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LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978**

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Mrs. Julia Karkanen

interviewed by Helen Armstrong

Main topic: personal history, crafts, cookery

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Mrs. Julia Karkanen

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Karkanen

I'm here today interviewing Mrs. Julia Karkanen and she lives in ...Is this Chassell or Snake River?

K:Snake River area.

I:Okay. Just to begin with I want to ask you things like how old you are, and if you're married and umm..how many children you have, if you have any.

K:Well, I'm 56 years old and I'm married and I have two children, by my first husband, and they're 30...let's see, I have to stop and think...my son would be 31 and my daughter would be 29.

I:Are both of your parents of Finnish descent?

K:Yes they are. They immigrated from Finland.

I:Did they immigrate together? Or?

K:No, no they didn't.

I:How old were they when they came?

K:I believe my father was about 21 and my mother was about 19.

I:Do you know what part of Finland they were from?

K:They were from Vaasanl^unni. My father was from Ala? and my mother was from T^uolsa. ¹¹

I:Did they settle here or in this area or?

K:Yes, in the Marquette area. I think my father kind of roamed the country for ~~a while different areas~~ before he settled here, but umm... mother came straight to Marquette county.

I:Is that where you grew up?

K:They moved to the farm when they got married, they moved to a farm in Alger County and that's where I was born and raised.

I:So your father was a farmer?

K:Yes, uh-huh.

I:And your mother helped on the farm and was a house-wife?

K:Yes.

I:How long have you been living here then?

K:Nine years

I:Do know what, if there were any, specific reasons for your parents to come over here?

K:Well, just like most other immigrants from there in the early 1900's that looking for something better, you know...land of opportunity over here.

I: More people came here from Vaasanl^änni than anyone else

K: Did they? Oh...

I: Mostly because I think that there was an increase in population and there was a lack in farm land so people immigrated from there more than anywhere else.

K: I think there were mostly farms there.

I: Right. Do you know how much education your parents had?

K: Well, they used to say that they had this...it was more like a church school, I believe they went to. I don't know how far they got in that, but I don't think they ever went to a public school. Or...regular education, no not at all.

I: So they probably learned how to read and write and that's about it

K: That's about it. Yeah.

I: How about yourself?

K: Ten years. I went through the tenth grade.

I: Have you worked at all, or have you just been a house wife, or?

K: Well, I first married in 38 and my husband was associated with the Co-op stores, so I had some...we owned..our own grocery store for 19 years so I helped. So I've had some...I worked that way, helped him in the grocery store. But that's about the only kind of work I've ever done.

I: What does your husband now do?

K: Well, he's retired now, but he worked on the railroad.
We farm to a certain extent here, a little bit, strawberries, potatoes.

I: Just for yourselves.

K: Well, there's a little income; we sell a few potatoes and we have some self picking strawberries, just to pick up the excess. Not really farming for the income part.

I: Let's see...do you speak Finnish? Did you learn Finnish when you were growing up?

K: Yes, from my parents because they just talked Finn at home all the time.

I: So you never spoke English at home?

K: No, my parents didn't. My mother never did speak English. She never did learn English.

I: How about ...does your husband speak Finnish?

K: To a certain extent.

I: So you speak English with him?

K: Most of the time,

I: Could you, do you remember what age it was you started speaking English more than Finnish?

K: I think when I went to school. When I was seven years old. Well, I had older, I was the youngest of seven, I had older brothers and sisters and I picked up English before I started school, but I didn't really start talking English until I started school.

I: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

K: I have two sisters and one brother.

I: Do you remember or do you know how many kids were in your parents' families?

K: Mother came from a big family.. I think eight children. Dad was from a family of four.

I: Were both of their families farmers...do you know?

K: I'm not sure in my father's family. I don't recall if he ever talked about them, I don't remember, but my grandparents on my mother's side were farmers.

I: Well, like you said, most of them were farmers from that part of the country. Okay...now how old were you when you first got married?

K: Seventeen.

I: I'm just curious to see how that has changed. All right. When you were growing up, did your parents stress a lot of the Finnish customs? Like...do you think they adapted more to the American kind of Christmas, ...did you eat Finnish foods and things like that?

K: Finnish foods. We celebrated Christmas on Christmas Eve...and that was our Christmas celebration....

I: Did umm...did the Joulupukki come to the house to bring Christmas presents or did, is it like here when he comes during the night?

K: Well, no, it was supposed to have happened during the day. Our typical Christmas was Christmas eve; Mother fixed our Christmas dinner for Christmas Eve. We had a sauna and while we were in the sauna the Joulupukki came.

I: Do you know what they do in Finland? The joulupukki comes right to the house and he gives you your presents right to you. What happens is, you get your neighbor or someone to dress up like the Joulupukki or else you can rent a Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve we went to the graveyard to light candles on the graves--this was a tradition--and on the way back, we saw four joulupukki's walking along the street together. I thought it was pretty funny.

K: No, I don't think we ever had that...as far as I remember, I don't think I ever saw one., except in these Christmas programs at school.

I: Did you learn that Santa Claus lived in Finland or at the North Pole?

K: No, I don't remember that. (Laughter) You know, off of that, I wonder where the word joulupukki came from, because translated it doesn't mean anything. They still call it joulupukki in Finland?

I: Yeah... I don't know.

K: One day we were discussing this... I think it was with my daughter. She's always been confused what joulupukki means. She thinks it's a book. It seems that everytime that we're together she says, where did they ever get that word... I mean joulu means Christmas, but

I: Well, I may be mistaken, but pukki, in Finland, is a word that means a man who runs around with a lot of women and is up to a lot of mischief.

K: Oh really??

I: I think that it's pretty new; I'm not sure

K: Because I used to think this pukki came from

I: Doesn't it mean a goat? Do you have a dictionary?

K: Not here. My daughter has all my Finnish ...

I: It seems to me somewhere I heard it that pukki was a goat.

K: Here the Finnish people call a male deer a pukki.. (it is both... looked it up)

I: Okay, that's what it is.

I just wondered if it was just the Finnish-American people that called it joulupukki.

I: Uh-huh.

K: Oh, it isn't, that's something I can tell my daughter. (Laughter)

I: How about other holidays... did you celebrate Juhannus Paiva?

K: Well, yes, as a child we did, but then it kind of wore off even before I left home... I left home at about 16. It already wore off-- but I remember when I was still quite young Dad used to make a kind thing from popple and birch. He used to make that always for Juhannus and I remember they always used to talk about Juhannus. It still was always in their thoughts even if it wasn't celebrated.

I: I'm sure it's not as big a thing here because you don't have the long dark winters...

K: ...nights, yes. Yeah, we don't have the long nights.. yes, I would think that's probably... might be something that would have to do with it, and then they didn't have... uhh.. I suppose they didn't have the get-togethers... up here I don't know how much they had it up here. They'd get together and have these kokous (meeting) and things. I don't recall ever having a bon-fire or anything. About the only thing they'd have the arbour and dinner. But

he'd leave it up for a long time, but like I say, the latter years, I don't think it was celebrated. But as far as other days--- let's see what else--oh I remember them talking about this..ummm.. laskiainen? I remember them talking and it was always a tradition to make pea soup for that day. But as far as other...

I:How about May Day? I remeber we used to drink a drink called siima. It's just made from lemon juice, I think, and it's fermented. We used to drink that on MayDay.

K:Oh, I don't think we ever..uh...we never had that drink, I know that, we never had that drink at home, because I heard about that after..in fact, I learned and picked up more..uh...because there is more Finnish people around here, I've learned more , other things since I've been here than I did at home. We lived in a Finnish community, but it wasn't a big village, it was just a little, ...well, there was a post office there and that was about it. At the time I was in school there was mostly Finnish people there. There was maybe one German family, but other people started moving in, but they were basically Finnish people there. But uh...they didn't used to get together to celebrated these things...holidays. So they never had any thing for May Day. I'm trying to recall what other holidays there would have been.

I:There would've been Independence Day, but I'll bet that would've been after...

K:Jaa, the Finnish Independence Day, ja, they never celebrated that, in fact, I don't know that..they must have known the date of it, but they never, uh...they never talked about it because like I said, they left Finland before they even had it.

I:How about, All Saints Day, is there anything that would've happened the.....

K:There was Memorial Day, but I don't know, I think that was American Memorial Day.

I:How about, I meant to ask you when we were talking about Christmas... Do remember any particular foods that you ate at Christmas time?

K:Rice pudding was one thing for our desert. She used to have the lipjakalata (fish), that she'd always fix that throughout the holiday season from about a week before Christmas to about a week after New Year. And then, I don't know if it was traditional, but we always had roast pork for dinner...for Christmas Dinner. Other than that, I don't know if the rice pudding was a traditional dish or not.I think the Finnish people, or anyway the Finnish people they served this kind of sauce with their rice pudding, this lingon berry, but we never had anything like that, if we did it would have been canned raspberry or something or wild raspberry or something.

I:How about, did she used to make puuro (a type of porridge with berries?

K:Like for breakfast?

I:Yeah.

K:No I don't think so. What kind of puuro would that be?

K: Did you have that in Finland?

I: Yeah. I think that they made it from strawberries. It was always pink anyway.

K: Oh, I wonder if it would've been something that was thickened with farina.

I: uh-huh. I think so.

K: Ooohh, they served that for breakfast?

I: Right.

K: Well here--mother never had that. But I learned about that and had the first taste of it, oh...long after I first got married, and they served that as a desert.

I: We ate that as a desert too, but we usually had it for breakfast.

K: Ohh. 'Cause I know some people use raspberry juice and I used to make it with strawberries.

I: I think you can make it with cranberry...

K: In fact this past weekend I was down at my daughter's and she had a, umm, cranberry recipe and I was surprised to find that and they make it from cranberries; they call it cranberry fluff. I never heard of it. Possibly they make it in Finland from cranberries too. All your wild berries..

I: Did you eat a lot of nisua? Or they call it in Finland pulla?

K: Oh yeah, that was traditional. In fact I've got to check mine... I made some this morning. (Laughter) Oh ja, but out our way, they just called it biscuittia which is really Finn-English. But here they call it nisua.

I: When I was in Finland they called it pulla and I had a friend who's name was Pekka Niskanen and they called him Nisu and I never that meant anything and then one day someone said "Do you know what that means?" "no" "That's pulla! That's an old-fashioned word for pulla!" And then I started reading about this area before I came up here and I kept reading about nisua and I thought aha, that's the old-fashioned word. I don't think the people up here would even know if you said pulla.

K: No, in fact there's a cute story..some Finnish students at Suomi I guess, or some Finnish from the younger generation had gone into the Finlandia and they had wanted this pulla. And anyway, whoever had been with them brought this Danish roll and when he saw it he said, "OH, PULLA!" They didn't know it at the Finlandia. My husband's cousin was over here from Finland about four years ago and when they first came to the Copper Country they looked us up. Well there was some other relatives that were associated with her that brought her here. This fella that was a chauffer, he had a young Finnish lad that was going to Suomi with him and I had some pulla and I put it on the table and that's what they called. That's the first time I ever heard it called it too. And I was surprised that they didn't call it nisua. They must have called it that years back and then they changed it to pulla.

I: That was probably around the turn of the century because that is when most of the people came here.

K: Where I would think pulla would be more like a roll, a dinner roll.

I: We used to eat it -- the same doe -- in a roll a lot, like a little bun. In fact we probably ate that more than the braids, but it was the same doe.

K: Yes, mother used to. That was our bread and then that nisua, that was our main coffee-cake.

I: Did she make the rye bread with the circle and the whole in the middle?

K: No, regular loaves, or she used to make 'em in round loaves in a round pan. And mostly rye, in fact, course rye bread. It wasn't this fine rye bread.

I: Is that harder to find? Or is it more expensive here? Because somewhere I read that people started eating more whole wheat because it was easier to get and I guess in Finland the rye is more common.

K: Yes, I would think so, uhh.. I don't know I think it's what they get used to. I don't think my mother ever had any whole wheat flour and as far as now in purchasing it, it cost the same to the rye four as whole wheat flour, it costs the same, but uh, was it that they preferred the rye or was it that it was tradition, that they had brought it from Finland, that the rye bread was only....

I: It was probably tradition. Did you eat mustikkapiirakkaa?

K: Is that the pie?

I: Yeah.

K: Oh yeah. Sure.

I: Only it's never round and they never put a top on it. Do you remember any other foods?

K: Silakka (Baltic sprat fish) One thing. Umm. Let's see, what else. I can't think of anything. I might think of it as we go along.

I: Did you eat a lot of soups and stews?

K: Stews or so called mojakkas. I understand they don't call it that anymore in Finland. It's lihakeitto (meat soup). That mainly because of the economy. And fish mojakka. Jaa, because Dad was great for fish.

I: Pea soup?

K: Oh yes. From pork hock. Other than that, she never made, like our can soups... like vegetable soup or tomato soup. Always had a lot of potatoes. Because that's about the only vegetable we had in the winter time, especially, or like dried peas. But like bean soup, I don't remember ever having bean soup. Pea soup. But not really that much soups, as far as in comparison to what we eat now.

I: I guess in Finland we didn't eat a lot of variety, but we had

a lot of fish soup and lihakeitto and hernekeitto

K:Hernekeitto (pea soup)..(laughter)

:We ate a lot of that!

K:So evidently the keitto was a soup always. oh

I:What else did they eat a lot of? Well how much of that do you still do? Do you still cook the same kinds of foods you grew up on?

K:Well, somewhat. Like we like pea soup and more often than any other kind of soup and the lihakeitto, I cook that quite often. The fish soup or the fish chowder, because the simple reason we don't care for. We like fish--dried fish, pickled fish, salted fish... that's one thing my parents had. We still go by that. But uh... then the rice pudding I have, I don't make the sauce that often, the cranberry sauce, but we usually have the relish. I think some things, I think some things we still stick by some things, that I must have inherited somewhere, that like the pea soup. I'd say that the mother passed...

I:I think this is interesting to find out what foods people still cook, I think a lot of it...people don't realise that what they're eating has been brought over by their Finnish parents.

K:I think for one thing, like my husband, uh..I think he eats simply just like my parents did. I think that must have been brought from Finland. Simple meals. Meat is meat, potatoes, he doesn't like casseroles, which is very American. I think that that might be something that has been brought down from our parents and they brought from Finland. Simple meals. You don't mix 'em all together.

I:I have another one I just thought of. I don't know if you've ever eaten this before..they eat blood pancakes. Did you eat those?

K:We ate those. At home. They used to save the blood to make the blood sausage and used to make the blood pancakes.

I:Do you ever do that anymore?

K:No.

I:I imagine you can't buy the blood

K:You have to be there when they slaughter

I:In Finland they sell the blood in packages that you buy in the store.

K:Fresh or frozen?

think fresh.

K:Ohh...like my husband, when he kills a deer in hunting season I don't think he's ever even considered...I don't know how that would taste anyway. I don't know if it would taste different from a domesticated animal. The only part he ever saves is the liver. That's the only

part of the organ he saves. Ja, I know they sell the blood sausage, even, but I never cared for it. Yeah, that was one thing my parents had. I don't think my husband--he's very touchy, what he eats. Personally I didn't care for the blood pancakes. They were very dry. The thing is, I think they used the rye flour.I used to like the blood sausage, but they used to be dryer than what they put out here. This is more greasy (the kind they put out commercially). If I remember right, they were on the dry side. You could just peel ---it was like bologna--you could just peel the skin off and chew on that piece. I used to like that. That's one thing I wouldn't have remembered that if you hadn't said that. (Laughter)

I: Okay, let's go on to the crafts. You weave. Did your mother weave?

K: Yes, that's where I inherited it.

I: Did she weave the rag rugs?

K: Ja, that was what she done, but I don't remember---I've thought about it ever since you called me, I've thought about it that if she had ever made rugs in Finland, I don't know, because they used to weave cloth. When she was a girl at home, she wove cloth. That if she wove rugs before she came to this country, I don't know. She used to talk about weaving this cloth, but it never entered her mind to try and get the material to weave cloth. It was always just rugs. I think she had the notion that you couldn't get the material and then she she didn't have the right kind of loom anyway. That's what she mainly done is just carpets. She never made like blankets or anything. Even from old clothing you could make finer things rather than just rugs. But that's where I inherited it from. I remember her weaving as far back as I can remember...on home-made looms, originally.

I: Did the other girls in your family learn to weave rugs too?

K: Uhh, they knew at the time when they were home, they'd help mother with it, but they never went on with it like I did.

I: You have to have a different kind of a loom to do rugs?

K: Well, they consider that it should be built more sturdy a carpet loom, and then most of the time just like I use my rugs on is a two harness loom, but you can weave on a four or on a multiple harness too. Some think, and I'm not an authority on it, some think you should have a heavier beater, to make rugs, but I don't see that. Lot of women ask me about it, do I have weights on my beater. I don't think mine is heavier than on any other loom. I've woven on my other loom, the loom that I make finer work on, I've woven rugs on that loom too. I don't think it has to be a special one.

I: Did your mother ever make the ryijy rugs?

No.

I: Have you ever made those?

K: Uhh, I have made some, not the authentic ones, with the ryijy yarn and all this and the ryijy knots, but mother made a type of a rug, you might call it that, she used scraps of material for the shag instead of using yarn. She'd weave the base and then insert the scraps of material so that they would protrude on the top. You could see the

material just on one side. We used to call them shaggy rugs. Just like you'd call a ryijy rug a shag rug.

I: I think the ryijy rugs are just beautiful, but I know they take so much longer to make. You know those are..they come from Scandinavia. I think they date back to the Middle Ages, originally.

K: They used to make them for covers, lap robes and covers.....

I ...What else do you weave besides rugs?

: Well I have been weaving, I make these pot holders, I've made bedspreads, runners, drapes...

I: Have you been weaving ever since you, you've been growing

K: Rugs. But I didn't learn to do this other weaving until I moved here. Nine years ago. But I'd just done rugs before and I used to make like tote bags on the carpet loom, but it was mainly rugs. That's what I learned as I was growing up, but I actually learned this other weaving later.

K: Do you sell your rugs too?

K: Ja

I: I was wondering, since I won't get to go into most of the homes here, even if the women don't weave their own rugs, do most of them have these rag rugs?

K: I think possibly do, I think most of them have 'em...even if they don't make 'em, they buy them. I think even the people who have their homes carpeted, they use them in places where they get soiled more or wears out quicker. I think they still do. I don't think you'll find too many homes that doesn't have some kind of a piece of carpet---rag rug.

I: This kind of a rug is so typically Finnish and you don't see this the rest of the United States very often. (interlude about rugs in Finland)

K: Well I know, I heard remarks, well since I've been here, that there are Finnish people that used to live in this area--your age, my age--that have moved away to elsewhere in the country and they don't think that anyone makes rugs anymore, they thought it was all old and gone, that nobody made rugs no more.

I: I grew up in Florida and I've never known anyone who made rugs. Now maybe I was not aware of it...no, you know the rag rugs that go in circles...the women in my church made those. They were always collecting rags and they sold the rugs in the church bazaar.

K: I'm sure that wherever you go, wherever there's weaving done, I'm sure there are rag rugs made. But I'll tell you, out of the group of weavers that we have, I'm the only one that really weaves (rugs); Oh I'll take that back--there are two of us that weaves rag rugs. The rest of them do other types of weaving, but they don't go into rag rugs. It must take a special type of person to make them. People, a person who enjoys sitting in a bunch of rags working with old rags all the time. That kind of a person, because you have to have a lot of patience to do that. And a lot of people aren't willing to do it. And live in a messy house.

K:It's a dirty job. It doesn't appeal to everyone. I suppose I inherited it from mother. I've had people tell me, that how can you sit day after day, hour after hour, by a bunch of rags. But there's a challenge to it...to work with colors.

I:I think you do a beautiful job. The ones you do with the warp in different colors are nice.

K:That's one thing I've done different that my mother ever did. She never used color. She worked with bands of color or things like that.

I:I don't think I ever saw that in Finland either. I think it was always more the type over here by the refrigerator. (Single color warp)

printed in Finland

K:Oh. Well, I had the opportunity to look at a book on rugs^A. And, they did have most of them solid colors, but there was occasionally one band of color on either edge, but that was it. But they use did use solid colors, but not so often if they did they used a color warp--an all black warp, or an all grey warp, or an all white warp, but uh, I can see the value of that because you can work with so many different colors in a warp like that. Where you can't in this type (colored warp--stripes) That's why I use colors that blend with the warp colors, when I weave here.

I:You have to plan it a lot more that way

K:Ja.

I:The other way you can put on almost anything you want

K:Ja. Any manner, any method, any color when you take a basic color like black or basic color, you can use any other color.

I:Well, now, talking about looking at books about Finnish rugs, do you think that when you do your other kinds of things here, are you influenced at all by what is sort of traditional design? Do you ever sit down and look at...

K:Yes, I do. I like to take examples from them and blend it into what I have in mind. I haven't had too much access to Finnish books, but uh, there is a comparison to the Finnish design and things with ours. It must be the Finnish background. You're interested in what they do and how they do it.We have a weaving library in the Portage Township Library and there are several Finnish books in there too. Like I say, lot of this was brought from there. I have the access to this if I'd only take the time to study it. I'm sure that a lot of this still influences the weaving. I don't remember how much mother brought like I say, I don't know if she ever wove rugs, but she must have woven rugs as long as she wove cloth.

I:Well, if she came over here when she was that young she may have done one or two or something, but she might not have done a whole lot.

K:Yes, brought up in that atmosphere.

I:Would you say that you do most of your weaving mostly for the enjoyment of it or because when you weave the rugs it's cheaper, or what?

K: Well, I do it more... a lot for the enjoyment of it, but I weave to sell, so I can just keep buying supplies. I've always said that there would be no point in weaving if you didn't have an outlet for it. Once you've got enough rugs to cover your own floors and a little extra maybe for gifts and things there would be no point in weaving any more. You'd be all woven out. If you didn't have an outlet to sell them and dispose of them, there would be no reason to weave any more. So I weave to sell too. In fact, I try to weave so so I'd have... because there is a good market for them. Not so much to make money really, to come out with a profit from them, just to dispose of them at least to meet your expenses. It's a hobby with me, but sometimes it gets to be more than a hobby really. If you're pressed for time to make something to sell, but if I didn't enjoy doing it I wouldn't do it. I'd find a better way to make money. And if I was in it to make money.

I: How about your mother, did she do it for.

K: For the money. Ja, she does that for many years for income. For added income I would say. You couldn't live on it.

I: How much would you say a rug like this would cost?

K: I sell 'em for about maybe nine dollars now. I've been getting \$4.50 a yard.

Part Two

K: Two yard piece would be nine dollars, but I understand I could get a lot more for it. People who go buying elsewhere in fact, shop elsewhere, say that it's very reasonable price.

I: I think so. I would be willing to pay that

K: If you compare it with the price of other things, other woven articles--they sell these hangings for anywhere to a \$100 and up and there's a lot of work with these if you figure out to the hour how much time you spent. There's a lot of time involved. I don't know how you could figure out a price for something like that. I had learned when I first started doing these other weavings from our teacher, who has passed away, she told us that if you're say--a place mat--you figure the cost of the item and you triple that. How are you going to figure that out for something like this? So, I don't know how I could base the price of it and I hate to raise it. I always remember mother saying years back when she was selling at, in those days, very reasonable prices. And somebody had said something about raising the prices and she said, "Well, it's only a rag rug!" She downgraded it that you can't charge much for an old carpet, made from old rags. No, I feel the same way, that's why I hesitate to charge more. If I'm satisfied with that I think I'll just keep it at that price.

I: Well, you probably can sell more that way because people can buy them.

K: I'm sure.

I: I would guess that in this area where more people are weaving, it might be harder to get more than that. Now if you go down to

Southern Michigan, where people also have more money down there and people don't weave, you could get probably sell it for a lot more.

K: Double that. The people that go to these bigger centers like Minneapolis and Chicago and all over and you go in these big department stores and you see these things and these outrageous prices. Well you can't get these prices up here if you're selling locally, but I don't sell that much locally. It's mostly tourist trade. I weave for some of my lady friends; I make their rugs for them but most of what I sell outright don't stay in the area. They go to the cities or somewhere; they're more or less what tourist buy. So I'm sure that's one of the reasons they sell, because of the reasonable price. If I did go down to the city with a load of them, I could get twice as much for them, There are quite a few women in the area that weave. I know that. And you hear them advertised.

I: I think there are a lot of women that just weave rag rugs and don't do anything else.

K: Ja, there's a lot of weavers that don't belong to our group. I think most of them do weave just rugs.

I: That's what they primarily do in Finland too.
What they do is they have a room in town where you can go and rent a loom for 25¢ a day. And you just go and tell them what you want them to put on, or if there's something already on. That way, because so many women live in the cities in such small apartments where there's not enough room. Housing is a real problem. I think that's probably why they started these community looms. It's a huge room with all those looms there. I thought it was great that you could do that. ... Your other things that you make, do you sell much of those too?

K: Ja. I don't do that much of that really. It's a challenge; it's different. I enjoy doing that.
(problem here with the tape.

I do some of it and then I do sell what extras that I do make. I oftne make them for gifts. Whe you start weaving and make a warp you always make a few extras. I usually do sell them. Sometimes it takes a bit longer. I have never put them in stores to sell. We have the Strawberry Festival every year and we have a weaving display. That's about the only place I sell..my other weaving. People will call and then they come down. But I don't ever advertise 'em there. They sell themselves. There are different outlets up here and you could put them on consignment, but the thing is, I don't weave that much. As time goes, I don't get that much woven within a year. I don't want to pressed into weaving any more than I can. You put them on consignment and they sell something and they'll call and order. Well, if you don't have them on hand, you have to make 'em. So I just sell what extras I get and then that's

it. Same way with rag rugs. If somebody wants something special they'll give me the order and I'll have just so much time to make them. I don't want to be pressed into doing it. I do it in my own time. I know one of weavers, she was supplying a gift shop with items and it got so that she didn't even sleep. She worked right through the night to fill orders. Well, it isn't fun anymore when you're doing it for a hobby.

I: How about other kinds of crafts..do you knit and embroider?

K: Ja, I've done a little bit of everything.

I: Does your mother do all of those too?

K: Ja, she taught me to knit and crochet. One thing I never learned how to do was tat. She knew how to do that; I imagine she brought that from Finland, but that I never learned how to do. I learned my knitting and crocheting from her, but her knitting wasn't from a book. She either by just experimenting with a pattern or something learned to do it that way.

(tape trouble again)

The way I knit, I don't know if it's the continental method or what, but I'm sure that came from Finland. That's the way I learned and I never tried any other way. I learned my pattern weaving by myself. As far as pattern reading by myself, how to follow a pattern. As far as in crocheting or in embroidery, I don't know if that was brought from Finland.

(tape trouble)

I: How about embroidery, you didn't do any of that?

K: Yeah, I've done embroidery. I don't know what you would term it as, just the plain embroidery is what I learned from mother. Since then I learned the crewel embroidery, but mother never did anything like that.

I: What do you mean, a plain embroidery?

K: Well, your just plain running stitches and your French knots and your lazy daisy stitches and such. I don't remember...oh we used to do what we called a satin stitch. I think your crewel embroidery is a lot of that satin stitch. I don't know where they came up with the term crewel embroidery. If it was the wollen yarns on heavier materials or...but I remember years back they had a lot of what they call open work. But from the crewel I've done, it uses all the stitches I've used before.

I: Do you mean by open work--I think it's called hem stitching?

K: Well, hem stitching is something different is something different again. Hem stitching is where you pull out threads and then

Karkanen

button

you wrap your threads. Where open work is you do a whole stitch around this line and then you cut out the center. I think it's called cut work too, or something like that. They used to do that years ago too. That was one thing, mother used to do hem stitching and I learned to do that, too.

At this point the tape caused us so much trouble that we decided to end it there. Mrs. Karkanen's bread was rising to such great heights, so it was a good stopping place. We discussed the recipe for nisua and whether or not one needs to put more cardamom in than Beatrice Ojakangas recommends in The Finnish Cookbook. She felt that it was much better to use ground up cardamom seeds (grind them yourself) in which case one would need less than when using the powder.

She also felt a better recipe for pannukakku (oven pancake) would have the following ingredients:

- 2 eggs (Beatrice calls for 3)
- 2 C. Milk (B. calls for 1 C)
- 1/2 C. flour (B. calls for 1/4 C.)
- 2 TBL. sugar (or delete)
- 1/4 Tsp. salt
- 1/4 Tsp. vanilla

She puts hers in a frying pan, mixes it up (beats the eggs real well) and bakes it for 20 min at 425°. Her husband says they still aren't as good as mother used to bake them!