

1954-03-20 (20 March 1954)	Post date: 1954-03-31	Postmark: Geneva, Ill.
From: Elsa Swanson	To: Mr & Mrs Clarence Swanson	
From: 301 Dodson St. Geneva, Ill	To: 218 Hillview Avenue Redwood City, California	
Pages: 2	Family news	

Dear Clarence & Ruth,

These past days have been very busy ones and I know you folks must be waiting to hear from us. Lorraine says she intends to write to California too so perhaps some of this letter will be repetition.

We are most sorry to learn about your employment difficulties and hope they are easing up. Have you had any compensation help? It must be very tough to lose a job even for a short time during these times. We hope to be able to help you out at least to pay back what you so graciously sent to help grandpa.

It seems that a person can just live for a day at a time and try not to worry about the future. God always provides somehow. The expenses were getting quite heavy for us and we were wondering what we would do after we used up the children's money but everything worked out well since Carl got some money which he had lent out years ago and then he got a little overtime in on account of the snow so we didn't have to get in debt. "The Lord is good and his mercy endureth forever."

We feel too that grandpa was prepared to go for he said so and he wasn't afraid of death. He felt weak and tired and was in kind of a stupor the last few days. He heard Carl ask him how he was the night before for he said "bad". About 7:30 Wed. morning he had just slept away without any choking or strangling which we were afraid might happen.

Our minister had visited him quite a few times and said he had joined with him in prayer. It made him glad to have the young people of the church come to sing & read to him. He shook hands with each one to show his gratitude.

We had just perfect weather Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Before there was much rain, thunder & lightning and a terrific wind. Yesterday we had a heavy snowfall. So there's another instance where we can see the Hand of God.

We had him at Bob Larson's Funeral Home. Bob is a young fellow at church and is our choir director. He had fixed him up very natural and looked like he was sleeping. Carla & Danny saw him too. Carla said "I'm going to wake grandpa up."

Two vocal selections were sung by Glenn Anderson while his wife played. He sang "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" and "Nearer Still Nearer". Andersons are friends of ours and they refused to take any money for their services. Many people gave money instead of flowers and we used that money for memorial gifts to the Camp Augustana Chapel Fund (\$75) and the "Advance for Christ" mission ingathering. I believe there will be about 50 dollars for that and we know that it is a very worthy cause.

It was so wonderful to see friends waiting at the cemetery for us. There was Grandma Lowery, Esther Davidson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lowery, Beverly, Mr. & Mrs.

Warren Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Hugo West, Irwin West, Mr. & Mrs. Flinch, Zora Hautigan, Rob Rosenthal, Mr & Mrs Wennerstrom were at the funeral and Reinhold Johnson, Warren Johnsons and Bakers came to the house Friday afternoon and were here for supper. John Westman's came with Arts and we were a house full at home after we came back from the cemetery. My mother, neighbors & friends had fixed a buffet supper for everyone. Besides money & flowers there was many donations of food. It sure made us appreciate the kindness of people.

Grandpa was well liked around here for when he was well he often walked around and visited with many. He certainly had a long seige of of illness but we know that the Lord has a will and purpose for everything even though we do not always understand it. Grandpa never complained about his condition and remained cheerful most of the time.

I could go on and write a lot more but I'm afraid it would tire you out reading it so will close now with much love from all of us and hope to hear from you soon. (Greeting to Evelyn, Betty & Elaine).

Elsa, Carl & family

DJC notes: This letter includes a newspaper obituary notice for E.J. Carlson: St. Charles - Ernest J. Swanson, 75, passed away yesterday at the Stately Manor Rest Home in Geneva. He was born Jan. 5, 1879 in Sweden and came to Chicago in 1903. He engaged in farming until he retired in 1946. He was a member of the Brotherhood of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna, in 1942. Surviving are four sons, Carl of Geneva; Arthur of Honey Creek, Wis.; Clarence of Redwood City, Calif.; and Harry of Arvin, Calif.; and one daughter, Mrs. Lorraine Carlson of Aurora; two brothers and two sisters still living in Sweden; and 14 grandchildren. Services will be held Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at the Larson Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. David Ekstrom officiating. Burial will be at Mount Hope Cemetery in Seneca. Friends may call at the chapel all day Friday.