FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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QUESTION: I'd like to begin, Pop, by asking you, when was it when you first came to Suomi College and what were some of your impressions and feeling in coming to the Opisto?

ANSWER: Well, first of all, I was green as a grasshopper! My experiences were very limited. Pekka Koivikivi had accosted me and wanted me to come to Suomi, I did come and eventually we arrived from St. Ignace, along the DSS&A to Hancock. It was in the evening when we arrived and we were both Hungry. I think we had both subsisted on sandwiches on the boat and I recall that I had been very hungry.

Well, I arrived at Suomi and Mrs. Lindgren had provided down in the kitchen a table and then there were sandwiches and coffee and I don't know what else but oh, it tasted good! It was sort of a happy homecoming, happy welcome and I liked it immediately.

So you had a good impression of the school.

Very good, very good impression

Who were some of the first instructors that you had when you came?

Miss Perttula, of course, she taught typing, and also shorthand, and O.L. Nordstrom whom I consider to be one of the best teachers I've ever met. I liked him and I think emulated him to some extent.

Art: What kind of philosophy did he have about teaching that you enjoyed so much?

First of all, it was a certain strictness, you know it or you don't know it. And he had his AB and we could realize that he had a higher education than some of us had so that when I saw him walking in the morning with a newspaper in his coat pocket and his very, very neat appearance, I always thought, now, there is man that could be followed in practice if possible.

Art: He seemed to be a very cultured gentlemen as well. Well read.

Pop: He was well read. He was well read. In fact he was one of the men that taught me the idea of keeping up with current events as closely as possible; he did and I tried to imitate him.

Art: Do you recall what kinds of newspapers you read? Did you read the English—you know—the American newspapers or were there Finnish newspapers coming in that you read?

Pop: We had to get -- probably it's later that we got into the magazine field but the newspaper that he was -- it was the local newspaper that he was reading and we tried to pick up things from that and always in our Business Law classes, incidents would come up that would indicate their presentness.

Art: Were these early Finnish students who were your companions, were they quite anxious to get a schooling and to get ahead and to find work and you know --

Pop: They were very, very hard workers; first of all, in the school field there was keen competition and we all knew we were there to get something for our investment
of time and money. There was very little of laziness and it was all strictly business. Each one trying to help each other. I recall at one time I was in the library because of the scarcity of books I remember I was in the library at 3 AM and we had a "fool" enough librarian who happened to be there at 3 AM to get our share of the book.

Art: What were the social activities at Suomi at that time? What did you do for a good time as students?

Pop: Well, we had social groups, we had the Raittius Seura, we had the Konventti and later we had the Philomatic and then, of course, during, well, some leisure time we would have little choirs. I remember one choir that we called the "Viesti". There were about 8 of us plus the conductor, Lepisto. And, oh, we went around giving program numbers and it was very enjoyable, very enjoyable. And then, let's see, that was one and well, we didn't have very much time for many other things, it was group activities those 3 and then sometimes when you got your extra dollars from home, sometimes we'd go over to the "Pohjon Tahti" cafe and they served the best-tasting coffee and best-tasting cake and cookies. And when Pekka received his money from Ohio he said, now we're going to have a cup of coffee. When I received mine from Pennsylvania I would say, now, Pekka we're going to go have a cup of coffee. To us it was a wonderful, rather rare thing to get a chance to go to--although it was a matter of 10¢ but still we were rather poor.

Did you have any classes from Nikander?

Oh yes, yes. Later when I was in the Academy I had classes from him and I recall there was a Wilho Ranta and myself. We were maybe not really curious but sometimes just a little problem curious, (laughter) because I could see a little twinkle in the ol' doctors eye and he would look at us and give an avry little snicker and then it--I'll fix you boys!! (laughter) He'd answer us always satisfactorily.

What--Nikander, of course, was really a key figure in the life of the early Finns and formation of the church and Suomi College

Pop: very much, very much

what did the people in Hancock, you know, the non-Finnish people look at both Nikander and Suomi College at it was getting started?

Well, first when the building was built, that is, the Old Main, that was quite an event and Suomi was the most beautiful building in town! In fact it may have been for miles around. The reaction of the non-Suomi people was that they looked upon it sometimes as being immigrant Finns and the Irish would sometimes have little complications with the Finns and the Finns would have complications with the Irish. And I myself did not have any trouble with anybody, we didn't have any street fights or anything but I do recall that in the early years, some of the boys had had difficulty and some even carried a revolver with them. And once the, one lad who had a revolver, I don't know what he was going to use it, but he said when he was with his companion in his room, he said, "now this is the way I was going to shoot" and he pulled the trigger. And the bullet went scarcely past the man who finally became the president of Suomi College, John Wargelin. Just a little bit of a shave and it would have, he would have gone.

Oh, my goodness! well, you know the fact you mentioned a revolver, you know, it brings to mind that in these early years, these were, this was a pretty
rugged mining town situation, and do you have any recollections of mining conditions in the, when you first came? What was the, what was it like here in the Copper Country?

Well, now, I didn't realize the mining conditions from the industrial angle. I didn't know that but I know that there was very; very much activity in this whole neighborhood. And when you went up to Calumet, Calumet was a very, very busy and thriving, and so was Hancock, too, and that ol' street car used to go along the main street there—not anymore! Not anymore!

Were a lot of the Finns that you knew, involved in the mining?

I did not become acquainted with the Finns in general around here because I was in with the school group. And there was the, the people who were directly affiliated with Suomi in one way or another like the newspaper, the Book Concern people, and the people had their offices there and then sometimes the main supporters, there were ol' Henry Jasberg, he was an interesting character—he lisped a little bit, and he used to say that "kun Tuomi-opistolan menne Tuomi Opiston tivu, te pitä panna pastä pyttu". (laughter)

That's the first time I ever heard of Finnish lisp. (laughter)

From what I've read, as you said that Jasberg was an interesting character, he was at one time I think a bartender or then became very active in temperance work.

Very, very active. Now, what he may—I don't may, I don't recall the fact, it was never told me that he was a bartender but I do know that he was very active in the temperance movement and he was also seemingly the money man in the community because he at one time agreed to was it something like a dollar-for-dollar that he would give towards Suomi if the Finns would donate their share. Now, I don't recall whether that is 100% accurate but at least it's the tendency.

Art: Was he a land agent then?

He was a land agent, the colonization agent for the Duluth South Shore Railroad. And he had free travel, he could travel all over the country on a pass and that didn't cost him so that's why we, well, we heard that he had been Chicago, went to Chicago, traveled up these northern counties and I think even into Minnesota Colonization agent, selling land for the railroad.

Art: Right. You mentioned earlier that you went to Finland during the copper strike

Pop: No, I went to Pennsylvania.

Art: Before you went was there any kind of indication that this thing was coming about and

No, I didn't see anything, because I left in, during the last of May. And I recall when I was going on that evening train towards Chicago and I remember that we went past Michigamme down there, we saw that beautiful sunset over the lake there and an island in the lake, I thought that this is the most beautiful country in the world and I hoped I could someday come but oh, I was quite confirmed in my idea that I never would get here because didn't have the money. But here I have
spent most of my life.

Well, you did come back to teach then.

First I, let's see, first I came, first—the commercial department for one year; and then I came to the academy,

Oh, I see,

there 4 years. And then from there I went into the army and then I went to the university for 1 year. Then I came back from there to teach.

So, you were in the army during World War I, is that right?

World War I

Were you overseas, then; too?

No, 2 weeks before the commencement they demanded me to come down to Pennsylvania because that's where I had registered and I recall the very night that we had the commencement, I was down at the camp and just walked maybe 4 miles to the camping site there and I recall sitting on the spring bed there, no mattress, nothing but the cold spring under me and lonesome as lonesome can be. I didn't know a single soul, not even Uncle Sam!! (laughter)

Oh my; there were no Finns in your unit?

No, you see, because I had registered in New Castle and I had been there to little — about year, or one-and-a-half years; so I made no acquaintances there.

Are there any, do you have any significant memories about World War I that sort of stand out?

Well, the outstanding, the most sharp factor is the fact that I was able to join and they built a symphony orchestra there, there's a group of musicians and actors and players and artists of all kind came from central west, from, oh, I can't recall the name, good variety, and that was a cavalry outfit and they came to Shicamonga Park down there in Georgia and they had eventually, they had 2 symphony orchestras, they had 2 military bands, they had singers and song writers and ukele players and they were the first ones that came up this string whin (antimation) (laughter)

Well, you yourself is quite a musician, what did you play, or what

I, I have played with the lohi and I had a wooden flute and they said that if you have any musical instrument to take them down to the camp, I did, well, it didn't take long and I was in the orchestra and then I had to change to a different type of flute and I bought a silver flute. I still have it. And that was the most enjoyable time of my life because we had to take the 6 week, what you would say, the fundamental basic training and then after that when we got into the headquarters company and into the entertainment field, why, it was glorious. Just take our practices and then in the evenings we'd travel around the country, we would play for the boys and Red Cross and give concerts and I recall toward the latter part of it, I had so much time that there were
2 libraries available and so I have a list somewhere still, 70 books that read while I was in the army.

Oh, my.

I stole—I don't say I stole it because I left it there eventually, a dictionary and an atlas and I read the principal books of the Harvard classics and then some other things that I enjoyed.

It was a productive time. Following the war then, that's when you first came to Suomi to teach? Right?

No, then I went to the university.

And got your degree?

No, no I got just one year of work and when you have 1 year, freshman year, in university there; strange, I had enough equipment training that I could take care of the commercial department here.

Oh, is that right?

Ya, and I came and took care of it for 3 years and got married in the meantime and then we left for University of Pennsylvania Wharton School.

When you first came to teach then, what year was that?

1920, fall of 1920 and taught until '23 and then I went to the University and I was 3 years there, covering 4 years work.

Well, it was in 1919 that Nikander passed away, wasn't it?

in January, yes. And that was a very, very bad year for Suomi. Nikander died, Nordstrom had left, I think Kärkäinen, our Finnish man left, Eleanor Lassie, one of our good teachers left. It was a very bad year for Suomi.

Was it -- it was a tough year, too, economically, wasn't it here in the Copper Country after World War I, the mines started cutting back and it was really hard times personnel-wise and economically?

Ya, we hit one, I can't recall the exact years, but there we hit the bottom! That's when we had the smallest classes. And, well, it sometimes looked as if Suomi College would dry up and disappear. (laughter)

You evidently came in then during the time that John Wargelin began his service.

Yes, John Wargelin was the one who corresponded with me and, yes, I recall.

He offered you the position then?

Pop: Ya, well, he sent out Mina Perttula. Mina Perttula came down to Ohio and Pennsylvania and was traveling around as a speaker, for Suomi, I think, although I'm not exactly sure about that. And then she had instructions that in case she meets someone that would meet the qualifications of our commercial department there in teaching that she should inquire, find out, could she, and well, eventually she tried 2 people and then she had visited my home there in Newcastle and I did not know that she was seeking a teacher for Suomi in the commercial but she went up to Ashtabula, Ohio; dropped me a letter and said, "come and see me,
I've got something important to tell you and so I went up there and she hired me! And was I happy! I was happy, because when a man takes one year of academic training or college training, what are you qualified to do? What can you do? Well, I had had enough business law to cover everything that we covered here and accounting enough to cover everything we had here and English and Literature and all that and enough to cover everything so that I was, was "tickled pink" that I could go into an occupation. And then, of course, I taught 3 years with the idea that now I've got to get degrees. Because Suomi was very, very, very concerned about degrees. Inordinately concerned about degrees, as if they really meant something. Degree itself isn't much, it's the personality that carries the degree that means something.

What, why this seemingly great concern for degrees? Where was the pressure from?

Well, you see, anytime they ever asked about the qualifications of Suomi College and where it should be accredited or should it be recognized, it was always: How many degree teachers do you have? Do you--how many AB's do you have, and we came to the point that we were, well, almost shocked when somebody would an AB came along. Why, we almost took off our hats! (laughter)

I recall when Miss Greenwood was Greenwood and "green as a grasshopper". She had just been graduated from some New York school or college and she came there, and she got the t-o-p, t-o-p, salary of the teachers and those who had been here for years already didn't even get close to what she got because of the-that "mysterious" degree.

Do you, in those first years of teaching, have any recollections of your first days in the classroom and what it was like and how you managed?

Well, I, I don't know, I tried to show that I knew my stuff and I was qualified to do it, I was probably a little bit, what would you say, little bit too strong in my demands but the kids reacted nicely to me, I liked them, and I have had many of them way, way back over the years come over and talk to me and feel thankful; I had some foolishnesses, I used to (laughter) reel off; I've had some, for instance in accounting I used to have and in business law, I had some, what they call those now, newmatics, Carl Conform was one of my favorites in business law, and Cleo Grip was another one in accounting. (laughter) Some of those youngsters if they ever heard this, why they would snicker when they hear Cleo Grip and Carl Conform.

Art: I never had a chance to take in the business courses at Suomi, what was Cleo Grip?

Pop: Cleo Grip was a little listing of the significance of accounts. Cleo caused loss expense outlay and gave in to income profit, one was debits, one was credits. And when you got them analyzed you got your profit and loss statement analyzed well, and you got your balance sheet analyzed quite well. And then Carl Conform if I can even remember that anymore, capacity, agreement, reality of consent, legality of object, and form and Oh, I can't even remember the last one.

Art: Well, I think that's remarkable that you can remember those (laughter) and a lot of people evidently learned those. I think it was Arnold Stadius that pointed out in his study of Suomi College that by far, most of the students that ever came out of Suomi, you know, were in the business course.

Yes, yes, that's a fact. Now, of course, the junior college since that why, they have relegated the commercial department as it used to be into accounting class, business law class, and thus.
Art: I think he referred, it was something like a thousand out of so many students up to 1945 or whatever.

Ya, there was a lot of them. We had the largest graduating groups and many, many a time the commercial department was the important.

Do you recall, did most of the students (this is probably too a question to ask) but for what it's worth, lot of the students that you had and graduated in your business program, did they stay in the Copper Country and work here, or did most of them go out to Detroit and other areas?

Well, some fortunate people of Hancock who happened to get employment like sometimes going to the Superior National Bank over there, I'd see so many of my gang that I'd say, let's have a class reunion. (laughter)

But, well, the larger group was out; they went out, to Detroit, to Chicago, to the — some set up their own businesses, some even went to the Canadian side, I think there are at least 2 that built their own businesses in the Canadian side but it was big city; that's where they went or hometown and sometimes set up their own business in their hometown.

I had a classmate of mine that set up his business up there at Toivola.

And, oh, I don't know. It was an interesting group. Oh, there were old men in the 1912-13 group, why they were old men there and then we had some who had just got thru 8 grades and some who didn't even have 8 grades. And then to teach that group, a mixture —

Art: How would you classify most of the students among the Finns that you had, economically? Did they mainly come from what, farmer, families of farmers and miners, what you might call a working group?

I would say, the middle-income group. Those who had the money would quite often send them, if possible, send them to the universities or colleges. At one time there was quite a flow of people from up here prior to Suomi becoming recognized, they sent a lot of people down to Valparaiso. And there were at least a half-dozen people in town that I knew that were Valparaiso people. But then I know some who came from Valparaiso to up here to Suomi. For instance, Alfred Honka of the Book Concern accounting department.

Art: Why Valparaiso? What drew them there?

Pop: Well, now, really I don't know just exactly what it was. Is it that they appeal to the immigrant and that there was so many immigrants there that they could help each other; I remember Honka was telling me that when he went down there and sought some employment for instance in order to go to school, he used to have a Finnish-English dictionary and English-Finnish dictionary, and they could get along in their conversation or communication as we use today, by the 2 dictionaries, word for word and he would look up in the other dictionary for a word so they could say something.

Art: In your teaching, I had't thought of this, when you first started teaching did you teach in English or Finnish?

Pop: Always in English!

Art Always in English.

Pop Except when you had a Finnish class, then it was Finnish that's normal naturally.

Art: And most of the students that you had were pretty well versed in English
language already.

Yes, yes. There were some who came from the elementary department, you see, there were 2 years elementary. And they would then tend to come to the commercial department. And some of them would be slowed up a little bit ---

I'd like to follow up with some questions about the Suomi College student and oh, something of the philosophy of the institution -- the ideals, what was there something that Nikander and later Wargelin (and you were part of it and the other teachers) was there a certain Suomi idea that you were trying to cultivate in the students? What did you hope students would get out of their education at the college?

One outstanding thing, at least in the commercial department, I said "honesty, honesty, not merely as a policy but honesty. You've got to have it if you're in business and in fact you have to need it all thru life. Honesty to yourself, honesty to your neighbor, honesty to your God, that is fundamental. Now, Suomi was deeply religious! And there's many, many a person that found a religious foundation at Suomi and I think that anybody who had been at Suomi for a year, or more, would be influenced by his having been here. And religion is one. Now it may have been a little bit too much at one time because we, we, there was a tendency for us to try to dodge these chapel services but eventually it tells. I recall an early acquaintance of mine, a boyhood friend, after I had been here 1 year, "boy", he said, "you have changed". I realized it and I knew that I was going contrary to what might have been the young people's idea, a little bit more freedom they wanted, and little bit more this and a light approach -- I was possibly a little bit heavier on my moral side than some would but it has had its influence and I think that, well, you have to thank the founders, you have to thank the teachers, and they set a very good example.

Now this was carried, this feeling or philosophy was brought to you not only by pastors associated with the school, but the lay people, too.

Yes, yes, oh yes. You'd find some deeply religious people. Now, let's see about 60 years afterwards, that is very recently, I came across a person that had been here only for a year and there may have been the influence of a home and a mother but I have seen very, very people who are so staunchly, so deeply religious, and part of it is due to the fact that she had been to Suomi. And, I liked it, I think that what I learned here right from the very beginning there was such things as cleanliness, order, a respect for others, an attempt to learn Finnish, an attempt to follow the ideals of the earlier Finns, now, you realize that they too have changed, they have become very much lighter than they used to be; their patriotism is very deep in Finland but I think that there religion has diminished, that is, their religious feeling. In certain quarters. I know that in other church groups they may be very strong but they tell me that church attendance in Finland is very, very poor. Now, here we have the influence of Suomi and the summer schools, we had the opportunity to teach in summer schools and Suomi went so far as to provide courses in the early spring every year to those who were planning to go into summer school teaching. They proved profitable and I know that we did a very, very good service to the young Finns all over the country where they had their summer schools.

Art: What did the summer school consist of? What kinds of

Essentially, essentially it was religiously based, study of Finland and its language, study of its traditions, singing, Finnish literature, so that
so that there was things that were being presented to them and I have heard afterwards how in their summer schools, why, many, many interesting things happened; writing Finnish for instance "polkaa-putosi purron, polka putosi puurron", (laughter)

Evidently some of those people in the summer schools were really learning Finnish, what, for the first time or

For the first time! Of course, they did -- some of them at that time still were using Finnish at home but it was getting scarcer and scarcer and today I think it happens like at my son's home, the 6 sons, they know very little Finnish, very little. There's one brother can say 8 and 9 very distinctly and I think all can when it comes to that because the Finnish presence, but if you take some others, they cannot say 8, they cannot say 9 and they say that those who have studied French, that the Finns have an advantage in being able to say 8 and they can say 9. Pure.

Art: Looking back as the "mamma's and pappa's" in the older generation saw their children getting more and more, you know, involved in American activities, the public school using the English language, was there concern that maybe the younger generation was losing something of the past?

Yes, they were aware of it; first of all there was that communication at home. That was being curtailed. And then, of course, some because they, well they couldn't get the influence of the Finnish sermon. The Finnish sermon is definitely, what would you say, heavier than the English. That's one thing. And they knew that their children were forgetting Finnish and were losing interest. But sometimes again there may be a reversal of the trend and they will wake up maybe 15 or 20 years afterwards and say, why didn't I read Finnish? Why didn't I -- and then they'll even start to read Finnish little later. Oh, the literature that they miss because they don't understand Finnish.

Do you recall in the 20's from what I have been able to read by some of the other people interested in Finnish-American activities, that during the 20's it was a kind of critical period in terms of the Americanization and there was some controversy about, you know, whether or not to use the English language in the church and school and --

Oh, yes, there was at one time, those who wanted to cling to the past. They tried to insist that the Finnish would be kept, kept on and perhaps even taught to their children, but you can't get away from the trend because the old, oldsters wanted their Finnish and the church should have provided and did provide in many places, they gave them the Finnish religious services. But you can't get away from natural trend. The people who are in this country, they speak and write and read and think in English -- it's different if you go into Finland because there it is Finnish. Here it is English!

Art: Well, besides that situation Suomi faced in the 20's, we get towards the end of the 20's and we start thinking about depression years, what recollections do you have about college here, right during the heart of the depression?

Well, the thing that I recall was that just as soon as things started to go down that we had to cut down on expenses, it was always the teacher that got it in the neck! They lowered his salary and we at one time were even thinking of borrowing in a co-operative group but that never, that never actually took place. But we were the ones who were taking the beating, every time, every time that we had to cut down on the costs, why, lower the salaries, lower the salaries until eventually they started to move and the teachers couldn't stand it and so, only
some, some, what would you say, some ol' "crackpot" who would, because of certain principles or certain affiliations or certain attachments, would cling like cocklebur on (laughter) a coat. You couldn't get rid of me even if you shook 'em. (laughter) But I liked it and at least one thing, I could always say, that no matter what the salary might have been, we had a steady--I had steady employment. Now we had this also, that we had every year, we had 3 months of no work unless you went out to teach summer school and the--what you actually earned teaching 3 months summer school was nothing. The traveling expenses were high and even the income tax people would not allow and deductions of any kind. It was miserable to teach those days summer school. You wouldn't, you'd never benefit from it but your time was used up and sometimes enjoyable.

As you became more and more well-known at the college and in the community, did other groups of people or other schools like local high schools, ever draw upon you, in other words did your professional contact go beyond the college?

With me, no, I did not go, I did not go into the high schools although sometimes it was suggested, I didn't. I always felt that "I better stick to my own boat and use my own oars" and for our own advancement if possible. And we did eventually, I recall what, what, what an innovation it was to have some non-Finnish come to the business department and I recall that there were some bankers daughters and some outstanding individuals in the community sent their daughters and sons to Suomi and that was the beginning. That, that's where it started, when they started to hear that Suomi was here and Suomi was doing something, and that the youngsters when they went out, could do something, the reputation went gradually and we were getting more and more of them to come. And I was very fortunate that I had some, some good material. One of the lads, I can't recall his name from Calumet way, McDonald, I think it was, at my recommendation went to, at my recommendation went to Wharton, the same school where I attended and he took a course in insurance and he is very high up in the insurance field in one of the big companies in Philadelphia, very high up there. Right up at the top! And then another girl, I recall, and this by the way, Mr. Gagnon of the Mining Gazette had an excellent daughter. She was a girl that did her work well, reliable as the sun, and she has now gone through so much schooling that she has her Ph.D. in accounting. I thought that was nice when she followed, rise up to the top in accounting, very good, very reliable, very nice individual.

I'm sure that gives you tremendous satisfaction

Oh, I guess so, I was just talking about another fellow, went from here to St. Olaf and I recall we went to St. Olaf as a teacher group and one of the instructors met me "so you're the guy that sent this, taught this Ylitalo lad his Economics" and I said, "yes, I am the guy" and now he is in the diplomatic service in Washington and I think he is in Paraguay now. And wonderful to have there--

Ar: Along this line, for many years you were the advisor for the Sampo Society and I'm curious, when did that begin and--

Pop: Founded in the spring of 1930. And I kept quite a complete record of what I had. I have here kept from all these graduating classes, I've got their groups (missâ se tâllû on) I used to keep a record of these and let's see--Where'd it go, I had a complete list of years and who were the members--

Well, did you yourself organize the Sampo Society then?
Well, I don't, I can't take the credit for being the only one because it was by faculty decision and we felt that we should recognize the outstanding students and we tried to keep it down to between, well, somewhere around 6 or 7 or 8 -- (I thought I had it here) such people as Wayne Karjanen, Viola Jarvenpää, Sylvia Wiitala, Sylvia Wargelin, Esther Hillila, Kosti Erlund, Arthur Hill, Miriam Suorsa, Donald Lehti, Wayne Kuusisto, Mary Piirtimaa, Clara Fredd, Elsa Kesätie, Lillian Heikkinen, they even made me an honorary member, (kaikkia) here's even the Sampo Constitution that was written; however, (minä en tietää) that wasn't OK'd by anybody but there was a tendency (minnekkä se on meninny) oh, then we had a Sampo design, Sampo, and a pin, (kaikkia siitä on höykätetty) minä en miista, minullasta piti olla se omne (bunch of cards that--I hope I haven't given them away) minulla oli complete (onkohan minä antanut sen sinne Opistolle) well, it was 1930 and I had according to this, I had a complete listing and how many hundred I had (minä, missä) it's just not organized well, were there any questions about that well, I was just curious as to why it began, and you know

Well, the purpose was to place into a distinct group the leading students, for instance, in their academic achievement they had to get a high, a high rating the first, the highest was always a member of the highest grade and there may have been from each department, there may have been one and then there was sometimes a student who was recognized because of some special achievement. And some special service that they may have done, the school. And they were in the music department, one; and I think in athletics there may have been one; and, we generally tried to have it near 6 or 7 but at one time, it started to get so that we were getting about 10, 11, 12 and that I didn't think was right because when you, when you start to screen for excellence, you don't increase the screen size, because that's what we're doing in that case. All the outstanding people, all the Heikkinen--oh, I had a list of them--it's too bad (minnekkä se on meninny)

Well, maybe we can pick it up in the mean time.

Kyllä se on sitte -- now I don't know -- minnekä minnä on sen pannu -- See, I have here Sampo Society Roll and membership starts 1929. We organized it in '30 but we recognized the student of '29. I think it was Matti Lepisto and as we went along (duplicates always in parentheses) now I have total membership by June 1962, 178. And, (kallä oli näyttää) just think of these people: Henry Marttila, Joensuu, Matti Lepisto is dead, William Bilto dead, Kosti Erlund in Duluth, Jacob Heikkinen (we know him), Karl Jarvinen (I have not heard of him, I think that he eventually went mentally a little twisted), and Dorothy Martin, Gertrude Maki, Waino Ylönen or Jonkmanen, and Sylvia Wargelin, Miriam Haapanen, Arthur Hill, Raymond Wargelin, William Niemi, (I can't even remember who William Niemi was) Arvid Kuitunen, Arnold Stadius, Martha Lyysunen, Laina Viinikainen, (there are 2 of them dead there), Jacob Heikkinen, Sylvia Wargelin twice because of her good record, Eino Tuori, Arne Koljonen, Wilho Marttinen, Martha Lyysunen, Eleanor Elm, Marie Saviniemi, Anna Thompson, Katherine Armstrong, Rosemary Clish, Sadie Mattson, Elmer Karppinen, Martha Bousi (who married Martha Bousi, I don't know), Matt Ruohoniem, Veino Pekkala, Wilfred Tretheway, Isabelle Taurila (that's that Ottamaki), Alex Koski, Edna Niemi, Hilja Bousi, Arthur Ripatti (who has been on our board from Traverse City), and Arthur Kortesoja. Gertrude Auto, Paul Karvonen, (the musician), Betty Nekervis, Herbert Stiera, Lilly Hyvönen, Thomas McMan, (he, by the way, went high up in the brewery field) -- you know, they actually sent them down south, they sent an airplane to get him from up here to take him down there -- he was so important, he was so high up in the brewing service) (laughter)
And Martha Somppi, Arthur Halonen, Harry Herranen, Sarah Haapanen, and Ruth, Betty Oja, (kyllä tällä on neittä!) Eleanor Huhta, Sylvia Haltunen, Miss Soderström, John Kahelin, Margaret Green, Helen Karpinen, Viola Jarvenpaa (Mrs. Brown over here at the Tech), Helen Kilpela, Martha Lahti, Tauno Jarvenpaa (Oh, I don't know where these are), Kristine Vanhainen now is a Mrs. Smith, Sylvia Virta, David Olson, Esther Haltunen, Eva Autere (Pastor Autere's daughter, Mrs. Johnson), Jean Abrahamson, Ruth Kuukkonen, Loraine Franz, Milton Gustafson, Dorothy Hurula, Sally Lassila, Jacqueline Taylor, Karl Keljo (pappi down in Detroit), Esther Richards, Eunice Isaac (Mrs. Keljo), Henry Kangas (who has now served 25 years as a minister), Harold Seppala (there's a lad that I found in South Range—he had just got his high school—and he was, he had a delicate physique—he was sick quite a lot—finally after he graduated, he went, he married one of our graduates and then he went down to San Diego, California—he got into, oh—I sent that man who was asking about him, I sent him a recommendation, I said, "if you get that man to work for you, you've got a prince and he evidently was tickled by that and because he hired him immediately, he's in the jewelry business and I don't know whether its the industrial end of it, the manufacturing end of it but he is high up there) and this Seppala who owned this family store down here, se oli enne Sakari; Clara Fredd, Esther Kotka, Mayme Niemi, Pauline Stoor, Elsa Kesatie, Ruth Karjalainen, William Niemi, Ellen Sylvia Niemela, (tällä on näittä nimiä) Judith Seaberg, Fred Weismanen, Ida Heikkinen, Donald Lehti, Ida Koskinen (Mrs. Wuorinen now), Ruth Fiscola (is Mrs. Earl Jacobson down there in Ironwood or someplace), Roy Polso, Joyce Michelsen, Oliver Hanninen, Henry Jauhiainen (he used to be a missionary preacher for Indians near Duluth somewhere down there), and Wayne Kuusisto, Philip Luotio, Jack Hill, and that's about where it ends so that I have 104, '949, then we have Pauline Thompson, Emma Kallio, Barbara Greene, Erick Laho (his service was in athletics and dramatics), Selma Richardson, (daughter of one of our former teachers), Raymond Hendriksen, Royce Koskinen (who is in charge of the Welfare in this community), Alice __________, Lillian Heikkila (is now my son's wife), Helen Partanen, Reino Kauranen, Myrna Alata, Walter Werronen, Miriam Suorsa (minister's wife), Henry Leino, Miriam Williams, Cynthia Karvola, Mary Kukkonen, Roy __________, Karl Johnson, Douglas Ollila (dramatics and scholarship), Dorothy Gustafson, Gloria Waara, Darlene Anderson, Paul Tervo, Duane Aho (I meet them occasionally), Howard Tamminen, Paul Salsini, Olga Myykkänen, Aila Saarnivaara (do you know Saarivaara?, his daughter, she was very _______.

Did quite a few Laestadian students come to

Yes, yes, they came, yes; Joan Gagnon (that's the girl that got her Ph.D. in accounting), Beatrice Wilminko, Joan Tamminen, George Frantti, Carol Wisti, Arnold Perry. Do you know Arnold Perry?

Ya, his son was just ordained.

That is right! And the father tried to become a minister but evidently he had difficulty in getting enough training through the — because he didn't have the basic education. He was nice, nice fellow. Philip Wuori, Joyce Tamminen, Bruce Ponga, Robert Chopp, William Givens, (he's a high up in our school system here), Barbara Bergdahl, Roger Mattson, Roger Rynanen (he was 3 all-conference record, he was a fabulous Finn in whalloping Northern), Melvin Kangas (the pianist), Martha Mattila (Mrs. Arthur Hill), Richard Condon, Jane Hill, (Mrs. Daniel Saarinen, oiken mukkava ihminen), Carol Mayworm, Mirian Rundman, Sylvia Saari, _______. 
Background Information

Childhood Days: Pop*’s parents were Heikki Lehto and the former Hilma Hautanen. Heikki was born in August 18, 1870 in Saviselka in the Karsismaella region. Along with other relatives he was a huutosiais polka who was auctioned off to do various odd jobs. In 1892 Heikki came to this country as a result of the draft lottery imposed by the Russians in Finland. He came on the Elbe steamship to Ellis Island. After working several months H. sent money to Hilma to come to this country which she did in April of 1893. They were subsequently married on May 3, 1893. Interestingly enough, Heikki bought his passport from one Paavo Isola for ten marks. For a brief period of time the family returned to Finland, but they decided to return to America. Again Heikki bought another man*’s passport to make the journey.

In time Heikki and Hilma Lehot had 6 children(2 boys and 4 girls) This pattern of six children was also true on the Hautanen side of the family. Herman Tuori and Maria Ratti were the parents of Pop*’s wife Edla Elizabeth Tuori. They, too, had 6 children. Herman Tuori was born in 1862 and came to the United States in 1888.

Waino and Edla Lehot have one son Paul who was born in October of 1930 and is currently a superintendent of intermediate schools in Birmingham, Michigan. He and his wife have 6 sons.

Making my mark: Whenever anyone became ill we went to Doctor Briggs. The toughest problem we faced was father*’s drinking problem. As a family we took part in various activities, but individually I was active in school Sunday school, summer school, toivoilito, louhiisotokunta and other activities involving Finnish boys and girls. The teachers who influenced me included Miss Hopwood in singing, Miss Kingsley in English grammar, Miss Ripley in the fundamentals of arithmetic, and Mr. Rutherford. The good times we had were at Christmas time and at the temperance society.

Making my mark: When I started on my own, I had just completed confirmation and went to Newcastle in 1910. There I worked for 7 dollars a week in a grocery store from 7 to 6. Since then I went to night school for bookkeeping and eventually came to Suomi through the influence of Pekka Oivakivi. The first time I voted for U.S. President during the Hoover campaign. My wife Edla and I were married on August 22, 1921. The local minister at Sta Matthews M. Pesonen preached long pious sermons and derided anything scientific or intellectual. The people in our neighborhood have a good community spirit. People got riled up around this area when the noise of Suomi students got too loud. When the mines began closing life in the community began drying up. In our community we looked up to Early Gagnon and Irene Waisanen. My biggest accomplishment was to meet my daily tasks, to go through with a smile, to please my clientele. The best time of the year: summers are beautiful, winters have too much snow.

In this area we need opportunity for more jobs and new industry. Visitors who come here should see the Suomi College buildings and art objects. My prediction for the future of this area is that it will probably remain the same. Collecting these memories of bygone days is thrilling, enjoyable, increasing appreciation of what I have seen, heard and done.
WAINO A. LEHTO

Dean Emeritus of Suomi College, Waino A. Lehto, 84, passed away last Saturday at the St. Mary's hospital, Duluth, Minnesota, after a brief illness. He was a resident of Bovey, Minnesota the past four years.

The Dean, or "Pops" Lehto as he was affectionately known by generations of students, faculty, and college administrators, taught at Suomi College for 39 years, until 1962, when he was honored as dean emeritus upon retirement. He came to Suomi as a student in 1912 from Pennsylvania, studied until drafted into the U.S. Army six years later. After the war, he returned to Suomi College and stayed for the remainder of his professional teaching years.

Dean Waino Lehto, son of Heikki Lehto and Hilma Hautanen, born on January 23, 1894, at Worcester, Massachusetts. He moved as a child to Monessen, Pa., and regarded that city as family home. He began his career as an assistant grocer in New Castle, while enrolled in night school. He then came to Suomi College in 1912, to study in the business department, academy, and in the religion courses. Entering the U.S. Army, he served as a soldier and army band musician. Discharged, he resumed his career as educator in commerce.
He taught at Suomi in the business department 1920-23 and meanwhile married Elizabeth Tuori, a language teacher at the College.

Dean Lehto enrolled at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, Pittsburgh, Pa., and four years later earned an M.A. degree in commerce. Again he returned to Suomi to teach, and remain for 39 years. He was head of the business department, then promoted to dean of the college, and since 1962, upon his retirement as dean emeritus. He served in the academic leadership of the College though trying and joyous times of the institutions growth. He has served under every one of the ten presidents of Suomi, from the founder to the current administration.

He displayed a truly educated persons appreciation of music, literature, poetry, and ability to inspire students to learn.

He helped found the Sampo Honor Society, and was for many years its leader, a society which lists among its membership students and educators who have attained high honors.

He earned the profound respect of more than 1,600 students during his teaching career. Many of them join the college and community to recognize him at the 1962 Commencement, when he performed his last official acts as dean. His personality and service continued to be a direct link to the founders of Suomi and the traditions of the College. This spring Suomi Alumni had resolved to give Dean Lehto a Special Award upon the 60th anniversary of his graduation.
Throughout the past fifty years, Mr. and Mrs. Waino Lehto, and son Paul, as a family, were leaders in educational and church in the Hancock community, active in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and numerous community organizations.

Paul Lehto, superintendent of the Livingston County Schools, Howell, Michigan, educator, and his wife Lillian Heikkila, their sons and families perpetuate the Lehto family tradition of educational service.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lehto passed away in 1968. Later, Mr. Lehto married Helmi Somero Wangansteen, also a teacher, who had been an academic Suomi student 1912-15. They established their retirement home at Bovey, Minn. There he was a member in the Bethel Lutheran Church.

Surviving Waino Lehto are his wife, Mrs. Helmi Lehto, son Dr. Paul Lehto, wife Lillian, their six sons, and two grandchildren; four sisters, Mrs. Impi A. Halttunen, Mrs. Hilma Suorsa, Mrs. Jennie Kivisto, and Miss Esther Lehto, and one brother, E. William Lehto, all living at New Castle, Pa.

The funeral service will be held at Peterson's Funeral Home, Colraine, Minnesota, 2:00 P.M. (CST) Wed. Feb. 15, with the Rev. Ex Gerald Erickson officiating.

A Memorial Service will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock, Mich. at 1:00 P.M. Fri. Feb. 17, with Dr. Robert Adderson and a Suomi College representative as officiants. The body will lie at the Memorial Chapel, Hancock, from 8:00 to Noon, Friday for visitation. Following committal at the Church, burial will be in the winter vault for interment in the Lakeside Cemetery. The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Suomi College.
Memoirs of

CHILDHOOD DAYS

My parents were originally from

After they married they moved to

My father worked as a

Mother and Father raised

Whenever anyone became ill

The toughest problem we faced

As a family we took part in

The teacher who influenced me

The good times we had

MAKING MY MARK

When I started on my own

Since then I have worked

The first time I voted for U.S. President

Getting married

The local minister often

The people in our neighborhood

For a good time we used to

People got riled up here when

When the mines began closing

In our community we looked up to

My biggest accomplishment was

The best time of the year here

REFLECTIONS

Today my feeling about life

In this area we need

Visitors who come here should

My prediction for the future of this area

Collecting these memories about bygone days is