects in Sweden?

GS: Very strong, very strong. Well they have disappeared now but when I received the Noble Prize in 1951 at the dinner at the town hall afterwards when I was responding to the toast that had been given to me I opened with my first two sentences of my response speaking in Swedish. In the Stockholm newspaper the next day they said that Seaborg talked in a ringing dialect of ?????

RM: Could the people in Stockholm understand it or would it be difficult for them?

GS: Yeah, but I talked only English to them. No, I just talked Swedish to my relatives, they of course came to the Noble ceremony and they were very pleased. My mother's brother Carl Adolfson, her name is Salma Erickson because her father's name was Adolf Erickson so she called herself by the American system Salma Erickson but he called himself Adolfson. His father's name was Adolf Erickson. So Carl Adolfson and his wife and their kids, who of course were my first cousins came to the Noble ceremony. We got them good seats and they were thrilled. I visited them, of course, on all of my trips to Sweden they are my closest relatives.

RM: So then you have relatives still in the old country and still in Ishpeming, Upper Michigan.

GS: Yes, lots of them in Ishpeming but they are now starting to be the children of my second and third cousins and so forth. So that reunion that I told you about there was about 50 people there, there distant cousins because they are the children and grandchildren of my second cousins and stuff like that. But I have a perhaps I said this earlier, I have a unusual connection in Sweden in that the home in which my ancestors lived in Sweden in ???? was the home that was chosen to be moved to the park that has representative homes in what they call Sconsin, Sconsin Park near Stockholm. They choose the home to represent what they call the ????, my ancestors home and as a result of that it is called Locksbostogen and it is still there. Of course we have reunions there when I come to Sweden. As a result of that when other relatives connected to that house that I was one of their relatives they got in touch with me and they have formed a society called the Perner Society, P-E-M-E-R. One of the relatives on my mother's side and actually the Perner's came from Austria or Germany. That has hundreds of members, they have a news letters that they send out regularly. On one of our visits to Sweden, my wife Helen and I happened to be there just at the time the Perner Society was having their annual reunion in Stockholm. So if you could imagine the emotional impact of walking into a room of hundreds of people all of whom are your cousins. You see it goes all the way back to 5th, 6th, 7th cousins but as a result of this we can trace these all back. we have had people go back...well one branch came over from Holland in the early 1600s and we had a friend, a guy called Bink, B-I-N-K who got interested in this and he had traced the lineage and the places in Amsterdam where our ancestors lived. About 20 years ago when my daughter Lyn and I were visiting Amsterdam they showed us the old houses there. They are still standing that is

the way it is in the old country. And then he has gone back and traced it even further back so we've gone back to 12 and 1300s in tracing this ancestry.

RM: Now these are the Perner's? The Perner Family?

GS: The Perner's from Germany, these were the. This house Lockbostuben in Socsin was built by my ancestor Nicole Hinderson and occupied by him and his wife who's maiden name was Maria Vangent, V-A-N-G-E-N-T. Maria Vangent moved to with her parents to Sweden in the early 1600s she was the daughter of Barta Vangent who owned and operated an iron foundry in Cloakhammer situated in the prairies of Kil, K-I-L in the ?????? about 10 miles ????? So I am descended from Nicole and Maria Vangent Henderson who their daughter Britta and her husband Nicolas Perner at that time living in CopperBurg who's father was Nicolas Perner who lived among other places in ?????? about 30 miles west of ??????. Born in Augsburg, Germany and who's mother was Christian Erick???? who's birth place is unknown.

RM: Now are these, Augsburg is I think where they had mining activities or were these Perner's probably immigrants that migrated to Sweden because of the mining....

GS: I betcha...

RM: Bringing their expertise.

GS: I betcha. That is in here where I read there.

RM: That is an interesting...

GS: Isn't that interesting....

RM: ...mining that mining connection through the years.

GS: Oh yeah, iron mining.

RM: Then you sort of end up getting with the ultimate of these molecules and minerals.

GS: That is often said facisily that my father was a machinist, grandfather was a machinist, my great-grandfather was a machinist and I would have been one if I'd have any talents along those lines. It is true, I don't have any talents along those lines. Actually it was my mother who was the one who was the impatice for moving from Ishpeming. She had two objectives, she wanted to get out of the cold and she wanted her son and daughter to have a better chance in life. She did not want me to be a machinist and she wanted to go too California where she thought that I would have a better chance and she was right.