



Figure 36. Roy Adolf Larson, 1926 (high school graduation).

Roy (“ ‘Lil”) Adolf Larson,³² youngest son of Otto and Anna Märta (Hedin) Larson, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 13 Dec 1906. Since there was another, older Roy in the neighborhood of the family home at 1288 Edgerton Street, he was known as “Little Roy.” This became shortened to ‘Lil Roy and then to ‘Lil, which his sister Flo called him to his dying day.

Roy and Leonard, as the two youngest boys were the only sons of the family to graduate from high school, quite an achievement in those depression-era days. They attended and graduated from John A. Johnson High School, St. Paul. Following high school, Roy went to work for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and continued to work there until his retirement many years later. His job was classified as “essential” during World War II, so he was never called to military service.

Roy’s sister, Flo, was quite young when their mother, Anna Märta, was institutionalized. It was felt that Flo would be better off in a home where a woman was present, so she lived with family friends, the Andersons, whose home was across the street. Years later, their daughter, Marian, introduced Roy to her friend, Verna Thompson. Verna stood Roy up on their first date because she thought he was so full of himself that he would stand her up. They overcame this inauspicious beginning and eventually married with Marian and her husband, Fred Lipke, as attendants.



Figure 37. L. to r.: Verna and Roy Larson, Marian and Fred Lipke.

The Larson family remained close and saw each other often, especially Roy, Art, Len, and Flo, all of whom continued to live in the Twin Cities. Most of the gatherings took place at “1288,” where Art and his family lived. At one summer gathering each year, a photo would be taken of the “boys,” which included Flo’s husband, Ed Landin, and another of the “girls” (Flo and the Larson wives) (see Figures 97-101, page 61).

Roy was an avid fisherman and often went fishing with Len. He also went deer hunting once a year although he rarely, if ever, killed anything. A blast from a shotgun while duck hunting left him



Figure 38. Victor and Roy Larson



Figure 39. Roy and Florence Larson, ca. 1913.

with a constant ringing in his ear, so he never did that again. He also enjoyed bowling and had more than one 300 game to his credit. He loved history, especially that of the American West, and was an avid reader. He died in St. Paul on 30 Nov 1975¹ at the age of 68 years.

Florence (“Flo”) Margaret Larson,³³ daughter and youngest child of Otto and Anna Märta (Hedin) Larson, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 9 May 1910. As a youth she was exposed to frightening concepts at a Swedish church. Some of the teachings remained in bad dreams throughout her life. Her teen years were disrupted by the illness of her mother and the death of her father. She was first sent to live with her aunt Hulda and uncle Oscar Larson. Hulda was overly strict and Flo ran away from that home several times. It was then arranged that she would live in the home of her friend Marian Anderson across the street from the Larson home at 1288 Edgerton Street. While still a teenager, she moved back with her brothers to keep house for them. She graduated from Johnson High School in St. Paul. Despite these difficulties, photos show that she was outwardly cheerful and had fun with her friends.

How Flo met Edward (“Ed”) Landin, her future husband, is not known. At the time, he was living away from his family at the YWCA and working on merchant marine ships. He and Flo were married 19 Sep 1931. Their only child, Edward Russell, was born 4 Jul 1933. The young family lived at 1288 Edgerton until about 1938, pooling resources during depression times with others of the Larson family. Flo was noted for her very good, home brewed beer.

Ed and Flo moved frequently in the following years, renting houses in east St. Paul, living in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, for 3-4 years and then back to St. Paul where eventually they purchased a



Figure 40. Florence Margaret Larson

house at 657 E. Hyacinth, not far from 1288. Ed worked for the city and Flo took a job at the Wilder Day Care for children. She kept house and gardens and gave sewing and knitting lessons for neighborhood girls. Recreational activities throughout their lives included gatherings with the Larsons and other friends and enjoyment of the outdoors: walking, skiing, fishing, picnicking, and traveling to the North Shore of Lake Superior where Flo would often write poems. Flo is remembered as intelligent, capable in many skills and endeavors, supportive of others and devoted to her family.

Flo was the last surviving grandchild of Lars and Lisa Larsson until her death on 11 Feb 1990. She died at the age of 79 at the Wilder Care Home in St. Paul. Her health had been failing from the effects of a stroke two or three years earlier. Ed admitted himself to the hospital a week before Flo's death because of weakness. He died 26 Feb 1990, at age 84, in Ramsey County Hospital from serious allergic reaction to medication and heart failure. Foot stones for both are in the Larson plot in Union Cemetery, east of St. Paul.

Adolf Larsson/Larson (1866-1948)



Figure 41. Adolf Larson in Sweden.



Figure 42. Adolf Larson in northern Minnesota.

Adolf Larson was born at Carlsberg croft, Nedre Ulleruds parish, on 18 Sep 1866.^{8,15} He emigrated from Sweden to Colorado in about 1886 and later relocated to St. Paul. He remained a bachelor throughout his life and was employed in railroad work until his retirement. His places of residence in St. Paul are not all known but Jean Larson has documented that he loaned money to his brother Otto, secured by a series of mortgages against the property at 1288 Edgerton Street, in the period from 1905 to 1917.³⁴ He apparently made his residence in the home during some or all of this time when not out of town on railroad construction jobs.

In 1918, he purchased forty acres of land next to the farm of his sister, Emma, and brother-in-law, Gustaf Johnson, in Lammers Township near Solway, Minnesota, and built a one-room house into which he moved. His Model-T Ford (1914-17 vintage) remained garaged on the Johnson farm until World War II (WWII) when it was donated to the scrap metal drive in support of the war effort. Adolf visited regularly with his sister and brother-in-law, walking across the fields from his house to the farmyard. He and Gustaf would sit together talking in Swedish and chewing Copenhagen snuff. He often carried back home a jar or two of milk and cream from the milk house. He put up firewood from the grove of pine around his house and brewed batches of beer from time to time. He lived on his land until no longer able to care for himself after which he moved to the Beltrami County Old Folks Home.⁵ He died on 12 Jun 1948 at the age of 81 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Bemidji, Minnesota.^{15,35}