



HISTORY OF FOGELBO

A SWEDISH-AMERICAN TREASURE

Nestled in the mature trees along Oleson Road is an unassuming place called Fogelbo. In Swedish, fogelbo means "bird nest" and is derived from the Fogelquist family name, which means "bird on a branch." A sweeping drive takes you to a finely crafted log home. Rustic, charming and well loved.

The log structure was built between 1938 and 1940. A Swedish couple, Mr. Oscar Olson and his wife, had the home built by Henry Steiner, one of the chief carpenters on Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Timberline as a National Historic Monument in 1937, thanks in part to Steiner's fine craftsmanship.

The concept of the log house was brought to America by the first Swedish colonists who settled in "New Sweden" in 1638 (or, the present-day Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania). In later years, the colony of New Sweden was absorbed by the Dutch, and later by the English. The knowledge of log house construction was thus disseminated throughout the original colonies and eventually the whole country.

The next owners of the home, Charles and Jessie Fogelquist, did extensive work on the estate from 1952 to 1979. In 1989, Fogelbo was designated as a historical site by Washington County.

The Fogelquist Family has its roots in the town of Mora, in Dalarna, Sweden. In the 1800s, the Fogelquists were wealthy land proprietors. In 1850, "Bruckdisponet" Magnus Christian Fogelquist bought the "Christinaberg" estate consolidating his other estates in Southern Sweden. His wife, Ann Greta Lyckholm, was from a family of brewers who owned and operated the largest breweries in Sweden through the 1800s. Magnus and Ann's grandson, Frederik Christian Fogelquist, emigrated to the United States in 1891. He was a skilled craftsman who constructed furniture and decorative items and he was an active educator at Selah High School for twenty-eight years. He later taught at the Perry Institute in Yakima, Washington. Charles Fogelquist, his son, was a forester and, in later years, a chief road engineer for the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. His wife, Jessie Taylor, was a piano teacher for twenty-five years.

Charles and Jessie's son, Ross, was a German teacher and foreign student advisor in the Evergreen School District in Vancouver, Washington. Carl the XVI, the King of Sweden, knighted Ross Fogelquist in 1985 with the title of the Knight of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, first class, due to Ross's achievements on behalf of Sweden and Scandinavia.

Ross served as Acting Swedish Consul for Oregon in 1993, and again between 1999 and 2001. He served as Honorary Vice Consul for the Swedish Consulate from 2001 until its closure in 2008. Ross has received numerous other awards locally and nationally for his contributions to the preservation of Nordic culture. He is a member and officer of many Swedish, German, Austrian and Scandinavian organizations.

At Fogelbo, Ross has hosted many guests and groups from all parts of the world, particularly from Germany and Scandinavia. Guests of the Fogelquist family have included: Foreign diplomats, nobility, artists, composers, folk dancers, exchange students, choirs, educators and groups of many cultural backgrounds from the Pacific Northwest.

Fogelbo is home to many European and American artifacts and antiques. In fact, Fogelbo houses one of the largest private collections of Scandinavian artifacts and antiques in the United States! The house has been featured often in newspapers, magazines and on local television. In the past, up to 2000 guests would pass through Fogelbo's grounds annually! In 2015, Ross deeded Fogelbo to the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, now known as Nordic Northwest. The estate grounds, under the care of Nordic Northwest, are currently being reshaped into a park for use by the Nordic community and beyond!



Individuals and organizations desiring to make donations to the Friends of Fogelbo Fund may send their contributions to Nordic Northwest at 8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Oregon, 97223.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GARDEN HOME HISTORY PROJECT.