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**FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT  
LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978**

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single letter

Art: Let's start by talking a little bit about your parents. You mentioned that your parents came from Ilmajoki. Did your father or mother ever tell you why they left Finland? ~~Did they~~ Why did they come to America?

Hattie: Well, ~~you know~~ I had a grandmother here also. My dad's mother was here. ~~And no~~ doubt, thru letters, ~~and so on~~, they communicated and thought this was a grand country ~~and~~ that your chances were more here than at home.

Art: ~~And~~ as you say, your father came in the early 1890's. Did he find employment immediately in the mines?

Hattie: It seems to me he did some lumbering at first. My sister would know about it better than I, but the longest that I remember him holding a job was this foremanship of this rock house, crushing business, ~~you know~~.

Art: Did he get that position after you were born?

Hattie: ~~Yes~~, I was <sup>one</sup> year-old only when we moved from Allouez to No. 3 Wolverine, so I don't know too much about the Allouez situation and ~~not too much in the beginning, of course~~, in Wolverine either. But as much as I can remember, he worked in this No. 3 rock house as a foreman there.

As a foreman, he worked with different men, <sup>Were</sup> most of the men under him Finns or were they of different nationalities?

Hattie: A goodly number were Finnish, too, and Italians and such, yes. I remember going up some high steps to bring his lunch to him once in a while because we lived not too far from the rock house.

Did he speak good English then?

Hattie: He understood it better than he spoke it ~~and~~, but he learned to speak it quite well.

And he communicated to the Italian workers in English?

Hattie: That's true.

And to the Finns in Finnish.

Hattie: Yes

Art: Did the Finns and the Italians get along together pretty well?

Hattie: ~~As much as~~ I remember ~~because~~ we had Italians ~~right~~ as our closest neighbors, and they were people that you would be glad to have as neighbors, very lovely.

Art: As you were growing up, which school did you attend for your elementary training?

Hattie: I went <sup>six</sup> 6 grades in the Wolverine school that was right across our home, ~~and then~~ For ~~the~~ higher learning we had to go to the Kearsarge school for my <sup>seventh</sup> 7th and <sup>eighth</sup> 8th grades, ~~and~~ from there to the Calumet High School, and from there to Northern.

Did you live in a company house?

Hattie: No, we always had our own home. In Allouez we had our own home and then in No. 3

Wolverine, my dad owned 2 homes and we had tenants even. Yes, but they were in the same plot of land so that they were right close together

Art: Did your Dad ever indicate to you why he didn't go into the company house? Were they all filled up or did he want to own his own?

Hattie: He wanted to have his own home!! Just lately we were talking with my sister, I remember her saying that for a short time they rented from some family called Nordstrom in Allouez, but I <sup>wasn't</sup> 'spoke they thought, really, it would be far better to have your own home, and then he bought one right in Allouez.

What did you do if somebody in the family got measles or were sick? Did your folks generally have some kind of home remedies? ~~or did they --~~

Hattie: Well, the first thing they went to was my grandmother! She was a cupper, and she was a massager, ~~and you know~~ in those days they had their homemade remedies, and we went to her first and then, of course, to the mining company doctor.

Art: Do you remember any of grandmother's special remedies? Did you ever handle them yourself?

Hattie: Well, I'll tell you one odd one: Whenever we got a headache, you know what she would do? She would get a nice clean cloth, fold it ~~kind of narrow type~~, about the width of your brow, and she would peel a potato, slice it up and put it on so that it would be right along your brow and then tie it in the back and in no time, our headache was gone!

What was the principle behind that?

Hattie: ~~It seemed to me, and you know~~ When we look back at the potato slices after we took 'em down, they were all turned black, you know. ~~Yes, and that was it. And if we ever had a sore throat, she even used to gargle her throat sometimes with kerosene!~~ Yes! And that fixed it! (laughter)

You had to be careful not to swallow!

Hattie: ~~You know~~ Our home in Allouez according to my sister and my dad in listening to them because I was only ~~one~~ year old ~~and~~ they had a very large living room, and all the first Sunday Schools of the Suomi Synod and the early start of Suomi College, men, ~~you know~~, that used to come. Well, my grandmother would teach the singing and of course, the Bible as well. She could just about remember any part without looking in the Bible, and while I was teaching here in the Charles Briggs School, I had some "Trestle" children, and I thought, well, "Trestle" ~~that~~ surely isn't Finnish. Then one day I met the mother and she ~~says~~ <sup>said</sup> you know, I remember your grandmother, and I was thinking, how would Mrs. Trestle know my grandmother. Why, she was one of the elderly girls that used to go to our home to the dear old Sunday School, and that's where she ~~and she~~ says how many hymns my grandmother taught her.

Art: Your grandmother was a very active lady,

Hattie: Very active! Yes, she would go way up as far as Hancock with all her remedies, ~~you know~~, this cupping and this massage.

Art: I have an idea what is involved in massaging, but what was the cupping?

Hattie: That was when I <sup>(dealt with)</sup> ~~I~~ imagine sort of like high blood pressure, and that would alleviate

that pressure, ~~I would think, and~~ she had her regular set of horns, certain type of horns and an old razor, cut short so that there was just a funny little small end and kind of rounded off but sharp, ~~and~~ she held that old razor handle like it used to be in years gone by, and she would just go about like this, ~~here~~

Art: She would tap on, ..)

Hattie: tap on, first she would put the horn there, I guess, for some suction and then she would tap it and then she would put on the horn again.  
Even Hungarian men, our neighbors, ~~Hungarians~~ heard about her, and she was doctoring up all kinds of people (laughter)  
~~Yes, and~~ she was, ~~you know~~, nice in starting that early education of the kids, too, ~~you know~~, like Sunday school, ~~and~~

In the Sunday School that she was teaching, ~~what~~ did she use, the Aapinen, too?

Hattie: Aapinen and Catechism and the Bible History. Yes.

Art: Was that Nikander's Bible History?

Hattie: It could have been. Although my mother told me that first Rev. (Sr.) Heideman<sup>v</sup> used to come to Allouez, but then they learned of Nikander being Evangelical Lutheran, ~~would~~ then they dropped that off, and my brother, Swande, was baptized by this Rev. Heideman. But then ~~when~~ they began to hear about Suomi College, Wasn't it in the 1890's when that started, ~~and~~ I told you the story about the \$20 she loaned to...

Yes, that was your grandmother?

Hattie: ~~No~~, that was my mother

Art: Oh, ~~Oh~~ Maybe you could describe that incident.

Hattie: Well, certain men from the college, ~~when~~ they began to build it in the early 1890's ~~would~~ they came collecting, they said they're going to start a college, ~~and~~ my dad wasn't making too much in those days even as a foreman, ~~and~~ But she just could not resist the man that wanted it for education, ~~so~~ she went to the neighbors, loaned \$20 and paid it. ~~And~~ she was actually never in want in spite of doing that!

Art: ~~Well~~ It seems to indicate that a lot of the early Finns were really interested in education,

Hattie: They surely were, they surely were!

Why did this happen? Do you have any explanation why they had such a great interest in education?

Hattie: I really don't know. But ~~anyway~~, I know my parents did, ~~and~~ my mother was really more for taking my sister out of school, ~~you know~~, to help her, ~~and~~ my dad didn't want that but anyway she won! You know how women are! But he said, now the next girl that starts, I'm not taking her out and I happen to be that one. Yes.

Art: So you continued your education

Hattie: Yes. My older brother was a stationary engineer, ~~you know~~, in the mining company that would hoist the men and rocks, ~~and~~ Brother, Fred, attended Suomi College for a while, the year before the Copper Country strike, ~~But~~ then when the strike came on,

he went to a course that they called, Preparatory. It was like finishing the grades. ~~Yes, well,~~ then he planned to take the Commercial course, but the strike came on and that was it, ~~you know,~~ in those hard times.

Art: Do you have any recollections of the strike? ~~or did~~

✓ Hattie: Oh, yes. You'll find that in the library in stories on the Copper Country strike. Our neighbor girl that went to school with me, ~~she was called~~ Margaret Kadjakash, ~~she~~ was Hungarian, ~~well,~~ she went out in the early morning, ~~early in the morning~~ the strikers would go out toward the mine and they even took children along some time, and Margaret happened to be one of them, ~~and then~~ they had those "Wadell" men, you know, cavalry men really with these billies; ~~yes,~~ then one morning when they were on this little early morning round, ~~the strikers, well,~~ from this "Wadell" group ~~I~~ ~~it was, well,~~ they shot into the striker crowd and got ~~this~~ Margaret in the head, and I remember being at home when she would go by maybe to the post office or so, she would chat and she would say "Hattie, you want to put your finger up in my head?" And it was about the length of a joint of a finger, a pit in her head and still she lived and survived. Yes.

I think I remember reading about that incident.

Hattie: Yes, ~~and then~~ there was another Finnish girl who was crippled, ~~her one leg was way up as though she, no,~~ her knee was bent and her leg came way up higher than the other knee, ~~you know,~~ and it was crippled that way. Well, it was fortunate for her to go on one of those early walks because they had those soldiers here too, ~~and~~ positioned in amongst the men that came to protect the mining company ownership, ~~you know,~~ well, this doctor had noticed this poor girl, ~~she was a Lokajarvi girl,~~ and glory be, he saw to it that that girl got her leg fixed. ~~And she got a straightened leg, and she~~ went to school and that was really an ideal help for her.

Art: You mentioned the <sup>Mahon</sup> "Wadell-Mayhem" men. How did the community feel about having the state militia in here?

Hattie: They didn't mind the state militia as much as "Wadell" men or "Waddle" ~~men,~~ I don't know what they were. They feared them because, ~~you know,~~ they were stories how they'd clout innocent passers-by sometime, ~~you know, some way~~ with those billies. Not all I ~~suppose,~~ but, ~~you know,~~ I know we had one as a tenant, ~~and~~ he always carried that kind of long, leather-covered thing that had a leather hold that went around the wrist, and they were ready with that any old time, ~~and~~ on horseback, usually.

Art: <sup>Were</sup> ~~Did~~ very many of the Finns in your neighborhood go ~~were they~~ among the strikers?

Hattie: There were some and some were not. ~~And~~ <sup>My</sup> dad felt that ~~as though, you know,~~ that he wouldn't really join the strikers at first perhaps, ~~but~~ then he thought that I'm a worker, and he joined it, ~~and like~~ another neighbor man, ~~he~~ became a scab and worked while pa was a striker, but he never joined the parades or anything like that, ~~he wasn't~~ ~~you know, too~~

Art: ~~He~~ supported it, but he wasn't really an active, ,,

Hattie: ..not an active one. Well, ~~then,~~ <sup>well,</sup> one day long years after, ~~this~~ man's son says to me: "Hattie, ~~you know what,~~ when I was coming home from school, ~~and~~ I had to pass his home, ~~he said,~~ you know what, Hattie, now after the strike, your dad will never work in the Wolverine Mining Company, ~~and~~ I said to him, "Oh, won't he?" and I said, "isn't it funny that his boss came to ask him to come back to work." ~~That's what happened.~~ So his father was a scab.

Art: So evidently your father was a good worker.

Hattie: I think so. Yes. He was a hard worker.

But he never did join the union

Hattie: No. But being a workman he thought, well, might as well

Art: I guess the biggest episode that took place during the strike was the Hall disaster.

Hattie: Oh, that was terrible! Another neighbor girl, she was called Giaccolleti, Italian little girl, she passed away in the Italian Hall panic. ~~and~~ when we went to see her, the mother moved her dress a bit, ~~and~~ there was a heel mark right on her chest. She had been trodden over. ~~And then there was a Finnish family from Wolverine also that had, I don't remember quite, was it 3 or 4 little children all in a row in caskets gone in that same panic.~~

Do you recall anything of the day that the funerals were held, there was a mass funeral wasn't there?

Hattie: There was a mass funeral, and I have just seen pictures of them, ~~see~~ in those days we didn't get to Calumet as much as we did later. But that was the talk of the town and then, ~~of course~~, in all these kind of post card type ~~now like a photo~~, pictures, they sold them and that's what I remember. It was a sad sight!

Would you say that sort of broke the back of the strike then?

Hattie: I would think so. And they claim that this Big Annie, she was a Slavic person who usually carried our dear ol' flag in the parades on Sunday afternoons, she was just pretending to be a striker. She would give all the data to honorable McNaughton then later on.

So she was a kind of ~~an~~ informer!

Hattie: Informer! There was an article in either the Detroit or Chicago paper at the time and it was just a hand-drawn picture of a desk and a man sitting at the desk and this Big Annie sitting there and giving all the data, ~~to the information.~~

~~Well~~, there was evidently then a concentrated effort on the part of the company to find out who the strikers were. ~~and~~ were some blacklisted then afterwards?

Hattie: Oh, a goodly number, especially what I remember people saying from the Ahmeek locale, because I think they detected ~~a kind of a, would it be~~ a socialistic or Marxist element, ~~you know~~. Yes, there were quite a number. Several of our hometown boys even lost their jobs and they had to go to work at the Painesdale Mining Company, I think, because they couldn't get a job here.

Well, that certainly is one of the more lively chapters in Copper Country history, ~~that~~

Hattie: Yes, it was a lively one and a sad one. Yes. The doors opened inward and then when the first ones through fear went down those high steps in the Italian Hall, well, they piled one over the other.

No fire really?

Hattie: There was no fire at all but someone who came in called "Fire," and I know Mrs. Gaabo's

mother died just sitting on the chair the minute she heard some one come in and say, "say Fire" She collapsed and died. I suppose she thought how am I going to go down those steps if there is a fire so she just

Art: They never found out who called "fire"?

Hattie: No, but no doubt it was from the other side, you know, not the strikers.

How old were you then, you were a school girl?

Hattie: I was just in the grades, might have been 5th or 6th grade. Yes

Well that strike took place just before World War I, what kind of impact did World War I have on the community? Did quite a few of the boys go off to war?

Hattie: Yes, my older brother is a World War I veteran. It was sad to see them go, but he came back, and the funniest thing. My grandmother was rather psychic in spite of being you know all that she was, and I would say to her, "Grams, do you think that we used to call my brother Swande, Bup?" do you think he's going to ever return from that dear old war? Well she would say, "ei minulle olle viellä sannottu." She'd give such an answer, and then in the meantime we moved from No. 3 Wolverine to No. 4, another adjoining village. And I went to college from No. 3 and returned to go to No. 4, a brand new place. Well, then one day long time after, she comes to visit us in No. 4 Wolverine, and all of a sudden she says to my mother "no nyt hängelle sannottiin" and my mother had sort of forgot to ask it so often any more, well, she said "no matkaan varella se sovinto töhdän" and do you know it, my brother was already in Dress? France and they were already told that in four days, you will be in the trenches and the Armistice was signed! She was psychic in many ways. Very religious and could interpret dreams too, that type. Sometimes I used to say maybe she was a spiritualist, but she wasn't, but she was a staunch Evangelical Lutheran.

Art: ~~Was this unusual, you know,~~ were there other Finnish ladies or men who had these psychic powers, or was this kind of unusual?

Hattie: I remember another neighbor, William Kruka, who was the chief push over there at the Painesdale Mining Company, well, his mother was really wonderful for interpreting dreams, I remember, she was our neighbor, too. All the Kruka's. Yes. And they were all educated too, William was the oldest boy from another mother and all the rest were a whole slew of kids, but he wanted them all educated, and he had made a promise to his dying father that he'll see that they're all educated, so even in that family there was that education idea.

Art: So let's talk a little bit about your education. You had your high school training in the Calumet High School. What were your impressions of that school? Was it a good school?

Hattie: It was considered very good. All the graduates needed to say, like in Detroit even, that they'd say, where are you from? "Calumet," that was it; they got a job. Yes, it was considered very good. See, the staff was mostly Calumet people that stuck up for the community, see. Like now, it's maybe a Tech man's wife teaching--not condemning all of them either, but it was more of the hometown girls that were the teachers, and they were proud of their kids, you know, and then they got wonderful training and most of them did well.

Someone was saying not too long ago, whom I talked to, that there was really an attempt by the mining company manager and others who came from Boston and Harvard to try and inject progressive ideas into the school training, was that your experience?

Hattie: That could be, yes.

Art: What was the curriculum like?

Hattie: ~~Lill~~ ~~you~~, in my elementary training, we had a woman superintendent called Miss Pope. That's unusual, on a woman as superintendent. ~~We~~, I'm telling you, we really got training. We studied art, music, and her system was noted for the penmanship. Beautiful penman, and it was almost militaristic. But I had many instances that I could cite in college days, like Once Professor Brown in the Psychology class, says, who can think of some similies? ~~and~~ All of a sudden I happened to think of when I was in the 5th grade. We used to have programs, school concerts in the Forestors Hall - that is now the Midway Inn, <sup>oh the</sup> same plot there, ~~well~~ like from a clear sky this song that we once sang there; it was called "Geography" and I thought I've learned to sing it and I surely am not going to sing it in a class of about 60 there. So I thought I only hope that I could remember it, to say it. So the 1st verse went like this:

The earth outside is like a nut (there's one already)  
And inside full of flames, they say it's like an orange  
But it doesn't taste the same  
A river is the funniest thing that's on the map I think  
It looks just like a piece of string  
And yet it's good to drink and then a real humorous chorus to it

Well, Mr. Brown ~~looks and says~~, and he looked at me, and ~~looked at me~~, he said, and we were studying forgetfulness and memory right that day, I said, Mr. Brown, we used to sing it in the 5th grade, and I'm telling you that improved my mark that day (laughter), and then of course, the penmanship, they noticed the penmanship of all these districts, you know, under Miss Pope, and oh, when I took abnormal psychology we were supposed to have a typewritten ~~and so on~~, and I have never taken typing, I took Latin-German course in high school, so I would have to hire a girl to do the work, and when I wouldn't get it the way I would want the book to be. See, we had to put what the buildings looked like to us in the early morning on Saturday when we went there, and then one day when I'm going to class, well, Mr. Brown says, "what's that district upthere in the north, Kere, Kere, ~~(he was going)~~, well, there's a woman superintendent, I said, could it have been Kearsage?" And he said, yes, he said, I marvel at the penmanship, I said, well, that's where I hail from, Mr. Brown." So ~~then~~ after this course was finished, this abnormal psychology course, we had to make a trip to Newberry State Hospital, and he was explaining what these books ~~look~~ look like, and they must be on typewritten paper, each in typewriting. So I waited until the class was just about gone and I stopped at his desk and I said "Mr. Brown, I could make my book just the way I want it, if I could arrange it the way I want to, and if you would give me permission to write mine in long hand. I said, Remember you complimented those district No. 2 penmen. He says, "go to it, ~~but then he says~~, how are you going to keep them straight?" With typewriting paper," I said, "I'll make a liner." Then I got an "A" on my book.

Art: ~~this abnormal psychology course~~ ~~this was~~ at Northern?

Hattie: that was at Northern. But then we had to finish it by visitng the paranoid, schizophrenic and all of those, ~~and~~ I didn't know there was an alcoholic section in there, too, and a hunchback section where they were hurt some way, and that the spine didn't work right and that affected the brain. But I didn't think of alcoholism, you know, but there was a group of them too.

Art: Were there many Finnish patients in that Newberry asyllum?

Hattie: I think so because Mr. Brown even mentioned the fact, and I felt kind of sad to hear that, I was going to tell him, well, the majority of people living around here are Finnish, you know, but I thought I won't say a thing.

Art: Is there anything about your college days that really stands out in your mind?

Hattie: Well, ~~you know~~ While I was in High School we had a very educated man called Trebilcock, but he spoke above our heads. His words were ~~quite~~ <sup>quite</sup> long, ~~you know~~. He didn't come down to our level, and I thought if I lived through this high school age, ~~well~~, I shall not take history in a hurry! But then my first year at Northern I had a fellow called Devarous Starr, round-faced, cheerful, ~~not that he was gloomy either~~; we used to call him "Trucky" and he spoke on our level, and would you believe it? From an English major I changed my course and graduated with a history major ~~because~~ he brought out something that changed my mind about history, I began to like it. ~~English~~, English is my minor and <sup>also</sup> Geography.

Well, when you began teaching, you taught all subjects then?

Hattie: Yes, and ~~this~~ E. J. Hall, when I got here wanted to know, extra, can you teach drawing, can you teach music? and I stood there kind of sheepishly never knowing how it's going to be.

What year was it when you graduated from Northern?

Hattie: I got my limited certificate in 1918. And then I spent September '21 and June '22 and I got the life certificate. Then long years after I got my Bachelor or ARTs degree in 1946, long time after.

Art: Let's talk about your first teaching position, ~~was~~ that in Aura?

Ra  
Hattie: That was in Aura. It was through a friend who had an aunt living in Aura that wrote to me and said "Hattie, they need a teacher", they would like to have you consider it. And ~~now~~ again that Marxist idea comes in in my mind so then I wrote to Superintendent Cross and I said I'll be coming on such-and-such a train, that I'm tall and blue-eyed and fair, and ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> course, he immediately knew who I was, well, there's a Ford car waiting and a chauffeur and Mr. Cross, and we start going, and ~~we're going and going~~, we went past L'Anse, past the Zeba Village, I had never seen Indian children before and then we get to what he called Aura. And we stopped at some tracks and near these tracks is a kind of a low building, one-room building with tar paper cupboard, ~~you know, instead of~~ <sup>it</sup> was an old Hebbard Lumber Company office camp left there as a school, and when we stopped there, and he said, "that's your school," ~~well~~, I was thinking when the evening train comes along, I'm going back home". And then he asked me the funniest question. He said, "<sup>might</sup> ~~am~~ I a socialist?" And the way to going and I thought, Oh, my God, do I look like

(end of tape)

~~(beginning of tape not understandable - too faint)~~

Hattie: I was really stunned! And I couldn't understand why he would ask that, until I made my first trip to ~~Pequaming~~ <sup>Pequaming</sup> with my landlady driving a nag, you know, and going along about 5 miles and she would say, now there's John Harju, and there's Alex Harju, and there's George Harju ~~and so on; that sort of began to dawn on me that, well~~ I wanted to know what sort of people they were, and not all of them, but amongst them then later on I heard that there was little bit of that <sup>element</sup> because ~~he~~ <sup>Mr. Cross</sup> said, "now where ~~am~~ <sup>am I</sup> going to stay?" I said, "I don't know; ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> I am to stay with a family called John Mytty ~~and~~ somewhere near these tracks and near this school. ~~I said~~ I have no idea, Superintendent Cross, ~~and well then I guess he began to realize that--~~ he thought that it was thru these Harju's that I was asked to come there, no doubt, see, that I was a relative of them. That's the idea I got. Because no doubt he had heard

Art: Did they have some sort of hall there?

Hattie: Well, not when I was there, <sup>but</sup> in later years ~~then~~ when I was out of there. Yes, ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> was 2 different kinds of halls--~~you know~~ those that were that minded and those that were more church-minded.

Art: Those other halls, were they <sup>tenement</sup> halls, were they Raittius Seura?

Hattie: More or less. ~~Then~~ <sup>When</sup> my niece was a baby, ~~when I took my job~~ <sup>and</sup> would you believe it when she got her first job, Martha Tossava Kotila, she got her first job in Aura. But she was in Arvon Township, that's more toward the Skanee way, but part of Aura, ~~but~~ I was in the L'Anse Township but we both boarded in the same home, Hiltunen's. Well, that <sup>really</sup> shocked me, ~~that question~~. ~~Again~~ <sup>Then</sup> as Superintendent Cross asked this driver to go to the nearest farm house and ask some one to direct us to John Mytty's. Well, out comes a little girl with a little <sup>Koi?</sup> on her cheek and she says "I can show you the way to John Mytty's ~~and that today is~~ Mrs. Jalmer Liuska in Aura, she's a Makela really and some relative of this John Juntunen who runs the restaurant, ~~and of course, the minute I saw this Kearsarge girl, there working with her aunt, you know, for her aunt she got her little baby at the time, well, I began to feel more at home, just seeing her, but I could write a book on the general, shocking situations too, and hardships and like that over there, but~~

Art: What were some of the hardships? Were most of these people farmers?

Hattie: Well, when a new farmer would come, they would ~~let~~ <sup>let</sup> this new farmer live with them for the time being, ~~with another farmer~~. They were so obliging until he got his sauna most likely first and then the house built, it was really like pilgrims landed.

You're joking--they didn't put up the sauna first?

Hattie: No, no, not exactly, no, but that was the next best thing to keep clean, that was their cleanliness.

Where did they get this land?

Hattie: I think it was senior Jasberg from Hancock that sold these lands, ~~then~~ <sup>then</sup> they were Indian hunting grounds before; it's really Point Abaye on the map. ~~And they were~~ Indian hunting grounds, but I don't know ~~what~~ <sup>what</sup> Ray Jasberg got a hold of them, ~~but anyway~~ he was the agent for ~~the~~ selling of them. ~~And see, after the strike many people were glad to go as farmers from here because, and some of the men were getting older, and so many went back to farms then.~~

Art: ~~Well~~ Did the Finns turn to farming out of economic necessity, because of the strike and other reasons, or did they go just because they wanted to have their own (farm)?

Hattie: I think there were many that wanted to be farmers, and others, perhaps, you know, with that incentive, ~~well, now that~~ the strike is over and maybe I don't get a job; ~~and well,~~ I'll go, but there were others that really wanted to have their own farm.

Art: Could you share any experiences about your first year of teaching? What was it like to be a teacher out there?

Hattie: There's one incident, my school desk, I'm sorry I didn't buy it as a souvenir. It was flat on both ends like this, and then slant here like an old-fashioned organ, you know, that you lift up, and your belongings were in there, and wrought iron sides, and the children's desks were ~~double but nice~~ desks, but double seated. Black boards, black paper, not slate; softwood floor so that one day when I was walking back looking at the children's writing, down goes the board and the earth below. And then one day it really got me frightened! A mouse peeped up through a knothole and I thought ~~well here's where~~ I'd better get a chair, but I thought I am teacher now, I better not show that I'm scared of a mouse. They didn't mind them at all, they were used to them. And a huge metal-covered stove in the corner that gave plenty of heat, and I remember Dr. Lowe in Northern who taught Physiology, used to say, now I wish everyone of you would start in the country and be the janitor, even. ~~Now had~~ I been the janitor, I think the old school would have burnt. Well, anyway there were some farm children that did the lighting of the fire and all that, so I escaped that.

Art: Were all your pupils Finnish?

Hattie: All except one German girl and 3 little Indians that came from these Heberd camps, but all Finns otherwise.

Art: ~~Did you,~~ Did these Finnish children that came, did they know any English or was it your job to teach them how to speak English?

Hattie: Some knew a little bit, but they had to learn it. Yes. ~~Of course,~~ some of the <sup>younger</sup> mothers did speak English, you know, ~~some of the younger mothers~~ but ~~ok,~~ then at recess time I would listen, they would make fun of the little Indian children. ~~I said,~~ then when they came in, I said we must treat each other kindly, that those people that you were laughing at recess time are more Americans than we are, to tell you the truth! So, that was that. And the funniest thing, then I had them so that they'd get over their self-consciousness, if they knew a song or if they know a poem or something, to recite in front of the room, well, this one little Indian boy wanted to sing a song, too, because there was a Nygord boy that had a soprano voice like boys have when they changing voice, but up goes the little Shalfoe boy's hand and he began to sing about the bedbugs on the wall because that's the only thing he had, he lived at those lumber camps, I forget what his first name was, but I said, "don't you know any other song?" "No, that's the only song I know," so that was it.

Art: He sang about his life experience

Hattie: That was his life experience!

Art: I'm very interested in this change from the Finnish language to the English language, was it difficult for the children to learn a new language, make the adjustment?

Hattie: No, ~~not too bad because see~~ As the older children learn it, I suppose they caught on at home already, and you had to have all the grades, and then there came a time ~~I think it was~~ in the third year that I was there, a girl called Miss Marrow from Champion, that was a graduate from Ferris Institute, came there, and she let me go through the bother of changing all the lower grade books and then the higher grade, and I was to take the higher and she lower, and she spent one night and on the morrow like her name, she was gone, she couldn't take it. Well, it was hardship, to tell you the truth. I'm surprised when I think back that I put in 3 years.

Do you recall what kind of pay you received?

m Hattie: Yes, I was getting more there than Miss Pope, this one that I went to in my elementary grades, <sup>with</sup> she offered 45 and mine was 65.

\$65 a month?

Hattie: ~~And you know~~ when I told her, ~~and then there was a flu epidemic, where I was home~~ maybe a whole month, then they call me ~~and they call me again~~ and we were out another month, it was raging terrible. ~~And I'm sure the man of the house where I stayed in~~ might of had pneumonia even, but <sup>just had</sup> no doctor, and the mother was so sick that she could just about prepare the meal, ~~and I did not get sick there.~~ It was the third year that ~~I was putting there, but~~ when I went the following year for my life certificate, it raged in Marquette and I was down and out. The kids had to bring me my dinner from another home. I was really sick. I had resistance to fight it the first year, ~~no~~ <sup>let the flu is</sup> ~~doubt~~ But ~~then~~ when worrying about your own studies ~~when you're at college and~~ <sup>raging</sup> over there too, ~~well~~, I really got a good start of it.

Art: Well, in the Aura region, were there any deaths because of the flu?

Hattie: Yes, ~~indeed~~ ~~And~~ ~~on~~ one of these trips when I came home, ~~you know~~, because they ~~said~~ that the schools would be closed again for awhile, one of the Hiltunen boys asked me to get him some reeds for his accordian. He knew I was coming here, ~~and~~ just the week before I wrote to him and I said, "would he need them already, ~~that~~ I could send them." He says, well, "no, but ~~that's~~ you just bring them when you come, ~~that~~ they're opening again." So I had the reeds when I went back, ~~and~~ when I got there, they said that George Hiltunen had passed away. ~~And another instance: that~~ funeral. We're going to the funeral and Rev. Settlä from Republic came there with this ~~rig~~, <sup>like you see in Gunsmoke, the doctor, that type rigging, and a one horse</sup> ~~He used to hire it from L'Anse, and they stopped at Mytty's, most of the pastors~~ when they would come and preach there, ~~well~~ instead of introducing me, we were all going out for this funeral and Mr. Mytty had a long rig for his family to go, ~~and then I was~~ going to go with the kids on that and Mr. Mytty kind of rough spoken says "hei, teacheri sa'mennä pastorin kansa". Didn't know him from a "bag of beans" and I had to introduce myself although he ate there, ~~and everything and to get up there first,~~ then we started off, ~~they~~ went ahead the family and we followed,

Art: Was Settlä married?

Hattie: Yes, he was married, then, ~~yes~~, and glory be, we were going along on the country road, ~~not very good road, well~~ Mr. Mytty used to call them "kintu polkuja" (just the paths), that was kind of funny; I had never heard it before, well, here I'm sitting with this pastor that I had to introduce myself to, ~~felt kind of odd~~, and we're going along, all of a sudden from the carriage some kind of a newspaper comes flying in the air and before we knew it, that horse was up in the air! ~~And~~ it was sort of sliding on my side and had it been somebody I knew, I might have grabbed him by the neck! ~~And~~ ~~Maybe~~ said, "Herra Jumala" or something like that. I didn't dare to say that, and I didn't dare to touch him, ~~and~~ I was just holding on to the bar, and it was going my way (laughter) and he said, "ei tarvitse hätäillä ennen ko on vaara lähellä" and it was plenty "vaara lähellä" because that horse was up in the air! It got so frightened when this newspaper came flying through the air, some farmer, I suppose, had just thrown it. Oh, dear! ~~And~~ ~~he~~ would not go in the home to see the body; ~~Rev. Settlä~~ wouldn't, he was so scared of it.

Art: How did they prepare the body there?

Hattie: Well, some kind lady would just wash the body, ~~and~~ it seemed that this very George, ~~well~~, there was blood coming from ~~his nose~~, ~~see~~ They just sent a casket because those

section lines weren't made yet like they are today. ~~and~~ they had to bring the body outdoors. It was a cold, autumnal day, and he was so frightfully scared of the flu, and the services were held outside. I went in there, too, and I didn't even get a dent, but ~~boy~~ the next year in Marquette I really got it. I was saving all the germs I got, you know. (laughter)

Art: You mentioned Settälä coming there, did he run into any difficulties with socialist elements there?

Hattie: He could have but I never come to know that <sup>became</sup> ~~was~~ he would just come once in a while from Republic, and then another thing, One evening Mr. Mytty said, "noh, nyt mennän kirkkon", I said, "missä tällä on kirkko?" "Kyllä sinnä huomaa kun me lähemme", well, we go again to these tracks near the dear old school building and there's a handcar (what do they call that you have to pump to go along?) section-line men use-

Art: ~~Handcar~~

Hattie: ~~Handcar~~ And I thought, what kind of rigging is that? Well, <sup>was there</sup> all of the people, that they had asked to go to church with to Pequaming, that was 5 miles from there, fortunately downhill when you went, but uphill when you were coming back, well, there we were seated, a goodly number on the old handcar. I said, "tälläkö me menneme kirkkon?" "yo, tällä me menneme kirkkon". That was a little chapel in one part of Pequaming that was called "Fintown" and that's where we went. And the most wonderful sermon anybody could hear! Course, this Rev. ~~Settälä~~, that's the first time I heard <sup>Rev. Settälä</sup> him speak, and then when we came out of church, I could hear the voice of a lady that sounded much like my mother's, in the same dialect, Vaasan murreta, "Tulka nyt meille, tuoka sittä uutta teacheria kahville," and ~~she went and then~~ when we were near the door, she said, "no mennään sinne tupaan istuman", you know just like a Vaasa-lainen would say it, and I felt quite at home, just like getting to feel more like I belong there. And that was my first church-going trip. And then I wanted to do that exercise too and they said, "ei teacheri tarte, ei teacheri tarte".

Did any of the Finns try to match you up with one of the Finnish men?

Hattie: Oh, yes, there was a certain lad that was interested, but the trouble was, if you and he was very nice and maybe I could have liked him enough to marry him even, but I had, like you say, "dear boy, that I would be minus a job, that I had nothing against you,--

You really had a commitment towards teaching.

Hattie: Yes, I had a full commitment towards teaching, that was uppermost, I enjoyed it

Art: Well, you were for about 3 years

Hattie: ~~I was 3 years there~~

Art: And then ~~from there~~ you moved to

Hattie: I moved over here on Lake Linden Avenue in the Home school that was part of District No. 1 Calumet and the E. J. hall. And there I had a lovely principal, Miss Mahoney, although she was Catholic, she was very saintly and lovely even toward her protestant teachers. And she gave me many, many hints on what to expect, and she said, when I told her about ~~the~~ Stephen Stefanich, well, she said, "you'll notice Miss Harju that children get cases on their teachers and vice versa, and then long years afterwards, Stephen had left school, he sends a Valentine card, and it says, "To my

dearest", <sup>from</sup> Fullerton Avenue, Chicago. He wasn't married then yet, ~~you know~~.  
~~And then~~ I purposely took that card to show Miss Mahoney and I said, "you were right, Miss Mahoney," ~~and I had Miss Sandlin, a Finnish principal, I was there another 3 years,~~  
 then I was promoted from the 5th to 6th, and the 7th in the Charles Briggs under Miss Sandlin, Miss Flora Sandlin, <sup>a Finnish principal</sup> and then I used to have to take a bus from home, get off near the Washington building and wait for another bus to get me to Laurium! ~~And~~  
 there was a man that would go by every morning, and I'd say, "Good Morning" and he could see that I was not with the District No. 2 teachers that waited for their bus, ~~well~~, He didn't say too much, I just knew that he was one of our School Board members. He was called McClelland. Well, then I met him again, and he said, "you know, I've been wondering who you were, why don't you go in the vestibule of that Washington Building and it's nice and warm in there," I said, "Mr. McClelland, if you're not right under the bus, they don't wait". So that year, in 1934, in mid-term, February, Mr. Hall comes along one morning and says, "You know, I've been thinking of changing you to the Washington School," and I knew it stemmed from Mr. McClelland. ~~He~~ <sup>Hall</sup> was here, he lived on this avenue, a few houses down from here, he was snug in bed, he didn't know I had walked a mile and had taken 2 buses and I think Peter McClelland put him wise. And I was only 30½ years straight in that building! Teaching all the subjects until before my retirement in '64. Maybe 5 years before that, they started the junior high and ~~see~~ the men ~~folks~~ wanted to take the history. ~~I thought well~~ I would love the history now, but Mr. whoever was principal there said that I think you'd make a English teacher.

~~Well~~, you were teaching here then when the depression came? ~~Wasn't you?~~ '29-'30? in those years?

Hattie: ~~Was that the depression?~~

Early '30's.

Hattie: Early '30's, yes, I was. ~~I began here in~~ I got my life certificate <sup>in</sup> '21-'22. Well, then '22-'23 I was in Holmes and from '23 on to '64 I was 42 years in the Calumet District, 3 years in Baraga County.

~~You taught about those depression years, were there~~ did you notice any particular hardships that your children were facing, ~~or was it pretty much in the depression years~~

Hattie: Well, there were some that needed help and I think they did get it. ~~Yes~~ But in general they weren't too bad especially in the town, ~~because~~ I had seen such a vast difference out in the country so I thought they looked pretty good here.

Art: So even during the depression they looked much better here than they did in Aura during other years?

Hattie: Yes. ~~And~~ I used to like to teach music too, so over here in the Charles Briggs School I had a boy's trio and even young Dr. Roche was my boy soprano with Butcher Reynolds' boy, they had this soprano voice, ~~and~~ there was Wilmers and Wickstrom, the middle part, and Gook and-I forget the little part man, but Gook could carry the load himself. ~~And~~ I remember how I had goose flesh all over me when they would sing in harmony so every time I see Dr. Roche, he says, "Hattie Har-ju Bartanen" and I say, "yup, that's who it is, and myyy boy soprano," I tell him. (laughter)

Art: Well, you've enjoyed a great deal being a teacher.

Hattie: Yes, and to think like this George Matson still writes to me, that he made the Army his career, ~~and I had~~ those are from him in Korea; I had a beautiful frame when he heard the old school teacher got married, <sup>eleven</sup> 11 cultured pearls and all the shells in a regular frame over there on the wall; ~~Yes~~, and many others ~~that~~ have kept

in touch, ~~and~~ <sup>At</sup> Christmas time, I hear from oodles of them. ~~When~~ <sup>When</sup> you have children of your own, ~~well~~, I call them my darlings or my children. <sup>Like</sup> Sunday when you were preaching, two of them were sitting right in front of me and I didn't really know who they were until they got up, I said, "oh, two more of my darlings" (laughter) I really enjoyed teaching.

Art: But you must have noticed a considerable change over the years as the mining began to taper off.

Hattie: Oh, yes, and even in the curriculum and the type of teachers that were coming and that slow change to what it is today.

What were some of those changes?

Hattie: Well, they were less--I think we were more strict in some ways and the kids really had to come to time! But that's the way we were brought up, see.

You noticed a lessening in discipline.

Hattie: Lessening in discipline especially was one of the chief

Art: Because of the change, was there any cutting back on the curriculum in the kinds of courses that could be provided?

Hattie: Yes, in the later years then they realized that they should get in more science like in the latter years in the Washington building. And they dropped off Geography in 7th and 8th for some time and introduced sciences instead. So it was like learning a new course in science and I had to brush up on all the dinosaurs and the types of rocks, ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> was interesting though, it was nice to teach all those subjects because you had to be more alert yourself, ~~and then, of course,~~ <sup>This</sup> was interesting too but sort of monotonous, ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> was spelling and reading and literature and the writing and all that, it's much more monotonous than having like art and music and all the rest of the subjects, like in history and science you couldn't guess, you had to know it!

How would you appraise the mining company's involvement in the educational enterprise?

Hattie: Well, the Washington School got their heating system from the Calumet Mining Company, there was a big boiler house back of the school and now in the late years, when the mines closed, they had their--if you'll notice a kind of a smaller structure beyond the avenue where they have their new heating system, so they lost out there after the mines closed.

Art: Were mining company managers on the school board?

Hattie: ~~And~~ <sup>It</sup> seemed to me that the Calumet High School was really started by the mining company, of course, I can't vouch on that but it seems to me it was. See, those early days we hardly got to Calumet, we didn't know too much about it until we got to high school. And then we felt, you know how you feel, inferiority complex like living over beyond the tracks, you know, from Kearsarge coming over here, we thought the Calumet people were different, more learned or something until we found out that we could do much like they did.

How did the Finnish students manage in school? Were they up there?

Hattie: Very good, some of them. Extremely good. Then, of course, like in every group you'll find some that were kind of backward and some were not physically able to learn too much, they had some physical trouble. But on the general whole, I would

say the Finns were alert.

Did the school provide any kind of night-school training for older people?

Hattie: Yes, there were adult classes one time, I remember; yes, and just lately there has been.

I'm thinking if there were classes to help naturalize people, help them learn

Hattie: It seems to me there were. But you know when you didn't get to Calumet so much in those early days so I can't really tell.

Looking back over your teaching career and what you've done here, is there any one thing you could point out as your most worthwhile accomplishment, that you feel is most satisfying?

Hattie: I felt thrilled at the time when this Mr. Hall says, well, I've been thinking of putting you in the Washington building, ~~because you know~~ When I used to come home from the Aura ~~and oh, I forgot to tell you~~ While I was in Aura in those 3 years, they built a 2-room rural school, the most modern in Baraga County at the time! I forgot that part. A lovely slate boards, single desks, blond swivel chair and a desk to match for the teacher and these chemical toilets so that was a vast improvement! Two rooms and that's where ~~MI thought well~~ Miss Morrow will have a chance to be in the other room but she disappeared over one night!

Did you feel that in the Finnish community there was a tremendous amount of respect for the teacher?

Hattie: Tremendous amount, yes. I think so. And if I failed there, ~~well~~, They can thank their stars that I stayed 3 years, because it was hardship. ~~See, Not any special~~ bathrooms, not any special room, ~~exactly, you know~~, They gave you what they had. But there must have been a lot of good in what I was eating, ~~and all that, because~~ In the last 2 years then I boarded with the John Hiltunen's, ~~and she was a lovely lady, too, just like the first one, and when she would see that I was getting the blues, like you would, well, she'd say, "Hattie, let's have some coffee".~~ And the crawling on the snow to get to school; ~~oh, boy,~~ it was a treat to take a bus to school when I got here. Oh, another experience I had there: forest fire. I was staying at Hiltunen's then. There was a fire on this side of the house, just a stone's throw from the house, and over here and on 3 sides ~~excepting one~~, and that was from the L'Anse end and all night long the farmers would come in for a cup of java and then they'd go out with their hoes and shovels and to protect the school because it was recently built, this lovely new school, and dug big trenches and save it like they did. Well, then all of a sudden word came that Aura folks, you'd better duck for the lake! It was really treacherous. ~~And anyway I think there were so many~~

(end of tape)

225 Lake Linden Avenue  
Laurium, Michigan 49913  
August 16, 1972

Rev. Art Puotinen  
Oral History Project Director  
Hancock, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find two most important achievements during my college days at Northern, in Marquette [omitted somehow] - in a sort of excitement, due to my first interview, ever conducted by tape recorder at our home by you - [as follows:]

1. June 1922 I was chosen as a member of the PHI EPSILON HONOR SOCIETY. LIFE CERTIFICATE received at that time.

2. August 1946 I earned my BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE - WITH HONOR. (History major; English and Geography minors.) also

During every summer, from childhood days until confirmation at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, I attended classes at the well-known KALEVA TEMPERANCE HALL in (Wolverine - Hearsarge) conducted by early seminarians from our beloved Suomi College. There I learned to read and write in the Finnish language - also had other subjects viz., 1. Bible History 2. Luonnon Kirja 3. Catechism and 4. Learning, to sing our favorite hymns and special sacred solos - Otto Saarto's specialty. Social gatherings and parties for young and old folks were conducted at this community center - (also funerals and religious services) by pastors from the Beth. Luth. Church in Calumet, now known as Faith Lutheran (merged with the Swedish Carmel Luth. Church of Calumet.) Local and visiting temperance speakers often held the floor and kept "temperance" classes for children, [rather than its lodge meetings for adults]

\*Mains Lehto also a good speaker  
Sunday School principal,

2.

\*Mains Lehto and Matt Huhti of Hearsage  
their directors Both musical men.

Knowledge gained in these previous years helped me,  
to continue many years of teaching Sunday School in this  
Volverene Center of Learning. A Mixed Chorus and the noted  
"Barkut Kuoro" continued to entertain the early pioneers  
their practices held at this hall. I was a long-timed member  
of the "Wolv. Mixed Chorus, which in later years became  
part of the Beth. Luth. Church Choir. Later, while on the  
teaching staff of the Public Schools of Calumet, Professor  
Martti Nisonen taught piano and voice lessons at the  
home of Rev. Samuel Autere, <sup>Imp. Laurium</sup> so my niece, Eva Tossava  
Gardner chose to take piano lessons and I, voice, from  
this wonderful teacher, Mr. M. Nisonen. That is the reason,  
I ventured into soprano solo singing for many  
long years at our Beth. Luth. Church. Later, did likewise  
in the 40's, when Rev. Simonson led the "Lutheran  
Chorus," singing parts of Handel's Messiah. The  
Beth. Chorus often joined with neighboring choirs  
under Prof. Nisonen's direction at Hancock.

In passing, I shall state that my brother Trest Harju  
attended one year of a Preparatory Course but the next  
year, the noted Copper Country Mine Strike kept him  
from continuing learning at Suomi. Then in later years,  
my niece, Martha Tossava Kotila graduated after two  
years at Suomi and on to finish at St. Olaf College;  
and Eva Tossava Gardner, mentioned above finished  
one year there, her second at Glendale Junior College  
in California and on to the Univ. of California. Am glad  
to state that at least several from our family tree  
attended Suomi. Pardon me! Another one, a nephew,  
Carl Harju attended also. Too bad, I did not become  
a graduate of that wonderful institution! Nevertheless,  
I am proud of it and am willing to do my share as my  
parents did in Suomi's early days.

Kindly have the above transcribed to your typewritten  
form (if acceptable) as an addition to the earlier interview, I  
had with you at our home.

Your prompt attention to this request will be very  
greatly appreciated.

(over)

Yours respectfully  
Mrs. Hattie J. Partanen

*Stephane  
Geo. Mattson*

Suomi salutes the people who make this area great

Suomi College  
Folklore Album

	<p><b>Father</b>  <i>Kivonen</i>          a. <i>Pavel Kivonen</i>          b. <i>Pavel Kivonen</i>          c. <i>managing as employer</i></p>	<p><b>Mother</b>  <i>Malasca</i>          a. <i>Sivola</i>          b. <i>Sivola</i>          c.</p>	<p><b>Father</b>          a. <i>Andrew Svoboda</i>          b. <i>Stephane</i>          c. <i>Wohme Rock House 3+4</i></p>	<p><b>Mother</b>          a. <i>Maria Mousi</i>          b. <i>Stephane</i>          c. <i>Koukuri</i></p>	<p><u>Name of person</u></p>
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*- 1890 moved mother around later came to Alloway*

**Father**  
 a. *Lloyd*  
 b. *Craftman*  
 c.

**Mother**  
 a. *Paula Bertman*  
 b. *Schw*  
 c.

*1 child died in old world  
4 children*

**Child**  
 a:  
 b:  
 c.

**Child**  
 a:  
 b:  
 c.

**Child**  
 a:  
 b:  
 c.

**Child**  
 a. —  
 b.  
 c.

**Child**  
 a:  
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 c.

**Child**  
 a:  
 b:  
 c.

**Child**  
 a:  
 b:  
 c.

## Hattie Bartanen

LAURIUM- Hattie S. Bartanen, 87, of Laurium died Friday at Calumet Public Hospital after a long illness.

She was born to Andrew and Maria Harju on Nov. 21, 1898 in Allouez. She lived in No. 4 Location and attended local schools, graduating from Calumet High School and Northern Michigan University.

She was a teacher for 42 years at Aura, Holmes, Charles Briggs and Washington schools before retiring in 1964.

On May 20, 1950 she married Leonard Bartanen. He died May 8, 1984.

She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Calumet and was also a member of the Retired Teachers Association.

She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 3900 and Clyde Johnston American Legion Auxiliary Post of Mohawk.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Anna M. Tossava of LaCanada, Calif.; two nieces, Mrs. Martha (Caro) Kotila of LaCanada, Calif., and Mrs. Eva Gardner of San Diego; and two nephews, Paul Tossava of Phillipsville and Carl Harju of Kearsarge.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Faith Lutheran Church, with the Rev. R.V. Langseth of-

ficiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery.

Friends may call from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and one hour before services at the Peterson Funeral Home in Calumet. A memorial service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the church by VFW Auxiliary Post 3900.