

Email fr. Diana 1/8/04

Hi Family, I don't know if you all will be interested in reading all this, but if not just "Delete" Years ago Dad dictacted this to Yvonne and I just saw it for the first time this week. I typed it up immediately and thought I would share it. If any of you cousins can add to it, make corrections in names, spelling or whatever - PLEASE DO! Maybe you can expand on your parents involvement at this time. Or do any of you have anything like this written up? It would be great to have something like this on all the siblings. Hope to get some additions from some of you. Add any memories you have. The comments in quotes are mine. Erna, I don't have John's email, would you forward it to him so Robert can see it.

Love, Diana

Axel Valdemar Jensen

Dad's Journey to America

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In the spring of 1919 I went with a friend to Copenhagen to join the army to go to Russia. As fate ruled, the office was closed, so I decided to go back home to Lemvig. While I was gone Mom received a letter from my brother Chris saying he was coming home for a visit. When he traveled back to America I went with him. My brother Andy and friends Fred and Markus Jensen also emigrated at the time. I arrived at the Port of New York, Ellis Island, on the ship St. Paul on May 26, 1920. (On the web site [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) - it says the St. Paul arrived on May 28, 1920, departing from South Hampton, England.)

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From NYC we took the train to Cozad, Nebraska. We arrived on Memorial Day. Chris called Ragna's Dad to come and pick us up. I worked for Chris Foged, Ragna's Uncle. That winter I went to Danish School in Nystead.

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Markus worked for two Danes that had farms in South Dakota. They wanted some horses transported to South Dakota in the fall of 1921. Markus decided not to go and since I heard about a Danish School in Tyler, Minn. I took his place. The trip was cold and long. Trying to keep warm with horses and trying to keep the bums out and hiding from the authorities since I was not suppose to be riding with the animals.

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I worked for a Dane in Planners South Dakota picking corn. I also worked for a family whose name I can't remember but Erna Jensen now works with one of the daughters.

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In 1922 I went back to Omaha where Niels (Nielsen) and Fred (Jensen) were working. I got a job at a creamery there but within a month Oscar came to Omaha. He wanted to travel west and possibly on to the Orient. After arriving in Seattle by train and not able to find work, we stayed at the Seaman's home. While there we heard a Norwegian Ship was coming to port and that it would need some men. We were ready to set sail but after Oscar could see the unsafe condition of the ship we made an excuse to get off the ship.

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Soon we got jobs with the Renton Foundry putting in Railroads. Our next job was at a sawmill in Cosmopolis on the green chain for 10 hours a night. But after seeing so many near accidents, we quit and moved on to a job working for a road crew near Wenatchee. This is where I suffered a heat stroke, which was enough to tell us to get back to the west coast.

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Our next job was for a logging company out of Olympia. At the camp Oscar was a blacksmith and I was on the blasting crew making grades for railroads to the camps. The foreman was a Dane. Here again the risk involved was too high. Oscar stayed on but I went back to Seattle. I lived at the YMCA. While at the unemployment office one day I met a fellow who asked me to do his job at the White Lunch night shift, while his hand was healing. This is when I started Chiropractic School. After a while working nights and going to school in the day was just too much, so I worked part time at a restaurant owned by a Dane. I continued school and graduated on December 4, 1924.

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In 1925 I decided to return to Denmark and set up a practice. I toured Washington D.C. on my way. I purposely went to the Danish Consul to insure that upon my return I would not have to join the Danish Army. Unfortunately the opposite did happen. They drafted me for 6 months immediately upon my arrival. I was No. 125, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Company in Tonder, Denmark. While in the army I took place in track events and won a medal in running.

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I started a practice in Denmark, but because of the Danish laws my patients needed to be seen by an M.D. first. Obviously that was not conducive to building a clientele.

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Since more than a year had elapsed my re-entry permit to the USA had expired. Thus I had to come back to the USA through Canada. Martin (Nielsen) traveled with me. We first had to take a boat from Esberg to England - South Hampton to France then to Canada. While aboard the ship we met 3 young fellows from North of Halborg. They had a friend in Montreal. Since they could speak very little English, I helped them find their friend through the American Consul. In return that fellow helped us get back into the States for a mere \$10 tax!

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Martin and I took the train to Chicago where Andy, Oscar and Niels were living. They all worked for a Taxi Company, so they were able to get me on as taxi driver. My other jobs in Chicago varied. I worked for a while as a barber after taking a course and then for Hormel Meats. My first introduction to Real Estate was in June of 1926. I saw a sign wanting a salesman that could speak Scandinavian to sell property in Humbolt Park, a Scandinavian district outside of Chicago. (I don't know how long this job lasted - but Dad talked about it a lot and it was then he decided he wanted to own Real Estate)

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Because there were so many Jensens, both Andy and I decided to change our name to Seaholt after the Estate our father worked on in Denmark. Niels had decided on Ingersoll. However, in 1927 K.P. Olsen (Uncle) wrote asking if I would come to Washington to take over his Chiropractic practice temporarily while he went back to Denmark. His father was ill. I took a refresher course at the Lincoln Doctor of Chiropractic School in Indianapolis. K.P. owned stock in it. On returning to Washington I found that K.P. had sent out letters stating that his nephew A. V. Jensen would take over his practice. Naturally I took the name of Jensen back.

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Soon after I sent for Andy to help me out with the business. He came to Seattle for schooling, but he didn't pass the pathology. So he went back to Chicago. I then convinced him to take a massage course and that I would pay his way and a young woman's way if they would. This young woman, of course, was Else. She took the course but instead of coming to Seattle to work in our new massage school she went to San Francisco where her cousin Knud Prip was living. In the mean time Oscar, Marge, John and Ragna moved here. For a while Oscar, John and Ragna worked at the school.

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Misc. notes:

K.P. Olsen was in Germany for a year as an apprentice furniture maker. Decided to come to America with a neighbor.

Vigo came to Lemvig in 1919. Oscar came back to the USA with him. Then Oscar sailed for 2 years.

Vigo, Fred's brother, was the wild one of the bunch. He ran off to a circus when he heard he could earn \$100 for riding a horse. He then started sailing. He eventually ended up as a Captain on a torpedo boat in the US Navy. (Fred Jensen settled in Everett, I remember him working at J.C. Penneys warehouse. Vigo settled in Texas)

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