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

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Leslie Chapman
August 3, 1972

Paul Jalkanen

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Interview with LESLIE CHAPMAN
by Paul Jalkanen August 3, 1972

-----50,000 pounds, and all this was shipped, export, Antwerp, Belgium and Havre, France. These foreign boats, mostly Norwegian boats brought grinding pebbles in, pebbles from Denmark beach, they used them in grinding mills to pulverize the sand that was taken back from the lake. And the boats used to come in an unload pebbles and load copper and take it back to Europe. So it took about 5 years or more to clean all that copper up.

Paul: So you were working down there all that time then.

Les: On the sands. See, I was on the police force and then I was transferred, first I was at Ahmeek Mill and I started there 57 years ago, August 2, 1915,

Paul: Started working for C&H

Les: Ya, then. But I was with them once before, I worked at No. 5 Tamarack underground for about 6 months and then I started with the police force with Tamarack and Osceola Mill. They had a man at the Smelter and 2 men at the Lake Linden Mill and I was 2 years and 8 months down there and the man at Dollar Bay was leaving and he (I had to come up to Calumet to see Mr. Beck, who had charge of security that time), he asked me about going to Dollar Bay so that's how I was transferred to Dollar Bay. I was transferred 1918, April 1st. And a year and couple months after when they closed the place down, I was kept there when they had this copper on the dock. Well, when the copper ran out, I had some visitors down there one day, Mr. _____ General Superintendent of _____ Smelters said we had some visitors coming, and the Anaconda _____ and some Burns' men, Burns Detective _____ so that's all he told me so when they came out, and this probably has reached you too, in 1903 and '04 at the Dollar Bay smelter they used the system of side charging the verbatory furnaces with the metal running down the sides of the furnace and that would absorb a lot of the heat before it got to the brick because your sidewalls stood up 3 or 4 times as long and didn't have so much furnace repair which means the saving of a lot of money, had to re-build a smelter furnace. There was a fellow working, assistant bricklayer foreman in Dollar Bay and he went down to Arizona for the Calumet & Arizona people as a bricklayer foreman and while he was there, they sent him to _____ in _____ Mexico to build a smelter and he built this idea in the smelter and working with this fellow was a fellow called Carson. He seen the idea being used so come back to the states and get the patent on it. And he was suing the Anaconda Mining Company for fifty-million-dollars for all the copper Anaconda was using this idea at their smelter out in Great Falls.

Montana?

Montana. So they were being sued for \$50,000,000, _____ was chief legal counselor, he told me, he said, he was on a ferry going from New York to Newark, N.J and he met the fellow that used to be smelter superintendent at Dollar Bay, John _____ John, do you know anything about side-charging _____ furnaces, he said, sure. He said, how? Well, he said, we used them out in Butte; he said, what's that got to do about it? He said, we're being sued. He said, I put 'em in in Dollar Bay in 1902, 03, and 04, we used 'em in '03 and '04 in Dollar Bay smelter so they come all to Dollar Bay so that's how Dollar Bay got on the map. So that went on, I had the Carson people and the Burns Detective Agency was for the Anaconda, now, this Carson never had any money so this freckled millionaire sugar cane, California sugar outfit, he buys 90% of the Carson investment company where Carson owned 10% because they used his name, they were suing the Anaconda for this money, they were all mixed up. And that's why I was at Dollar Bay so long, but they had to leave everything stand as it was.

Paul: They couldn't ship the copper out then?

No the copper was all gone; the furnaces had had some of the old hoppers still hanging there, put this for side-charging verbatory furnaces, they took pictures of I beams with holes, that held them in the walls,

Paul: everything

Les: and the old blueprints I had, I had to watch them darn blueprints, first, I think the Carson people came in with their accountants, and Pinkerton, and they were there 2 weeks and then the Anaconda people came in, (intemption)
Butte, case was settled in court in Butte so they had me pack all these records in boxes, this wide and about half-again as long, put down what spools, put sealing wax in the corners and my thumb-print on each one and I went out to Butte.

Oh, you went with?

Les: Oh, I had to go with the stuff, I had to go as witness, too. So the district court in Seattle, they were sued first, they were sued by the American Smelting and Refining Company, and the district court upheld Carson's claim, I forget how much they were sued for, so then when it came to Butte, and they lost in Butte, Carson did, the judge made one statement; he said, this reminds me of a case, the story, the fellow said, you know I seen an elephant climb a telephone pole, he said, if you don't believe it, there's the pole he climbed, so he said, this case reminds me of that story. There's no evidence what Carson got. This idea was used before, long before he got his patent. Well, then they took it to the Court of Appeals and the Court of Appeals wouldn't reverse their former decision, so I was out between Butte and the city of Anaconda almost 3 weeks. And then they were going to sue the Calumet & Arizona people _____ and they settled out of court, so did the Tennessee Copper County and I guess they finally settled because _____ we had enough background but it was settled anyway for a price, I forget.

Paul: So Carson got some money?

Les: Well, he didn't get it, _____ got it all, he only got 10%.

Paul: Ya, that's right, I forgot about that part.

Les: _____ was doing fine, he was providing all the money.
So that's why I was in Dollar Bay so long. From 1918 to 1932.

Paul: Well, you were part of security then after while.

Les: I was security there. That was the smelter, and of course afterwards, they were taking the copper molds out of there, I don't know how many tons they took out, all the molds were made of copper and other stuff they took out. Then I was transferred back to Tamarack Mills, Osceola Mills and from there to Calumet.

Paul: You did work underground for awhile, you said

Les: Ya, No. 5 Tamarack.

Paul You didn't like that work?

Les: It wasn't too bad. But you went down about a mile-and-a-quarter perpendicular and you went down in it and come up, they hoisted their rock, pushed their cars right on a cage and up she goes and they take the car out and put her on and down she goes.

Paul: A minute each way, huh?

The seal rope used to stretch about 2 feet, take a mile of it, on 32nd level, 35th level was exactly a mile. And then steel cable like that grate, that cage, and when they stopped it, it was like a rubber band; first time I went down there my heart went up in my mouth, I thought the rope broke. And another thing out there, the dry, the change house was across the road down in Tamarack Waterworks real _____, I would judge 800 feet anyway, from the shaft and it was 97 degrees down underground where we were working and we had bib/overalls, no undershirt and nips for stockings and _____ boots and of course we took a heavy coat with us to put on when we come up, winter was 40 below zero, we had to run through snow up to your waist to get to the dry, you had to have the stamina of a mule

Paul: When was this? When did you work that No. 5?

I worked it from January 1911 to April 13

Paul: You worked just that 4-5 months

The only time I seen daylight was on Sunday.

Paul: You worked 6 days a week then?

Absolutely and 10-hour shifts. When we went down it was dark and when we come up it was dark, in the wintertime. And Sunday was the only time I seen daylight. That was common, we worked them days. Same as we paid rent, now for this house here. When I first moved here I paid \$5 and half rent.

Paul: \$5½ a month?

Ya, wages were low, everything was low. Then I bought it for \$40, an 8-room house.

Paul: Nothing wrong with that, is there? Can't go wrong.

No. Course I've done a lot of renovating. But getting back to this work, the union _____ Dollar Bay (this is something that a lot of people don't know) that big coal bridge they had on the Hubbell smelter, coal dock, that was ordered first for Dollar Bay's coal dock, a union coal dock, right down from the high school, when I went there in 1918, there was a big fire on the coal pile, from spontaneous combustion, and they tried everything to put it out, and they didn't have any traveling crane where they could cram it, the old style coal dock, and they had everything. They put down big _____, plates with all holes in, drive it down in the coal pile, and turn the water, put it---turn the water on, only made coke around the piles and the water would stay there, so they finally decided they'd put a new coal bridge in. Course all the mines were working here, then, _____ and between the time that they ordered it and it came, they decided they'd put everything at Hubbell, the smelter, concentrate everything at one place, the mines were getting deeper and everything else so that's why the coal bridge is at Hubbell instead of Dollar Bay. That was 1919.

Paul: What do you remember when you were a young man, in the early 1900's, you were born in 1894, can't remember much before 1900, I suppose, when you were very young and then you came here about 1900.

Les: 1898

Paul: 1898 and then you were brought up here during the real hey-day. 1899-1900 is booming. There were, what, 45,000 people in Calumet area?

Les: In that vicinity, they figured about that.

Paul: Things were going very well.

Saturday night was a big night. Payday was once a month, the closest Saturday to the 15th. And you couldn't walk down 5th Street, the sidewalk was a foot-and-a-half wider than it is now, they took out that much so 2 cars could pass, so they have a narrow street now, so they took a foot-and-a-half off each side of 5th street and that sidewalk was a foot-and-a-half wider then days so if you wanted to pass anyone you had to go out on the road, there were so many people in town.

Paul: It was packed!

The circuses used to come down to the Albion field. Do you know where Albion is? That field on the left as you go down, that was circus ground. Buffalo Bill, I remember seeing Buffalo Bill's circus here; that would be in 1901. And there was 101 Ranch circus, that was a cowboy-Indian circus, too; _____ is Ringling Brothers and _____ Brothers, all them big circuses came here; this was rated best circus town in the middle west, there was so much money here. They weren't getting big wages, everyone was working and getting the normal wage and prices were normal; you could get a suit of clothes for \$10, and dozen of eggs for 10¢.

Paul: In 1905-10 I suppose, during that time.

I was ^{married in} 1915. November 24. We found our old butcher book the other day, looking through an old trunk, and looking at it, it was Odgers' Meat Market that was stationed in Hubbell then, I lived up on the hill in Hubbell, and steak was 18¢ a pound.

Paul: And now it's a dollar-fifty a pound. Things really changed considerably.

Everything was down in proportion. \$2 a day was a man's normal wages, for surface work, but everything was cheap. You could get a 5# pail of milk for 5¢. The people who had cows, would deliver milk to your house for 5¢ a pail.

Paul: What were some of the good times you had as a boy then when you were growing up?

Les: Swimming out to the old _____ dam, that's where I learned to swim.

Paul: Did you have to work when you were going to school at the same time and get the help at home?

Les: When I was 11 years old I wanted to work. My mother says, OK, you want to work, you go and get a job. So I went out to the old Vienna Bakery, a friend of my was working at the Vienna Bakery so I got a job. I went to see about a job but in the meantime, before school was out, the Vienna Bakery burned. That was almost where the old bakery is now. And then there was a place over on Airport Street over in Laurium that had a baker's oven in the basement, a small bakery, and they used that and I worked there night shift all vacation for \$10 a month, making _____ donuts, hardtack, and stuff like that.

Paul: 1905, 06? Did you keep that money yourself or did you contribute that to the family.

Oh, no, I turned that over, I used to get lots of spending money, when I was working, later on when I got a man's wages, \$2 a day I got 25¢ on Saturdays nights and 50¢ on paydays.

Paul: Even when you were still single and living at home?

ya.

Paul: And you turned all your money over, that was what you got, that was considered good money.

Les: Oh, yes

Paul; That 50¢.

You could go to the picture hall for 5¢.

Paul: You wouldn't have to spend it all in one place

Oh, no, go out with my wife to the picture show and I'd go out and have an ice cream cone on the way home, that's it.

Paul: And it cost you 20¢ or something.

You know, young people can't see that today.

Paul: No, it costs couple dollars to go to the show now.

I bet it's \$5 for a kid to go out now.

Paul: What other jobs did you have then before you started working for C&H?

I sailed for a while.

Paul: Before 1914?

When I left--when I worked No. 5 Tamarack, when I left April, the 15th, I went to Duluth and I got a job sailing, I wanted to be a sailor, that's the Scandinavian blood, I suppose. I've been around, I've had a lot of experiences, sailing, and I think sailing is the most wonderful thing for a young fellow if they can leave the booze and the women alone.

Paul: How long did you sail, for a year? A couple summers, maybe?

Les: No, I sailed one summer and part of a winter. I was up the Amazon, then I went salt water sailing and I went up the Amazon, _____--which is 800 to 1,000 miles from the mouth and we stopped at _____Brazil.

Paul: Is that right? you went from Duluth all the way down there?

Les: No, no. I had to go salt water sailing, I quit the lakes; and went salt water sailing.

When was this? What year that you were doing this?

That would be after I quit the lakes, 1911, that I went salt water sailing.

You had quit school then, already, very early? You went what, 7 grades of school?

I had 8 grades and I knew more than the teacher, and I wanted adventure and I got it

What did you dad say? He didn't mind that you went?

No, of course he didn't like the idea, no. But everything turned out all right and it's a funny thing, I never drank in my life, and always associated with people that drank. When I organized the Dollar Bay Fire Department 53 years ago; I had charge of the C&H fire department all the _____, never drank, sailors years ago had the biggest noses in the world, and you meet some of the finest men on some real rafts. I was sitting on the after deck one time the second mate come up and said, Slim, the Skipper wants to see you. I said, what do you want? He said, I don't know, you'd better go. I went up forward, and

knocked on his cabin door, threw out my hat, so he ordered me in, I went in, he said, sit down; Geez, that's funny, the skipper telling the deckhand to sit down in his cabin, I sat down and pretty soon he turned around and got through writing and he said, I 'spose you're wondering why I sent for you. I said, ya. He said, they tell me, you don't drink. I said, right, I never drank in my life. So I said, what's that got to do with you? Well, he said, it's got lots to do with me. He said, we'll be in port tomorrow. Ya, I said, I heard that. Well, he said, we're all single men aboard this boat. I said, I know that, too. And they're all going up town and get drunker than hell, too. And he said, I want you to stay board and keep ship. And the first one to come back and don't do as you tell 'em, throw 'em overboard; I said, that means, you, too. He said, you damn right.

Paul: It didn't make any difference, if it was captain or not.

2 weeks after that he sent for me again. I said, what's wrong, now?

Did you do your job that first time? Did they come back drunk after that date?

Oh, they were all drunk. He sent for me the second time, I said, what's wrong now? Well, he said, one of our wheelmen is leaving and I want you to take up wheeling, I said, I've never done it in my life; he said, you're going to learn. I said, that's OK too. So that first day I got up to the pilot house, he was standing behind me and wheeled me around, looked back, you see what they call the wake of the boat, and it was going this way, he said, all right, Slim, I don't care how many S's you make, don't start making O's, but everything worked out all right.

Was this when you were out on the Great Lakes?

This was on the Great Lakes. We were tied up in Toledo that time

Paul: You had some good experiences then, sailing.

Oh, ya.

Paul: Here you were what, 17 years old? On the boats already

Les: Seeing the world.

Paul: Seeing the world and went out on the ocean, sailing for a year, I suppose.

No, I only made that one trip.

Paul: Made that one trip down to Brazil.

Les: Ya, we stopped in San Juan, Puerto Rico on the way back. We took down machinery, boots and shoes and so forth. They say that boots and shoes and liquor were the 2 worse cargoes a boat can carry.

Paul: Why is that?

Because if there was liquor, they were after liquor; and boots and shoes, they all want something good on their feet so they break the boxes open to get at that stuff, the sailors, and hide it. Sure, they'd take it ashore and sell it for anything.

Paul: Bootleg it or blackmail.

I think _____ as long as a person can behave himself, we made pretty good money, didn't get paid the same on salt water as the lake, there's less money on salt water, at that time we got 31½ deck and 52 firing and wheeling and watching.

Paul: \$52 a month that was?

Ya. That's 30 days. We worked watch and watch; 6 on, 6 off; from 12 midnight to 6 in the morning; from 12 noon to 6 at night; then the other shift would come on; and we done that day in and day out. Today they work 8 hours and then they get time-and-a-half for overtime, anything over 8 hours. They make about \$800-\$900 a month.

What do you remember about school? Didn't you like school very much?

Well, no, I liked school to a certain extent but in them days, the trend and the way of thinking of the families weren't to educate anybody, if a man had 4 or 5 children, all boys, he had them all working; he had a good income; so that's what they figured, if he had an 8th grade education, you could teach school years ago on an 8th grade education.

Where did you go to school?

Up here in National Mine and up here

And Calumet.

Les: I know lots of teachers years ago, when I was small, they got 8 grades or high school education, they got a teacher's certificate. Then right after that, about 10 years after, they changed it, they had to have a life certificate, that's good for life and it wasn't long after they threw that out; now you gotta have a doctor's degree or something like that.

Paul: It's changed considerably

Les: That the same, like everything else, our mood of living, or mood of dress, or mood of spending money,

Were your parents pretty strict?

Les: My father was like all fathers, he wanted you to do what was right. And my father never drank in his life. He tended bar, during the panic of 1897; he tended bar at Ishpeming for 2 years.

Paul: Never drank when he was tending bar?

Les: No. I always mixed with men who drink and I had no desires, like some people don't want to smoke.

Paul: Did your father tell you some stories from those olden days, 1880's, 1890's, do you remember some of those?

He was born in Atlantic Mine, and in them days, when it was good in the iron country, poor conditions in the Copper Country; and vice versa. The old Cornish miner, when it was good in the Copper Country, they were here; when it was bad here and good in the Iron Country, they'd all walk down there or go down some way, only one train running, no roads, and that's what happened to him; he was born in Atlantic Mine and then he moved to Ishpeming and Negaunee and then his father dropped dead in Negaunee and his mother re-married again 2 years later, she had 4 children, by Chapman, and she married a fellow by the name of Billy Wills and he was a prospector, and he went out toward National Mine, he discovered some of them ore bodies out there, he had an interest in some of that stuff, he was a prospector, then he moved back to Calumet again, that's when my father moved back to Calumet, or course

around Ishpeming and Negaunee there were lots of Swedes in those days, so that's where father met my mother down there because it was all English and Swedes, very few Finns, there were no Italians in Ishpeming; one time we used to shut down the mines in Ishpeming on mid-summer's day, there's so many Swedes, shut down the mines and stores and everything; old _____ built that store, that's where the Gossard Corset factory is now, and that was built in 1901 and I remember how the place was shut down tight on 24th of June. So many Swedes were celebrating mid-summer's day. That's when the sun is highest in Sweden. My father's father dropped dead and she married Billy Wills and he moved back to Calumet and then he went out to _____ Arizona to _____; they started the Calumet-Arizona mine. And he went out there and took 2 of his sons with him; he had 4 children by Wills too. And they went out there and worked out there with the _____ and then they moved back to ~~Canada~~ later. Of course his wife didn't go out, just him and the boys. Because that was all virgin territory ;they started with pick and shovel

(end of tape)

I What else do you remember about the days when you were young and going to school, some of the old stories from that time, or some of the old home remedies for sicknesses or colds?

R Well see my father remarried after my mother died after a few years and he married _____ . Grandma had a candy store on Fifth Street in Calumet. She came over from England in 1852 or 53 and she brought with her this secret recipe from England. She first went to Ontonagon and Rockland and of course that candy recipe has been handed down through the generations. I have the recipe now and my mother and I used to go over there.

I I see.

R So after my father remarried, she was getting on in age and was about 97 years old when she died. She was living with us when she died and we lived on Tamarack Street. I remember my father and stepmother used to make this candy. They couldn't make too much because there was no refrigeration and it would get soft. I was working night shift and I would come home and then about three or four o'clock in the morning I would have to go and peddle this candy.

I How much did you sell it for?

R Twenty-five cents a pound. Now today, they get a dollar and a quarter or \$2.00 a pound.

I Right

R But that was in 1912 or 1913. About a month ago, WMPL called and they didn't tell me I was on the air. They said they tell me you have a recipe for English taffy and I said yes. Would you mind giving it to us? So other people can enjoy it and I said why not. I said no that's a family secret and I'm not giving it to nobody. Then I found out they were on the air.

I Do you remember any other home remedies they had for sicknesses.

R Oh yes, Grandma used to make a salve from _____ and she would boil this down to a salve. Do you know what _____ is?

I No, I'm not exactly sure. *platan leaf?*

R It grows in the garden and there's alot of it here. She used to make a bitters in the spring of the year, she made all her own home remedies

I That worked pretty good then hey?

R You got more out of that than going to the doctors and paying \$10.00 for an examination and some pills that won't do you any good.

I Do you remember any other things from when you were young about your father, your grandfather or grandmother? Any other stories? From that period before you worked on your own?

R It's hard to remember everything.

I No, I just wondered if you remembered any of those.

R I know, during the strike of 1913, I was Mayflower
do you know where that is?

No, I don't know where that is?

R You know where Kearsarge is, it's east of Kearsarge down over the hill.. I was working down there and making \$2.50 a day and during that time, that was big money.

I That's right

R I used to walk from Laurium, and follow the Copper Range tracks to the County Dam and then curve off through the woods.

I You worked ten hour shifts then?

R Well see night shift you were putting money in the bank for Saturday because we were supposed to work night shift on Saturday. So if we put enough footage up on nightshift then come Saturday we could take off a few hours early because a lot of people liked to be home on Saturday.

I

R We used to walk that in the wintertime and it was really cold

I Lots of snow.

R Right, now if they want to walk around the block they have to have a car to ride in.

I That's right.

R That was five miles and back.

I Five miles, wow.

R Then I walked from Tamarack to the mine when I worked underground. I used to know a girl who lived in Albion and went to the Catholic School in Calumet and she walked back and forth.

I That was every day.

R Now, if a kid lives two blocks from the school, they want a bus to pick them up.

R They they hire a Physical Education teacher to give them excercise to keep them healthy, can you figure them out? Eight or Ten thousand dollars a year for a teacher, that dnn't make sense to me.

Were you working all the time that the 1913 strike was going on?

R I worked all the time at the _____ Mayflower.

I Didn't theytry to close you up too?

R They didn't

I Can you remember the details of the 1913 strike?

R I certainly. One of the nurses just happened to be training at the old C & H hospital.

I You weren't married yet were you, you said you got married in 1915

R No, I wasn't. We went together for two years before that. She was working at the hospital at that time. One time I was taking a short cut by the No. 19 Shaft and there was a clump of trees just before you get to the Centennial mine. You could walk through the woods in the summertime but in the wintertime you took the railroad tracks because it was all level. This fellow came running toward me and he even jumped the fence. He said gees don't go down there, there's about twenty guys down there and they'll kill you. I said you're supposed to be a tough guy how come you're so scared. He said they'll murder you. So I walked down there and when I got there, there were a bunch of guys there and they opened up and let me in and then when I got in the center, they closed around me. They saw my dinner pail and asked where you going. I said I'm going to work. He said do you know there's a strike on and I said no, wellhe said you ain't supposed to. I said yes I am supposed to I'm not working for the' mining company. He said yes you are and I said no I'm not I'm working for the exploration company. I said if you want to know something were trying to find more copper to give you guys more work when the strike is over. I said do youwant to stop that, don't you want to go to work when this thing is over? He said well there's a strike on and nobody's supposed to work. I said is that so. So one fellow made a grab for my dinner pail and I put it under my arm. So we talked for a while and finally I said say listen buddy I have to get to work.

Two nights after that, there was a little bridge over the cornerof the dam there was one guy a little short fellow an Italian standing in the middle of the bridge. He stopped me and said are you going work and I said yes. He said you go back and I could see they were watching farther down to see that nobody goes into the mine that way. I said I'm going to work down here and he said no , no go. I said ya, I'm going and hesaid no, no go. I said you gonna stop me and I was standing in front of him, he said ya. So I bent down and put my dinner pail on the ground and when I got up I pushed him in the dam it was only about a three foot dam.

I Right in the river.

R But I had no trouble after that.

I They didn't come looking for you again.

R no.

R Can't make out.

R A farmer and his son came through the woods and asked if the other son was here. I said no, he was here earlier and brought some buttermilk about 7 o'clock so I said I haven't seen him. We got through work about half past four and it was starting to get day light so we were walking through the potato patch and we found him. He took a blasting cap and lit it and held it to his heart.

I Oh. What else do you remember about the strike besides the fact that you were working and very few other people were? These things that you were talking about were done in the summertime when the strike started. In July and August.

R That was done the 23rd of July. I was downtown in the morning and there must have been 150 men marching down the street in Calumet. They heard some men were working in Tamarack. They thought they were going to go out there and beat them up. So the sheriff asked the governor for some protection so they sent the national guard in here.

I Right.

R It was a rough and wooly time there for about two months. It was really bad.

I That's right

R But the funny thing is, this question comes out. When I was out in Butte I was staying at the Finley motel and I was sitting in the lobby about the fourth or fifth day I was there and this fellow came over and sat down beside me and asked me if I'm from Michigan? He said are you lost out here and I said no I'm not here on a Federal case. He said I was an orderly up there. He said you know you had a bad strike up there and about 60 or 70 people died up there in the Italian Hall. Well the fellow who died here at the hospital, he confessed that he was the one who hollared fire. I asked what did he say. He told me that he and two other guys were drunk and they were going to have some fun and see some people scatter. The one guy said I'll hollar fire and you'll see some people scatter to get out of this place. So he hollared fire.

I And that's what happened. I wonder if that's true.

R Well just then they paged me to come and go over to the Federal Courts So I never had a chance to talk with him anymore. I looked for him after because I wanted to get his name and address and find somebody else who worked at the hospital at the same time to get two signatures on the statement that that was true.

I You couldn't find him again?

R No.

I Because there has always been a controversy as to who said that

R I wasn't working for the mining company at that time so it didn't matter to me, but all those people lost. Naturally you're going to blame it on another, you're not going to blame yourself.

I That's right.

R Well this guy told me, these three guys were drunk and they wanted to have some fun and see people scatter. A fellow told me that in 1934 or 35 there used to be some dances in the lodge halls over here. So he said he was standing there and another guy came up and they fellow said quite a bunch. He said I can get this bunch out of here in a hurry. I said how and he said hollar fire. I took that guy' by the back of the neck and I said come on outside for you mister. So then I told him what happened and he said gees I didn't know that. I told him you hollar fire and you'd be in for a long stay. These people get drunk and do these sort of things.

I That's probably what happened in 1913 too.

R Well I was a stranger to this fellow and he didn't know me so why would he lie. I supposed he knew I was from that area and wanted to pick me to tell me that.

I Right, because they blamed the Citizen's Alliance because someone had a button on.

R Well when he first told me this I asked him what nationality he was and he didn't say any special natinnality just a Southern European. So there's a dozen there.

I That's right, you could pick anything. What kind of feelings did 1913 strike leave, alot of bitterness.

R Well it did to a certain extent, sure, there's bound to be some bitterness.

I Did you feel that you should take any sides at all, that the workers were wrong or the company was wrong. Do you have any feelings now after all these years?

R No, it's a trend of the times. I've always said and believed that the union is the best thing in the worldif it's run right by the right men. Like in West Virginia where they kill one another to be president. Or where they steal all the money and you had a couple of guys sent to prison a few weeks ago. But there's one thing that you and I both know is wrong. That you can't become elected to an office inthe union today if you say one word good about industry.

I That's right.

- R I had a fellow visiting me here a few years ago, two or three years ago. I hadn't seen him for years and we got talking about different things. He told me he was on one of the executive boards of the union in Detroit. He asked me if we bought the house we were in from the company. I told him yes and he said how much. I said five dollars a room. He didn't believe me so I said I can show you the receipt. He said you mean to tell me that industry and business and management would be that good to the employees. I said you're a good union man; that's right, you go back and tell some of your union men that you would never be elected to the office you have if you tell them what they done here. I paid \$5.50 a month rent for this place before I bought it. I paid \$6.00 a ton for coal because the company sold it for cost. He said you mean to tell me that's true, I said yes. If you can get the both of them together to talk over things at a table instead of steering them to hate one another then you'll go somewhere.
- I That's right. Well I suppose it was partially workers and company. Both sides.
- R You know yourself some guys are the laziest guys in the world. Some of these guys would take a pillow to work with them on night shift. Can you imagine that?
- I They slept right through it
- R That's just one example. If you give fair money and get fair work then you're getting something. You know your self, that people work on the production line and they leave a couple of bolts loose, it wouldn't be right. Now what would happen if you had a man working for you like that.
- I Of course the company has done some things that weren't always right too.
- R Sure, business is business.
- I Right
- R If you have a business and you spend \$1.10 for every dollar you take in how long will you stay in business. If you have the financial responsibility, are you going to have somebody run your business or are you going to run it?
- I When did the union come in up here in the 1940's.
- R Yes, about 1943. They shut the mines down but these men get so much a year for every year they worked and lots of them worked over 30 years. Some of them have over \$250.00 a month they'd be getting in pensions. Now they get nothing just because two or three guys said we gotta make them squeal.
- I They made them squeal all right now they get nothing.

I It didn't pay off that one time

R They wanted the same wages as they are getting at White Pine. They were offered this and they wouldn't take it.

I Wasn't it the problem that they never got to vote or something like that.

R Ya, they left it all in the hands of the bargaining committee

I That's not a very democratic union then is it?

R They left it up to a few people. You can see what's happening now, they are tearing up the railroads, and tearing down the mills. Now they can do the smelting and milling all at the mine.

I Ya, all at one place.

R But they still have to go down underground to get at it first

I There's still alot of it there. All the people that I've talked to say there is.

R They were drilling in the Keweenaw Peninsula. This is nothing but a mass of copper, veins running from east to west. Some had up to a 100 pounds of copper to a ton of rock.

I They have to figure some way of getting it out and that's a problem for the next few years.

R The first thing these big outfits look at when they go into another town is labor. If labor is good and gets along they say fine but they wouldn't put five cents in there if they are scraping all the time.

I Well I don't think it would be that way again, do you think so?

R Well I hope not.

I When did you start working for security then at C & H. You said you worked for security at Tamarack for a while.

R No, I worked underground, timbering and stuff like that. In 1915 on the first of August which was on a Sunday and I started on the second. That was 57 years ago.

I And you worked for security all that time then.

R Yes.

I You have alot of recollections of the 1920's and 1930's.

R Well they used to go and do all the police work for the north end of the county, the sheriff only had four or five men at that time.

R There were no state police up here at that time so we used to do it. We were all deputized on our own property so we used to do all the police work outside the two villages in the township, we used to do all the policework.

I How many men were there, fifteen, twenty?

R It depended on the time. At the time the war was on we had about sixty.

I During World War II.

R Yes. then we had fellows we called _____ which were the fire protection men. Then we had the regular patrolmen.

I You would walk the beat around the shops.

R Well yes and then they put all these houses years ago and we had to watch out for their protection too.

I What do you think about the ~~Hay Day~~^{heyday}. I suppose the ~~Hay Day~~^{heyday} was really gone after World War I in the companies up here. But they have said there were some pretty good times up here during the twenties. That things were going quite well.

R Well in the 1920's the mines were shut down for one year

I Yes

R That's when the price of copper dropped because they had all this copper down in the bin.

I Right.

R Then in 1924 it really started picking up and it was really booming for a while.

I That's when there was prohibition during that same time wasn't there?

R Yes.

I You must have had alot of problems when you were on the security then didn't you?

R Oh yes

I Or didn't you worry about them very much?

R Oh yes, we had alot of problems. I had alot of experiences when the prohibition started.

I Can you recal some of those? Can you recall some of those things that took place?

I What about your work during Prohibition time, what was that like?

R Well we didn't do anything as far as moonshine was concerned, but the only trouble we had were the parties afterwards.

I

R They tellme during Prohibition days a car stopped at Rambultown.

I That's right. Well Rambultown is right outside of town here isn't it?

R Yes. A kid about eight or nine years old stuck his head out and asked can you tell us where Rambultown is because that's where they made the famous Rambultown Rye in those days. They asked can you tell us what house makes the moonshine. So he said can you see that white house over there. He said ya. He said that's the only house that dnn't sell it.

I That's funny.

R So they drink this moonshine and get in fights with one another.

I I suppose very drunk too.

R They would fight on mining company property and then we'd have to throw them in the jug. One night in Dollar Bay I picked up this guy and he was really drunk so I took himup to Hancock and threw him in the jail. So I took the bottle he had for evidence. The next day he was really violent. So I went to him andasked him how come he was like this, he wasn't the same man I put in the clink the night before He said he went to Chassell and got a bottle of moonshine from a man but he didn't know what happened to the bottle. I said I had the bottle for evidence. So he pleaded guilty. So the following spring they askedme what are you going to do with that bottle of moonshine you have standing on the shelf in the pantry? I said I don't have any bottle, he said sure you have. So I looked and sure enough there was the bottle. There was _____ in the bottom.

I

R So I took it up to a friend of mine at the college. So he called me the next day and asked is the guy who drank this stuff still living. I answered yes, is he blind I said no. He said he's an awful lucky man. There's oil and something else, I can't remember.

I Fueloil?

R Diesel oil and something else

I

R So that was realy powerful stuff.

I Did they used to send moonshine out of here and send it down state?

R Oh yes

I What was police work like up here? You were a part of it for many years. Were people worse up here than anywhere else? Did you go to police meetings and hear what it was like keeping police work at any other places.

R Well as far as the police work was concerned, I never carried a gun in my life and never carried a club. For example, I was called to a place at 2 o'clock in the morning. When I got there, the father and mother were outside and they asked are you alone. I said yes. They said you'll never take him. I said where he's to. They said he's in the kitchen. I said what happened and they told me. His mother was changing his suit of clothes and they found a note from a married woman in there and he was a single man. So his mother started raising cane with him and he went out and got drunk. So when he came home his mother started raising cane with him again and he went out and got drunk again. So when he came home he started raising a fit with everyone. So when I went in he stood in the middle of the kitchen floor and I said what seems to be the trouble. He said is it any of your business. I said absolutely. That's what I'm here for. So I said here have a cigarette and sit down and talk with me. So he took a cigarette and he said do you mean that. I really took the wind out of his sails when I offered him the cigarette. So he took one and I took one and lit his and mine. So I said Howard tell me what this is all about, I want to know. So he told me the whole story and as he did he cooled off.

I Right.

R So then I told him, Howard, I have to take and lock you up. He said do you have to. I said yes. I said this is your father's house and you raised cane so you have to be locked up over in Laurium. He said what if I don't go. I said that's up to you. I said I came in here like a gentleman and treated you like a gentleman, if you want to play rough, I'll play rough. Now put on your hat and coat and let's go. So he went to the car and I told his father you can be at the Justice of the Peace in the morning at half past eight. He said okay. So when I went there in the morning they said what did you do to that guy last night. I said why. He said the way you talked to him he was the best friend you had in the world. I said sure. I wasn't his enemy. Do you see the difference?

I Right.

R I never had any trouble with any of them.

I How about did people break into the mines and buildings like that?

R Oh yes.

I They'd take a few things and a little bit of stealing from the mines

R Oh you have that all the time. Just like the Law Enforcement officers I organized that years ago, and I was the first President.

When was this in the 1920's and 30's?

R No that was in 1956 or something like that. I still go to the meetings occasionally. They have about 140 members in the four counties. That includes the State Police, County Officers, Justice of the Peace and so on. One time we were at a meeting and there were about five or six of them State Police standing there and they said tell us something. They tell us you used to ride bicycles in your day and I said ya, they were lots of fun. They said ride a bicycle and I said ya. I said there's one thing I want you fellows to know you'll never know the joys of being a cop until you take a drunk to jail on a bicycle.

I What did you do you used a bicycle in the summertime mostly?

R

I That was back in the 1920's then?

R Oh yes

I Then I suppose the C & H bought cars for the police security

R Yes, when I left there there were three patrols cars and a car of my own all equipped with radios and equipment.

I When did you retire?

R It was 13 years last June

I Thirteen years in June. 1959 or something like that?

R Right. I've had thirteen wonderful years that the good Lord gave me.

I When you go to some of these law enforcement meetings do they ask you how it was doing law enforcement in those early days?

R Oh yes. The method of doing police work now and fifty years ago has really changed. Just like everything else.

I Right. What are some of the tough cases that you had, are there some outstanding cases that you remember?

R Well I just told you one

I Oh the one where you went to the house and the boy.

R Yes, well that's an example.

- R There was one guy in particular who used to get drunk quite often. I used to drive him home and hide the key on him.
- I Oh you'd drive him home in his own car.
- R Yes. ■ Then about six o'clock in the morning I would call him up. He was a bachelor living alone. I would then tell him where the key was so he could go to work.
- I Is that right?
- R Yes
- I Were there any murder cases up here to be involved in at all.
- R Oh yes, there were a couple unsolved ones because they needed cooperation and couldn't get much cooperation from the other authorities. There are some cases that I'd rather not
- I You rather not discuss them
- R No, because I don't know whose going to listen to this. Maybe some relatives of somebody might listen to this.
- I Yes, that's true. That might just happen.
- R There might be a grandson of somebody that I might mention.
- I Do you remember the first time you voted for a president of the United States?
- R Sure do
- I Was it 1916 during Wilson time or around there?
- R 1915
- I 1915 and voted every time since that time then?
- R I voted in every election.
- I Did you ever run for any political office?
- R Yes, I ran for sheriff in the thirties and lost out by 200 votes.
- I Lost out by 200 hey.
- R It was pretty close
- I So you kept working for the company then instead of becoming sheriff.
- R Yes
- I Did the Depression change politics in the Copper Country and Calumet?

R Which Depression do you mean?

I 1930, 1931.

R It certainly did.

I Because basically everything was Republican before that time then everyone started going Democrat.

R Right

I What about the fact that I've heard the Company was accused of controlling the elections here?

R I never saw that, if it was so it was before my time

I I heard that if you didn't go and vote Republican like the Company captains wanted you to, you would be fired. You wouldn't have a job unless you went their way.

R Nobody knew how you voted. I remember when my father voted, and we lived down on _____ and the voting place was across the road. I was only six years old at the time. My father said he was going to vote today and I said what do you mean vote. He said I have as much power as the queen of England. I said how. He said when I go and vote I have my choice of saying what I want and nobody knows how I'm going to vote. It's my privilege as an American citizen. When you get older don't you forget to vote. That was back in 1900. Of course a lot of people exaggerated in those days and they always exaggerated bad things. Bad things are always exaggerated more than good things.

I That's true.

R Whether it's character or anything else.

I Did the community of Calumet area have respect for law authority?

R Oh yes, I never had any trouble. For instance, I was in Dollar Bay for twelve years and I organized the fire department down there. Whenever the people have anything doing, they always invite me. If they didn't respect the law they would never do that would they?

I That's

R Whenever they have their annual dinners, or election of officers they always have me come down there. If they didn't like you they would never do anything like that right?

I That's right. Did you work all the way through the thirties?

R Pardon?

I Did you work all the way through the thirties when the Depression was going on?

R Oh yes. I worked twenty days a month and got \$2.00 a day.

I Wages went down then.

R Right, down, \$40.00 a month.

I But you were working and many people weren't working at that time.

R Right, a fellow said to me you're lucky you're working. I said what do you mean, he said we're building these little monuments down the side of the road. I asked him how much are you getting at that job. I think he said as a foreman he was getting six something a day.

I Wow

R I said then you ask me I'm lucky I'm working. You work ten days and make pretner twice as much as I do in a month.

I What were they working for WPA?

R Right, WPA. I'd like to quit my job and make more money on your job.

I But you stayed though and the mines opened up again?

R Right

I What kind of recollections do you have of the Finnish population in Calumet?

R The Finn nationality of this area is what built this area up. The English came over here and were the captains because they came from Cornwall and that was the mining capital. The Finns came over here and they were farmers, so they plowed the fields, had nice farms, built houses on their land and raised an intelligent family. For example this fellow who came over from the old country, and worked in the mines. I'd go by and see him in the evenings. He bought a forty with second growth of trees. Then he cut the trees off level with the ground with an axe.

I Wow

R Lot of people wouldn't do that, but they were industrious. They weren't afraid to get their hands dirty. Some of their children were the brightest students and children in our universities.

I Did you have some working for you then?

R Oh yes, absolutely.

I Did they come to work, were they regular workers.

R Well I had the offspring of some of the original immigrants and they were very intelligent. There's one fellow that I have an awful lot of respect for. I was kind of doubtful when I hired him but that fellow was the most dependable guy I had.

- R That fellow I would send him out on a job and tell him what I wanted done and then I could forget about him. He'd always come back with the right answer. If it was wrong he'd right it.
- I Did you have anymore trouble with the Finnish population than with any other of the ethnic groups?
- R
- I As far as drunkenness and other social problems?
- R No. There is a very small percentage of Finnish people that get drunk. Some of them drink beer but they are not a whiskey drinker. They're a beer drinker.
- I That's true.
- R I had very very little trouble with them. The Irish were the worst for Whiskey drinking.
- I They came over with it.
- R Rye and Scotch.
- I They liked that Irish Whiskey. Did the nationalities get along pretty well do you think?
- R That's one thing that I've always marveled at. Over in Europe they are fighting all the time, they come over here and they get along just fine.
- I They have some fights.
- R Oh well, that's only natural. In the wintertime they would hollar about someone throwing snow in the driveway. In the summertime they would be hollaring about their gardens. It was nothing serious, just a common occurance. I've always had alot of respect for the Finns and their leadership here. The leadership of Suomi College and how they've built that up. To what it is today. It's not the taxpayers money, it's the people from Finland and their donations that keep it going.
- I Sure. Canyou tell me a little bit about courtingyour wife and what it was like.
- R They didn't do any courting in those days
- I You didn't?
- R
- R That's a secret that you'll know nothing about.
- I That's the secret part hey?

I I suppose there wasn't enough money to go courting.

R No, there wasn't.

I You'd go over and visit and that would be about it.

R Yes.

I Do you have any other recollections that you'd like to put on tape before we finish?

R No.

Suomi salutes the people who make this area great

Suomi College
Folklore Album

Father
a. John Ch.
b. 1868 Atlantx dino
c. Miller
d. 1957

Mother
a. Louisa Johnson
b.
c. House wife

Father
a. Charles
b. Calumet
c. Boiler maker

Mother
a. Christine
b. Rockland
c.

b 1894
March 21

Father
a. Charles Chapman
b. Calumet,
c. Police Security
at C.H.
43 yrs.
later Sec. Chief of C.H.

Mother
a. Elsie (Schwenn)
b. Nurse
c. Housewife

Child
a. Robert S.
b. Mich. Farmington
c. Chrysler
Plant King

Child
a.
b.
c.

Child
a.
b.
c.

Child
a.
b.
c.

Child
a.
b.
c.