



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

## AUDIO TAPE LOG

Accession No.: LO-00-09-C Date(s): 2/22/2000

Fieldworker(s): Laura Orleans

Interviewee(s): Aline Drivdahl, Liv Haines

Event: Interview

Place of Recording: Drivdahl residence

Recording Equipment: Sony TC-D5 M Microphone(s): RE508

Recorded in: stereo Tape Brand and Format: Cassette, 90 minutes

Amount Tape Used: Cassette: 1 DAT: ABS time: \_\_\_\_\_

Related Accession Numbers: LO-00-11

Brief summary of tape contents: Interview about Norwegian Hardanger embroidery

Counter/ABS	Contents
001	Introduction
004	Family comes from Skudenesham on Karmoy Island in SW Norway
009	Aline born in United States but parents born in Norway
012	Father lived in US most of his life and worked in fishing industry and as crew for luxury yachts in Florida
015	Mother came to US after WWII though parents were married before the war.
018	Father left Norway in 1930s to seek work because times were hard in Norway. Came to this area because of relatives living here and in NY and fishing industry
030	Aline born November 5, 1947. Moved to Norway from age 8 to 18 and lived with an Aunt whose mother did the Hardanger embroidery
034	Tells story of how she learned to do Hardanger at age 12
055	Aunt's mother helped Aline to use the sewing machine
068	Talks about cross stitch and other types of needlepoint made using kits
083	People were more appreciative of Aline's skills here than in Norway so she was inspired to continue
086	Tells how she about making the altar cloth for Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairhaven
106	Aline's work was known in the community because she used to make small pieces to sell at the church bazaar.
111	Tells about the technique of Hardanger work
115	First piece of Hardanger was a small doily
120	Piece most recently finished took 600 hours to complete
127	Doesn't believe that there is a particular significance to the different designs.
134	Prefers traditional white thread on white cloth, but has done brown pieces
138	Altar cloth and most recent piece are two best.

144 Most women in Norway do some type of stitching. They often come together to stitch and socialize.

162 Trinity Lutheran Church has a sewing circle (Tuesday mornings and Thursday nights). Aline prefers to work alone at home partly because she has difficulty hearing and participating in conversations.

184 Defines Hardanger embroidery.

191 Hardanger is important in the traditional Norwegian costume or bunad

197 Some of the pieces she made using an existing pattern; others she has designed herself. The altarcloth was a combination of original designs and those copied from pictures in books.

210 Typical Hardanger pieces include: tablecloths, runners, curtains, baptism dresses

214 Describes a friend who has a baptism dress which has been used for five generations

223 Most Norwegian altar cloths are crocheted.

232 Most of the Norwegians in this area come from Karmoy Island

237 Discuss church congregation which is now a mixture of ethnicities.

242 Norwegian language. Aline is fluent. Norwegian is primarily spoken in the home. Some things can't have no English equivalent.

262 Tells story of why she returned to the US. Most of family is in US.

281 Names of stiches (spiderweb, satin stitch, star, etc.)

291 Describes the process of doing Hardanger and the precision involved in counting stitches.

318 Uses various sizes of DMC thread (#5, 8, 12) and various types and sizes of needles. Needles need to have a dull point. Used to have difficulty finding needles here and had Aunt ship them from Norway. Doesn't use a thimble.

344 Can find most of materials, thread, etc. locally. But in Norway the thread comes in larger quantities and so pieces don't need to be fastened as often. Thread is cotton.

367 Continues to describe process of stitching Hardanger. Cutting happens after all of the stitching is complete and then threads are pulled out to make holes.

398 Discussion about what makes a good piece of Hardanger: stitches need to be very tight, cannot use a frame to achieve this, must be sewed over your finger.

417 When piece is finished it is boiled in a pot of soapy water to tighten the threads.

450 Describes making recent piece while recuperating from an injury.

465 Liv's granddaughter wanted Aline to teach her but she mostly learned from a kit. She is left handed so this made teaching difficult for Aline who is right handed.

482 There are a few others in the community who do this, but not like Aline. It takes a lot of concentration and a lot of patience.

495 Many people wanted to buy work when it was displayed at Summerfest. Aline has never sold anything except small pieces to raise money for the church. She makes the pieces for family as wedding, birthday and Christmas gifts.

508 Tells about other types of sewing work (cross stitch, etc.) done mostly from patterns in kits or created by combining designs from various patterns. Many patterns depict Norwegian history or folklore.

562 End of Side

001 Cross stitch is done using wool. Patterns and kits purchased in Norway.

012 Sometimes changes pattern if she detects a mistake or changes colors if kit doesn't come with thread and shade of color might be different. Might change the color for effect and variation or to match wallpaper or decor.

029 Always asked to make something for the church bazaar.

- 038 Worked in Nursing home for 15 years. Took care of an elderly woman in her home for 8 years.
- 056 Recalls finding a piece of Hardanger in non-Norwegian home in Round Hill, S. Dartmouth
- 067 Today Hardanger embroidery is done all over Norway.
- 070 Shows Hardanger work done by someone else. Stitches are not as tight.
- 078 Describes Hardanger region which is known for apple trees and pear trees. Hardanger is about a day's drive from Karmoy.
- 092 Describes Karmoy and the types of work available. Today many of the youth are staying in Norway because the economy is much improved due to oil industry.
- 118 Talks about other Norwegian traditions and others who have traditional skills.
- 130 Gunnar Haines does wood carving and lives in Mattapoissett
- 142 Speaks of Helen Wilhelmsen who died recently and was known for her rosmalling skill.
- 152 Thinks that it would make her nervous to teach because of her hearing. Two people from the church have asked her to teach them and she hasn't decided whether to do it. It's hard to explain.
- 165 End of Interview.