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**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)*

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

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SUOMI COLLEGE
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE: Anna Kangas

INTERVIEWER: Catherine Marie Kessler

SUBJECT: Life in the Copper Country

DATED: August 11, 1973

C: Okay, you said you worked nineteen years at Suomi?

A: Well, I start in fifty-five, in 1955. Is that nineteen years?

C: Well, I don't know.

A: It is seventy-three now.

C: Well how did you get your job there at first?

A: Well I was housekeeper thirty years and they came after me. I never have to look for a job they always look for me.

C: Because you're good.

A: Well I don't know and I always used to get places for alot of people. Ladies used to call my place, "please get someone to work for me."

C: Oh really? You were like an employment agency.

A: That's what my son-in-law say. He was in the music business and the floor show business. He used to say, "why do you do that free?" I said, "I enjoy it."

C: Yes, you should have. Were the work hours any longer then?

A: This is my son-in-law but he died. (she showed me a picture of him)

C: Oh, that's too bad.

A: And she's got a wonderful husband, a wonderful second husband.

C: Well that's good.

A: Yes, yes. I like the work and I like the people and time goes fast.

C: What was Suomi like before? You know, who was the president when you started there?

A: Oh Professor Halkola, what do you call him? David Halkola. He was president then. And then came, for a little while, Dr. Wargelin. You know? Wargelin? He's Dr. Wargelin. Dr. Wargelin's son and Wargelin Hall. He was for a little while president, he took the place of the president while they got one. And then I think Dr. Jalkanen.

C: And he's been there quite a while.

A: Yes, yes.

C: Well was it any different back then when you were working in the kitchen?

A: Well Old Main, course it was different. You know, in the morning we used to ring the bell at seven o'clock to wake the kids up. Quarter after seven come down stairs.

C: Oh I didn't know that.

A: Yes, yes. There was a bell on the kitchen wall and you always had to come eat everybody at the same time in a line steps down. You had say your prayers always and you had Mrs. Isaac or somebody sit down at the table with you so that everyone behaved.

C: Oh, I see.

A: Then housemothers used to get along so good, no trouble even with the older ones. They even asked me to be a housemother

C: Oh, really?

A: Yes, and my English is broken.

C: Well that has nothing to do with it.

A: Well it was like that in those days you could get along, different now.

C: Well my gosh. Where was the kitchen then?

A: In Old Main.

C: Oh, it was downstairs?

A: Yes, down stairs where we have the parties, you know, you ever see before?

C: Sure. That wasn't a very big kitchen though.

A: No, and my goodness one time Mrs. Piipponen, was fourteen years cook, she was the head cook, a wonderful cook and there was close to two-hundred and fifty kids. Before moving to the new place.

C: Isn't that something, all those students.

A: Ya, ya, oh, it kind of hard, you know, they got up early and

those old time coffee pots. you know, those big white ones not the electric ones.

C: Well, then they were all housed in Old Main too, weren't they?

A: Ya, Old Main was full of girls

C: Oh, well where did the boys stay?

A: Oh they stay in dormitories ana they had to look for rooms and apartments all around the city.

C: Sothat's why they have the houses now.

A: Yes, yes.

C: I see.

A: There wasn't much room, I know Mr. Piipponen had a couple boys there, ministers now and Dr. Habeness had twenty-five ministers who graduated who graduated to be a minister in house and they get free breakfast and free room. He was a minister but he got his Dr.'s degree before he died. Wonderful man.

C: I can imagine.

A: Ya, he lived Houghton last, but he's dead now.

C: Are the recipes any different now that you make?

A: Oh yes! (laughter) And it was poor times that time there was a ration for meat on. You know housemother had to go farm country and get the cow and butcher the cow and kill the chickens. And get the apples from apple trees.

C: Well isn't that something. That sure is a change.

A: Ya, Mrs. Elba was the housemother at that time and Mrs. Auinen was a wonderful housemother, long time, and she was good if you had parties or anything she always decorate everything so beautiful and she'd go in the woods and get the trimmings and it was just beautiful.

C: Oh my gosh, that's something. So were you born in the United States?

A: No, I sixteen, my sister, my brother and my cousin we came. I wasthe oldest.

C: By yourselves?

A: No, us three kids came.

C: Yes, but just the kids came?

A: Just all alone us three kids. My father was here but my mother never wanted to come to this country and she died in Finland forty-six years old. And my father was here and I had a Step-

mother three years older than I am born in this country already when I come here.

C: Three years older than you were?

A: Ya and she's dead a long time ago and she was a good mother. I had wonderful place to work in East Houghton, I worked till I got married and my sister came there she was going to Mason School she was just like part of the family. They had three maids and yet a lady came in to do the washing and cleaning.

C: What did your father do?

A: Not my father I meant the place where I work.

C: Oh, what did you do there?

A: I was cook and I was sixteen. Us three girls went and looked for jobs and one was Ida Olsen, she was born this country Helen Haka was born Sweden and I was born Finland and they pick me, dumbbell for cook.

C: No, you must have been a good one if everyone wanted you up there.

A: And I worked until I got married and my sister worked till she got married and they gave us big wedding presents and they told my sister if you need anything in the world. When they left Houghton they went back East.

C: Well isn't that nice. Well what did your father do then?

A: My father worked Michigan Smelts. You know they smelt the copper. And they live on a farm and own it and they live in Hancock too, they used to have boarders in Hancock. My brother was a big potato farmer and in the lumber business. He's a wealthy man but he doesn't look like it.

C: Well where was his lumber camp?

A: Well he had lumber business, he used to buy land and run lumber.

C: Off of the land. Oh, I see.

A: And his son always brings the potatoes Suomi, Rudy Larson, he's got a big potato farm. ? My other nephew has that 66 gas station going to Atlantic Mine.

C: In the following few sentences I asked if I could turn the t-v off so I didn't think it worth transcribing.

C: What year was it when you came to this country?

A: Nine. Thousand nine. Because I'm eighty years old.

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C: The reason your father came over here, was it because he wanted a job in the mines.

A: Ya, he wanted a job in the United States, that was time alot of Eastern country people came to the United States.

C: Were the times hard in Finland?

A: Well, it wasn't to easy, it wasn't to easy. Put I wouldn't be here if mother was living. I only had two grade schools the grade schools only had four grades. And then I went one more year and I was going to go for commercial and I had a job waiting and everything and mother died we came this country.

C: Oh, you came over when your mother died.

A: Ya, ya otherwise we wouldn't have come.

C: How long was your father over here before you came?

A: He was here about he came 1902, nine-hundred two. He came seven years before.

C: What did you come over on?

A: You mean the name of the boat.

C: You rode a boat then.

A: Yes, a big boat and everyone was sick. It was the first ocean and everybody was sick and my brother was crying, "I wish I get back to Finland to die," and I was the weakest one of all and I wasn't sick, seasick, it was very stormy.

C: Isn't that something, how long did it take you?

A: Two weeks or more. August second we got here I know.

C: What was the name of the ship, do you remember it?

A: I can't remember the name of it. I'm not sure of the name. Alan Lane it came to Canada first, Montreal, Quebec and from there we take the train.

C: What was the boat like? Was it nice?

A: Ya, big boat, big boat.

C: Was your room nice?

A: Well I can't remember that It was pretty crowded. Plain.

C: So you attended school over in Finland. There were only four grades you say?

A: At that time there were only four grades, in the city six

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grades, you know grade schools, but you had to go to kindergarten first.

C: Do you remember any of your teachers?

A: Mr. Konkounen I remember. Mr. Konkounen. He was a man teacher the lady's name I can't remember. You had to know how to knit and how to sew and how to do everything in Finland. You had to know how to knit already in second grade.

C: Was it taught more like a--

A: It was more harder than this country's school, now even kids say that school there is harder than this country's schools. I know that Dr. Salivala's sister came here, he was a reverend, but he got Dr.'s degree, she was taking law already in Finland and she went to Suomi for English and she used to say to kids, "Oh you kids without the backbone." She used to say that if you were a minute late for your class the doors were closed you wouldn't get in, you missed it,

C: Kind of strict huh! Maybe that's a good way. Well did parents want you to go to school?

A: Ya, but I got a good place and I was ? . And I met this country boy and twenty years with him and I got married (I think that she means that she was twenty years old when she got married) and I got stuck. And I was married 52 years before he died.

C: Were your parents strict with you?

A: Well my mother was marvelous. She always try to tell me nice things, what to do.

C: Well that was nice. Nice memories.

A: And I used to take part in sports and get prizes and ski races and skating.

C: Skiing? Was it cross-country or down hill?

A: At school we have races, cross-country.

C: That sounds nice, I'd like to try it myself. What were wages when you were working?

A: Wages?

C: What did you get paid?

A: You mean when I came this country first?

C: Ya. When you came here and got that job.

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- A: Oh my goodness, alot of girls work for eight and ten dollars a month. A month! But of course a quarter bought a pair of stockings. But I never work less than twelve, one month I for twelve. Then when I got this place I got sixteen dollars a month and then when I got married it was thirty dollars a month and that was the best you could get in Houghton, Michigan. That was 1914. That was the best you could get in Houghton. My sister was a nurse-maid and she got twenty-six dollars and then I got clothes, you know everyday clothes. And if I stay in and baby-sit or something they pay me extra because I wasn't supposed to.
- C: Well that was an ideal job wasn't it?
- A: Yes, yes, and when I got married oh she made beautiful blankets and everything for me and give Christmas presents. I still worked when I got married.
- C: It was lucky for you to find something like that.
- A: Oh, it was God's blessing.
- C: How did you find it?
- A: Oh, we saw the ad in the paper, us three girls go look for the job and they pick me. Because that was such a good job, girl went Finland from there, cook, went Finland for trip and they took me while she was packing and when she came back, poor girl, they didn't take her back. No, she left Houghton she knew she couldn't get a job like that again and she went away.
- C: Did you learn how to speak English when you got here then?
- A: Well, second-mate was Norweign that help little bit. And my sister went five grades, she went five grades in one year because she only had to take English she was in second grade in Finland and she went five grades here.
- C: Were you here in 1913?
- A: Ya, when the strike.
- C: Ya, do you remember anything about it?
- A: Yes, I remember when the Italian Hall burned. It was terrible and my family was gone where we worked and my sister and I were all alone, they went on vacation and we were all alone and oh we were scared that night.
- C: Well did you hear it over the radio?
- A: No our friends call up.
- C: Well what happened?
- A: Well I guess somebody say there was a fire and I guess there was no fire and people get so scared and just kill others you know such a rush to get out.

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C: Well do you remember anything about the strike? Besides the Italian Hall disaster?

A: Yes, the soldiers came here, a company of soldiers after that was terrible.

C: It was that bad then. You don't think of anything like that happening up here.

A: No, no.

C: Are you a citizen of the United States?

A: Yes, I didn't even have to get papers because at that time it was a law when I got married to a American boy.

C: Oh I see. Do you remember anything else about Suomi that you can tell?

A: Well I used to belong to Martha & Mary and we sure used to make lots of money for Suomi College in that old building, Old Main. Not only our Martha & Mary but from other cities and other states, they used to send furniture and everything. Oh there was old style furniture first and all the new dressers and beds and everything we used to buy and thousands and thousands worth of stuff we used to give every year. It was Finnish Martha & Mary at that time not English Martha & Mary and we used to have a big pasty sale and bake sales and sew and do everything and I remember one fall, it was a record, I sold 318 tickets and Mrs. Waisenen said I sold all alone more than they did altogether.

C: Well my gosh, how did you sell so many?

A: Oh it was easy. I went to the business places and if they say no well-

C: You had a good idea there.

A: Ya, we worked hard.

C: Was it very strict in Old Main, I mean did the girls have hours they have to come in at a certain time?

A: Yes, yes, and doors locked. Housemother used to come to our meeting in the church and she had to hurry home before ten o'clock she said, "I got to be home and lock the doors."

C: It was at ten o'clock then that they had to come in.

A: Yes, Saturday night I guess it was at twelve o'clock.

C: Did they have to goto chapel every Sunday?

A: I'm sure they did.

C: You see, because now they don't anymore. Well how come it's not required anymore?

A: Well you know it used to be a seminar that's why, you know a minister's school when you graduate from Sucmi College. But they moved that.

C: They moved it? I didn't know that. What are some of the recipes you used to make there? Are there any specialties that you remember? I remember that good Finnish bread with the glazing on the top.

A: Nisu. You like that?

C: Oh yes

A: We always used to have Nisu and homemade bread we used to call skinny bread. Mrs. Buchonen used to make once a week always homemade bread and oh did they eat that hot bread and skinny bread, reiska(?).

C: Oh I know it's delicious and they made rolls too.

A: They make rolls now but they don't make the other things and nowadays they don't eat bread like they did in olden times, food was more plain.

C: What kind of stuff did you have? You had meat.

A: Ya, we had meat and we had cereal in the morning and eggs and bacon and pancakes always. And Mrs. Buchonen was a very good cook. And a dessert the kids used to like with all kinds of mixed fruit.

C: Ya, I've heard of that before. Did you vote for any U.S. President? Have you voted?

A: Yes.

C: Who was the first one you voted for?

A: I can't remember. Maybe Wilson.

C: You voted for Wilson. When you first got here who was running the town? Who was big business then? Do you remember any of the stores that are out of business now?

A: Stores yes. Arney's Store, Jewish people they used to have a shoe store and a clothing store.

Was that in Houghton or Hancock?

A: In Hancock. And there were theaters, like Calumet has that big theater and the Savoy Theater.

C: Have you ever seen any productions up at the Calumet theater?

A: I was there a couple of times but not now for a couple of years.

C: They're good though, it's pretty in there. How do the different nationalities get along, do remember that?

- A: Pretty good, olden times I guess the Irish and Finnish didn't get along they fought. I hope you're not Irish!
- C: No, no I'm English.
- A: You're English.
- C: And I'm Scotch and German so I'm a mixture.
- A: Oh, that's what my first son-in-law was and the second one is German. UMBERHAM.
- C: UMBERHAM, I guess so. My grandmother was a KINSEL. Do remember anything about Mohawk or Ojibway?
- A: No, I just passed by. Mohawk, the president's secretary was from Mohawk, Longvilan, she got married.
- C: My grandmother was a nurse-girl for a Dr. Libbey. Do you remember any Dr. Libbey?
- A: Dr. Libbey?
- C: Libbey. I mean he was probably up there, he was a doctor up in Mohawk.
- A: Oh, Calumet.
- C: Somewhere around there. Why are there so many taverns and saloons?
- A: In Hancock
- C: Why?
- A: Well I can't understand.
- C: Well were there alot of fights there or what? Have you ever heard of any fights in any saloons or anything?
- A: Sometimes, not to bad. I remember one fireman, some Irishmen they were in a fight and he lost his chin and he had to wear a black bandage always when he work even to hold up his chin.
- C: Well what happened to it? It broke?
- A: Ya, it broke the bones. He couldn't hold it so he had to wear the black bandage always.
- C: Well that's terrible. Then the doctors didn't-
- A: No, no they couldn't fix it. He had to work like that.
- C: What did you and your friends do for a good time?
- A: Oh, go for hikes and walks and dance and skate and ski and snowshoe and things always good for sport and swimming.

C: Where were the skating rinks?

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A lot of times we used to go down to the Amphidrome, Amphidrome used to be that Dee Stadium and we'd have big ice rinks on the lake and dressing room.

C: Oh, you just used to scrape off the snow.

A: Ya, the ice used to be good, after they deepened the canal it's not so good that ice anymore, the people used to go across the lake, Ripley, and I never went around the bridge, I always used to go across the lake. Two places, Ripley, the other end of the Ripley and this end of Ripley. They always have a good road across the lake. And from the bridge you took the short cut the middle of Houghton too. This side gets colder you go by the lake and get the road there and now you can't do that anymore, it doesn't hold you because they deepened the canal.

C: It's too deep now. How did courtship take place, how did your husband court you, woo you?

I was in the hall and he asked for somebody who had the red dress on, who was that little girl, and they say that's Annie Larson. And that's the way it started. I went three years with him.

C: You were at a dance? Where did you used to go dancing?

A: Lincoln Hall in Hancock and at the Amphidrome, there were a lot of dance halls. I can't remember the names even now. And Electric Park we used to take a street car, summer time when there was a beautiful big park full of things and dance house.

C: My grandmother mentioned Electric Park.

A: Yes, yes, she used to go there I bet.

C: It sounds nice. And you went on picnics I suppose.

A: Ya

C: Do you remember what it was like in the boarding houses that were run?

A: Oh boy, houses so full of boarders, small house took sixteen boarders.

C: How come so many?

A: Well, no houses, no housing that time and mines were working there was so much people. Like I have this apartment. in olden times this would hold ten boarders easy and a family who lives here. That's the way it was. Just a little little table and a bench to sit down, some houses have a bed, two three beds in a small room.

C: And then the family would cook for them too?

A: Oh, how did they ever do it?

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- A: They'd get up at three o'clock four o'clock in the morning and get the one six going and the other six men coming in and almost every house had a milking cow and even Hancock, you see when I come home from work from Suomi College everyday I still see the barns, you know they used to have cows, I see three barns anyway. Ya, there used to be cows in Hancock even and you had to bring the cows up a big hill in the morning, part of a farm and that's where you'd bring the cows for the day.
- C: It was like a pasture place. It's hard to think of cows being in Hancock.
- A: And horses too. The first car ride I had was in 1910
- C: 1910. What kind of car was it?
- A: I can't remember what was the name but I remember where I work they got a ride for me and my friends on the street looking where Annie was going and me riding in the car and there was only about a dozen cars Houghton and Hancock.
- C: You weren't scared were you?
- A: No. They didn't go fast.
- C: Well, was it a comfortable thing to ride in?
- A: Well it was at that time, I don't know about now if I was in it if it would be comfortable. When you're young, I used to ride the horse when I was eight years old in Finland and horse-back ride. I remember at Sunday school once the horse sleigh pulled the kids and they laugh and make so much noise the horse got wild and started to run down the hill and I was all alone holding the horse the kids all left.
- C: I can just see that. I'd like to I think that's good. Did you belong to any other organizations?
- A: Martha & Mary at Suomi and then at the church I always belonged to the ladies aid, I was president a long while and then the older people started to die and we got less and less and I was president of that and we changed the name Maria? Circle and I was president of that twenty-five years of that. Till last year Mrs. Krimm she came form Pittsburgh and I start to say I I am going to quit and they used to say , "not yet Annie, not yet."
- C: You must have been a good one.
- A: Oh, I don't know, my English was broken but most of the times the meetings were in Finnish.
- C: Do you remember anything about the local sports around here? Did they have baseball teams?
- A: Sure they always have baseball teams.
- C: And football I suppose. Was there much rivalry between Houghton and Hancock?
- A: I can't remember much about that, I never played that

C: What about hockey?

A: Hockey, yes, my husband was a good hockey player.

C: Did he play on any of the teams here?

A: He used to but I can't remember any of the names because he didn't like school too much and he would skip school and go play hockey.

C: I like hockey, it's one of my favorite sports. Do you remember any music or dance pavillions on the lakes?

A: Yes, boats used to go White City always, always used to go White City two, three times a week, Sunday, Saturday and was it Tuesday. You know where White City is? Around by Jacobsville. We used to go there and music on the boat and then a nice dance hall there and it was beautiful to dance by the lake there.

C: That sounds romantic.

A: Ya, ya it was.

C: Sometimes I wish I could go back.

A: Ya, ya it was nice and Dreamland boat used to go.

C: Now Dreamland it sounds familiar

A: They have something now even there a dinner place

C: Do you remember anything about the boats coming in?

A: Oh yes, big coal boats used to come in, alot of the men used to work on the coal boats because all the heating was done by fuel coal.

C: Where did they drop it off?

A: There was a place in Houghton, there was a big dock there a little ways from the bridge that way and then there was a place in Hancock and there was a dock in Ripley, in between Dollar Bay and Ripley, I can't remember, there must have been a Dollar Bay even. Everyplace there was those.

C: I suppose they had so much to bring in. Were there any other kind of boats that came in? I read a book on the ships that used to come in.

A: Yes, I can't remember the names of those boats, big boats full of people and they used to go around, I don't know along a trip they took, and they stop always Houghton.

C: Like a tour.

A: Ya, just like this Isle Royale boat but they had big big boats.

C: When was this?

A: I can't remember, not too long ago.

- C: In the 50's?
- A: Even after that. I think in 1955, yes we used to walk Houghton and meet people and town was all full of people when they came and it stopped for many hours ans then started again.
- C: Do you remember anything about Christmas? How it differs from now.
- A: Oh ya, it's all together different, even the trees were different.
- C: When you were in Finland was it different from here?
- A: Well I remember my mother used to bake lots and had a Christmas tree and then in school they always had a Christmas tree and trimmed the tree and even now the fancy rolls we used to put on the Christmas tree.
- C: Did you make your own Christmas decorations?
- A: Alot of them yes, we made them in school.
- C: When you were younger was it as commercialized?
- A: Yes, it's not like olden times
- C: Did you think more of Christ's birth then?
- A: Yes, yes much more, it meant something, now it's just a business.
- C: Now kids think, "I'm getting presents," did you think that it was Christ's birthday?
- A: Yes, yes everybody used to think that.
- C: I thjnk it still is but not as much. That's to bad. What about the fourth of July, did they have fireworks?
- A: Oh yes, up on Quincy Hill, around Ripley, you know those big hills. Up by the telephone company where my husband was born in that valley. You know where the telephone company is? And we used to go up on the hill and watch the fireworks. Then when Houghton side had it was so beautiful we could see all from the lake, we didn't even have to go up on the hill.
- C: They both had fireworks then, both Houghton and Hancock?
- A: Yes, Houghton and Hancock both had fireworks, Houghton fireworks you could see so good and even Ripley side had them. Yes, yes it was big business at that time.
- C: Do you remember anything about the rockets?
- A: Ya, oh how high they went
- C: My mother remembers something about "red devils", you had to grind them into the ground. Do you remember about them?

- A: No, I can't remember those.
- C: Do you remember anything about any dramatic events? Like plays. 15
- A: At Christmas time?
- C: Yes.
- A: Yes, yes, always there were plays at Christmas time. I remember I was in a play and then I had to sing and I always had voice to sing with the others but I have no music ear and oh was I nervous and they always put me in the same part.
- C: I bet you were nervous, I always get so nervous when I have to do anything like that. What do you think made a change in the social life? Like when your husband was taking you out to now when kids go out. Have cars really made a difference?
- A: You mean the car. I think that's pretty much the truth. People gets lazy.
- C: And that's not kidding either
- A: My goodness, we used to work East Houghton and sometimes we'd take the streetcar but most of the time we'd work all day and walk Hancock and walk back at night to Houghton and that was nothing.
- C: Now you said something about streetcars, where were there streetcars?
- A: Streetcars in the car barn. There is a big building yet where the streetcars used to park. And streetcars used to go between Calumet and Houghton always. Every half an hour there was a streetcar anywhere.
- C: That's too bad they took them out
- A: Yes, yes, and they were all full of people.
- C: Well why did they take them out?
- A: Because cars came for the people. But when there were no cars everybody rode the streetcars, going to Calumet even.
- C: My grandmother said there were some in between Ojibway and Mohawk too. They should have kept them they would have been good tourist business now, but you don't think of that then. Now what about the population here?
- A: There were lots more people in Hancock. Houses so full of people now alot of new houses and of course alot of houses are torn down but there was, I can't remember, there was lots more people than now in Houghton and Hancock. Michigan Tech helps the Houghton. But anyway there used to be more because the mines always run and the Copper Range and Huron Town and Hancock Mine and Quincy and still Atlantic Mine even olden times.
- C: What did your husband do? Did he work in a mine?

A: No, he didn't work in the mine he work for gas company for the last twenty-three years until he retired.

C: Do you remember anything about the mines? Was mining a bad business? Did they like it?

A: Well, that was about the most work there was, they just like the money part.

C: It was good pay then.

A: Yes, miners make more and timber men make less.

C: What were the bad social problems in the community? Was there alot of crime?

A: No, nothing like now. You leave your doors open nobody goes in you don't have to worry about it, alot of people never lock their doors.

C: Even now they don't, up here.

A: Ya, I know even up here a couple of my friends never lock their doors.

C: I don't either when I leave and I think nothing of it.

- A: And I know Jacob ^{Karinen} ~~Kalenen~~ used to work Suomi College, thirteen years and they never lock the doors and he said one day when they came home some of the pasties were gone but she said that next time that friends came over that he said he had the pasty but it was so good he went in the house and took another half. And one time she fried a platter full of fish and she said when she came home there were just the bones left but it was their good friends they just think that was a joke.

C: That's not to bad but even when I go down into the city I forget to lock the car.

A: Oh, that's bad.

C: Was it bad then?

A: We never lock the car, I don't t ink they had locks. In 1923 we bought the first car and I don't think it had locks. It was an open car and then my husband in 1925 came close in car and he said now we going to get a new car, a Buick, oh more work, more work make money more. I didn't want to owe anybody.

C: That's no good to have something hanging over you.

A: No, no I never did like that.

C: So where else did you work besides this house over in Houghton?

A: I was housekeeper for thirteen years over in East Houghton and then all my life, after I got married, I do house work and parties and weddings and funerals.

- C: Well, that's kind of nice.
- A: Ya.
- C: Was there any widespread drunkenness? What about the miners, didn't they frequent the saloons?
- A: Ya, they did some but alot of them used to buy a jug, or what you call that kind of thing, bottle and bring it home and drink home, alot of them did that, a box of beer, a big wooden box, on a pay-day they used to buy.
- C: Well I suppose it was hard work up there, I suppose they needed a little enjoyment. What about food prices?
- A: Oh my goodness, pork chops, I remember they were 12 cents a pound, or were they even that, eggs 2 dozen for a quarter.
- C: And what are they now 89 cents a dozen?
- A: 89! A dollar or over a dollar even. Even the fresh eggs they bring to SUomi College someone said they were a dollar a dozen or over.
- C: I suppose it's kind of hard for Suomi to manage
- A: Ya, it's going to be hard and now you know and now this beef business.
- C: Ya, that's terrible, I don't know how they're going to do it. Has it been hard when you've been working there to meet the demand?
- A: No, not lately years but olden times money problems was that they had to decide what to buy and how to pay for it.
- C: How much did it cost to go to Suomi then?
- A: Oh my goodness I can't remember, my son went there in 1934 and he graduated, a hundred something.
- C: And now what it is. It gives you a headache to think about it. What did your family do when somebody became sick? Did you go to the doctor then?
- A: Oh, not as much, you had to be very sick before you went doctor's olden time. There wasn't very many doctors and offices going full like they are now.
- Do you remember any of the doctors?
- A: Dr. Dodge and Dr., I can't remember now, the old one.
- C: Did your family have any home remedies? Like for a cough?
- A: Yes.
- C: What were they?
- A: Tar and whiskey.

- C: What else did you use? Like if you got a bad cut what did you do with it, did you bind it or what? Or did you go to the doctor.
- A: No we didn't go to the doctor, we just took care of it ourselves. Not before blood poisoning came, then you went to the doctor, if it got bad.
- C: What about if you got a fever, what did you use?
- A: Hot tea and lemonade and alot of juice, ya but in those days they didn't have juice, alot of water.
- C: To bring the temperature down.
- A: And ice on the forehead.
- C: My mother said she remembers mustard plasters.
- A: On your chest.
- C: She said my aunt made one for my grandmother and it was so bad it burned her chest because it was so potent. Do you know if the family members were included in welfare plan for the mining company? Like did they provide food and housing for the mining company people?
- A: You mean people who were out of work?
- C: No, the mining company. Did they give the people who were working for them money?
- A: No, the people buy the food, I can't remember if some of the mining companies in Calumet had stores, I don't know for sure, company stores but I can't remember Hancock.
- C: Was there alot of housing built by the mines?
- A: Well, maybe some of those houses were company houses because people were living in them in Hancock and Ripley even after the mines were closed they bought those mining company houses. Ya, they built houses up on the hill, I don't think much in Hancock though.
- C: Where did they gather, more toward Calumet? Where did the miners live?
- A: When the crew work Quincy and Franklin Mines they live Hancock Calumet people live Calumet.
- C: Did they ever strike? They struck in 1913.
- A: Ya, but I can't remember to much about that.
- C: Did they ever get any benefits out of that?
- A: I guess they got some but they sure lost lots.
- C: That was really to bad there. Did the doctors then make house calls?
- A: Yes, they did always.

C: And now you can't get one to come.

A: Yes, my goodness, I live in a hollow on a bad road in Ripley and he had to come when I had a baby and he came three times before I had the baby, we didn't go to the hospital at that time when a baby was born, you stay home.

C: How were they paid? Were they paid with money or maybe goods?

A: Money, but it wasn't much.

C: Let's say he was going to deliver your baby, how much would it have cost you?

A: I can't remember, it wasn't many dollars.

C: Just think of what you have to pay now. Were there midwives around here?

A: Midwives?

C: They're women who deliver babies, not doctors but just women.

A: Yes, yes, I know Mrs. Alowa brought my first baby but for my second three and a half years later I had a nurse. Yes, there were always ladies like that.

C: Were there any men or women known around here for bone healing?

A: Yes, Thompson's they were very good, the doctor couldn't fix it and they would fix it.

C: Now that's really true. How did she know how to fix it?

A: Well the Thompson boys did that, the sons, they just feel with their hands. And like old country too, there was a man who came to the house and he was no doctor and if you had a broken leg or something he would just put the bones together again.

C: Now that's something. What about cupping, did you ever hear anything about cupping?

A: Oh yes, I had it done once at my summer home.

C: Did it hurt?

A: Yes it did, some of the ladies faint.

C: Well, what did they do?

A: They had horns, those cow horns, they would pick you with a knife to make holes and put that horn there and then there's a little hole on the top of the horn and they suck the blood and spit it out.

C: Why did they do it?

A: It's good for you to get that old dirty blood out of you and get new. And they said some cases it's very good yet even if there's somebody like that.

- C: What was wrong with you when you had this done?
- A: Others did it, I did it too because the lady who came to our camp could do it.
- C: Weren't you afraid? I'd of been scared to death.
- A: I know my daughter was there and was scared.
- C: Who were the women that did it? Were there special women?
- A: Yes, special women, this one was from Boston.
- C: My mother was born in Boston. Was it difficult for a family to get to a hospital?
- A: I don't know that it was difficult but hardly anyone went hospital those days, you had to be very sick if you went to the hospital.
- C: Why was it like that?
- A: Well there were no insurances and I don't know why.
- C: Did it cost to much?
- A: Ya, maybe, I don't know. It sure wasn't much those days
- C: Where was the hospital?
- A: That nurses building, that was the St. Joseph's Hospital, that big building there, that's a nuresse home now. And then there was one house hospital, the house was in East Hancock.
- C: In a house?
- A: Ya, it was a big house and we had a hospital made out of that
- C: Is it still standing today?
- A: I guess somebody bought the house, I can't remember who, it was high up on a hill by the bridge.
- C: What were the most severe health problems? Was there alot of silicosis? Do you know what that is? It's a lung disease from mining.
- A: Oh ya, alot of lung disease olden times, very much. Big tuberculosis was across the lake. Up on a hill across the lake. And then after that they built this Medi-care and that used to be the tuberculosis hospital. Then when there wasn't to much of that sickness they move the sick some other place, Ironwood or where they move the hospital.
- C: What about polio, do remember when that was widespread? Was it ever bad up here?
- A: Well it wasn't to bad, you see some cases that they got left cripple because there was no care like nowadays.

C: So what church do you belong to?

A: Gloria Dei.

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C: Is that the one you've always belonged to since you got here?

A: Yes, I do but my brother belong to First Luthern on Pine Street.

C: Did they have the old church in the same place as the new one?

A: No, old church was up from Hancock Hardware that church, back of Hancock Hardware that's our church.

C: That's the old Gloria Dei?

A: Ya, it used to be St. Matthews, it was once, and what was it, it was first Luthern, it was Luthern first because there were so many Finnish people and there was a Norweign church and a Swedish church, the Swedish church is that church on Lincoln Drive, that was the Swedish church they joined the Gloria Dei after we moved to the new church or a little before.

C: So there were alot more churches then.

A: Yes, and German church used to be Hancock Street and still, it used to be Luthern and the Episcopal church.

C: Do you remember the founding of the church?

A: You mean this new Gloria Dei?

C: No, the old one.

A: No, it was ready, it was early before I came and it was still before I came just before.

C: Do you remember any of the ministers?

A: Oh, Peck, Reverend Peck and then came Pesola.

C: And is he still there now?

A: No.

C: That's way back, huh

A: That's way back.

C: Were there any activibies that you used to be in, you mentioned that you had that ladies aid society?

A: Well, we have meeting every month and we had bake sales and things like that to make money for the church.

C: Well how--

A: And strawberry festival we always used to have.

C: That sounds so good, I love strawberries

A: This year even we make thirteen hundred at the strawberry festival.

C: Was there anything different about marriages then? I mean how you got married. Was it smaller?

A: Well it was smaller, alot of times you just went to the minister's house and not so much church weddings and you had a couple girls and a cuople boys along with you and that's all.

C: What about the dress then? Do you like clothes now or did you like them before?

A: Well, I don't like quite that long, sweep the dust off the streets.

C: I like that. That's because I never had to wear them all the time.

A: You do?

C: Were there any special problems with the church, did they have enough funds to run? Did people have enough money to support churches?

A: Well it was pretty good, the pay was small but everybody gave the church and minister's pay was so small those days.

C: Were the ministers respected around here?

A: Yes, very much those days, more than now.

C: Did they ever visit the homes?

A: Yes.

C: Did they ever hold services in any of the homes around here?

A: Yes, we used to have meetings even our circle meetings and minister always came to them and we have program always.

C: Oh my gosh.

A: Always, ya.

C: Do you still do that now?

A: No we don't do that now but even Ripley and Quincy Ladies Aid we used to have meetings at the Quincy people's houses and Ripley and we'd have all kinds of goodies with the coffee and a program and there were games and singing.

C: Well that's something, I've never heard of that before. How did the various churches get along with each other?

A: Oh, pretty good, only the Luthern a little bit different understand- ing. I think that the Luthern's think they are better, they are the only ones. My brother anyway thinks that way.

C: Well actually there's only one more question here. Did any of the mining companies lease land to the churches?

A: Sure they did because that's where they used to own half of the land anyway even up on the hill, even higher up they own all the land and we just pay the taxes, in Ripley they own all but we just pay ten dollars a year.

C: Well that's not much either.

A: Ya, but then you have to pay other taxes besides, that's the way it is in Ripley; I don't know about Hancock's taxes.

C: Well can you think of anything else you'd like to add?

A: I guess that's all and thank-you for coming. What make you come after me? Who told you about me?

C: Oh listen, I heard about you from Mr. Anderson, you know Wally Anderson?

A:

C: And Art Puotinen. Do you know?

A: Oh Puotintn, ya.

C: Sure and there's someone who works there, Aero's mother.

A: Oh, Mary Ranta.

C: Yes, and he told me about you so you're a popular person. So thank-you very much.