

# Cascadia Journal 1907, 1912

(from F I L M)

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*Aberdeen, Washington, 1907.*

Aberdeen was a timber city. / At that time Aberdeen was a timber city. / It was a timber city, large forests nearby, many sawmills. / Many sawmills too, nearby. / At that time Aberdeen was a timber city, large forests nearby, many sawmills too, also nearby. / large forests nearby, sawmills too where many workers. / It was a timber city. / At that time Aberdeen was a timber city, large forests nearby, many sawmills that employed large numbers of workers. / and sawmills that employed large numbers of workers. / large numbers of workers and they spent their wages in bars and dancehalls. / There were many sawmills nearby that employed large numbers of workers and they spent their wages in bars and dancehalls. / They spent their money going to dancehalls outside the city. / They spent their wages in bars and dancehalls outside the city. / They spent their wages in dancehalls but we had no money so we went. / They spent their wages in bars and dancehalls outside the city but we had no money and so we went to bars that stayed open all night. / but we had no money for food and shelter. / They spent their wages in bars and dancehalls but we had no wages to spend so we went to bars that stayed open all night. / We had no wages to spend and no money to spend, so we went to bars that stayed open all night. / We went to bars that stayed open all night. / As we had no money we went to bars that stayed open all night and somebody usually bought you a glass of beer. / We went to bars that stayed open all night and somebody usually bought you a glass of beer and so you could stay inside. / We went to bars that stayed open all night and if somebody bought you a glass of beer you could stay inside, and usually somebody bought you a glass of beer and so you could usually stay inside. / and usually, but not always, somebody would buy you a glass of beer and so you could stay in the bar all night. / We went to bars that stayed open all night and they were heated and there were stools and benches to sit on. / Somebody usually bought you a glass of beer and you could stay indoors and there were stools and benches to sit on. / Somebody usually bought you a glass of beer. / Somebody. / They stayed open all night, the bars, and they were heated too and in the bars there were stools and chairs to sit on and somebody usually bought you a glass of beer and if somebody bought you a glass of beer you could stay indoors and there were stools and benches to sit on in the bars. / In the evening. / I was walking around one evening on my way to a bar. / One evening I was on my way to one of the bars and it had been snowing. / One evening I was walking through the snow. / It had been snowing and I was walking in the moonlight. / One evening it had been snowing and I was walking in the moonlight on my way to one of the bars. / I was walking through the snow and I saw. / I was walking through the snow on my way to one of the bars and in the moonlight I saw an object in front of me. / I was walking in moonlight and in snow too. / I was walking through the snow on my way to one of the bars and in the moonlight I saw an object in the snow in front of me. / I saw an object in the snow in front of me on my way through the snow to one of the bars that stayed open all night. / In the moonlight I saw an object in the snow in front of me and I kicked it. / I saw an object in the snow in front of me and without thinking I kicked it. / I kicked it for no reason. / I kicked it without thinking about it. / For no reason, I kicked it without thinking about it. / In the moonlight I saw an object in the snow in front of me and without thinking, I kicked it. / I kicked it and it. / I kicked it and there was a tinkling sound. / I kicked it and it gave off a tinkling sound. / There was a tinkling sound. / There was. / The tinkling sound made me curious. / I was curious. / I kicked it and it made a tinkling sound and it made me curious. / It made me curious and I bent over to fetch the object from the snow. / It made a tinkling sound and it made. / It made me curious and I bent over to fetch it from the snow in front of me and I discovered it was a purse. / I discovered. / I bent over to fetch it from the snow and much to my surprise I discovered it was a purse. / Much to my surprise I discovered it was a purse with four five-dollar coins. / It was a purse. / I kicked it and it. / For no good reason. / I kicked it for no good reason and there was a tinkling sound. / I kicked it without thinking about it. / For no reason, I kicked it without thinking about it, and entirely so, entirely without thought, I kicked the object I had seen in the moonlight, the object in front of me. / There was. / It made a tinkling sound and I got curious and bent over to fetch it from the snow in front of me and much to my surprise I discovered it was a purse and it contained four five-dollar coins. / When I kicked it, it had made a tinkling sound,

and it had made me curious, the tinkling sound had made me curious, and so I bent over to fetch it from the snow in front of me and as I bent over to fetch it from the snow in front of me I discovered it was a purse. / It was a tinkling sound, clearly. / It made a tinkling sound, clearly, and I got curious and bent over to fetch it from the snow in front of me and much to my surprise I discovered it was a purse and it contained four five-dollar coins. / It contained four five-dollar coins and me and my friends did not have to go hungry and cold. / The purse I had kicked contained four five-dollar coins and so me and my friends did not have to go hungry. / We no longer had to go hungry and cold. / Me and my friends no longer had to go hungry and cold. / We didn't go hungry and cold. / We didn't. / We no longer went hungry and cold. / and so me and my comrades no longer went hungry and cold.

*Oregon, 1912.*

We registered at a bureau. / at an unemployment bureau. / We registered at an unemployment agency. / at an unemployment bureau. / We registered at an unemployment bureau. / We registered at an employment bureau and were sent to a railway construction site. / a railway construction site in Oregon. / We were sent to a railway construction site in Oregon. / We registered at an unemployment agency. / at an agency for the unemployed. / We registered at an employment agency and were sent to a railway construction site in Oregon and when we arrived. / We were sent to a railway construction site in Oregon and when we arrived in Oregon. / when we arrived at the site. / We registered at an employment agency and we were sent to a railway construction site in Oregon and when we arrived they made note of our names and. / When we arrived in Oregon they made note of our names. / a note were made of our names and there was a chef and he took us into an old railway carriage and pointed at two sleeping berths. / When we arrived in Oregon they made note of our names and there was a chef and he took us into an old railway carriage and pointed at two sleeping berths we would dispose over. / When we arrived in Oregon they made note of our names. There was a chef and he took us into an old railway carriage and pointed out two berths we would dispose over. / He pointed out two sleeping berths we would dispose over, though the carriage was dirty. / He pointed at two of the sleeping berths and said, these are yours to dispose over, though the railway carriage, it was dirty. / The railway carriage was dirty and messy. / It was much worse than the dirtiest of ships. / The railway carriage was dirty and messy. / The railway carriage was dirtier and messier than the filthiest of ships. / It was dirtier and messier. / The railway carriage was dirty and messy. / It was filthy. / The railway carriage was dirty and messy, filthier than the filthiest of ships. / Filthier than most ships. / It was filthier than the filthiest of ships and there were many such carriages. / They were filthy and there were many of them. / They were filthy and there were many carriages. / many such carriages. / filthier than the filthiest of ships and there were many such carriages. / many such carriages each one worse than the other. / There were many carriages each worse than the other. / They were filthier than the filthiest of ships and there were many such carriages, each worse than the other and this was where / this was a place where humans were supposed to live. / each worse than the other and this was where humans were supposed to live. / This was where. / each worse than the other and this was where 50 or 60 humans were supposed to live. / where 50 or 60 of us were supposed to live. / 50 or 60 of us and the others returned in the evening and had some food. / They returned in the evening and had some food and we did too. / We had some food too. / each worse than the other and this was where 50 or 60 of us were supposed to live and when the others got back in the evening they had some food and we did too. / We had some food too and then they went to bed. / They had some food and we did too and then some went to bed and some played cards. / some went to bed and some played cards. / They played cards then they went to bed too. / They had some food and we did too then some went to bed and some played cards and we played some cards and in the morning we decided to leave. / me and my mate decided to leave immediately. / In the morning me and my mate decided to leave immediately. / In the morning, we left immediately. / In the morning. / They had some food and we did too and then some went to bed and some played cards and we played cards. / We played cards and then went to bed and in the morning me and my mate decided to leave immediately. / We played cards and then went to bed and in the morning me and my comrade left immediately.

We wandered through desolate regions. / through some desolate regions. / We wandered through some desolate regions and I cannot remember for how long we wandered. / We wandered through some desolate regions. For how long I cannot remember. / I cannot remember for how long. / We wandered through some desolate regions and I cannot remember for how long. / We wandered through desolate regions. / I simply cannot remember for how long we wandered or how far we wandered. / We wandered through some desolate regions. For how long we wandered I cannot remember. / I simply cannot remember for how long we wandered but we wandered for a long time, and through desolate regions too. / We wandered through desolate regions too – for how long I cannot remember. / For how long we wandered I cannot remember. / We wandered through some desolate regions – for how long I cannot remember – and we wandered until we reached the main railway line. / We wandered through. / For how long we wandered I do not know. / We wandered until we reached the main railway line and when we reached the main railway line we got work loading goods onto transport carriages. / We wandered until we reached the main railway line where we got work loading goods onto carriages. / loading timbre onto carriages. / We wandered until we

reached the main railway line. / the central railway line. / It was the main or central railway line. / We reached. / We wandered until we reached the main or central railway line where we got work loading timbre onto carriages but the wages were poor. / The wages were bad and. / The wages were bad. Everything we spent on food and accommodation. / The wages were bad. We spent it all on food and accommodation. / We spent all our wages on food and accommodation. / The wages were bad and we spent it all on food and accommodation and. / The wages were bad and we heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta. / We had heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta but it was a long way away. / We had heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta but Mount Shasta was a long way away and we would have to save up a lot of money to / and we would have to save up a lot of money for a ticket to take us there. / We would have to. / We heard you could make money working the copper mines. / We had heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta but this was a long way away and we would have to save up a lot of money for a ticket there. / and we had to save up. / We heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta and we saved as much money as we could until we had enough for a ticket there. / and we saved as much money as we could. / We saved up as much as we could until we had enough money for a ticket there and then we drew for it. / and we then drew for it. / We then. / We had heard you could make more money working the copper mines near Mount Shasta but this was a long way away. We saved up as much as we could until we had enough for a ticket there and then we drew for it and my mate got to go. / We drew for it and in the end my mate got to go. / We saved up until we had enough for a ticket there and then we drew for it and my mate got to go. / We saved up until we had enough for a ticket there. We then drew for it and my mate got to go. / My mate got to go and about a fortnight after he left I received a letter with enough money for a ticket out there. / I received a letter from my comrade, and it said for me to come to Mount Shasta. / The letter said for me to come to Mount Shasta. / He had sent me a letter with enough money for a ticket out there, and it said for me to come to Mount Shasta. / The letter, it said. / We saved up until we had enough money for a ticket there and then we drew for it and my mate got to go, though a fortnight later I got a letter with enough money for a ticket out there and I went. / I went out there. / I got a ticket and I went out there. / I went out there.

*Mount Shasta, California, 1912.*

The mining company had its own railway. / The mining company had. / It had its own. / The mining company had its own railway line up the mountain. / The mining company has its own railway line as far as possible up the mountain and then a cable car. / The mining company had its own railway line taking you as far up the mountain as possible then there was a cable car. / There was a cable car but when I arrived the cable. / The mining company had its own railway line taking you as far up the mountain as possible, then there was a cable car though when I arrived the cable was torn and the engineer was worried. / When I arrived the cable was torn. / then there was a cable car though when I arrived the cable was torn and the engineer was very worried. / the cable was torn and the engineer was very worried and he said to me. / The engineer said to me. / The mining company had its own railway line taking you as far up the mountain as possible, then there was a cable car though when I arrived the cable was torn and the engineer was very worried and he said to me. / He said, there's no one here who can splice cable. / He said to me, there's no one here skilled in splicing cables. / He said. / then there was a cable car though when I arrived the cable was torn and the engineer was very worried and he said to me, he said, there's no one here skilled in splicing cables. / He said, there's no one here skilled in splicing cables and I said to him. / I said, I'm a sailor and I have often had to splice rope and cable. / both rope and cable. / I said, I often have had to splice both rope and cable and he seemed awfully pleased to hear me say that and he said to me. / He then said to me. / I said, I'm a sailor and I have often had to splice both rope and cable and he seemed awfully pleased to hear me say that and he said to me, you can have all the help you need. / He said, you can have all the help you need if you think you can do it. / He said, if you think you can do it, you can have all the help you need. / I said, I'm a sailor and I have often had to splice both rope and cable and he seemed awfully pleased to hear me say that and he said to me, if you can do it, you can have all the help you need, and in three hours time me and my mate had spliced the cable in two places. / We spliced the cable in three hours, me and my mate. / Me and my mate, we spliced the cable in two places in less than three hours. / He said, if you can do it, you can have all the help you need and in less than three hours me and my comrade had spliced the cable in two places and I was immediately offered a job. / The engineer immediately offered me a job with a higher salary than my mate. / and we spliced the cable in two places, in less than three hours, and I was immediately offered a job with a higher salary than my mate's. / The engineer immediately offered me a job with a higher salary. / with a high salary. / The engineer immediately offered me a job with a higher salary than my mate's.

I got to stay in a small hut. / The mining company. / There was a small hut. / The mining company owned a small hut nearby that I got to stay in. / I got to stay in the small hut with another fellow with a different job. / I got to stay in a small hut nearby owned by the company and I stayed / I stayed in the small hut owned by the mining company with another fellow with a different job and we had to cook our own meals. / I stayed in a small hut owned by the company. / It was a small hut nearby, owned by the mining company, and I got to stay there with another fellow

with a different job and we cooked our own meals. / We cooked our meals ourselves. / We cooked our own meals in the hut and we sent for groceries every day. / and everyday we sent for groceries from the station. / We sent for the groceries we needed for cooking every day. / I stayed in the hut with another fellow with a different job and we cooked our meals ourselves and every day we sent for the groceries we needed from the station down the mountain. / and every day we cooked our meals ourselves and we sent for the groceries we needed from the station down the mountain. / Every day me and the other fellow, we cooked our own meals and we sent for groceries from the station and I stayed all winter. / We cooked every day and every day we sent for groceries and I stayed there for four or five months. / and I stayed there all winter, for four or five months. / I stayed. / We cooked everyday and sent for groceries from the station down the mountain and I stayed all winter, for four or five months, enjoying myself and saving up money that I put in the bank. / I stayed for four or five months, all winter, enjoying myself and saving up money, every month, for the first time in my life. / I stayed all winter, enjoying myself, saving up money, for the first time in my life. / For the first time in my life I saved up money, every month. / I stayed there all winter, four or five months, and for the first time in my life I saved up money, every month when I got my wages, I saved up money that I put in the bank. / For the first time in my life, every month I saved up money that I put in the bank. / For the first time in my life. / I put the money in the bank, every month. / All the money that I saved. / and every month I put all the money I had saved in the bank and then one day I read in the newspaper. / Every month I put all my savings in the bank but then one day. / For the first time in my life, every month I put all the money I had saved in the bank, but then one day I read in the newspaper that the bank where I had deposited all my money had gone bankrupt and closed down. / but then one day, it stood to read in the newspaper that the bank where I had saved all my money had gone bankrupt. / It had closed down. / For the first time in my life, every month I had saved as much money as I had been able to and I had put it all in the bank, but then one day it stood to read in the newspaper that the bank where I had deposited all my money had closed down. / It was going bankrupt, and it did too. / It went bankrupt. / closed down. / The bank where I had deposited all my money closed down. / bankrupt. / It closed down, and so I lost all my money too. / I had gone bankrupt. / It stood to read in the newspaper that it was going bankrupt and it did too, it went bankrupt and closed down, and so I lost all my money too. /all my savings. / It closed down and I lost all my savings too. / all the money I had saved. / The bank went bankrupt and I lost all my savings. / bankrupt. / It closed down.

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<sup>1</sup>The project *FILM* dates back to 2008, when Ola Ståhl was unexpectedly given the handwritten manuscript of the unpublished memoirs of his great granduncle, a person about whom he knew virtually nothing. Having previously worked extensively with the restaging and reworking of found sound and text, Ståhl began reworking this found manuscript, seeking to engage and amplify its peculiarities not simply or primarily in terms of its content, but also in terms of the style of the writing, its poverty and its affected, stuttered, polylingual quality. Considering the manuscript less a genealogical document than the index of a series of significant geo- and sociopolitical shifts, these reworkings were intended to explore the ways in which particular forms of writing articulate subjective political experiences; how, for instance, the experience of migration creates a polylingual site where language becomes uncertain, subject to continuous displacement, or how the lack of conventional literary tropes articulates and negotiates positions within shifting class structures. The overall project *FILM* comprises several series of such rewriting exercises, utilizing different methods, interweaving the manuscript with fragments of text from a wide array of discourses around such disparate but interlinked topics as autobiography, medicine, film theory, optics, camera and film mechanics, class structure, economics and migration. The extract published in this issue of *Journal of Radical Shimming* makes use of a process by which the text is translated very quickly between Swedish and English, in such a fashion that traces of many of the loops and repetitions you go through as a translator, trying to find suitable equivalents between languages, are kept in the text, generating a rambling, incessantly looping, repetitive voice which never ceases to assert itself despite its own stuttered absurdity.