



Finnish
American
Historical
Archive
and Museum

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

(Funded in part by the National Endowment For The Humanities)

F.F.S.C.G.L.M.R. DIGITIZATION PROJECT 2010-2011

*(Funded in part by the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory
Commission / U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service)*

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF .PDF TRANSCRIPT:

Finlandia University, formerly Suomi College, holds the exclusive copyright to the entirety of its Finnish Folklore and Social Change in the Great Lakes Mining Region Oral History Collection, including this .pdf transcript which is being presented online for research and academic purposes. Any utilization that does not fall under the United States standard of Fair Use (see U.S. Copyright Office or Library of Congress), including unauthorized re-publication, is a violation of Federal Law. For any other use, express written consent must be obtained from the Finnish American Historical Archive: archives@finlandia.edu.

PREFERRED FORMAT FOR CITATION / CREDIT:

"Maki, John", Finnish Folklore and Social Change in the Great Lakes Mining Region Oral History Collection, Finlandia University, Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum.

Note: Should the Finnish American Archive be a resource for publication, please send a copy of the publication to the Archive:

Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum
Finlandia University
601 Quincy St.
Hancock, Michigan 49930 USA
906-487-7347 - fax: 906-487-7557

Anne Haug
August 15, 1973

Betty M. | Berry

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
Family History	1-6	
Woodshed	3	
Phiffer Hotel	3	
Winter Fun	3	
Father Back-packed to Isle Royal selling Jewelry	4	
Goods for Father's Store come by Boat	4	
Ferry crosses Lake to Hancock	5	
Bridge	5	
White City	5	
The Family Religion	6	
Father Resnick	6	
What Adults did at Get-togethers	7	
Summer Vacations	8	
Freda Park	8	

I This is Betty Berry with Anna Haug.

I How old are you?

R 88

I Who were your parents?

R Mathew Haug and Mary Haug. My father was born in Germany and my mother was born here in the United States.

I What was her maiden name?

R Mary Voght

Was she born in Houghton County?

R No, she was born in Wisconsin, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

I Was there someone that your father knew when he came here?

R He came here and he was only a young boy of 16 years old. He went right out to Mohawk to the mine out there.

I Why did he come here?

R ~~I don't know.~~ He had friends + neighbors from Germany

I What part of Germany was he from?

R _____

I Had he been a miner there?

R No, he was just a young boy.

I Did he go to school after he came here?

R No.

I How did he learn?

R He was self educated, he educated himself.

I How long was he a miner at Mohawk?

R That I wouldn't know. He started his business when he was only 28 years old. He had a cousin in Duluth who was in the jewelry business. He started his store here then.

I Here in Houghton.

R Yes.

I Where did he live?

R What?

I Where did he live, in a rooming house?

R I believe he stayed at the Phiffer House and the hotel is still on the main street here.

I It later became the Cloverland?

R Yes. He was married very young.

I Where did they make their home?

R In Houghton here. Right across the street from where the firehall is now. Then they moved to Quincy Street and all the family was born on Quincy Street.

I How many were in your family?

R Five children, three boys and two girls.

I Are any of them left in the area, do any of them live in Houghton now?

R I have one brother living and he lives in Houghton now and has been there all his life. He ran the store after father was gone. The store is now in different hands, they bought the store and he is retired.

I And your sister?

R She died when she was only 60. Then I had two brothers who both died 2 years ago.

I Were there any activities that your mother did when you lived on Quincy Street that you remember?

R What do you mean?

I When you lived on Quincy Street what did your mother do among the neighbors?

R Everybody knew everyone in Houghton. It was if they were one large family and there were no telephones or anything. The children were from one house to the other during the lunchtimes.

I Did the children play together well?

R We were one big family and we always had company. It was like a party at our house all the time.

I Did the people come to the house from any special groups?

- R One interesting thing the boys were always active while they were in high school. We had what was called a woodshed at the back of the house and that was their changing room when they played football or baseball. I do remember one thing after the games they would all have icecream and sit on the bench in the woodshed. We never knew when we sat down for supper how many there were going to be because we had so many neighbors there. It was sort of a meeting house.
- I Did your parents have many adult friends then?
- R What?
- I Did your parents have adult friends in too?
- R There were certain couples and they would get together and have dances. Every Sunday afternoon we children would gather together at the Phiffer Hall and put on little plays. Mrs. Phiffer always invited all of us to stay for supper there. We had wooden benches to sit on in the dining room. I always remember she had squares of honey at everyone's place and everyone would have hot biscuits and honey for supper. I'll always remember that honey.
- I You had dances at the Phiffer Hotel, what else did you do for entertainment?
- R Well they didn't have skating rinks the, we used to have different spots out on the lake that we called our rinks. A couple of boys had ice boats and they used those.
- I Ice boats with sails?
- R Yes
- I So they could race?
- R Yes.
- I Did you sweep the ice?
- R Yes, everybody had to take their turn sweeping the ice.
- I What kind of skates did you have? Were these hand made skates?
- R They were the kind that buckled over the outerboots. They were a kind of leather and buckled over the ankles.
- I Did you wear these over your high shoes?
- R Oh you kept your overshoes on because it was so cold. Especially out in the open like that.
- I Did they play hockey?

R I don't think they had hockey in those early days. But we made all our own amusements. It isn't like it is now a days.

I Did you go sleigh riding?

R What?

I Did you go sleigh riding?

R Oh yes. We even had skiis made from barrell staves, everyone owned some of those.

I Did you make them yourself?

R No I suppose Pa made them.

I How did you hold them on, leather straps?

R I don't really know

I Did you go down on one stave?

R Oh no, I think there were three. There were three nailed together,

I What kind of sleds did you have?

R Everything was made from barrells in those days. You could make them from staves from the barrells.

I Do you remember the boats bringing goods to your father's store, how did he get his jewelry?

R My father started out with a pack on his back. Mr. Haas, and Mr. Ruppe and _____ from Calumet all started out that way with the pack on their back. Once a year they made a trip to Isle Royale.

I Who was at Isle Royale?

R There was a mine there at Isle Royale. It was populated and they used to go over there with these packs on their back.

I Your father was selling jewelry, what did the other men sell?

R What?

I What did the other men sell?

R Mr. Haas had clothing and _____ and they used to travel over there a couple times a year.

I Where did they get their supplies?

I Did their supplies come in on a boat?

R Everything came in by boat

I Do you remember seeing the boat?

R Oh yes

I Do you remember when they moved some of the churches and other buildings across the lake?

R Yes. I also remember going across the lake on a scow to Hancock.

I This was a regular ferry.

R Yes.

I How much did you pay to go across?

R I don't remember.

I Do you remember when they built the bridge?

R

I Do you remember when the bridge was first knocked over by the boat?

R Oh yes, I remember that, that was quite exciting

I Can you tell me about it

R Nobody was hurt. The only way you could go to Hancock was by boat you see because there was no bridge.

I Do you remember any of the other boats?

R [Can't understand tape.] Missing Content

I Did they go up and down the lake?

R Yes.

I Do you remember going to White City?

R What

I Do you ever remember going to white City?

R Oh yes, that was very popular

I What was there?

R It was a nice little town, they had a dance pavillion there and a band. That was quite a popular place.

I This was largely for the summer?

R Yes. We used to go weekends sometimes

I Did you go as a family?

R I've forgotten now.

I Did your family always have fun together, the children and your parents?

R That was one nice thing about the olden days, we always gathered together.

I That included all ages?

R

I What church did your family go to?

R Mother was Catholic and father was Lutheren.

I How were you raised?

R I was Catholic.

I Do you remember Father Resnick?

R Yes, religion didn't make that much difference. You see father went to the Luthern Church and was a great friend of Father Rezik's.

I Do you remember any stories about Father Resnick?

R No, he was a grand old man, that's all I know. He was very stern but a very nice man.

I Was his training very strict?

R Very.

I But he had a sense of humor I understand.

R Oh yes he did. When my father diedhe saud there's one thing I'd like to do is bury him but it's against the rules. It was so nice of him to even offer to do it.

I They had built up a good friendship.

R

I Your father was German, did he have any German friends?

R Both his father and mother were German.

I Did your father have any German friends here in Houghton?

R Yes they had friends that were German?

I Did the women play cards at this time?

R No, instead of playing cards and wasting an afternoon like they do now and wasting alot of time, they used to do their sewing.

I Did they lay fancy cakes or cookies for these?

R Well, they were all good cooks.

I What were some of the dishes that they made for you?

R I remember the other day when _____ was here, she said Ann I wish you would make some of that old fashioned German ~~coleslaw~~ ^{coleslaw}. So I made it and she said it was just like she thought it was going to be.

I How did you make it?

R You just shred the cabbage and onion and put in sugar and salt vinegar and _____ and that's all there is to it. It's very tasty and it isn't like coleslaw you get downtown.

I No it isn't I'm sure. Do you remember any special recipes that you enjoyed making?

R No

I Do you remember the 4th of July parades?

R Oh yes, that meant ham and German potato salad and watermelon and lemon pie. For years that's what we had for our 4th of July dinner.

I How is German potato salad different?

R That's made with water and vinegar and little onion and you thicken it and then add the ham fat. Then you pour this over the potatoes.

I You eat this while it's still warm.

R Yes.

I And you had this with the lemon pie.

R Yes, and they didn't have these packages, it was the old fashioned lemon pie with the meringue on top.

I One of the boiled lemon pies?

R What?

I A lemon pie that had to be boiled before it thickened?

R Oh yes.

Did the children have icecream?

R Oh yes, they had quite a big freezer, no store icecream in those days.

I Was there a parade on the 4th of July?

R Oh yes, there was always a parade. Hancock had it one year and Houghton had it the next year.

I Did you have fireworks?

R Yes, there was no taboo on fireworks

I Where were they?

R They used to fire them off at Ripley at the dock over there. They did that for years.

I Where were your summer vacations?

R Two weeks out of every summer my two aunts took us up the canal and we lived in tents. For years we did that.

I This was with your cousins as well as yourself?

R Yes.

I Where on the canal was this?

R We were on the Houghton side of the canal near the lighthouse

I Did you go to Freda park from there?

R For a picnic yes,

I What was the park like?

R Just a piece of land.

I They had cleared it

R They had picnic tables there