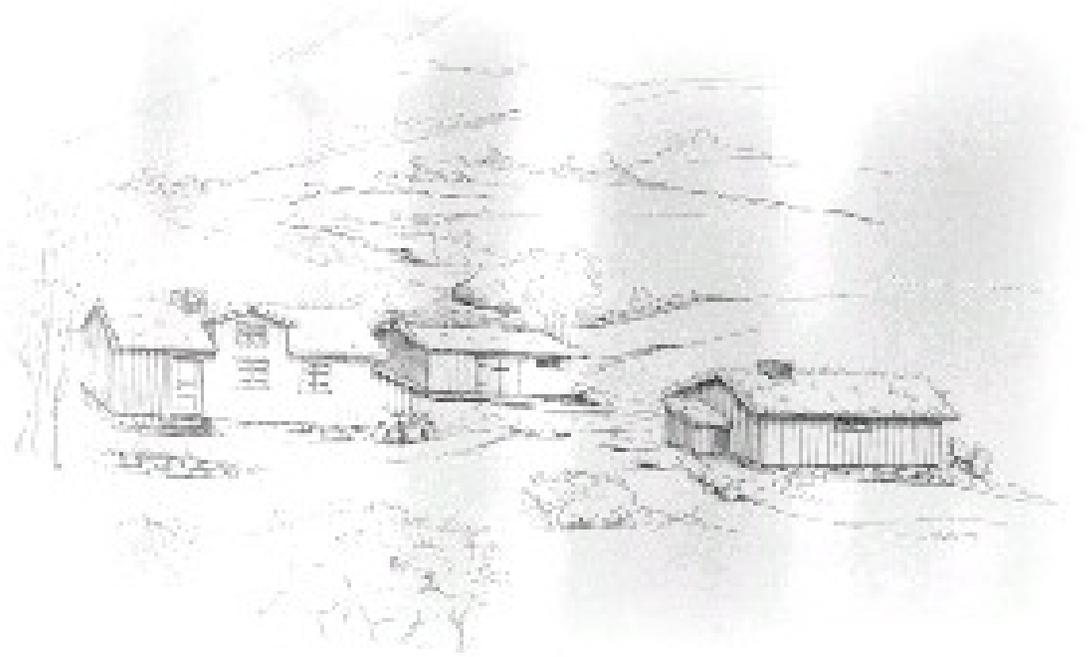
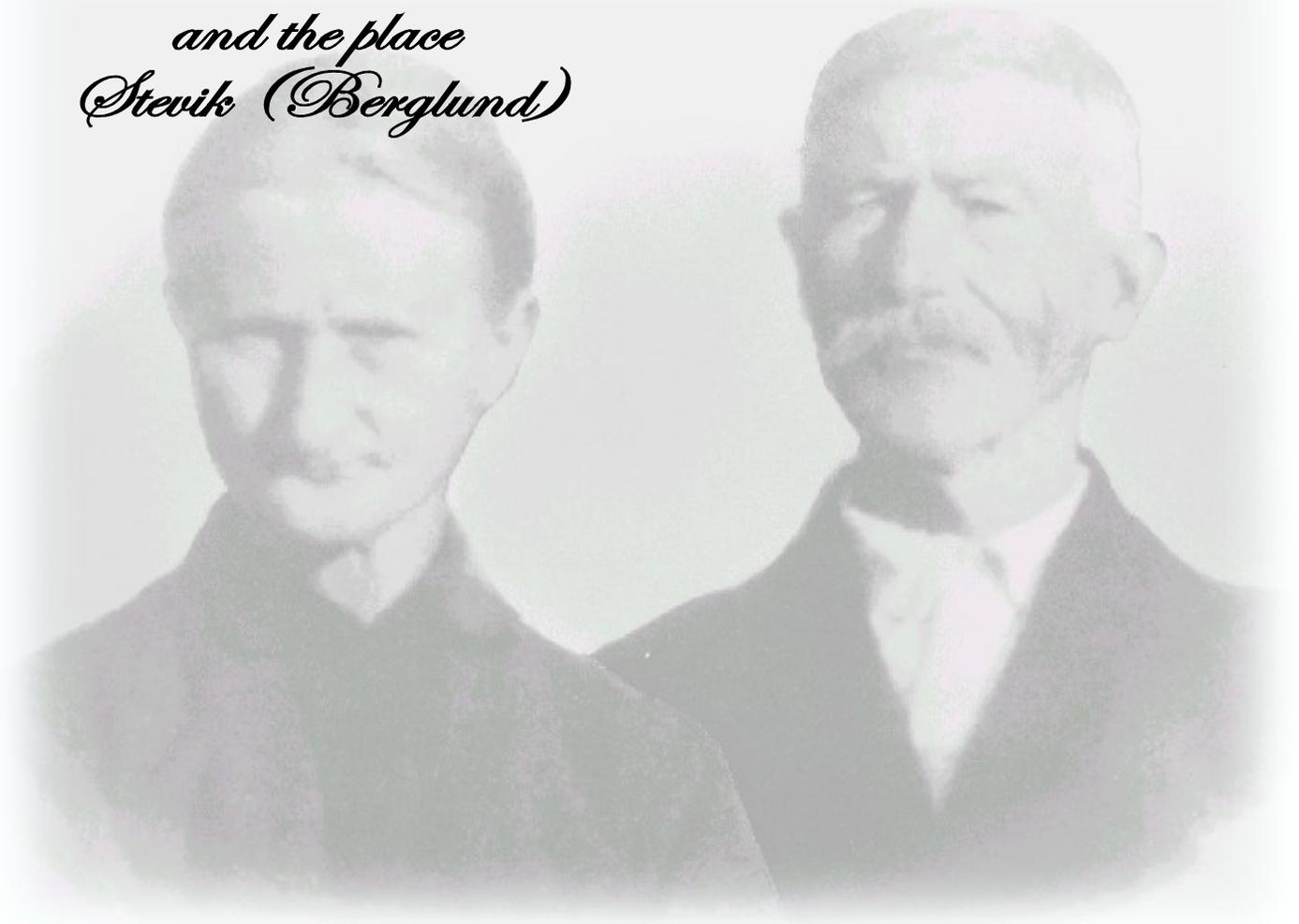


*The Story about
Nora and Jens Eliassen
and the place
Stevik (Berglund)*



First part of the story

**THE STORY OF NORA AND JENS ELIASSEN AND THE PLACE
WHERE THEY LIVED STEVIK (BERGLUND)
TRANSLATED BY MARIANNE AANDERBAKK**

The story about Jens and Nora Eliassen and Astrid and Hans Jensen (Jens Berglund's parents) told by Jens Berglund.

Jens Eliassen was born the 19th of February 1865 on Holmen in Vinkfjorden. His mother was Pernille Andrine Nilsdatter, born the 8th of March in 1841, and died the 26th of October in 1867. She came from Nordfold. His father was Elias Marelius Arnesen, born the 9th of April in 1834, died the 28th of March and came from Vinkfjorden.

Jens' grandparents were Arne Danielsen born the 4th of February in 1791, died the 10th of July 1845, and came from Stavfjorden, and Marit Olsdatter born the 17th of October 1797 from Sildhopen.

Jens' father Elias M. Arnesen was married twice. In the first marriage to Pernille Andrine Nilsdatter, he got two children:

- Jens Petter Olai Ellingsen, the 19th of February 1865- died the 24th of April 1964. (Our Jens Eliassen that later moved to Alvenes)
- Agnete M., the 8th of May 1867, that later moved to Alvenes and got married to Edvard Sivertsen, father of Eivind and Hans Sivertsen.

Elias M. Arnesen's second wife was Hanna Nilsdatter born the 6th of April 1831, died the 23rd of May 1887. She was the sister of his first wife, Pernille A. Nilsdatter. They got two children:

- Konrad T. Andr. born the 22nd of March 1869. He later moved to Nøtnes and became the father of Erling Konradsen.
- Elina was born the 21st of September 1872, but she died the 9th of December 1891.

But how did Jens Eliassen meet his wife to be in Lakså, when this was one-day travel from Vinkfjorden to Lakså with boat these days?

It just happened to be that Jens had an aunt, Johanna Nilsdatter born the 7th of June in 1821 outside the marriage of Nils Pedersen, Nordfold. Jens was probably on a summer visit to Lakså and his Aunt Johanna, when he met Nora and sweet music occurred.

Johanna Nilsdatter (my grandfather's aunt) was later married to Johan Mikal Andersen, born 29th of March 1822, and he was from Kines in Sørfold. They settled in Lakså and got four children, who one of them was Arne Benoni (who became the grandfather of Svein Lakså, Jan Lakså and Olaf Laxo (now living in California).

Jens' Uncle Kristen Arnesen, born the 2nd of March 1825 in Vinkfjorden, moved to Nordfold and married Karn Olsdatter, born the 6th of April 1835 from Sandbakk. That is how we are in family with the Sommarvoll family in Nordfold.

An other uncle of Jens, Sivert Arnesen was born the 10th of May 1823, moved to Sandbakk and married Kirsten Trondsdatter born the 19th of October 1822 in Sandbakk. Their son Anders Hagh is the father of Sofie on Karlsøya and the grandfather of Fritz and Reidar Stavnes. A daughter, Marie Joh, born the 10th of May 1865, moved to Stavnes and married Peder Rasmussen who was the grandfather of Ragnar Pedersen, Nordfold.

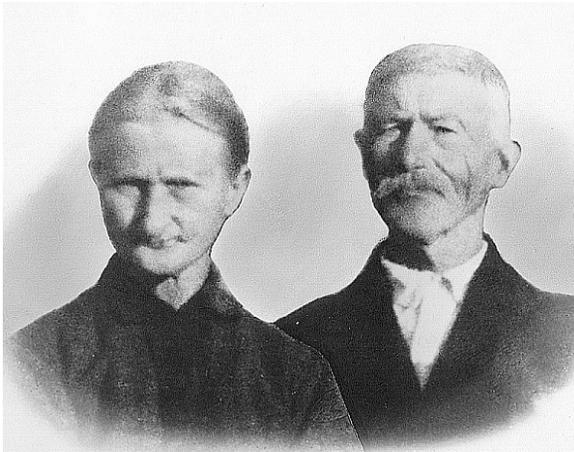
First part of the story

Antora, a second daughter born the 22nd of February 1866 moved to Stavnes and married Jakob Sivertsen, born the 23rd of July 1858. They got six children, one of them was Torvald Sivertsen lived in Stavnes till they moved to Nordfold in 1972. He is the father of Erling Sivertsen, Nordfold.

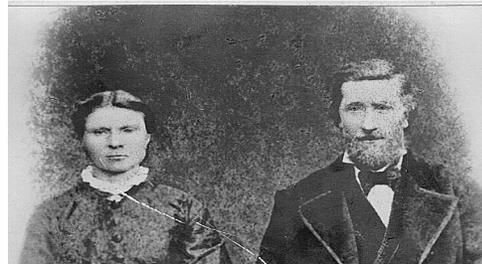
Kristine Johanna Aronsdatter born the 11th of September 1843- died the 18th of March 1922, was the aunt of Nora and was married to Anders Mikal Amundsen born the 21st of October 1869. They got 7 children, among them Lars Andreas Andersen (Bakkemo) born the 29th of January 1887- died the 24th of July 1989. They lived in Lakselv in Sørfold. He visited Hans and Astrid Jensen (Jens Berglund's parents) when they lived in Fauske. He was then 98 years old and used a moped (kind of motorbike) to get around. Under the Second World War he was evacuated to Alvenes for a shorter period.

1. Jens Eliassen meeting Nora

Jens Eliassen got married to Nora the 6th of October 1888. Nora was born the 4th of October 1867 in Lakså. They lived in Vinkfjorden and their first child Petrine was born already the 4th of August 1889. Kristine was also born in Vinkfjorden the 13th of October 1891.



Nora and Jens Eliassen



Karen and Peder Nilsen, Nora's parents

Then something dramatic happened in Vinkfjord. The holm, Holmen, which they lived on, was gradually “eaten” up by the river. The holm was lying in the middle of the mouth of a river. Jens and Nora found this very unsafe and wanted to move. Nora often said that she could have been the heiress to land in Lakså, but Jens wanted to be a fisherman and live as close as possible to the sea and the fishingplaces, so they didn't want to move to Lakså. Jens Berglund has studied family history books and talked with families in Lakså, but he can't find out if she really was the heiress to Lakså. This is something that is still being worked on.

Jens and Nora felt that the best thing was to rent land from Jens Andersen, Alvenes. They moved there in 1893 to a little place named Stevik in Alvenes. Stevik was in 1931 renamed Berglund by Astrid Jensen (Jens Berglund's mother) when she and Hans bought the estate and some more land in Belkjosen from Jens Andersen. When they moved from Vinkfjorden, Petrine was about 3 years old and Kristine was about 1 to 2 years old.

Alvenes was perfect for Jens in many ways:

- It was close to a lot of good fishingplaces.

First part of the story

- Easier landconnection to the shop in Nordfold, also there were a steamshipekspedition, doctor and a church. Even though it wasn't a road from Nordfold to Alvenes, there were a footpath and an easier landing with boat.

Later Agnete, Jens' sister, got married in Alvenes the 23rd of June 1894 with Edvard Sivertsen. And his half brother, Konrad Eliassen, married Hansine Zakariasdatter from Nøtnes the 12th of October 1895. He also had his Aunt Johanne Lakså at the same time as Nora came from Lakså, and had his brother, Aron and his parents living there.



Edvard and Agnete Sivertsen



Konrad Nøtnes

2. The establishment of Berglund.

Some heather and stones were now Nora and Jens' home. Here they would keep on having children, make sure they got food as well as manners, and make sure that all their children learned to read and write.

According a letter Jens Berglund got from Edvin Stavnes the 15th of December 1973, Jens Eliassen started to surface-cultivate the ground by setting up fences to keep his own and the neighbors animals there at night. That way he got the heather tramped down and manured, and grass started growing there instead. In those days the farm animals had to be shepherded during the day and fenced in during the night to avoid predators.

Jens Berglund believes and has it understood so that the little loghouse, that Jens Eliassen was living in before he moved from Vinkfjorden, was taken down and put up again in Alvenes where his son Hans Jensen (Jens Berglund's father) built his house after the fire in 1931. Of course they had to build a barn, a farmhouse, a boathouse too. Everything was done without money and their own forest. They were lucky having neighbors and family who could help them with solving the unbelievable. The people there were very robust and hardworking at all times.

After they moved to Alvenes in 1893, they got seven more children: Anna in 1894, Ottar in 1896, and all together 9 children till 1910 that needed care and food.

Parallel with building the houses, the land had to be worked on without any other working tools than a strong back and bare hands. They could not afford or house a horse. The renting contract with Jens Andersen was as everyone else's those days: a small fees a year and some obligation work for about 12 days a year.

First part of the story

Jens Eliassen's father, Elias M. Arnesen, was living in Vinkfjorden. As he got old and needed to be taken care of, he moved to Alvenes to his daughter Agnete, and lived with her till he died the 28th of March 1916.



The old loghouse that Elias M. Arnesen had in Vinkfjorden was taken over by Edvard Sivertsen (his son in law) and Jens Andersen. It was taken down and moved to Storbekjøsboten. They made it a little bigger, so they had an extra room for the horses when they were working in the forest. Later on it was so worn down by the nature.

The old loghouse of Elias Arnesen as it looked in 1973 in Belkjøsboten.

The period from 1893 to 1931 was an unusual hard and difficult time for a family with nine children that had to have caring, clothes and food. Lucky was it that it was a lot of fish in the ocean and Jens Eliassen was a very good fisherman. Everyone had heard about his skills as a fisher and that he always in bad times, came ashore with fish for those who needed it. Other than that, it was very important for them to produce enough milk, cheese and meat on the farm.

Nora was also very strong and a hard worker, she told her grandchildren about “the hard thirties”, but the first times was with food during the 1. World war (1914-1918). She said herself that even fishing was bad, so it wasn't just the shipping-blockade to Norway that resulted in a shortage of food. Because of the blockade it was very difficult to get flour, sugar and other foods, but the fish in the ocean was also partly gone. The herring fishing that had been very good in the beginning of the 19 hundreds, was now very bad. The herring didn't come up to the Norwegian coast any more. The herring fishing was now done around Iceland, and in Norway they had to buy the herring from Iceland to get food.

This period must have been difficult and tuff for everyone, but being a new little farm in Alvenes must have been amazingly hard. Nora and Jens had of course their faith in God and the support in each other. That was probably the most important reason that they got trough a period like that.

It was also necessary that the children got work outside the home as soon as they were old enough. The daughters had to get married as soon as possible with a good man. That way they got lesser mouths to feed home on the farm.

The few that got work, was poorly paid for an eleven-twelve hours day, but they got to eat so much that they weren't hungry when they were working.

3. The year 1931

Jens Berglund's mother Astrid Gabrielsen, born the 25th of January 1901, moved from Kjeldebotn to Alvenes the 13th of December 1930. Hans and Jens rowed into Bjørsvik and picked her up when she came with the local boat. Hans had got to know her when he was working in Håkvik by Narvik, where she had been working on a farm.

First part of the story

In 1930 there were a road from Nordfold till Kleiva, and there were a path made from Kleiva till Lakså and then further till Alvenes. Alvenes got their own phoneline in 1946, a road to Berglund in 1958 and electricity in 1956.

Astrid was in Alvenes to take care of the animals, rake, spin and weave while Jens, Hans and Johan where in Lofoten fishing. Hans and Johan where on the smack (a kind of boat) and Jens where on a different boat with Arne Underdahl rowing outside Skrova. They had their own little house in Skrova.

The fatale happened the 16th of March 1931 when Astrid and Nora was noticed by their neighbors that the house was on fire. It had started burning in the part of the house where they kept the wood. All the neighbors rushed there to help put out the fire, but all they could do was preventing it to spread to the farmhouse and the barn. The people who was helping putting out the fire (if we can call it that, they had no water to use or anything else) was:

- Kristoffer Berntsen who came first
- Katrine Andorsen, Søren Mortensen, Jens Andersen, Julius Alvenes, Albertine Alvenes and Josef Hansen, Lakså.

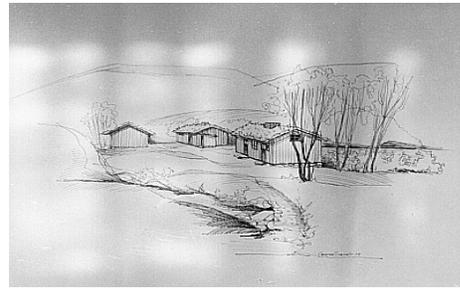
Søren Mortensen screwed of the front door and saved it. That was the only thing except the sewing machine and a few personal things that were saved. Hans was noticed by a telegram. He came home, but went back to Lofoten to try and earn some more money fishing. The fishing was bad this year and after buying a new oven (the one you will find in the museum today) in Bodø he was on his way home. He also lost sixty nets in Lofoten, and Johan lost all of his this winter.

The house was only insured for 500 kroner and the belongings for 500 kroner, so now they were even poorer. It was a comfort that no one got hurt in the fire and that the barn and farmhouse didn't burn down. All the farmanimals were chased out of the farmhouse during the fire and also they were saved.

Julius Alvenes went to Lofoten, and stood on the marked in Svolvær, collecting money to rebuild the house in Berglund after the fire. He managed to get so much money that Nora could buy fabric to a dress for the money that was left over.

Astrid and Nora moved to Katrine Andorsen after the fire and lived there till Hans came home from Lofoten. He made a temporary living room for family in the woodshed. Nora, Jens, Hans, Astrid and maybe Johan, lived here for a short period of time till the new house was ready.

First part of the story



As the houses on Berglund looked before the fire in 1931, reconstructed by me in cooperation with my father.

Fate had early given them some help planning the rebuilding of the house. Hans had to sisters, Petrine and Kristine, that was married in Mørsvikbotn with two brothers, Odin and Peder Arntsen. They owned land and had some forest. The insurance money was used to buy timber on root, and Hans, Jens and Astrid cut the timber down, got it down to the sea, dragged it to Rosvold's mill where the timber where cut up. From there Johan brought the material to Alvenes with his smack (a kind of boat), this is how Astrid told the story.

While the materials where under transportation and while it was drying in Alvenes, the foundation wall to the new house was built (part of the house that Elin has today). A big rock above the house where drilled holes in by hand and wedged into bricks and then carried down to the site. There was built a cellar under a part of the house with a double stonewall filled with sand in between. This must have been a hard job since everything had to be done by hand, even the transportation had to be done without the help of for example a horse.

4. The New Home

The material that had come to Alvenes and that was dry, was sorted into different qualities. The best was to be windows, doors, kitchen units and furniture. The next best was to be floors, but the worse ones where to be other things. Setting up the house was something Hans had done before, but this time he had a limited amount of time to do it. Fall and winter wasn't far away and the grass on the roof had to be on the roof before the frost set in or it would be ruined.

Peder Arntsen, Kristine's husband, came from Mørsvikbotn to help building. Jens, who was only 66 years of age, was still a strong man and helped with a lot of things and the same did Nora and Astrid.

The spring, summer and fall harvests had to be done to get the grass and the potatoes in before winter came. Everything was planned and the work was shared between everyone. Jens remember them telling him how it was done:

- Hans took care of making the windows and the outerwall doors. This had to be finished to get house livable. He was also responsible for the carpeting.
- Nora and Astrid did the planing of the floors and the walls.
- Jens was a handyman. He had to plan and make sure that they got the materials they needed for the roof. That had to be done in June.

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- Then someone had to look after the animals and everything else on the farm.

As far as Jens Berglund knows, they could move in before Christmas that year. They still had a lot to finish concerning furniture and such things, but the most important thing was to have a roof over their heads. Especially for Nora and Astrid that were left alone at home again in January when the men were going to Lofoten for the fishing.

Hans and Astrid took over Berglund the same year and bought it together with two forest-strips in Belkjosen, Koven and Storbelkjosdalen for 1000 kroner that was to be paid in part-payments on a 100 kroner a year. The part-payment agreement was made the 6th of July 1931 and the deed was made the 10th of November 1931. This was not much money, but there was year where Hans had to ask for a postponement on the money.

At the same time there were set an agreement between Hans and Jens. What this was about there is not found any papers on, but Nora had her own cow and a sheep that she cared especially for and that the kids had to be careful with. And one of the terms was that Nora and Jens could live there and that they would be taken care of for the rest of their lives.

5. Wedding and The New Family

Astrid and Hans got married the 21st of June 1931 in Nordfold church. The wedding was as everyone else's at that time, but the wedding dinner and party was held in the woodshed.



Hans and Astrid Jensen

After they got married they started to plan their family. There was a lot of work that had to be done at the farm and they needed to get many healthy, strong working children:

- Anne was born the 11th of March 1932
- Jens was born the 10th of July in 1934
-
- Gerd was born the 7th of February 1937, but she died of whooping-cough right after.
- Erling was born the 18th of April 1938
- Elin the 29th of February 1940

Jens can remember a little of his sister Gerd who died so early, mostly he remembers the faces of the grown-ups. Hans had to make a coffin for her and it is said that it was a beautiful little coffin made of the materials from Mørsvikbotn.

6. Childhood-years on Berglund

Jens Berglund tells about his childhood:

My childhood in Alvenes was in almost all ways a perfect, safe and good. The close relationship with my grandparents gave me extra safe and good feelings and I got to learn from their experiences through a long life. My mother was home all the time and therefore she was the head of the family. The sad thing was that my dad always had to be away to earn money, either as a carpenter or in the early days, fishing in Lofoten. The weekends when he would come home was like Christmas for us kids, even though he always had

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something there that had to be done before he left again. He could also stay home for long periods of time when there where no work for him, but he was always busy with something. I remember the haymaking in the summer when he came home to get it done as fast as he could so that he could leave again to work as a carpenter.

I remember him coming home late the day before Christmas Eve, with a load of gifts with him that he had picked up at the post-office in Nordfold. Gifts from relatives and a lot of gifts from Aunt Anna Bendiksen in Melbu.



Grandmother and grandfather with Anne

When dad was away, I had an amazing replacement in my grandfather Jens. I was always together with him, even when he worked. He always had time to wait for me and my siblings, to talk with us, and to just sit still and watch us play and have fun. He never



Grandfather and grandmother with Anne and Jens

importuned about us working or to hurry up. He was amazingly strong and healthy and he never expected any of the kids to do the hard work. That way he thought us how to work safely.

Grandfather Jens used to go fishing early in the morning and when everyone else got up around eight, he was already back and ready to start working. As long as I was young and still living at home, he never needed anyone to be with him out in the boat because his eyes still were good. When I moved out to go to school that changed and he had to have with him Erling to read the landscape because his eyes where going bad. Erling became his eyes and that way he also learned to read the landscape around there, while I had to learn them from him again later.

We didn't have a good economy and our house where spartan. Before 2. World war, under and after this, it was almost impossible to get work that could give some economical growth.

I remember that everything from the sea had to be made into money as far as it was possible. Everything was very expensive compared to today.

6.1 The Years at School

For me life was very simple before I started school at eight years of age. I had to live in Lakså for the 14 days that we went to school, but then we had 14 days that we could stay home. Since I had to aunts and one uncle in Mørsvikbotn, it was decided that I would live the first schoolyear 1942/43 with aunt Petrine on Ellenjord in Mørsvika. Dad traveled with me there. Irene Olsen from Lakså was the teacher at the school in Mørsvikboth.

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Aunt Kristine, Olga, Petrine, Anna and Karen with little Roald

Everyone took well care of me, but I still missed my grandparents, parents and siblings that I was used to be living with. Since it was wartime, there was a lot of soldiers, prisoners of war, traffic and noisy in Mørsvikbotn. There was a big military housing with prison housing close by Mørsvik Lake. The railway was to be built from Fauske to Narvik as soon as possible.

Half of aunt Petrine's house where used by German soldiers. I thought this was very scary, and could see on the faces of the grown ups that this wasn't good. It was really scary when

the soldiers where practicing around the house with a lot of shooting and noise. Sometimes I would get candy from the soldiers, and then I didn't think they were so bad and they never harmed me at all physically.

I also remember my cousin Ninny who was very caring, good and thoughtful to me. She was 20 or 21 years old and she probably had a boyfriend in her mind, because she started to spend the night out, something that made my aunt and uncle very sad. I also played with Karstein (Olaug's son) and "Hans i Ura". I thought they were both very nice and fun to play with even though they were both much older than I was.

The second year of school, I went to school in Lakså and lived with Georg and Olga Larsen. Also they took very good care of me.

The third year both Kåre Alvenes and I started walking back and forth from school every day, 3,5 kilometers one way. The road was nothing more than a footpath and in the summer we would walk on the beach. In the fall with ice and very steep ground that often went straight into the sea, we would put ice-stings on and we wouldn't take them of until we were at the school.

It was bad when the rain was coming right in our face and together with very poor rain suits, we often had to sit at school with wet clothes the whole day. Our teacher Georg Reinvik tried to deny us walking to school every day and wanted us to live in Lakså, but we didn't listen to him. From then everyone from Alvenes would walk to school.

6.2 Fishing together with my grandfather

We had school for 14 days and then we stayed home for 14 days. In the winter when the fishing outside Alvenes was good, I would go with my grandfather the days I was home.

In 1949, the year of my confirmation, it was a very good cod fishing in Belkjosen. Grandfather and I had two homemade nets that we dragged from the rowboat every day the two weeks I was home from school. He was then 84 years old, but he never complained about any age-problems except poor eyes and hernia problems. When he was working he often had to stop and sit down to "put his intestines back" again, as he said. I got used to this and took a little pause in my work while he worked on his problems. His

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hernia-belt is still hanging in the boathouse. The same was when he with his prostate trouble had to pee while we were in the boat. He could not rise up to pee, but he was sitting in the boat peeing in a scoop with very low pressure.

After the net was taken in, the fish cleaned and washed, we would eat and then row to Nordfold to sell the fish. Some of the fish we would cut up and hang to dry. In the spring when all the fish was sold, I had made 1200 kroner on my part. This was enough to buy a confirmation-suit, coat, shoes and a shirt. I was very proud to have managed to do this on my own without using my parent's hardly saved money. I left Alvenes after my confirmation and grandfather had to start teaching Erling.

7. The Work at The Farm

All the work at the farm was done without a tractor or a horse, except when Ragnar came with his horse and plowed the potato-field in the spring. All the work had routines and the pattern followed the different seasons. When dad came home from Lofoten, he would stay for a short while before he would go out and find work as a carpenter. Because of that there were only mom, grandmother, grandfather and us kids that had to try to get all the work done during spring, summer and fall. In the spring there wasn't much to be done, but potatoes and some vegetables had to be planted. Since mom read a lot and was eager to try new things, there were a lot of carrots, cabbage, turnips and flowers, but it was also planted sugar peas, salads, loads of rhubarbs and garden-berries.

7.2 The Spring

Spring was good and special in many ways. Finally the snow and the coldness was gone from the walls of the house that was badly isolated against frost and snow. Grandfather and I were going to Belkjosen to get firewood, get birch bark to fix the roofs and getting bark to bark ropes and fishing-nets. He was also there to find senna-grass for the kommagene, something that had to be cut in special places, then dried, stored and be ready to the kommagene were being "veska". When Sagelva was big in the spring, you would also want to take down some timber to make a place to walk.

Just the word Torvhaugen gave negative feelings. We walked to Håkjeringvika and walked up the main road to Torvhaugen (Torv means peat). Here we would cut out peat in the bog. The peat would be taken out on the berg, cut in pieces and laid in a special system for it to dry. When it was dry on one side, we had to go back and turn it around. After it was dry, we had to take in to the peat-house, so it was ready for getting picked up in the winter (they used it for making fire).

My favorite thing to do in the spring was line fishing with elbow-shells as bait. I got to borrow a fishing-line from grandfather with restrictions. I found the elbow-shells, hanged them on the line and dragged this. Anne used to come with me. The wolf fishes were prepared and hanged up to dry. I was also very active at "pike" the wolf fishes as long as Anne would row the boat.

7.2 The Summer

The summer was always very hectic. Everything was done by hand and there were no technical tools helping us making hay. The highlight of the days were when grandmother came with "bleng"(sourmilk mixed with water), or when mom came with juniperbeer that she had made herself after a recipe she had composed herself. It was all without alcohol,

First part of the story

except once when I mixed in some kilos of sugar extra. “Can you understand that it is alcohol in the beer this year?” asked mom. “No, we can’t, the beer tastes just the same as before”, said we and had a lot of fun.



The hut before 1976 with John-Martin and Bjørn at the fornt.

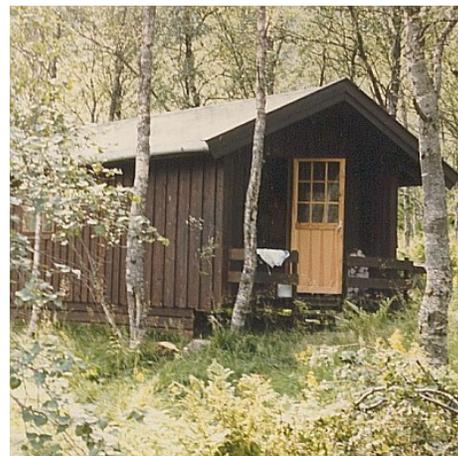
We also had to do haying in Belkjosen and that was even harder. Then we had to get the grass down to the boat and row it back home. All the grass had to dry, so when we came home we had to dry it with all the grass there and then put it in the barn. The highlight here was lunch and mom or grandfather would make a fire and coffee. We weren’t old when we got the first half a cup of coffee with a lot of milk in it. This was so good and when the grownups were resting, we were playing.

Going home again with the boat could also be a lot of fun. If the north wind were blowing, grandfather would set up a sail of birch. This would make us sail home and since the speed was slow, we could sit there fishing for dinner at the same time. The summer was delightful, we could stay up as long as we wanted and go fishing whenever we had time.

I had never heard about summer-vacation and I think it was the same with my grandparents and parents. But I have a feeling that if it was too much to do and they got tired, they would go to Belkjosen and a little hut they had there, just to relax and do some fishing. Everything happened in another pace when we were there.

One early spring Anne, mom, dad and I were there on a little vacation. Mom and dad were doing some work up in the valley while Anne and I was down at the sea. The trout were jumping and it was obvious that there were a lot fish in the fjord. When my parents came down, threw out our fishing line and got 60 liters of trout. Mom fried it and it tasted so good! A lovely memory from Paradise, the afternoon when my parents had vacation.

It was our summer job to shepherd the animals morning and night every days no matter how bad the weather was. The animals had to get out in the woods to find good grass to make milk.



The new hut of Storbelkjosen 1976

of
we