

ELLEN e GABE SKAAR De KARMØY, NORWAY Chegados em 1960 (Gabe) e 1963 (Ellen)

“Com tanta gente da mesma ilha, quando eu ia pela Rua Purchase abaixo pensava: ‘Estás cá também? E tu também?’ Muitas das pessoas que eu reconhecia [na rua] eram da minha terra. New Bedford era... bem, era agradável. Era uma aventura, mas não metia medo. Havia muita gente conhecida.”

Saída da Noruega: “O arenque tinha desaparecido da costa da Noruega e já não havia dinheiro nisso. Houve muita gente da zona ocidental da Noruega que veio; antigos pescadores, incluindo o meu pai. Porque não havia trabalho. E aqui havia oportunidades.

ELLEN AND GABE SKAAR

FROM KARMØY, NORWAY
ARRIVED 1960 (GABE), 1963 (ELLEN)




PHOTO BY PHIL MELLO

“They say that Norwegians were born with skis on their feet, but on the coast, the snow didn't last that long. So on Karmøy, they were born with seawater in their legs.”

“My father was here, my husband was here, and I had an aunt that was here. I was one of the lucky ones. I came first to a new furnished apartment. And with a bathroom and a kitchen. And a tv, and a refrigerator and heat that you just pressed a button to get. So I thought I had come to heaven!”




PHOTO FROM "KARMØYER I NEW BEDFORD OG FAIRHAVN"

Gabe (C) with Arnold Jakobsen (L) and Kaare Ness (R) picking the pile on a scallop boat in 1965.

“With so many people coming from the same island when I walked down Purchase Street I thought, are you here too? Are you here too? A lot of people that I knew were from back home. New Bedford was, well it was nice. It was adventurous, but it wasn't scary. There was so many people that you recognized.”

Leaving Norway

“The herring had disappeared off the coast of Norway. And there was no money in it. There was a lot of people that came from the Western part of Norway, former fishermen, including my father. Because there was no work. And here was opportunity.”

Today...

Ellen and Gabe's son, Jeff, captains the F/V Thor.

“Dizem que os noruegueses já nascem com esquis nos pés, mas no litoral, a neve não durava muito tempo. Por isso em Karmøy, nascíamos com água do mar nas pernas.”

“O meu pai estava cá, o meu marido estava cá, e tinha uma tia que estava cá. Eu fui uma das que tiveram sorte. Vim logo para um apartamento mobilado. E com uma casa de banho e uma cozinha. E uma televisão, e um frigorífico e calor, que era só preciso carregar num botão para ligar. Pensei que tinha vindo para o céu.”

Gabe (C) com Arnold Jakobsen (L) e Kaare Ness (R) a escolherem vieiras num barco em 1965

Hoje: Jeff, filho de Ellen e Gabe, capitaneia o F/V Thor