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LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978**

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Swande Godell  
July 28, 72

Ellen Tuomi

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This interview is conducted by Mrs. Ellen Tuomi with Swandee Godell at his home in Chassell on July 28, 1972.

Tuomi: Now, Swandee, you said that you were born in Karvia, Finland. How old were you when you came to this country?

Godell: Three years and four months.

Tuomi: And you came with your entire family?

Godell: No, with my mother. My father came one year ahead.

Tuomi: Oh, I see and he had settled where?

Godell: Watton.

Tuomi: What attracted him to Watton? Do you remember?

Godell: Well, he had a brother living there who sent him the money to buy the ticket.

Tuomi: And what was the brother doing?

Godell: He was just working in the woods. Just lumbering and logging, the only industry there was around there.

Tuomi: Were you the only child that came with your mother or did others come too?

Godell: No, I had one other brother. A younger brother, William.

Tuomi: So there were actually three of you that came here. Had any of your other brothers or sisters come earlier then?

Godell: No. I was the oldest one anyway.

Tuomi: Oh, I see. So there were three of you who came all together. Did we get the year in which your family came?

Godell: Well, we came here in 1902. That is mother, my brother and I.

Tuomi: And your father came in 1901? Well, you were very young when you came so you wouldn't remember a great deal about life in Finland, but maybe your parents talk about life and the situations in Finland. Were there any special hardships that they might have mentioned.

Godell: Well, I suppose there had been. I don't know if they mentioned anything. There was a lot of hard work and long hours and they worked by the year and the annual salary was very small, maybe about 100 or 150 marcs they said, which was five marcs to a dollar so you can imagine how low the wages were.

Tuomi: Of course, to support a family on this would be almost impossible.

Godell: Yes, that would be impossible.

Tuomi: So this was really single men and women who did this work. They would sign contracts for a year or so. Do you remember what the name was for that agreement? The Finnish words for that?

Godell: Well, the only thing I know is that it was Piika. *(maid)*

Tuomi: Well, the women were Piikas and the men were Renkis. *(farm hand)*

Godell: Well, if they had a good Piika or a good Renki, then others would try to steal them and give them a vestas rajha or a little bonus before they sign them up.

Tuomi: Well, turning to your life in Watton, do you remember any particular hardships or difficulties?

Godell: Well, I don't know. We took it for granted.

Tuomi: Everyone was in the same situation. I suppose looking back now we could find things which might be considered hardships.

Godell: Well, yes. Talking about school days. We didn't have a school until 1907 (March). That's when I first entered a school. We didn't know a word of English yet. (None of us) Maybe that would be of interest to you. There were 43 of

*Red Ink does not photocopy well.*



Tuomi: So actually there were four buildings used.

Godell: Yes, even today.

Tuomi: So different people belonged to different groups. I imagine the congregations in each of them were pretty small, weren't they?

Godell: They must've been. Then the Raittius Seura or Temperance Society was quite active.

Tuomi: Do you remember much about the Temperance Society activities?

Godell: No, it was pretty much dead and the hall was empty. The doors were left open and it got dusty. It was called "Dust Box" afterwards. Now it has been moved to Watton and used as a Town Hall for elections and stuff.

Tuomi: So when you were young the Temperance organization wasn't active?

Godell: No.

Tuomi: Were there saloons in Watton at that time?

Godell: Never has been.

Tuomi: Maybe that explains why there was no need for the Temperance.

Godell: There were two saloons in Covington, Andersons and Tracy's. I can give you quite a story on politics here. Like I said before the Finns didn't take part in politics. Well, in my case, when the Finns received their 2nd papers, they came back proud and even if they had to crawl, they went to vote. We had 95% voters or better. Now if it's only about 65% we are doing fine. Covington township was practically all Republicans at that time. Maybe two or three Democrats and the reason was, not because of any company pressure because there were no big companies, like I heard on the radio before about the mining companies in Calumet putting pressure. There was only individuals cutting their own wood and selling their wood to the stores and the stores would ship the wood and they would buy their groceries. However, the pressure for Republicans came from men like my uncles who had been here in 1893 during what they called the "Cleveland Times" and they told of the tough times they had. How the railroad tracks had a middle path, nearly cut the ties through with marchers looking for work and for something to eat. And that's what made the people scared of the Democrats and so they were all Republicans with two or three exceptions. However, there's a funny thing about the Finns, there was this one Irishman who had a saloon, & Covington township was fantastically temperance when it came to voting, but this "Fat Tracy", the Irishman who had the saloon, they elected him supervisor year after year. I could not figure it out and the Finns like I said would crawl if they had to vote. It was in 1923, let me see, I was elected clerk in 1922, school board 1921 ( I started politics pretty young), I beat him by nine votes and he never got to be supervisor after that. But the Finnish majority voted one Irishman who had a family to be supervisor for years and years, and he was their favorite supervisor. Why, I don't know.

Tuomi: So there were no hard feelings then between nationalities?

Godell: No, the French first came there, settled to what they called French Country and they are there yet, and they're mixed with Finns now. Then the Swedes settled in what they call Swede Country, and they put up their church and they had a school, and School Number One was Swedish School, but it was an American School, but the number was District I,

Covington was District II, and Watton was District III. Then they had a Swedish Lutheran Church there. From there on West it became all Finnish. The French more or less moved away from there, mostly to L'Anse so there were very few French left there, but there was no such thing as hate among them. We had a Swedish township clerk and treasurer. The only thing is that they didn't vote democratic until 1932.

- Tuomi: Can you explain why that change came?
- Godell: Depression and Hoover. That's easy to explain to anybody.
- Tuomi: Yes, there was a very strong feeling against Hoover because of economic conditions.
- Godell: I remember the election of 1928. Al Smith got two votes in Watton. Then the next four years, he carried it. I still lived there at that time.
- Tuomi: Now you became a citizen of the United States when and how?
- Godell: My father got his citizenship papers in 1906 or 1907. And naturally I, being a minor automatically became a citizen also. And my mother also became a citizen. That was the law then. And also my younger brother. But then in 1947 they changed the law. I could get a certificate of my own called "derived citizenship". So I applied for one and received it because if I traveled in foreign countries I needed it. For instance, in Canada, you show that and they say, "Good looking man, go ahead".
- Tuomi: Now, you voted for the president of the United States for the first time in what election. Do you remember?
- Godell: Yes, in 1920.
- Tuomi: You were 21 years of age then, and who were the candidates for president?
- Godell: Harding and Cox
- Tuomi: And Harding became president then?
- Godell: Yes.
- Tuomi: So you were a very young man then.
- Godell: Yes, I was one of the youngest supervisors, and I could have been longer but I made a deal when I was elected that I would stay in office only two years because they kicked about supervisors staying in a life-time when they once got in, and I said I wouldn't.
- Tuomi: Have you held any other public office?
- Godell: I was 21 in April of 1920. I was elected to the school board in June of 1920. So I was without an office for two months after my legal age. Then in 1921 I was elected for Township Clerk and then supervisor the next year.
- Tuomi: So you held those offices in Watton. Any other offices?
- Godell: Not there, no.
- Tuomi: From Watton, did you move to Chassell?
- Godell: No to Baraga.
- Tuomi: How about in Baraga did you participate in any elective offices?
- Godell: No.
- Tuomi: How long were you in Baraga?
- Godell: We were there from April 1933 to November 1942. Of course I couldn't qualify to hold an office unless I wanted to lose my job. You see, I was on a civil service job with the Conservation Department.
- Tuomi: So you wanted to stay out of politics?
- Godell: Well, you'd lose your job otherwise.

Tuomi: And jobs came first. Now let's go back to the period of World War I. You were about 14 or 15. Do you remember anything about how the war affected the Watton area?

Godell: Well, there were a few boys drafted and I'd have to get my card but I was ordered for my physical on October 31, 1918. And the war ended November 11, 1918 so there was a 10 day break for me so I never was called. But the women were busy. They had Red Cross meetings and coffee socials, and they collected alot of money for the Red Cross. They had a thing going... collecting tin foil. I didn't know what that was for. I think they did that in World War II, too, didn't they?

Tuomi: Yes I think they did. I remember that.

Godell: But they were very active on the cash part for Red Cross, and for the bond sales.

Tuomi: So it was a community activity.

Godell: But there was no one except Emil Jaska from Covington Township who was killed, but none from the Watton area. I believe he was the only casualty we had in World War I.

Tuomi: Now moving to the depression years; you moved to Baraga during this time although the depression had already begun while you were still in Watton. Do you remember any circumstances relating to the depression?

Godell: Well the depression was low wages and you were lucky if you had a job. I never was out of a job so thank God for that. In the winter time I worked in the woods doing scaling and then in Baraga I worked in the office for the conservation department and then in 1936, I left and became a camp foreman and I've been in the lumber camps and sawmills. There were lots of people who didn't have a job; I was one of the lucky ones who did.

Tuomi: In 1942 you left Baraga to come to Chassell.

Godell: Actually I came here in February of 1941. We started operations to clear the land, but I didn't move here into this house until 1942.

Tuomi: And what was it that brought you to Chassell?

Godell: The location. We found timber from Komula but we were looking for a location for a sawmill and we thought this was an ideal location.

Tuomi: And you were in this enterprise with someone else?

Godell: With Charlie Huttula.

Tuomi: So in 1941 you established the mill. You had quite a working crew when the mill was active. What would you say was the largest number of men that were employed?

Godell: About 42. We ran 2 shifts.

Tuomi: You got the logs from the Chassell area or were there logs brought in from further areas?

Godell: Well mostly from the Painesdale area. Luckily we haven't raped Chassell Township of timber to amount to anything. Very few logs came from Chassell Township.

Tuomi: Do you suppose it was because the Worcester Lumber Company had harvested so many?

Godell: There was none to be had. There was a few logs that came from the Copper Range Timber Lands.

Tuomi: And you sawed them into boards. How did you market them? What means of transportation did you use?

Godell: Railroad mostly.

Tuomi: And where did this lumber go then?

Godell: Well, flooring lumber went to Dollar Bay and Ishpeming

both. Then alot of the better maple went to Milwaukee and Chicago and Cheboygan. Some went to lower Michigan and Grand Rapids.

Tuomi: Was some of this used for furniture? You mentioned Grand Rapids.

Godell: Yes.

Tuomi: So it was furniture lumber. Do you know what other purposes it was used for?

Godell: The flooring lumber for hard maple and furniture. Also bowling alley stock.

Tuomi: So most of it was hard lumber that you were handling.

Godell: Yes, we sold some pine too and some hemlock that went to retail yards.

Tuomi: So most of it was in this area?

Godell: Well to lower Michigan and Wisconsin too. More so than here.

Tuomi: How long were you connected with the mill here?

Godell: Well, we sawed our last logs in 1957.

Tuomi: So the mill was operating during World War II, and no doubt at its peak of operation at this time.

Godell: Right.

Tuomi: Now you said the copper mining really didn't affect your operation. Did it affect the areas you lived in in any way?

Godell: Very little. Very few farmers came from the Copper Country to settle in Covington or Watton. That is even during the strike or even after. A few years afterwards, a few did settle in an area called Birch, close to Sidnaw. But that was way after the strike. During the strike we didn't have that pushover of strikers settling on farms like Painesdale, Bruce Crossing, and Trout Creek did. I don't know if the land was available or if there were better salesmen (land) over there that pushed the miners over there, but the saying was that all the Finn farmers wanted was 40 acres of land and a Ford car and then they're satisfied.

Tuomi: Well, we've talked pretty much about your working life, maybe we could go back to some of the social life that you had. You were married to Alma in Watton?

Godell: Well, we got married in Marquette, but that's beside the point. We got married in Marquette and came back to Watton.

Tuomi: But you established your home in Watton.

Godell: Oh, yes.

Tuomi: And were all of your children born while you were in Watton?

Godell: No. Two were born in Watton and two in Baraga.

Tuomi: So you had the four children when you came to Chassell. Do you remember any particular kinds of good times that you had as a young family? Any kinds of recreation that you might have participated in as a family?

Godell: Well, I don't know. We always had a good time when we got together. Maybe not as good as we should have had but we went out on picnics. The only thing is that they said I was too fast because I sat in the car and blew the horn while she was still busy with the kids.

Tuomi: Well, I'm afraid that's typical of the father of the family.

Godell: Oh, them I'm not the only one! *→ Missing Content*

Tuomi: Do you remember any particular kinds of celebration for the 4th of July during the time that you were young?

Godell: Yes, Covington didn't have many but in Sidnaw we had one big tremendous one. But then this one particular thing that interested the Finns and I read that by Jingles. About a mile from our place what we called the Monu's hill, they built a wigwam like what we saw in the school books years

ago. What the Indians built. Not only one family, but a big Wigwam out of sapplings with the leaves on them. Then they had a program there, and they had speakers there and they sang I guess.

Tuomi: Do you remember the speakers?

Godell: No, I was too young. I was just interested in the eating because they had a pretty good smorgasboard there. I remember my brother, 3/4 of a mile from there, he disappeared from there, and he was pretty small, and we started looking for him; couldn't find him. After a while he showed up and we said, "Where did you go Bill?" "I went home to eat." "How did you get in?" "I opened the window". But that was the only time there was a big elaborate celebration that I remember. The wigwam impressed me most. It wasn't round; it was oblong.

Tuomi: Do you remember the end of World War I? Do you remember any particular celebration in connection with that?

Godell: Not exactly a celebration but we had a store there that I worked in. There was a freight that went by, and they had the whistle tied down steady so we knew that the war was over. We didn't have any radio at the time. I don't think any of us had a radio anyway. We had a telephone in the store but we knew that the war was over. That's the only celebration we had was when the train went by with the whistle blowing steady. Of course, everybody was happy. But I do know that World War II, when that ended, because I happened to be in Hancock and everything was normal, and all at once the war came, (the war was over in Japan), and I couldn't move. Everybody came down the streets in cars and I'll never forget that night.

Tuomi: I was in the Soo (Sault Ste. Marie) when World War II ended and the same situation existed. All the stores and everything was closed up tight, and I know the following day then we went out on a picnic to a park, about 10 miles outside of the Soo. But you couldn't buy anything because everything was closed. Do you remember Mr. Burman who was superintendent here?

Godell: Yes.

Tuomi: What about newspapers in your home? Did your folks subscribe to newspapers?

Godell: Oh, yes. A Finnish paper, Uusi Kotima, that was published in New York Mills, Minnesota. American Sonomat that was from Oscarville, Ohio. That was another old reliable newspaper, and then I guess there was the Sevtolainen and later on came the Suomita I guess.

Tuomi: How about Opas?

Godell: Not Opas so much. The <sup>Valvoja</sup>Volvoja came before that. Because my father was a stock broker in Volvoja. Then Opas was Heidemen's side. Like 15 American Uutiset are still living in New York Mills and I think there is some paper in the East.

Tuomi: Yes, I think so. And American Uutiset, isn't that the one that's in New York Mills? What about an English newspaper? Do you remember one?

Godell: We didn't get any.

Tuomi: Not in your parent's home. Was the Daily Mining Gazette the first one that you subscribed to?

Godell: No, in America we got the Daily Mining Journal from Marquette.

Tuomi: And how about the L'Anse Sentinal?

Godell: Oh, yes that was steady.

Tuomi: So that was already being published at the time you were living here.

Tape 1 Side 2 -

baaga

Godell: Oh yes, that was being published before I was born.

Tuomi: Oh, I see. I didn't know just how old a publishing concern that was.

Godell: And then I did subscribe myself for the Wisconsin's Agriculturist in 1911. And I still have the gift I received for subscribing to that. It was 25¢ a year at that time.

Tuomi: In 1911? So you were subscribing to that when you were only 12 years old.

Godell: Oh yes. I have been a long-time subscriber to that.

Tuomi: Are you still subscribing to that?

Godell: Yes.

Tuomi: How did your folks feel about children going to school? Did they encourage you or did your father feel that you had gone to school long enough and should quit.

Godell: The latter. He figured that an 8th grade education was equivalent to a BS Degree nowadays.

Tuomi: Well, he probably felt that you were old enough to begin to contribute to the family's support.

Godell: Well, if there had been a high-school available, no doubt I could have made it but the closest high-school was in Sidnaw. I would have had no where to stay. My diploma was a state diploma. It says on the bottom that the payment of tuition is guaranteed by the state, but room and board was not guaranteed. There was no place to go.

Tuomi: So that was the reason for ending your education at the eighth grade.

Godell: I read quite a bit myself. I can still say I'll hold my own in history with anybody.

Tuomi: You've always been interested in education because I know that when you came to Chassell you served on the Board of Education.

Godell: Yes, for six years.

Tuomi: Do you remember who the other members of the Board were at that time?

Godell: Yes. Mrs. Dedrick, Archie Courchaine, Eddie Hietala, John Vanhala, and Arthur Sauvola.

Tuomi: Do you remember the years that you were on the Board here in Chassell?

Godell: I served twice. From 1947-1950 and then from 1953-1956.

Tuomi: You were off the board from 1951-1953 then?

Godell: Yes, I quit for three years. I didn't run then.

Tuomi: Who were the superintendents here at that time?

Godell: Burkell and Wells.

Tuomi: Oh, so Howard Burkell was superintendent here during your first term and John Wells was during the second term. Maybe you'd like to respond to this question. What has been the biggest accomplishment in your life?

Godell: Well, I don't know that I've accomplished anything. I'm retired now and every day's Sunday.

Tuomi: But I'm sure that there must be things that you've worked for and were able to attain.

Godell: Well, no. I don't know anything like that. I never plan anything. It just happened automatically. We didn't plan on coming to Chassell for one thing. It was such an ideal situation. We were looking for a place; Mr. Archambeau sold us the land that we were looking at.

Tuomi: But in your working life you always had an occupation, you always had an income, even though times were poor. I would

say that that is an accomplishment. I would also feel that your participation in public office is.

Godell: One of the things that I do like to say is that I always got along with men. Even the crew that worked for me in the woods. I had a crew of 100 men at the camp at one time.

Tuomi: What would you predict for the Copper Country area within the next 10 years?

Godell: Well, this time I have to come to a little bit of a different solution than I have been doing. There's too much of what I call labor pollution in the Copper Country. It's this: If a man puts up a little bit of a business, he's hated and thought he was crooked. *Missing Content*

Tuomi: Can you site incidents where someone has tried to establish a business and it hasn't succeeded because it has lacked cooperation from the public.

Godell: Not exactly, no. But when you see these ads now, you come to that conclusion. I've been in contact with both sides of the fence. I've been talking to workmen, but I've also talked with the bigger guys who invest money. They hate to put money into a place where they don't seem to get results. The money won't be back in dividends. You go into a business for profit, not any other reason. When that doesn't seem to exist, they don't want to invest.

Tuomi: So you feel there is an element or a power in this area that discourages industries from coming in.

Godell: Yes. *Missing Content*

Tuomi: I think there's another area where you can give us some information on. You belong to a lumbermen's organization, and you've been active in it. Doesn't it comprise both Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin? Can you tell us about the establishment of the organization?

Godell: Well, I was one of the organizers. A Charter Member. It was organized in 1941 or 1942. I've been kind of lax now because I was just a working man at Horners, and although they still consider me as an honorary member, (life-time member), I got a certificate. It does not involve itself in any labor disputes. It's just for marketing.

Tuomi: This is more of a management organization than it is a worker's organization. What is the exact name or title?

Godell: Timber Producers Association of Wisconsin and Michigan.

Tuomi: And you held office in it?

Godell: I've been the director. I was never anything higher than that though. I was one of the original directors. I have a plack on the wall here. That's the one they gave me at the ~~Reignant~~ <sup>Reignant</sup> Party. It has my name and the date and then there's a Bible Verse from Matthew on it. It's from Matthew 7:12. "So whatever you wish that never do to you, do so to them. For this is the law and the prophets".

Tuomi: How do you feel about the tourist industry for this area? Would you continue to support it?

Godell: Well, the tourists are an addition to our income, but it's not an answer to our problems in living year round here. You can't live on tourist income in the winter here. It's alright for those who work at restaurants and gas stations in the summer. And the parks, before that was where a poor man could take his family to go on a picnic, and now you have to have a 6-7 thousand dollar trailer to go there. *Missing Content*

Tuomi: Well, I suppose to finance the facilities they have to charge to get in there. Now turning to something else;

you  
You've been active in the Chassell Lions Club. I believe you were a charter member of that. Would you like to talk about the organization of the Lions Club and some of the things that they have done?

Godell: Well, I belonged to the Hancock Lions Club, and that's where I got the idea for ours and brought it over here. Then we organized our own club and it started in 1946. I was the first president, second, eleventh, twelfth, and the twenty-seventh president so I think we covered quite alot. I believe in preserving a certain amount of public area along the lake so the public can enter the lake without trespassing, and we were lucky to get Robinson Beach from Mrs. Robinson without charge and it was then turned over to the township for tax purposes and liability reasons. If we kept it up we would have to pay taxes and be responsible for any accidents. You can go there and you don't have to pay any fees or anything. We have the Strawberry Festival and it seems that we just have fun in it, but actually there is alot of work to it. I quit working when I got too old, but you would be surprised how many hours are put up by different men to put up the Strawberry Festival. The income we get won't amount to over 20¢ an hour, but the purpose is to promote the industry and advertise it all over, so that the growers will benefit by it. I am a strong believer in advertising.

MISSING  
Content

Tuomi: And I am sure that the establishment of the Strawberry Festival has supported the strawberry industry and has provided income for a number of families.

Godell: It has helped alot, and another thing we did is that we were instrumental in getting the fire department organized. In fact, my wife was the one that was instrumental in getting the fire department.

Tuomi: Do you know what prompted her in doing this?

Godell: Yes, there was a fire behind Pekkala's garage, and the fire department had a fire truck, (hand-built cart), by Funk's Store and they started pulling that cart and Oscar Perreault was supposed to be the fire chief, but he was the township clerk and when they got here they started pushing for a powerful chemical to come out, but it was empty. So my wife saw the whole procedure and she got mad at me and said, "You are King of the Lions Club. Why don't you do something about that"? So that is where the thing started. We made collections from the people, but we had to borrow \$3,000 and we paid it partly back after. Worcester gave \$1,000.

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Tuomi: Oh really! He was still living at the time the fire department was established?

Godell: Yes.

Tuomi: How do you feel about reminiscing about these things and collecting this type of history?

Godell: I think it's wonderful that you do this. We have been doing this in the Strawberry Festival booklet for years, and we found out how much we have left out of these things.

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Content

Tuomi: I forgot to ask some questions in one area and that is about illnesses and how they were taken care of when you were a child? Do you remember any particulars about illnesses in your family?

Godell: No, except that one brother of ours got sick and he died when he was 22 years old. He died in 1927, and he was operated on and his left leg was poisoned. But then the rest of the time, I don't know of any sickness that we had.

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Content

Tuomi: Was there a doctor in the Watton area?

Godell: No, the doctors came from Skanton or Trout Creek.

Tuomi: They would come to the home though?

Godell: Oh yes, they would come on the first available ride here. There was a freight train right by the houses so he would come by train.

Tuomi: Well, I imagine at that time the freights came pretty frequently.

Godell: Oh, yes. I don't know how we ever survived according to the health rules of today. We used to go swimming every day in a pool by the school. We never got sick, and once there was these two boys and they had some fire crackers and they put them on the railroad tracks and the first one went off alright, but the second one hit him in the eye. His parents had to take him to Marquette and he had his eye removed. When he came back to school, though, he was still ready to fight. He had a glass eye. One particular time he went out to fight, but he didn't want to keep his eye in because it might get dirty, and he might get hit and he would be worse off. So there was a water pail and that was the only water we had, (in the back room with the dipper in it), so he dropped the eye in the water pail and went out to fight. When the fight was over, he came back and took the eye out, blew it and put it in and we drank the water and nobody got sick. Then they finally got a little faucet and that's how we got sanitary water. But for the first year there was a pail and a dipper and that's how we got our water.

Tuomi: And you didn't have any epidemics in the town?

Godell: No, nothing. But then later on some of them did die from T-B, I don't know if it's from the water or what.

Tuomi: You mentioned something about your birth and I think we should record that. You were born in Finland, but the circumstances were unusual.

Godell: Nothing unusual. Maybe I will show you the list. My uncles and all the people were born in saunas. It says there that I was born in Pihlaja's Sauna. I have been there myself now. Maybe it has been remodeled since then.

Tuomi: Well, was Pihlaja a neighbor then?

Godell: Yes.

Tuomi: How about relating the system of naming houses and families in Finland? Wasn't there a particular system?

Godell: Well, I don't know. Well, Pihlajas had a list of owners on the wall. That started from 1750 or something. That has been named Pihlajas all the time. And the sons are named Pihlajas and one is in Helsinki and he's an engineer. But when they established a new place they established a new name. But if they bought an established farm the name of the farm stayed.

Tuomi: So actually the family adopted the name of the farm rather than keeping their own surname. That accounts of the fact that often times brothers had different surnames.

Godell: Yes. Well, there were eight brothers in my family, seven uncles and they had two more Godells. The other six had different names; two were Leppalas, one was Salli and one was Kidiniemi.

Tuomi: Depending on where they lived.

Godell: Well see, Leppala built the place himself and he sold the

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- place to his brother, so he became a Leppala.
- Tuomi: Oh I see. At the time that you were born it was customary to have midwives attend the birth, wasn't it?
- Godell: I suppose, but I wasn't told about it.
- Tuomi: I see. Well, one of the people that I interviewed said that her mother took a course at the University of Helsinki that was designed particularly to train these women to serve as midwives so that the Government of Finland at one time supported a program of midwifery.
- Godell: Well, I think that midwives are still recognized over there.
- Tuomi: So that they are still used in the rural areas.
- Godell: Of course there are doctors and hospitals in the rural areas but they are still used. The hospitals are a little different than they are here. That is in the rates. When I was there, two years ago, the rates were six marks a day (\$1.50), then they went up to ten marks which would be \$2.50 a day including the doctor.
- Tuomi: But the government supports it don't they?
- Godell: Yes, and it comes out of part of our taxes, as part of your Medicare and your tax bills. When I was in Finland I went to the University of Helsinki Hospital up on the 15th floor, and it was just as nice, if not better, than the hospitals we have here. It had labs and X-ray rooms and everything, and the nurses dress the same as here. I questioned the nurses about their training because I told them I was on the Advisory Council over here, which I am. It's the same thing there as it is here. They go through a period of training first.
- Tuomi: So it was a customary thing for babies to be born in saunas?
- Godell: It would have been very uncustomary to be born any place else. I don't even know if they go to a hospital now.
- Tuomi: Possibly, but in the cities I am sure they use the hospitals, but in the rural areas, I am sure, they use the midwives.
- Tuomi: Well, let's add the story of the saloon, which was a well-kept secret.
- Godell: Well, I told you before that there was no saloons in Watton. I am a little bit wrong. There were saloons in Covington, which is in the same township as Watton. There were two saloons but then in 1933, there was a jobber for Ford Motor Company in Watton. Ford Motor Company had a camp there and reorganized themselves for three to four years and they let the logging go to jobbers. Well, a fellow from Bessemer decided to put up a moon-shine tavern on the road leading to the camp. He figured that the men were dry when they came from the camp and he would get most of their money. Well, it went on for a while and the place had a good prominent name by the name of Honolulu. But the women didn't agree with this place or they would not want to have it exist among them because maybe some of their husbands went there too. So one night a small group of the women went and demonstrated with sticks and broke the windows, and they were yelling around the building so that the bartender and the men who were patrons or customers were afraid. The next day they went down to Bessemer and the next night they took down the building, and that was the last of the Honolulu. It didn't last long. That bootlegging joint. That was just before the Prohibition came, and there has never been a tavern (bootlegging or legal) in the town of Watton as such.

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Godell: I didn't know about this secret except that the building had disappeared, but I didn't know why until two years ago. It was a forty-year well-kept secret. My daughter was there and she was only about five years old then because she couldn't be left home and she was the only one so she went along with us. And now, two years ago, she told us what really happened there. They say that women can't keep secrets. Well, sometimes they can!