

## **Per August Olson History**

**Per August Olson was born on February 3, 1904 in Gräsmark, Värmland Sweden where he lived until July 1928.**

**With cousins sponsoring him to reside in America, he set sail from Göteborg Sweden to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.**

**He arrived at Ellis Island where he was processed through immigration before boarding a train that brought him from the east coast of U.S.A. to the west coast where he arrived at his destination of Portland, Oregon.**

**In America he chose to be known as Gus, a nickname for August. His first employment in Oregon was a lumberjack in the woods of nearby Vernonia, Oregon a town near Portland. While working in the woods he met Mary Irene, a cook in the lumber camp.**

**During his employment as a lumberjack, Gus was injured in a logging accident and lost his left eye. It was replaced with a glass eye which he wore the rest of his life.**

**Gus and Irene fell in love and were married on December 31, 1931 and lived in or near Portland most of their married life. In 1934 their first child, August Jerome (Jerry), was born and two years later their daughter, Shirley Marlene, was born. Gus was employed in the shipyard during the war and then found employment at Libbey, McNeil and Libby, a local cannery, where he continued until his retirement in the early sixties.**

**During these years Gus spent leisure time bowling, a sport he loved. He and Irene later managed a mobile home park for several years where he kept the grounds in tip-top shape for all the residents to enjoy. Gus always loved the Oregon coast and eventually he and Irene moved into a mobile home on property in Otis, Oregon a town very near the ocean.**

**Gus often awakened early and went for long walks on the shore where he found and gathered Japanese floats, agates, driftwood and other debris. His collection of agates, from the seashore and the mountains, soon became a hobby that he loved.**

**He cut and polished the stones and made many beautiful pieces such as lamps, tables, jewelry and other items for family and friends. In his later years he experienced heart problems which eventually took his life in June 1977. Irene lived until 1991.**