

## KOST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Long-time congregation members discuss the history of both the community and the church. They also relate the strong Swedish heritage in the area. History of the Kost school is discussed.

Personal histories of the Gustafsons and Andersons as well as Pastor Schumann.

INTERVIEWERS: Mark Stone and Kate Liebsch

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SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 1

009 PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- 009 Pastor Lee Schumann grew up on a farm in Indiana.
- 011 Pastor Lee Schumann was born on February 25th, 1951.
- 013 His parents and his grandparents were farmers.
- 016 It was either his grandfather or great grandfather who was born in Germany.
- 023 His mother's parents were originally from Oklahoma before moving to Indiana.
- 026 Their ethnic background was also German, as their last name is Gleidt.
- 030 Her grandparents came over from Germany.
- 032 From where Pastor Lee Schumann lived, the largest city was 12 miles away.
- 036 It was a rural area.
- 039 He went to a country school for a while, and then continued on to high school.
- 044 After high school he went to <sup>Jaylor</sup> Kaler University, for his first years.
- 048 Got his degree in Sociology.
- 055 His decision to go to the seminary was to follow Jesus Christ, as well as his parents, teachers, and friends.
- 079 His first assignment was this church.
- 081 Came here right after his exam to candidate for the weekend.
- 102 The first day he was here, was February 1, 1977.

113 HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH:

- 113 Historically the Evangelical Free Church has its roots in Scandinavia, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.
- 115 It began as a movement within State Churches; where its origins began.
- 126 It began by having separate worship services in homes on Sunday afternoons.
- 134 Historically, it has always been a "Lay" movement in which the people in the congregation take on responsibilities of ministries.
- 144 The Evangelical Free Church of America has a denomination of 93 or 94.
- 147 The Baptists in the area are also trying to break away from the church.
- 158 The Baptist movement goes back to the 1600's.

- 165 Each church within the Evangelical Free Church is a conference.  
177 It is more of an association type of relationship than it is  
a type of denomination, in which the church is really limited.  
181 There is a lot of loyalty primarily because of the history of  
the Evangelical Free Church.  
189 With our own Church there is a tremendous loyalty due to  
denomination, in terms of financial, and more moral support.  
198 There have been <sup>disensions</sup> ~~descensions~~ going back about 30 or 40 years.  
226 There is a statement of faith that's very brief, that the  
Evangelical Free Church of America does stand for and so do the  
local Churches.  
248 They practice Baptism by immersion, but it is not required.  
264 The Evangelical Free Church is a closed line with a number of  
Churches in the United States.

296 MEMBERS OF THE KOST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH:

- 301 William Gustafson was born the 16th of May, 1882.  
306 His parents were born in Smoland, Sweden.  
317 Mrs. Gustafson, was born on Febuary 24, 1881, in Kost.  
321 Her parents were born in Smoland, Sweden.  
326 Parents went to New York and to St. Paul right away.  
332 Have been a member of the Church since she has been here in Kost.

338 ORIGINS OF THE CHURCH:

- 347 The services were originally held in houses.  
358 Immediately, the services were spoken in Swedish.  
360 The services were in Swedish until 1939.  
377 Gustafson's daughter was born September 29, 1926.  
381 She has always been a member of the Kost Evangelical Free Church.  
383 The church that stands now is not all the original church.  
393 Never had any problems with fire at the church.  
398 Mr. Gustafson worked at the lumber camps and at the railroad  
in the summer time.  
410 There was always a large group of Swedish people coming in.  
420 His parents never came over to the United States, he came over  
in 1901.  
426 His first year here in the United States, he worked on a farm in Kost.  
433 One of his brothers also worked on a farm here in Kost.  
437 After having worked in the log mill and on the railroad, he  
bought a farm.  
440 He gave up farming about 5 years ago.  
444 He grew corn, beans, potatoes and had been milking cows for 55 years.  
452 Went to school in Sweden.  
457 His parents were members of the Lutheran Church in Sweden.  
463 Social functions were pretty much like they are now, 4th of July etc.  
490 Not too many socials, but had one big picnic with organized  
games and food. In the afternoon also had a time for devotion.  
508 Over several years, the Swedish language tapered off to the  
English language.  
537 Mrs. Gustafson was not disappointed in the change. <sup>she</sup> ~~Her~~ and others  
could not participate more than before.  
552 Mrs. Gustafson went to school in this area.  
555 The school taught the children some Swedish.

000 SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 2

- 008 Up until last year, a Ulata was observed every Christmas.
- 013 The food during socials were puddings and pies along with coffee.
- 031 The ladies aid society supported the missions.
- 039 They raised money for the missions by taking collections.
- 042 The stones used for the Church were taken from near by to build the Church.

056 MEMBERS OF THE KOST EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

- 057 Mrs. Alex Anderson, born January 12, 1896.
- 061 Anderson is also her maiden name.
- 063 Mrs. Ray Johnson, born December 21, 1902.
- 066 Her maiden name was Esther Anderson.
- 068 They're sisters, and their parents were born in Dahlsand, Sweden.
- 083 Their parents were married in the United States.
- 084 Their father came over to the United States when he was 19, and their mother came later.
- 090 They were married here in 1887.
- 115 Stayed working on the railroad for about 6 years after they married.
- 128 Their father and mother then bought land and built a house three miles South of Kost.
- 132 Their father went into farming.
- 135 Did a little of everything at the time.
- 137 The money crop at the time was potatoes.
- 141 As young girls, they went to the Country School in Kost.
- 144 Only English was being taught at the time.
- 145 No Swedish was taught, unless in the summer where they had six weeks of it.
- 152 They had learned Swedish in the home, since it wasn't taught in the schools.
- 153 When they started school, they hardly knew any English.
- 167 Their parents left Sweden mainly for an opportunity in America.
- 171 Their father left at 19, whereas at 20 he would have gone into the Swedish Army for training.
- 174 Their parents were members of the State Church in Sweden.
- 178 Their parents first joined at the Lutheran Church in Center City. Then were converted and went to the Covenant Church.
- 193 The Covenant Church lost members over the years.
- 196 The building had to be sold after it had been vacant for a while.
- 198 Members went to Kost, Methodist, and Lutheran Church in Center City.
- 205 They were members of the Covenant Church.
- 217 At that time, there were only a handful of women who would sew all day.
- 220 With what they made, they had auctions and the money went to the church to keep it going.
- 229 At that time, it wasn't easy to make money for the church.

- 240 The older members were disappointed in a way, that the masses were switched to English.
- 267 The school itself is still standing and at one time it was one of the main buildings of Kost.
- 275 The children walked 3 miles everyday to school.
- 284 They used to walk to Sunday school, then ride home with their parents after the services.
- 299 A pastor was shared at the Covenant Church in Harris every once in a while.
- 312 The Kost Evangelical Free Church has always had its own pastor.