

## *Carl's Immigration Story*

*By Gunnar*

*My name is Gunnar. I interviewed Hal Sprogis who told me about Carl's immigration story. I am a student from high-tech Elementary North County and I think immigration is a very neat thing. We have to honor the ones who made a very hard journey to come here for a better life. Maybe because of war or maybe they were poor and some other reasons.*

*When Carl was young he grew up in Latvia.. Life was great there, he had a nice house and a good amount of money but The government was bad. They had some laws that he did not like. He had family there and he was happy. BUT NOT WITH THE GOVERNMENT.*

*One day Carl decided he was going to immigrate to the US. So he said goodbye to all his friends and all his family. And he was going to do this journey alone so he knew it would be hard. He didn't speak the language and he was doing it alone so he didn't have much support from his family.*

*The language was a very big challenge plus he only had enough money to eat one meal a day so that was very hard for him. He had to do that for two weeks straight and the food wasn't very good. Not like it didn't taste good but it wasn't the best for you.*

*When he got there he went through Ellis Island and he passed. He was now an immigrant but he did not have a ton of money and stuff that he brought because he had to leave a lot of stuff*

behind. So he became a carpenter and there was an earthquake in San Francisco so he had a lot of work so he got a lot of money. He got married to a woman and had a child named hal and then surprisingly they went back to Latvia for one year.

At the time Hal was 4 years old. When they got back he was 5. But when they Got back, that was right after World War II so the kids thought Hal was German and he got beat up in school a lot. But they had forgotten how to speak English so they had to learn English again. It was hard.

They opened a grocery store and made lots of money. Then life was good and they lived a very happy life once the kids found out Hal was not German and everybody was happy and that my friend is Carl's immigration story.

It shocked me that Carl only ate one meal a day. And that he had to go on a boat for two weeks TWO WEEKS! It's a lot. It also was surprising that he opened a grocery store and hired workers to run it. It may have seemed small but in that time it was a big grocery store. Immigration is a good thing but it can also be hard and we have to honor that.