

THE MEMORY OF TORRES RONNEBERG'S 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY
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The family who today can celebrate the 100 year memorial of our Grandfather - Torres Ronneberg - is spread far apart, and his estate is no longer in the family, as he had meant it to be. However, his important work in The Norwegian labor force is a living legend, honoring his name. To all of us related to this man, he has left us values in our minds and hearts. The importance of these values is easily visualized viewing Grandfather's lifelong work based on his pre-conditions.

There has never existed a complete report on Grandfather's life, and I would have loved to have such a report for his 100 year memorial. But illness has prevented me from collecting and working on the available material. Further, it is also evident that some of my sources have been destroyed because of The War. What I am going to publish, I have partly taken from my memory, and partly from other people's reports about a Grandfather who died when I was only two years old. One thing I have greatly missed is that I have not been able to return to the valley of Jaeren, and to the farm where grandfather saw daylight 31 March 1845. Jaeren has for long kept its good prospects. Most people remained where they were born, and they have made this geographically deserted piece of Norway into the most fruitful in the country. Yet, there are few famous names coming from this place. As far as authors, perhaps the best known is Arne Garborg. Also, within the history of The Norwegian Labor force, we find Ole Gabriel Kverneland.

Nobody can tell for future what will become of Jaeren. There are many branches leading up to Jaeren of today. I do not necessarily think of the constant flow of thrifty tradesmen, craftsmen and writers, who have profited and "made it big", but I think of the people of Jaeren with deep roots in Norwegian research, science, art and practical work.

The Ronneberg family twice has given their share to the history of The Norwegian Labor force. 21 April 1737 Christopher Ronneberg - the original head of the well known tradesman family Ronneberg in Aalesund - was Christened in the same church Erling Skjalgson (famous Norwegian viking) built at Sola. The church ruins were destroyed by the Germans two years ago. 31 March 1845, Torres Ronneberg was born. He was also christened in the old church at Sola. Torres Ronneberg, your father, Aunt Anna, and our grandfather, became one of the pioneers in the Norwegian canning industry. He made a remarkable achievement during the foundation of the modern Norwegian canning industry.

Later, when people forgot his name, this was a result of his own unwillingness to create publicity. Therefore, upon his death, his memory published in the

Norwegian press, was recognizing - but brief. However, in British newspapers and magazines, we can find detailed articles about him. This press perhaps had more understanding on how to evaluate the importance of his efforts.

The Ronneberg family belongs to the family tree of Watne. They can also trace their family back to the Aristocratic family Smoer - their direct line died out with John Svaleson Smoer in 1483. However, the female side of the family continued in the name of Roemer (Reymare). Grandfather received his name from his own grandfather. His father's name was Andreas Torresen, and his mother was Anna Pedersdotter. She came from Folkvord in Hoyland, born in 1820 and died 17 October 1873. Great grandfather was born in 1814, and he died 56 year old - probably from stomach cancer - 19 September 1870. When great grandfather died, grandfather already owned his own business in Stavanger. Great grandmother, who lived 23 more years, took care of the farm by herself. Later, she received help from the other children. They are listed below in the order of descending age:

Karen Jorine, born Christmas Eve 1843. She married Andreas Endresen

Joa. She died 8 February 1903. Their family still lives at Joa in Sola.

Torres, born 31 March 1845, died 11 December 1913.

Olena, born 7 May 1847. Married to Christian Nygaard, Sandnes. They are both dead.

Maren Christina, born 27 March 1847, not married. She lived almost her entire life at Ronneberg together with her brother Andreas, who early became a widower.

Peder (called Per), born 10 March 1851. As a young boy he became a sailor, and settled in America. There, he died 18 February 1910.

John (who himself writes Jon), born 17 November 1853, died 1946.

Married to Karen J. Skjaeveland, and received with her the farm Soma in Hoyland. Therefore, he was often called Soma, but neither he nor his children have adopted that name as a family name. He was an excellent farmer, and among his children one can find many of the most noted farmers in the country. One of them - Kristian Ronneberg - became the first principal of the new farmer's school at Oksnevad in Klepp in the county of Rogaland.

Andreas, borne 25 December 1855, married to Serina Hetland, who died 9 October 1933. His son - Anders - is still handling the farm, but he is very restricted due to the military activities nearby. These military activities once forced him to move out of the area.

Martin Kristian, borne 22 August 1858, married 8 November 1881 to Grethe Ivarsdotter Sviland (Hoyland). He took over the second part of the Ronneberg farm, and he is especially noted for the draining of the Stokka lake. He surpassed his wife, and he died 1 June 1929. His sons became excellent farmers, and the oldest son - Kristian - is noted among the big farmers of Jaeren. Due to the war, he and his brothers – Arne and Einar - had to close down the farms at Ronneberg. Then, they moved to Botne near Holmestrand, where they started new farms.

Anna Marie, borne 17 August 1860, married to Ivar Ivarsen sviland – the brother of Martin`s wife - Grethe. They had a good farm at Sviland in Hoyland. She was buried 12 September 1935.

Bertel Theodor, borne 30 May 1863, immigrated to America. He married, and he owned his own paint store in Eskonoba, U.S.A., where he died 14 January 1913.

John Ronneberg (at the time of this speech) is the only one living of the large group of children with great grandfather. 17 November 1943 he was 90 years old. With many of his family, I had the pleasure to greet him at one of his son`s place at Soma, where he once lived. They too had to evacuate, and Jon now (in 1943) lives with Kristian at Oksnevad. He is still quick, and he has a clear mind, but his memory is not what it used to be. When he heard about the family memorial, taking place at Anna`s home, he asked a message be sent from him “wishing all well to this branch of all my relatives.” Dear Aunt Anna, it is my honor to bring you this greeting today.

Ronneberg was already a big farm, when Grandfather was borne, according to local conditions. The farm was situated high up, and with a wide view of the sea and The Hafrsfiord. Remnants from the Stone Age and an old burial site indicate that it is a very old home site.

During Grandfather`s youth, there were 8 - 10 cows on the farm, and the milk was used in the household. Besides, there were about 20 sheep. They sold potatoes in Stavanger and flour to the mills. Also, they cut turf - only for their own consumption. Earlier, during the fall, they sailed to Bergen with their farming products. During such a trip, Christopher Ronneberg sailed into a storm, and he drifted away from the coastline.

When he finally reached land, he found himself close to the city of Aalesund, where he settled. How long these Bergen trips lasted, no one knows.

Some fishing was done in Hafrsfiord, and they have also taken part in organized fishing for herring.

Beside the regular house trade with weaving and the spinning wheel, carpentry was also done at Ronneberg. The art of carpentry has been saved in the family. Martin and his sons were especially clever in this trade, and the beautiful, solid houses on the farm are witnesses about that fact. Great grandfather helped construct the schoolhouse, which still remains south of the road leading to Joa. Also, people of Sola came to Ronneberg to pick up coffins for the dead.

Ole Andreas Ronneberg kept his children working, and he was very strict raising his children. But he was not narrow-minded. His family has always been religious. Great Grandfather was an honored man in Sola, and he was part of the school board and the City Council.

We do not know what made the oldest son leave the farm and move into town. The relationship between him and his parents and the other children was always good.

When Grandfather was confirmed at the age of 14, his father was 39 years old.

Therefore, it seemed to be a long time before he could take over the farm. Perhaps in the meantime, he wanted to make the necessary money to buy out the farm.

Perhaps he thought of becoming a tradesman at home, since the nearest tradesman was located far away. We really do not know.

Grandfather was just confirmed, when he arrived in the store of his uncle Enoch Ronneberg, who owned a good drapery and food store at Skagen in Stavanger. He had become wealthy. The young Torres had to take part in all kinds of work in the store and the warehouse. Besides, he had to prove himself as a carpenter, since he participated when Enoch Ronneberg built Fredheim - a beautiful property including a farm situated by the lake of Mos. Later, this property became the official residence of the bishop of Stavanger.

This practice lasted 12 years with Enoch Ronneberg. In 1871 grandfather associated himself with Jens Johnson, who was a farmer's boy from Sola. He started a shop at Torvet (the market) in the same branch as his Uncle. They remained together in business for 9 years, and made out very well. But for Grandfather, he found the work behind the counter to quiet. He sold his share, and Johnson continued on until his own death. The two partners remained friends all their lives.

Grandfather was not satisfied with the safe and steady income he earned measuring and weighing behind the counter and in the warehouse. Something new had arrived, which called upon his ability. Therefore, he purchased the farm Kampen - near the missionary farm - in Stavanger. He rebuilt the farmhouse into a canning

factory. This was the second canning factory in Stavanger, and the third one in the country.

The company Thorne at Moss had several years previously founded the first canning factory in Norway. Canning meant conservation ordinary dinner food, and the canning industry was largely based on ship supplies for the ships. With the same purpose, Stavanger Preserving Co. was founded in 1873. However, the company president - Johan Georg Bernhard Mejlander had, in 1879, already started canning brisling - "smoked Norwegian Sardines." This was the start of the modern Norwegian export industry of canned food. Grandfather realized this fact, and he acted right away.

The brisling, to a small extent, industrially had been utilized as anchovies by the company Schreiner Nielsen & Thiis as a passive partner. In 1882, Thiis took over the factory in his own name. At that time, he started producing sardines.

Torres Ronneberg was 23 years old, when he started the drapery store with Jens Johnson. When he founded the canning factory, he was a mature, 35 year old man. He had earned his own starting capital, and he had the courage to disengage himself from a secure way of living, and put his money into something entirely new.

Stavanger also needed working places. While the rest of the country still prospered, Stavanger in 1880 had undergone a crisis, which pervaded the comprehensive traditional labor force. The herring, which had been the city's basic source of income for ages, all of a sudden totally vanished. The export, which had reached 270,000 barrels during the best years, had sunk to 100,000 in 1880. The Stavanger merchandisers' search for herring in Nordland (North Norway) and even in Island became so costly that they were not able to compete with other merchandisers in other parts of Norway. The merchant marine - consisting of sailing ships - the city's second largest employer and source of income, was out competed by the introduction of steamships. Since the Stavanger fleet had not been renewed in time, the city could not maintain its leading position under these new conditions.

The Stavanger ship owners already in 1860 received their first warning. At that time, the sailing ships were out competed by The Black Sea trade, were most of the Stavanger ship owners were engaged. When this happened, the ship owners were able to move their ships to different waters, where the sailing ships still could compete. But it did not last long until these ships were completely outdistanced by steamships everywhere.

The large, old-trading houses, from which many other activities depended, had to shut down. Two of the city's four banks closed up and the same thing happened to two of the city's four insurance companies. These things indicate what Stavanger lost materially. Perhaps more tragic is the fact that several homes, which had maintained their culture for generations, were torn apart, when they went under the

hammer during an auction in the stockyards. Thank God - new blood streamed again into the old city's Veins.

More than 100 years prior to this crisis, Valentinsen, Godtzen and Smith were important names in Stavanger. Around the turn of the century, Kielland, Rosenkilde, Ploug & Sundt had taken the lead. Later, came Fredrik Petersen, Johan Haugvaldstad, Johan Henrik Dahl, Middelthon, Knud Sømme, Jens Berg, Helwich Gabrielsen, Berentzen, Jonassen, Søren Cortzen and Erik Svendsen. After 1890 new names sprung up. At that time, we heard much about farmers, who had started empty-handed, and now appeared on the scene with carefully earned capital. And the employees at the old companies, people who had been strictly raised, were now able to withdraw and rebuild whatever was left of the old trades and crafts.

Previously, Stavanger had recuperated from disasters. The city burnt down, and was rebuilt. King Christian IV relocated the bishop, the university and the county supervisor to Kristiansand in 1682. Four years later, he reluctantly lifted the city's buying privileges. In spite of fire and disease and a narrow-minded dictatorship, the city survived and grew. As Alexander L. Kielland expresses in his book: "It was always an old town full of new things".

Thus, Stavanger experienced the resurrection after the crisis in 1880. The canning industry brought about the big change. The first canning producers in Stavanger started on thin ice. President Mejlander, who was actually a sea captain, had seen some canning industry abroad, but he had no experience, and there were no books available. Stavanger Preserving had a trump card; the founders had academic education.

Grandfather had only learned how to read and write from a visiting teacher. Ever since, he had spent his time at the counter. But he was economically inclined. And with no help, he daringly solved technical and business problems, which gave him the key to an entirely new Norwegian industry.

It was Grandfather's personal and human traits that carried his tasks forward. He was able to find the right people, and put them in the right jobs. Firstly, single handedly, he had to find out how everything should be done. Secondly, he had to train his employees. He had to carry out a large number of tests, and these all had to be self-financed, since the business had to be successful from the very first day on. He probably did not record any of these test. We can only imagine what this work demanded of consistency. Grandmother probably helped make and sample the conserved food. We also can imagine the excitement and expectation they experienced, the new producer and his young wife, whose oldest child was only 6 - 7 years old. It is possible that grandfather was somewhat relieved that the factory was located at a distance from his home. Therefore, he could feel more at ease away from home, if something wrong should happen. There were many people who had told him that he was going off the deep end, when he kissed off the

flourishing business he owned at Torvet. The first Norwegian canning producers certainly had a most difficult task.

Grandfather had to supply the raw material himself. Also, he had to supervise the production at all levels. Finally, he had to sell the finished product. That gave him a certain steadiness.

The coming production was successful, and grandfather increased the capacity, and he improved his production method as he gained experience. The various possibilities were quickly utilized in this struggle. To make room and to overcome the disadvantage of being located inland, in 1888, grandfather bought the property of P.W. Rosenkilde & Sons in Strandgaten. Rosenkilde had to close up during the crisis in 1880, and the old buildings were deserted until Grandfather gave them new life. Machines and workers who made noise with tin, cans and rapid talk moved into the dusty storerooms, where previously, the merchandise had rested peacefully for a long period as the trade finally died. From the same office, where the previous owner had made the decision to go out of business, Grandfather now gave new orders to start the wheels. "An old house full of new things." Into the staterooms of the Rosenkilde, where once Ole Bull had given his first concert, resonating in a new cultural life in Stavanger, moved the new factory owner with his whole family.

The pictures change. The family life in the respected rooms became simpler than it had been with the Rosenkildes. The Rosenkildes came to Stavanger in 1684, when Henrik Rosenkilde was ordained priest in the main church. He became family head of a Stavanger trading patrisiate, who possessed power for a long time. This patrisiate culminated with his great grandson Peder Walentin Rosenkilde, who represented Stavanger, when our Constitution was written up at Eidsvoll in 1814. Now, a farmer stomped around in his rooms. He had firm footsteps though. He had not squeezed out the previous owner. Behind this farmer was also an old culture. The reconstruction of the old buildings to create an efficient canning factory was never completed. Expansion and improvements followed grandfather as a constant problem until he retired in 1907, leaving his company in the hands of Uncle Einar and my father.

It is impossible to evaluate grandfather as a person and as a canning producer. I can only mention a few traits, which perhaps were typical for the farmer, who created one of the leading canning companies in Norway.

However farsighted grandfather was concerning the technical possibilities in the industry, he never budged in other areas. For instance, he would never partake in any kind of advertising. As a farmer, he knew no other way to recommend a product than by its quality.

Obviously, he possessed the farmer's built-in resistance and modesty towards anything that looked like bragging. One can imagine that during the initial work,

he had to encounter so many fields, that he was unable to include new sales methods, which was used successfully by other and newer companies. Therefore, grandfather experienced that the great man in Norwegian canning industry - Christian Bjelland - who was 13 year younger, and Endre Grønnestad, built larger companies than his own. This fact never bothered him.

Grandfather gave conservative estimates in all fields, and he was a totally honest man. Also, he was against any kind of company deals. Once, when refused to go along with a deal concerning maximum prices on raw material. A boycott was applied to his company. The dairy companies dared not to deliver milk, the printers refused to make labels, and the banks refused to give credit. The last thing amused grandfather. He had always been his own bank, and he had never asked anyone for credit. He received milk from Hoyland and labels from abroad. Thus, he carried on his business undisturbed. The boycott finally ended, because the people who instituted the deal broke their own terms. Grandfather always kept his word. Therefore, he only agreed to things that he knew he could fulfill.

In his opinion, grandfather relied on self-taught experiences. He relied on these, even if the arguments were against him from all directions. Sometimes, he ended his business discussions with the words, "Well, I still hold that.... ". Grandfather was no debtor. He was more successful working with his projects, than talking about them. Uncle Nathal once as a young engineer calculated and constructed a pass way between the two buildings at the factory. When he was finished, grandfather came for an inspection, and he was very pleased. However, he ordered a carpenter to tear down some supporting pillars, which uncle Nathal had erected to support the construction. All Uncle Nathal's protests met only deaf ears. An order from Torres Ronneberg had to be executed, and the carpenter put his axe to work. And the pass way never moved. In fact, it still remains today just as when the pillars fell, resting on a strange arched stretch. Grandfather knew this, having learned the construction from his own father at home.

Grandfather liked to develop in his sons the good practical estimate and the technical sense - something that had helped him often solving the technical problems at the factory. Therefore, Uncle Trygve and Uncle Nathal received their education as construction engineers at universities abroad. Father only received a mercantile education, but apparently he inherited the practical sense in his family, being very clever in both practical and theoretical Electro techniques. A capacity as professor Fredrik Jacobsen once said in a speech about the utilization of the electricity in practical life, "Arne Ronneberg probably has more understanding of these things than many of us here in town."

Ronneberg preserving became a prime example of a company. It was the first company in Stavanger to use steam for cooking and energy. They had their own acetylene gas plant, which was relieved by the city's first hydroelectric power

plant. The production of fish meat balls, which once was the main source of income of the canning industry, was completely reorganized to machinery partly based on grandfather's own invention.

Axel Krefting in 1897 wrote about the company's achievements in "Norsk Industri," "A revolution, of course, took place in this area. The advantages were immediately apparent, and one hardly exaggerates, when one makes the assertion, that this change has lifted the city's export of fish meat balls to the level, where it now remains."

Some of these achievements were the offspring of his sons, but grandfather realized these impulses. This is also the case with the automobile grandfather brought to Stavanger in 1898 - the first automobile in town, and also one of the first cars in the country. After long serious discussions, grandfather purchased this automobile. Most people at that time looked at the car as a toy, and the Stavanger press stated after an introduction trip, that this was probably another luxury that the rich people only could afford. But grandfather could not foresee the importance of the automobile transportation for the average person.

Later, he opened the first commercial automobile transportation in Norway between Stavanger and Malde. Another twenty years passed, before automobiles took over most of the transportation on streets and roads in Norway. This was due to the fact that the very first automobiles were not constructed to suit the bad Norwegian road conditions.

The founding of Dampkjøkkenet (The Steam Kitchen) in 1897 is grandfather's second achievement. Father had brought the idea home from abroad and grandfather liked the idea. As usual, he was very cautious in the beginning, but later on, Dampkjøkkenet became a large corporation.

At that time, there were no suitable restaurants in Stavanger for farmers and the mass of ordinary people. They were left to eat at some suspicious basement kitchens - all located in a street with the nickname "Subakanalen" (The Sub Canal) - some dirty spooky eating facilities.

These eateries were all out competed and changed in a short time. Certain days at "Dampkjøkkenet" alone 800 dinner portions were served. Dampkjøkkenet had to expand, and after a few years, they also owned a food store and a cafeteria. These new additions were responsible to stabilize the company's seasonal operation, as well as securing the company's steadiness and good income. Dampkjøkkenet was to fulfill a great social demand. When the rationalization during World War I created financial problems in the company, and general price increases forced Dampkjøkkenet to increase their prices, the city of Stavanger in 1916 bought the property, the cafeteria, the food store and the steam kitchen. Besides, the city needed this property for street regulation, and they also needed a kitchen to serve the school children. I do not know what these sub companies meant for the

Ronneberg's company. However, I have found some figures from the first years after the city took over the management. They show that in 1917 sales were \$370,000, 1918 - \$700,000, 1919 - \$500,000. These figures include the serving of school children, which the Ronneberg Company did not have.

Another word about the company's sound financial position can be found in the records for property transactions. The said property was paid by the city for a total of \$55,000. The Ronneberg Company had 95% ownership at the time of the sale. Grandfather had rested in his grave for three years, when the property in Strandgaten was sold. In 1909 he retired from the company, which was left in the hands of Uncle Einar and father (Arne Ronneberg). In 1917 they continued with two new canning factories - one at Randbergveien in Stavanger, and not far from the location of the first factory, and the other one at Ostrodt near Sandnes. A new era started.

When grandfather died 11 December 1913, the Stavanger press wrote about him, "the city has lost one of the pioneers in the canning industry, and a truly self made man. The deceased was an amiable and a quiet person. T. Ronneberg was a quiet, unostentatious, but very active man. He helped many people with the right hand while not knowing what was given by the left hand.

The words are not particularly original. But they are true. Grandfather was a pioneer of the industry, and his accomplishments shall not be forgotten. Step by step he built his company on the experiences and the knowledge gained on the way.

Grandfather had a temper, which could be seen both in love and in anger.

Especially strong was his temper, when he discovered any attempts of cheating. He was honest, straightforward, open, and "smartness" was an abomination for him. "Rascally tricks" he called it, and demanded people be true in business and behavior. One morning, after he had retired from the company, he was sitting in the front office admiring the busy activity. Suddenly, he discovered that the representative of a company, which earlier had delivered some bad oil, was in conference with uncle Einar or father. Grandfather then rushed in and single handedly threw out the man.

This was also the situation in the company. But everyone loved grandfather. They respected him for the company he had created and because he was a good example to them. Many times, he has bent over the smokers, his fist raised to show them his thick wedding band, which had an old tint of copper: "This is the color," he said - the herrings at that time were much more smoked than today.

Not only did he know the workers' duties to himself, but also their duties to themselves. He understood them. People grew old serving with his company.

Outside the company, people hardly noticed grandfather. He participated in a few activities with his money, but he would never seek recognition.

Neither did he seek the party life in which according to his wealth and position he could partake. But when grandfather and grandmother gave their own parties, nothing was spared. The guests usually were close relatives, successful businessmen from Stranden, and Grandfather's two good friends Jens Johnsen from Blidensol and Richard Johnsen.

The daily routine was simple, somewhat country style. You must tell about it yourself, Aunt Anna, about life at home. You also had to experience Grandfather's temper. Apparently, grandfather often had to play the part of a lightning conductor. However strict and simple it was, there was Heart room in your home, Aunt Anna. Grandfather was known for his worries about the well being of the children. When uncle Einar's new motor boat was tried out in Hafsrifiord, he spent two hours with his binoculars, and he was not very pleased for a few hours afterwards.

Grandfather was happy when the whole family was together.

Grandfather was conservative, and he raised his flag when his reputable name was used in issues. But he probably never directly took part in politics or any other public work. Through the newspapers he subscribed and read from the first syllable to the last dot, he kept a good watch on what was going on. Once, he opened himself up for an interview – a rather unusual incident in those days. When grandfather returned from England, where he was one of the main witnesses in the big process about the herring name. He was interviewed by the author, Theodor Dahl, who was the publisher of Stavanger Aftenblad. But grandfather only talked about the traffic in London. He was completely fascinated by this traffic, and he thought of the automobile in which he had believed 10 - 12 years previously. Most people thought that grandfather never read books, but this is not correct. He bought and read Alexander L. Kielland's books as soon as they appeared at the bookstores.

Grandfather did not make his big decision, when he chose between the store and the factory - rather when he stood at Kampen in the spring when he took over the farm. He loved the farming. Now, he could rest his hands on the plow, plowing the factory plans down into the soil and again becoming a farmer.

When the factory became a big success, grandfather had to have some farming ground. Around 1890, he bought a farm in Madelien. He did not actually labor himself. But instead he said, "Like this - like that," while supervising the whole thing. He carefully inspected all the work, and he did not tolerate any disorder. He would send my brother, Sigurd, right into the center of the field to catch a single weed, which dared crush out the plants having first priority.

The labor in the factory and in the steam kitchen did not satisfy Grandfather.

Often, he drove out to visit his brothers. He had to find out about and see the farm and the cattle.

As a main value, grandfather kept his love to the oil. During his life in the city, his progress, he never lost this value. It gave him the balance under the conditions. The progress that he willingly followed never blindfolded his mind. Neither did money ever impress him.

Therefore, the road he chose never carried him away from the soil, from which he came, and he never became arrogant to the city life, where he maintained his place well. He solved his life duty in accordance with the inherited mind from an old farming family.

Grandfather's total accomplishments can be seen as a curve in financial progress, though it would be impossible to do it. The material inheritance he left behind is no longer in existence. The memory of him is the reason for us getting together on his 100th birthday. Also, he handed down to his relatives, intact, the living gold which he carried to town – at 14 years old - with strong, clean hands.

As Grandfather once planted his inheritance from country to city, each and every one of us can carry forth this inheritance in our duties. In clean hands it will grow and make life comfortable for those who take good care of it. Today, where you, Aunt Anna, are the closest living relative to your Father's family, I will, as a member of the family, thank you, because we here in this home Uncle Harald and you have created, have been able to meet the good spirit, which is also part of the inheritance. Wealth and riches can split a family, but a good family spirit makes it strong.

We raise our glasses to the memory of Grandfather, and direct this salute to you, Aunt Anna, but we feel all part of it. And then, we scoal for the memory of Grandfather in the belief that his spirit may long live in the family.