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SUBJECT: Apostolic Lutheran History in Pelkie

SOURCE: Ilmi Pelto, December 4, 1975

COMMENTS:

Interviewer: Michael Loukinen

Interviewer's Note: Ninety-one year old articulate woman living in Pelkie speaks about Apostolic and First Apostolic Church History in Pelkie

I: You said this Apostolic Church was built in 1918.

R: Un hum

Do you recall what families built it? Can you describe...tell me a little bit about the building of it?

R: Of what?

I: No, who...what carpenters and what people worked on the church?

R: I can't remember just who built that because they put that kind of a volunteer work, you know, those who belonged there. So, they worked there, yes. Even one Getgeinen who belong that church that Zion anyhow, so he fell off from the roof even.

I: Oh! And do you know his first name?

R: I think he was John, John Getgeinen. And I didn't hear, but they said that he was that kind, jokey man, you know. He said that it's nothing to fall that stop too suddenly. (Laughter)

I: Was he hurt?

R: Some, I guess so! Yeah...stopped too suddenly

I: Did people from all around, Tapiola, Alston...come and work on this.

R: Yeah, I suppose. That's only church that's around the area what they built, you know...Tapiola and Elo and Nisula. But then
Tapiola get the church, own church, and they got some school house, one old school house in Elo where they get it too, make church services. And then I suppose that was the reason that this church the congregation was so small that that ended finally.

I: Oh, all the members were gone to all these other churches.

R: Yeah, and they go Nisula's, they stay in Nisula. And Tapiola's stay in Tapiola and finally that was so small that congregation, that nobody...there's no anybody who take care of for church and anything. So, we have to close the doors and rest of that...rest of that congregation go Tapiola then. I belong to there now.

Un huh; but in the very early days, all of those other people would come here.

Oh yes! Oh yes! Church was so full every Sunday that there was lots and lots of people. Then other reason that old peoples they die, on after another. Young people start going Detroit and everything so. Pesola, Arvo Pesola and me and Jake Maki, they both still living but they living...they in that Ellis home over there in Hancock. And that's about all there was left members; me and the Pesolas and they liked go Tapiol, so they shut the doors. And then one man named Debeaux (?) buy these church and take it and make family houses. It's a two-apartment now.

I: Arthur Heideman was the first minister here, right?

R: Yeah, his name was Arthur, I guess...that old

I Old-man Heideman

R: Old-man Heideman, yes

I: Can you tell me a little bit about what you remember about him?

R: I know him for awhile, but he never in our place for anything but there. He was that kind...he liked go hunting and fishing...that kind...that kind man (chuckle). And got big family too.

I: Do you remember him speaking in church here?

R: Yes, I remember that. I remember his son Paul already speaking in there. He don't speak, that old man, hardly any anymore; but sometime when he's around then so he speaking some. But we was in church and that old man was around here at his hunting and that Paul was at the minister's place and speaking and he start looking so funny; and we don't know what's wrong, but finally they notice that that old man sits there. He's got his hunting clothes on, open swamper boots on, old raggedy overcoat on...he was real that kind poor...I didn't see what hat or cap on, but I suppose he didn't have cap on then in church. And that Paul
went there and bring that old man out of the church and bring him back door way out and start speaking again. After few minutes, that old man was there again. Paul started looking again and finally he went there and bring that old man away again through the church. Don't take long and he was there again! And then everybody say that had to go there by Paul and speak a little bit. And he went...he went there and he speak little bit and he said that..."I'm not dressed like minister should; but I'm hunter now and I got this kind clothes on, this overcoat is mine, warm coat, visiting coat, hunting coat and I use this every place." He keep little real speaking and then everybody goes out. (chuckle) They said that there was real bad every place, everyday he is living, you know, in his home. But then he was that died that way, he almost drownded, you know. He was fishing trip and one of his daughter, Miriam, was with him. And I don't know how that happened is that boat...they got out with the boat. How that happened was they fell in the water from that boat...old man and his daughter. But daughter was young person and take more than that old man...old man get cold, get pneumonia and die. But that daughter get over, I suppose she get sick too, but she get better...over that.

I: Where were they fishing?
R: Someplace in Lake Superior

I: Do you remember how he used to speak? What kind of speaker he was? Could you tell me?
R: Oh, he wasn't bad speaker when he was young. If he want, he speak good; but was that kind nature that he's full of jokes and all kinds that kind fun too...that he ain't allowed to speak.

I: Did some people think that a preacher should not be so funny?
R: Well, they sure noticed that he was that kind (chuckle). Still everybody likes him.

I: Where did he speak? On Sunday he would probably speak at many different churches.
R: Oh yes! Yeah, now even those Upper Peninsula ministers, they got many services in a day many times.

I: Where would Heideman go first? I heard he used to come into Pelkie on Saturday night on the train.
R: Yeah, even that. And he'd drive around a lot too

I: When was the Apostolic Church in Tapiola built?
R: Yeah, that is there

I: When...when did they.
R: Oh, I can't remember. It's been there long time
I: Before the church here, next door?
R: I don't think so.
I: Not before 1918.
R: No.
I: Who would know something about that church? Who could I talk to who would know when that was built?
R: Well, I think at Tapiola...those guys...I think that Hilmer (?)...is kind of old member of that church and I think he knows lots of things of Tapiola church.
I: Okay. What about the history of the Apostolic church in Alston who would know that?
R: Let's see. That's been built lots after then this. They bought one little church there and I think it was some...you know that little church that they bought and fixed that little bit and so, I don't know. I can't...those people that was there most of them they die already.

Who would know about the history of that church in Tapiola? Who could I talk to that would know that?
R: I think that was...I mentioned that Hilmer ?
I: Oh, he would know about Alston too?
R: Might...they go.

Is there anyone over there in Alston who would know that?
R: I don't know who there is anymore. I don't know. I haven't been Alston I don't know when.
I: Can you tell me a little bit about when Paul Heideman would speak here? The younger Heideman...?
R: Speaker
I: Yeah, can you tell me..
R: When he start speaking?
I: Yeah...
R: Ahm, around 1912 or '13. I think we come this farm where here...we
moved from Nisula 1912...and I think that Paul Heideman was in Finland at minister's school that time...1912 or 13, around that time he began speak.

I: What kind of man was he, Paul Heideman?
R: He was good man...good speaker.
I: Did he speak the same way as his father?
R: Yeah, they belonged that side, you know. They speak same way.
I: Un hum, was he a joking man like his father?
R: Oh, he's not any bad kind...real stern and straight. He was a nice man. He was joking too...very nice man. He's dead already too. Yeah, he was real friendly man and even those like us even, we don't belong quite that...we are almost this Lutheran but little bit...we got different ministers anyhow.

I: Do you remember when...well first, can you remember some of the congregation members who lived in Pelkie that used to attend this church?

R: This church?
I: Yeah, Pelkie people who went to the First Apostolic Church here
R: This is first in dead, but this is only Apostolic Lutheran...that was First Apostolic Lutheran what that church is there behind Pelkie. Yeah, but we belong here. Oh, this one you mean.
I: Yes.
R: I remember lots of peoples, but them all die
Can you remember...can you tell me some of those who lived in Pelkie?
R: Yes, they all live in Pelkie...I know lots of people who live in Pelkie who been living Pelkie and belong to this church, but they're all gone.
I: Can you name some of their names?
R: Oh yes! William and Mrs. Tervo and August and Mrs. Parkila and William and Mrs. __________ and then Jacob Maki and Mrs. Maki and Met and Mrs. Montila and there was...who else, I can't...oh, Mr. and Mrs. Holappa...
I: What was his name...first name?
R: Charlie...Charlie Holappa...and...
I: Mana Oja?
R: Yes, he's the one...Mrs. Pillon and this other church Monna Pillon this...that's something new. Before they belong...even Matt Oja. belong in this church; but then they separate and went that other church same as Matt Ruona.

I: Matt Tuona went over here then?

R: Yes, they belong here first; but then they...something going wrong and they separate and they built this other church then that time; but I can't remember what year when that happened.

I: Some time around 1932...that church was completed in 1932.

R: Yeah,...oh yes, around that time yet we was in the farm yet that time.

I: Do you remember how this congregation came to split?

R: Yes, I remember.

I: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

R: Oh yes, I know a little bit...I know a little bit that they belonged to this and all of us going to same church, this church. And before this church was built, we gathering on the school houses and big houses and family houses and those.

I: What school houses would you meet in?

R: Even that old school house what is now at that four corner in Pelkie.

I: Un huh, the Pelkie School

Yeah, everyplace where the school is.

I: Over in Pelto School?

R: Yes, this sometime too. That Paul Heideman keep church when he's there and then even there Waisanen's, there was a little school there and I was many times.

I: Was that.

R: Nisula...there's no church hardly anyplace yet that way. Well, it happened that way that we don't know. They keep admitting those Dover (?) peoples...they belong that side. They like only Heideman in minister and others like that both side and different. Somedays if they don't want to hear them...our minister, they can go other Sunday and still we can use same church; but they keep that kind yearly meeting in this church and they vote....one minister or two ministers side we on...they lost out.
I: The Heideman group marched out.

R: Un hum...and then they claimed that we took church and they go court but just that you wants out so you were out in the church. That is just it...they start building own church.

I: Who was the other minister that you wanted...

R: That was Evert Mattila at that time and then...

I: Evert...?

R: Evert Mattila, yes, that was like our minister and then even Michaelson was that time...oh we got lots of ministers that time. Johnson...

I: Ahm, who was his first name?

R: Abel

I: Abel Johnson

R: Yeah, and one was...oh Hohlbarie...

I: Hohlbarie?

R: Yeah, but I can't remember his first name; but see he don't live around here...he just come once in awhile and speak.

I: Where did Evert Mattila live?

R: They live in Hancock, I guess.

I: Un hum...do you remember him speaking?

R: Oh yes!

I: What did he speak like?

R: He was good speaker...very good...very good speaker.

    he speak a little different than Heideman?

R: Well, I don't know. I can't get much difference from them, but somebody did.

I: Do you remember Andrew Michaelson?

R: Of course!

I: What did he speak like when he was a young man here?

R: He was good speaker...but that (?) first...but that don't bother him very long that he was Norweigian and don't know any Finnish
then...then he come this country first; but then he learn speak Finnish but there was the accent, you know. But he get along fine.

I: After awhile he could speak good.

R: Oh yes, and now you can't know the difference. He was and he is good speaker...and people understand that he been just learned that Finnish so they give him due.

I: Give him credit for that, right?

R: Yes, but he was so good speaker and he is good speaker still

I: What was Abel Johnson like?

R: He's sure no...sure know what to say and he says so much in little while that...now last week, Michaelson and then Karvonen was our ministers now lately, but Pirhonen is no good now already...he gets stroke and everything.

I: Where did Abel Johnson live back then, years ago?

R: He live in...he didn't live here. I think he lived some place in Minnesota.

I: Oh, he wouldn't come here very often.

R: No, not very often...no

I: And Hohlbarrie would not come very...

R: Hohlbarrie also he don't live here. I think he got those coming around like even now...even nowadays that John Palmer from Minneapolis come here once in awhile...be once a year or some- thing. And Reikonen...California and old Mr. Salberry and they come here maybe once a year and stay here for awhile.

I: That must have been very hard sad time when this congregation split up because even some families...

R: Yeah, some families split (chuckle).

I: Do you remember sad times then?

R: Oh yes, I remember; but we was in the farm that time and I wasn't able get church every Sunday. But my husband was almost every Sunday then. He was even that meeting that they split.

I: All right, let's see...do you recall anyother families that split up? I know Monna Oja and Tepsa's.

R: Yeah, those two families I know too. I don't know anyother
families. Even some Deline's belong here. They die long time ago too. I can't remember his first name either. They live other side the hill over there.

I: Did the people in this church support the Co-op? Did they shop at the Co-op or did they not want to have anything to do with the Co-op?

R: Yes, those members was Co-op members too

I: Un huh?

R: Oh yes! They don't mix that with the church. At first then this Co-op...Co-op store and that side come round here and somebody blamed that it's like a Communist; but they go Co-op, all these members. All the Co-op members...almost all the Co-op members they belong some in some church anyhow. They was church members just the same. Yes, they don't mind that and they don't mix Co-op stuff and church. They keep that different that the church is church and...

I: Co-op is Co-op

R: Co-op, that's different

I: Un huh

R: Different already.

I: Well, then gradually as the Tapiola church and the Alston church were built, less people started going here.

R: Yes...yes

I: Ahm, for awhile.

R: For awhile there was same ministers going there, Tapiola and Huron and Nisula and take turns for Sundays and even weekdays they go either church.

I: Were meetings held every Sunday here in the beginning?

R: At first, yes...long time...only Karvonen or Michaelson come here and they felt they take turns every other Sunday and then once a month and that's the way that faded away.

I: So, about five years ago in 1970, they...

R: Yeah, I think it's five years ago then they close this church and then for two years now then they sell that...that's three years already. Then Tapio he lives in Baraga then.

I: I heard that this church was locked. Someone told me this church locked out the Heideman people.
No...nope! No, we locked that ourself. That happened automatically because nobody come here anymore in church and Arvo Pesola in Elo and Mrs. Pillon and here and Heideman son Arvo himself belong here. He's the one who wanted mostly (?) this church and they liked to join Tapiola...and but the young people belong here, so they like to go Tapiola. They's all full young peoples, Tapiola's congregation. Very much young peoples.

No, Heideman's don't have anything to do with this...this church after they march out...they was out!

Were the people still friendly with one another though after that?

Hum?

Were the Heideman people friendly with...

Yes, some of them...some not.

That was very difficult times.

Very very difficult. (?) gathered together around God's words.

End of tape
I: This is an interview with Mrs. Pelto. Your first name?
R: Ilmi...I-l-m-i
I: Ilmi Pelto and the interviewer is Elaine Loukinen and this is December 4, 1975; and Mrs. Pelto is going to talk about when she first came to this area and settled here and about the history of her family. Let's start with where your parents came from in Finland.
R: What town?
I: Well, where did they come from?
R: Who?
I: In Finland...your parents?
R: What place from Finland is what you mean?
I: Un huh
R: That place...they say Virrat
I: Both of them came from there?
R: Yes, but different time. My father come first eight years before we come. My father comes 1892 and my mother and me and my two brothers younger than me come 1900. We come altogether.
I: And where did they come when they came here?
R: Ishpeming
I: Okay, what did your father do there?
R: Worked in the mine...iron mine
I: And your mother?
R: Mother just did the house.
I: Oh, okay. And there were three of you children?
R: Yes, we are three children. I was the oldest one and then the two boys younger than me.
I: When did you come to this area...the Copper Country?
R: 1920
I: And why did you move here?
R: Why? Well, my husband...I was married that time already then...I was eighteen years and I married then in Ishpeming.
I: You married Ed Pelto.
R: Yes, and my husband was that kind, he liked to farm. He didn't like mining work...he don't like iron mine at all and his brother live in this area already that time...homestead. And...Alston, that belong to Alston that homestead. His brother heard that...here's how one homestead land in Nisula and it seems to him that it's good to him to file that out and get that homestead. So, that he was done. He take that homestead and we moved there four months after we're married and we was there in homestead was all standing time that time. That little camp there where we lived that first summer. We made a little bigger house then and lived altogether nine and a half years at homestead. And that land...is a good land that homestead and lots of timber, but so hard to get (?) and so hilly country that can't get any kind of a road to get out especially that timber camp even think of it to get out. So we sell that and then we bought this farm Pelkie area.

I: Froberg...Froberg Road.
R: Yeah, around there. We bought that then and moved there and we moved there 1912 and we moved out of there 1943.

To here? Did you move here?
R: This house was there at last already...this house and that land belong to our farm because mine folks owes this place and we bought that farm that belonged to our farm and then we took this house and moved here.
I: This house?
R: This house...mine father and brother built this house and we moved us here and start living here.
I: Okay, so in 1943 you moved to this house which is on the main road of Pelkie.
R: Yes, yes...we get our mail already Pelkie, all the time Pelkie that we live in this area...same box number when we moved. We just quit farming and move here.

T: The place where you moved in Nisula was the place that's called the homestead, is that right?

R: Yeah, it was homestead. You know, that they give those homesteads. State give those homestead land for peoples that only don't cost hardly nothing but they have to live on that live some certain time every year...certain length time every year.

I: And clear so much of

R: Hum?

I: Certain amount of it had to be cleared every year also.

R: Yeah, had to be cleared some amount of land had to be cleared every year and you do that.

I: Did you help clear the land? Did you work helping to clear the land?

R: Oh yes.

I: What did you do?

R: Just piling...those brushes burning...

I: Piled and burned the brush?

R: Yes, and I've been sawing even with crosscut saw and cut those big trees with my husband.

I: Did you have children at that time?

R: We got four children then we move out of there.

I: You had all of your children there, your four children there?

R: The four, but I get four more when we had the farm.

I: Okay.

R: I have eight altogether; but one daughter died many years ago. Yes, seven live yet.

T: Were your children old enough to help you when you lived on the homestead?

R: No, oldest son was nine years old when we moved out of there. He was nine year and Wally was seven and Marie was a little over three
years and August was eight months.

I: Well Alfred, your oldest son, then was old enough to help.

R: Well, they did something...this and that, but they can't...there's not that kind work that they can do anything yet.

I: Did you help build the cabin that you lived in on the homestead...did you help build that?

R: Yeah, we make that house where we live. We only lived that first summer that old cabin what was there; but then we make little bit bigger home...live in room there's another room. But that's newer and bigger anyhow.

I: nd what did you do to help build the cabin?

R: Oh, I can't do hardly nothing; but we got mine husband's sister's husband there and he helped, so I cooked for them and then before that house was ready, I went to Ishpeming and there I get my first child Alfred. I was there six weeks...no, more than six weeks. Alfred was six weeks old then I come with him from there.

Rl: 

R: It was almost this time of year...little bit later I think.

Rl: His birthday is November 11th.

R: It was before Christmas anyhow when I come home.

I: How did you make a living when you lived on the homestead?

Well, mine husband had little bit money saved before we went there and then he working...wintertime he got team of horses and he's working all winter outside someplace.

I: In the camps?

R: Camps, yes...lumber camps hauling lumber with the team. That was almost only chance of how to earn anything...working someplace outside.

I: Did you have a garden and cows?

R: Oh yes, we got all that kind...and that held us too that get own potatoes and all the vegetables.

I: Well, how did you make a garden out of that forest? You said it was all timber when you moved there

R: Oh, had to clean that much that get place for garden. Every place had to clean some certain amount of land. There was a good soil that everything grew so good.
I: Did you have to plant around the tree stumps or did you get the tree stumps out?

R: Oh yes, around the stumps. They was so...those Hemlock trees especially those stumps are so hard to get up that they never rot; but here we are. All goes fine, here we are. It wasn't anything fun that life on the homestead.

I: You didn't have any fun?

R: No...

Rl: We drove the kids to school even with the horse

I: Oh, she did?

Rl: Oh yes

I: That was your job driving the kids to school?

R: Yes, I do that too.

I: How far was the school?

R: Two and a half mile...yeah, bring them in the morning and get them in the evening. Not all the time, my husband do that; but then he got something else to do and my husband's mother was always...almost all the time, so she take care of kids so I get out that much. But that was little income and everything was so cheap that time yet that they don't cost much either if they keep...we don't have any hardly any money, but...

I: Now what was the income?

R: That school...driving that school bus.

I: Oh, you were the school bus driver

R: Yes.

I: With a team you drove it?

R: Yes, just that kind our two boys and neighbor's three boys. We drive them with horses. That was little income anyhow.

I: Yeah, you must have been the area's first school bus driver.

Laughter!

R: Yes! Yes, I was. There was no job what I haven't done.

I: Well, what kind of jobs have you done?

R: Well, especially with farm, that kind of homestead kill you.
Well, tell me what those are. I don't know about them.

R: Cleaning land and figure what you cook this time then...can't even buy pound of meat, fresh meat. There's no anybody don't have it... no icebox or anything. And no cars that time yet. I see only one car once or twice in that nine years when we was in the homestead. Only horse and big wagon.

I: Well, how did you get meat? Did you raise your own?

R: No, salt pork

I: Salt pork

R: Yes, and fish...salt fish, that's only meat. The only...we get... that's a good chance to get deers, you know, in the Fall. You can even shoot three deers in the one license, yes, that time; and then they cut that two and then one and then you can only take buck... that's it...that's the way that goes. So, if you happen to get even three...two or three good deers in the Fall; but that meat have to... then wintertime it stay but then summertime and the spring time have to what you got left so have to salt it so hard that it's not hardly any kind anymore. But was meat anyhow. (Chuckles)

I: How did you keep it in the wintertime? Did it just stay frozen?

R: Just hang outside so it's frozen

I: Did you smoke it at all?

R: No...nobody have any kind of a locker. If there's some outside buildings so that's enough. Nobody don't know anything those lockers or ice boxes or anything. I don't have anything before we stay many years already we stay in the farm then I got that kind ice box that put ice in it. Those ice have to saw it and get in the wintertime.

I: From the river you sawed the ice.

R: And put them by some place or if you've got some kind extra building that don't have to be anykind of a good building, put sawdust around and those ice stay there. They don't melt.

I: Right

R: Get dry piece in the ice box then. That helped already little bit

I: Who got the ice Who made the ice?

R: They get from the lake.

I: The men.
R: Even L'Anse bay we get ice many times. Saw it with a big saw
I mean, did Ed do that or did you have to buy that?

R: No, that time our boys and my husband already. They get the
truck...they get with the truck.

I: When did you start making carpets?

R: When? Oh, about fifty years ago.

I: Fifty years ago...about 1925?

R: Yeah, around that time.

I: And did you make them for your own use or did you make them to sell
to your neighbors?

R: Oh, both. I sold lots of carpet and make others like they bring
Mother...they all send, I make. I make lots of carpets; but year
ago I have to quit.

When you were ninety you quit?

R: Yeah.

I: You retired from carpet making.

That was ninety years present I guess. Yeah, I get so old and
can't get nothing done. I didn't get nothing done anymore so I
quit. Take them apart and bring it in the basement and there they
is but I promised them one my great-grand daughter; but she live in
Colorado and she had to get them there somehow.

I: That's a big job taking a big loom like that all the way to
Colorado.

R: Have to get it in truck. Can't get them anyother way.

I: Where did you get your loom?

R: I bought them off Mrs. Moilanen right there long time...over twenty
years ago anyhow; but I got...first I borrow looms when we was in
the farm; but then my husband...but there was one neighbor who moved
in Calumet and Mrs. have looms and they don't...she don't like to
take them in Calumet and he bought them.

I: So, you've had more than one loom.

R: Yes, I've got altogether two my own...then I borrow first, first one
Mrs. Olson. I like that...I like that. I really hate to quit. I
liked that.

I: I know, that's fun
I: Now you knit.

R1: You knit now, socks and everything now.

R: Oh yes. I can crochet and I can knit. I've been knitting stockings and mittens and everything. I don't crochet this winter any bigger yet. Sometime I been making afgans and those; but I've got all kinds of little things to do. I got new great-great grandson even now born October 30th in that family in Colorado.

I: Well, let's talk about your children. Tell me your children's names and how old they are and where they are now...what they're doing.

R: Well, you know Alfred. He's the oldest one.

I: He's seventy-...

R: Seventy-two, then Wally...

I: And Alfred is retired, but he's still doing electrician work.

R: He's still busy man.

Still works every day, right?

R: Yes.

R1: He's only tired.

I: Tired not retired!

R1: Right.

R: Not tired, retired.

R1: Retired but tired. (Laughter

R: And Wally's seventy.

I: And where is Wally?

R: Chassell...he's retired but...and he don't do nothing just keep his own house because his wife died year ago.

I: And where did he work before he retired?

R: In Detroit at Hydro-Factory.

I: When did he go to Detroit?

R: Oh, it's anyhow twenty- years ago if not more. I can't remember year but...

R1: 1943
R: When he goes Detroit?
   Yes
I: How old was he about when he went?
R: Oh, who?
I: Walter.
R: Walter is seventy now...was October.
I: Was he forty when he went to Detroit?
R: Younger than that I think so.
I: Anyway, he spent most of his working life in Detroit.
R: He was there before and then they live here again and then he was
   there, he went there...Bobby graduate here, their son in Chassell.
   I think so, yes.
I: Okay, well how about your next one then.
R: Marie is next. She live in Detroit. She's sixty-seven.
I: Does she work?
R: Not anymore...she retired now this last fall.
I: What did she do?
R: Nothing now, just keep the house.
I: What did she do when she worked?
R: She was Ford's Hospital in Payroll Office...last fifteen years.
I: Un huh, and when did she go to Detroit?
   1926
R: Together with Lina.
   And the next one?
R: August...he's sixty-three and he's retired.
I: From where?
R: Detroit
I: What did he do there?
R: He's just living, that's all.
I: Before when he was working?
R: He's working in what factory...Dodge?
I: In an automobile factory?
R: Yes, automobile factory he work.
I: And when did he go to Detroit?
R: He went to Detroit a couple years before Second 'ar, you know.
I: '39? About 1939? So he went around 1940 - 1941?
R: I suppose, he been there long time. He was there...already then he was single man and then he married there and living there now I don't know how long. But he's sixty-three and he retired too.
I: Okay, and then the next one?
R: It was Hilma who died.
I: Was she always here?
R: No, she was Detroit too, long time. But she was here until she married then. She left two sons and it was...she died twenty years ago, when she was forty years old.
I: Okay, and then the next one?
R: Hilga...she live in Chassell...Hilga
I: And where did she live before that?
R: She's mostly home all the time before she married then. Then after that they live in Chassell.
I: And what does she do?
R: She just keep the house, that's all. Is husband retired already.
I: Okay, and how about the next one
R: Leonard, he's living Crystal Falls. He been born 1920
I: So he's 55 years old
R: Yes, he's fifty-five now
I: And what does he do?
R: He's working in that farm machine...either at the office of the _________ and Sons.
R1: Machine shop
R: And then Toine, the youngest youngest one...
I: First I want to ask, when did Leonard go to Crystal Falls?
R: When?
I: Un huh.
R: That I can't remember now. Let's see...
R1: 1950's?
R: They been living there now...oh, I think...
R1: Around '49 sometime.
I: Late forties, anyway, that's good. And then the next one
R: Toine.
I: And where is she?
    Still living ? now
I: Doing what?
R: Keep the house
I: And she went there when she got married?
R: Yeah, she was there before already, but she didn't live there all the while then she married. It's thirty years now since she married.
I: Why did she go there?
I: Okay, and when did she go?
R: When?
I: Un huh, when.

R: She graduate 42 and went there same year.

I: 1942...as soon as she graduated from school?

R: She graduate 42 and went there same year.

Yes, high school. Yes, she was there same summer and she been there ever since only just come home for visits and that's all. She's been married now thirty years anyhow.

I: And you have one more? That's a.

R: No, that's all my children. And her husband working...is a teacher in a college.

I: Now, when you moved over to the farm, what did you have to do when you moved there as far as getting settled down? To start making a living there?

R: Well, we had cows. We didn't have any cows even when we went there but we bought cow pretty soon then start that picnic and those bears come in there.

I: The bears came?

R: We got so much extra milk that I didn't know what to put that and I carried that extra milk in some big tub, wash tub and is so wild country. Nothing but wild animals and everything and that bear come in and eat that milk there. Laughter! It was two days before 4th of July and we got a little cat and I went out yet...it was time to go sleeping, but I went out and called that..."Kitty...kitty..." and there was big kitty in the stump there and I swore and I screamed...and my husband he was in bed already..."There's some kind black animal...I don't know what is, but it's not nobody ____," and he says, "Phew...I call mine kitty." Well, he knows already that there's bears around. So he jump in his pants and take gun, it's hanging on two nails on the roof there, take gun and run out and I after him. And there it was, that bear and he shoot once...three those cubs went in the tree like furry lumps up there and that bear jump...isn't that kind that rush all around, so that bear jump in that brush there and there it start making all by some noise and we didn't know if that hit or not and then he shoot two those cubs yet; but then we got very poor that kind...half past one, make for that cow. So we afraid all night that if that bear wounded little bit and get mad and he's very easily there to tear that barn all to pieces and kill our only cow. We didn't sleep all night.

I: Should have brought the cow in the house

R: No...no! Then in the morning, this one Abel Matero who son live in Baraga yet even, he was our first neighbor and that's even a mile away. So my husband walked there and take gun along and I lock myself in the camp. Take gun along and walk to that Matero...ask him to come and help and look that what happened that around two
o'clock he stop making any noise. Well, we don't know what happened. So they go and sneaking there where they think that bear was and there was laying down and dead in that bush. And that one live cub still sucking there dead mother. And they shoot that even and then he started skinning that bear...there the mother bear and he take hide off those cubs too and he wanted to eat that bear meat so bad; but I don't. I don't start cook that. I don't. You have to make fire outside and get the pot someplace and cook that bear meat if you want...but I don't spoil my pot with that. I don't have no cheap pot that I spoil that with the bear meat, no. And so he stooded out there and he (laughter) make that in a round...all that meat and that I don't like that I have to hold that bear and he skin and it looked like human's muscles...very much like a human's muscles...they looked those bear muscles and that makes me uphew (sound).

I: Was that still while you were at the homestead in Nisula?
R: Yes, the first summer that we was there.

I: 
R: Yeah, I don't even have Alfred yet that time. I just expecting him. And then after that I started get scared for bears then they was killed already. Then I don't go anyplace.

I: Did you see any more ever?
R: There was lots of bears around but I didn't happen see; but those men's who go all over, they see...but I didn't see. I was there many days and nights with those...I got those two boys already but the Mumu was with us most of the time there...that Grandma I mean. But still, it was pretty lonely place.

I: I suppose.

No neighbors, no hardly anybody come there or anything. Nowadays if I even tell them those stories, they don't believe or they said Ilmi was crazy.

I: I believe.
R: You better believe...it's all true and much more.

I: When you were on the farm in Froberg, you started dairy farming?
R: Oh yes.
When did you get your cows?
R: They...cows make cows...(laughter)...and we bought some too and we got seven already...seven cows when we come here, but we bring only three here on the farm and then we don't have so much cows
right away, but they don't

End of Side 1.

R: Cabbage was our like summer income then
T: Did you help with the cabbage
R: Oh
I: What did you do?
R: Hoeing...I hoeing lots of cabbage. I didn't plant any, but when they start growing, they'd have to hoe and cultivate many times, and that's what I do. I didn't cut any either. Then in the fall then they cut and marketing them, so I didn't...I didn't cut any because I got so much work in the house that I have to stay in the house and make meal.
I: Ahm, did your kids help work in the cabbage?
R: Oh yes, they help.
R: They help planting and they have to grow those plants first, and then transplant.
I: They did that.
R: And they help that and they also hoeing and they cultivated, one horse and cultivate...

Tangled tape. (Tape had to be spliced to straighten it out...is spliced right at beginning.)

R: ...the rows then. Yes, they help all kinds of...well, I suppose we raise our own potatoes and vegetables and they help there, every place; then get the cows and bring the cows in the pasture and those smaller ones would already was big already Alfred and Wally, they was married already then, they come from...move from other farm...and they live someplace else already. But then they have to have...hire help.
I: Oh yes, really?
Yes.
I: For what? Cabbage farming?
R: Yeah, everything.
I: Oh!

Not all the time, but summertime had to have hired help
I: Did you have some kind of neighborhood cooperation between your
neighbors that grew cabbage?

R: Not really.

I: It was just a family business?

R: Everyone doing everything with their own family.

R: How about marketing?

R: Marketing too...they go to town and the first years, long first years then we really raised those cabbages. We even put many car- loads, railroad carloads every fall; but my husband go town and make some kind of a contract and arrangement how many tons they take. There was one (?) and those first years who take all the cabbages and he sent them all over the country then; but it wasn't so easy then them last years. Then even those peoples going away from the Copper Country who use cabbage before...those Germans and those peoples Austria peoples, they use lots of cabbage.

I: Made sauerkraut.

R: Yes, and that time there's no any trouble to sell cabbages. Then it was more difficult after that and those old buyers quit buying that. You had to sell straight to the stores. There's much lower market then.

I: Why do you think that it was...did your market dry up for the cabbage? Why couldn't you sell more cabbage at the end...toward the end?

R: What?

I: When you stopped growing cabbage you said that the buyers just weren't buying as much cabbage?

R: No, not 'til last years.

I: Why not?

R: Why, they don't have market anymore happened to them?

R: Those peoples move away and die and what happen...who used to make lots of that sauerkraut, then they just buy from the store then...don't make anymore.

I: Cabbage from the store shelf?

R: Yeah, cabbage

I: Or sauerkraut?
sauerkraut too.

I: Did you ever make sauerkraut?

Yes, my husband used to make sauerkraut after that and he start making that. He made sauerkraut too.

I: You both did or he did?

And he sell that, big barrels, to the stores; and I like sauerkraut and that homemade is best you get. It's real sauerkraut. Yes, and that's good and fresh and real right kind.

Well, who made the sauerkraut? Both of you? Did you make it or did your husband make it?

Both of us, but my husband mostly.

I: Did you make it together. What was your job?

R: I...chop that cabbage real fine, you know, and then put that in the barrel and then have to tamp with that like kind of potato masher, that kind but much bigger, long as that water come up and so tight that water is on top then. Then put salt...it tastes good if it's salt. Put salt and again layer that cabbage and then tamp again with that masher.

I: and you did all that

R: I do and my husband do. It's kind of hard for him too; but it's good and don't need anything else but just that cabbage slaw and water come up and put that salt and cabbage again...real fine cabbage. That's the way they make that sauerkraut. That's all. Leave it there and put some...that kind heavy weight on top and that start working then that salt water come up and have to stand a few weeks and that's all. Didn't have to make that sauerkraut...didn't have sauerkraut market anymore. We make our own use...every fall big barrel full...we learn how.

I: guess so...you must have eaten a lot of cabbage.

R: Oh yes, that tastes good if you eat a cabbage

I: Did you help with the cows when you had...when you sold milk?

R: I was farm all the time.

I: That was your job?

R: My job too. First was my job and then kids start...even girls start helping and then after last years, then boys take care of milking and I milk by hands too. Still I milk by hands some cows what was good milk hands, so I do all the hand milking.

I: Did anybody else hand milk, or did the kids have other chores.
R: All the boys milked...and my husband was very good milker.
I: In the beginning even your husband milked?
R: Huh?
T: Did your husband milk in the beginning or did just you milk?
R: He milked long as we been on the farm. He milk all the time.
I: I thought sometimes men wouldn't go in the barn. In some families, I thought the men wouldn't milk.
R: Yeah, well first years long time, our men folks they working outside more than the barn; but when we got...even once we got the one, name is Esop, that man...he was really barn man...he don't do anything else but take care of cows. Yes.
I: When did you get him?
R: I can't say how many years that Esop is come our place and he was our place straight seven years.
R1: Around forties.
R: Yeah, around that time
I: That was after you lived on Froberg.
R: Oh yes, and we don't have very awful much milk there; but mostly we had last years, thirty-five milking cows.
I: Thirty-five?
R: Yes.
I: Well, you had a big operation.
R: Yes, pretty big. It even got bigger than that time. Now they got more...much more cows...they got lots more cows; but at that time we had almost more cows than anybody else and that was young stock that there was over fifty - sixty young stock.
I: When did you get a market for your milk?
R: Last many many years in that cheese factory.
I: When the cheese factory started?
R: In here, Pelkie.
I: Do you remember when that was?
R: Yes, nobody else don't put milk anyplace else but the Pelkie Cheese Factory long as it was in business. But that building started going
so poor already they ran into (?)...and then they don't know where to put factory first, but then they start marketing Dollar Bay and Bruce Crossing and all over.

I: When did the Cheese Factory start?
R: That's one big question...when that start. Maybe around '48...maybe around '48.
Rl: Or '30?
R: No, not that late.
Rl: bout 30's
R: Yeah, around there
I: Wasn't there a creamery before the cheese factory?
R: Yes why? Yes, there was creamery.
       you sell your cream to the creamery?
R:
I: When did that start? Do you remember when that started?
R: You remember what time you go Detroit first, what year?
Rl: In 1926.
R: '26...well, did that start already? Around 20's or something.
I: Before you went? The creamery was operating before you went?
Rl: I'm quite sure.
R: And Marie was one winter in Detroit. She come home and start wrapping butter in the creamery that whole summer.
Rl: 1927
R: Yeah, and they was started two or three years...haven't been in business yet very long.
I: '25...'26?
Rl: Oh, before '26
I: At least by 1925
Rl: Un hum
I: Are you getting tired?
R: No, not exactly
I: How about if I come back this afternoon or later?
R: How much you have to ask yet?
I: How about if I just...we'll stop right now for awhile.
R: I don't care.

Stop in tape

When you had your children, were you at home when you had them? Did you have a mid-wife or did you go to the doctor or how did you have your children?

R: When my children were born, eh?
I: Born, un hum
R: Only first one Alfred...I was in Ishpeming and I got two doctors.
I: At the hospital?
R: No
I: At home.

Just my mother and father at home where they live.

after that then did you have a mid-wife?

R: Just a mid-wife...I used to have. Everyone...
I: Everyone around here...
R: Everyone the rest seven of them I got only mid-wife
I: Who were some of the mid-wives around here? Around Pelkie?
R: Oh, they been gone already. One was Mrs. Burhurla (?) and once I had old lady but she wasn't any kind of a mid-wife...just a neighbor lady was with me, Mrs. Escola (?). There that once here wasn't so bad, Mrs. Pelto...that old lady, Mrs. Pelto used to have. Yeah, Mrs. Pohl and Mrs. Pelto I got. Mrs. Pelto was many times. It was for Hilma...Mrs. Burhurla was Helga for; but then Leonard and Toine and Hilma, Mrs. Escola was then...oh, that was Toine then Mrs. Escola was here. And Wally born was Mrs. Laurinen from Nisula.

I: I heard that sometimes the women went into the sauna
R: No, I never been sauna that time; but I know that they used to go in sauna even. Yes! In Finland especially they go in sauna.
I: What do they do?

R: I don't know, they just...there was that kind like a second floor in sauna and they...I think they lay down there and there was warm and nice to be there.

I: They'd heat the sauna.

R: Huh?

I: They'd heat the sauna?

R: Yes, they warm the sauna first and then go there, lay down there os it's warm there anyhow. Those houses don't be so very warm all the time especially wintertime. Sauna is a warm place. Sure, and I think that's why they go there. It was warm.

I: Nobody around here did that? Oh!

R: Nowadays they go hospital all the time and that's good. That's all right to go hospital when got one. Got chance to go, but no chance to go all the time. Like even us, live so far from hospital that who gets there...nobody.

I: Wouldn't get there in time.

R: No...better stay home

Laughter!

I: When your kids were bad, who diciplined them? Did you or did your husband?

R: For what?

R1: When the children were bad at home, you know, they didn't listen

I: Who spanked them?

R: Nobody. I never spanked my kids.

I: Oh!

R: Never...I don't believe that either. I don't know, they aren't any worse than any others who get spanking all the time. They been good. They been good and I look at them, they know what I mean. They behave right away.

I: Oh, that's all you had to do, huh.

R: Yeah. I never spanked my kids and I don't believe
I: Did you spank Jeannie?

R: Sometimes...she's good

I don't know why, but even Esther don't even believe that; but it's true that I haven't been spank mine kids. Esther don't believe. They spank and swearing that David so much that is not even true. He isn't any better than others. When they are small, they do mischief...they don't know better. Them are babies and little kids and they get bigger, they understand you speak them and give it to them that wise, nicely and don't be mad and swearing all the time. That's no good. They just start hate home...they go out of home as soon as they get a little bit bigger. They don't like to be at home...I don't like that.

I: hat kind of mischief did they get into

Hum! They touch everything what they shouldn't and break dishes and fall down with them and break them...laughter...run away, so is not anykind bad. That's only what teach them then, that's all.

what your brother Jake iid.

...and gets moving and get places. Then you see that them are healthy and they gotsome ideas all the time. I like to see the kids get every place...they got energy. And they drinking something that time. And when they grown up and get big, they know better...they learn by itself. They see what others doing and how other peoples are.

I: id Mike sk you who helped build t is church next door

R: Yes...yes, and I didn't know exactly who because all the congregation, those men, they working that time volunteer work.

Many different pec e

Yes, who belong that congregation they come and working and even bring some material and boards. I don't think there was any kind of a special carpenter or anything.

I: Did the women io anything?

R: was hardly nothing what woman's could do...that kind buil ing when they built. Wasmens working there.

how about curtains and lishes

Oh, then that's different...but there's no curtains...only basement they could put curtains. But then after, woman's cleaning that church all the time. Once a year, once a summer they come and clean...wash everything and windows and window frames and floors and benches and everything. Woman's was there and then men's helping.
I: A whole group?

R:

I: At one time.

R: Yes, was one day...they set one day when they come and clean the church and there was a men and woman, both.

I: Did they eat then at the church on the day they did that?

R: Not then...everybody bring some lunch. They made coffee there and that kind. They bring sandwiches from home; but then we used to have...when they got that big congregations and we used to have even three days following that church meetings and then we got big dinners and everything there. But not that time that we cleaned that church. Only we made coffee there.

I: Coffee bread?

R: Coffee and we bring coffee bread and some lunch. Sometime we even make pasties and bring them in the church and eat; but then last years then I wasn't there anymore. There was a younger group, so I fix something to eat and coffee here because was so close.

I: And they came here?

Un hum, they come here and coffee and lunch. I had to...I can't do anything else so I fix lunch anyhow. That's my share, yeah.

I: Well, I was asking Lina about what her mother did when the family picked berries at the blueberries plaines...out at the plaines, right?

R: Sure.

Do you remember what you did when your family picked berries at the plaines? What did you do that day that they picked berries?

R: Berries? Chuckle)...where?

R1: Blueberries.

R: I just stay home and I got plenty of work there. They bring those blueberries...then that job start.

I: What did you do then?

R: Cleaning them and boil them and canning, bottling even many hundred bottles of blueberries.

I: Really?
You bet! Three - four hundred quarts, that take anyhow week and
more. Clean those berries, I didn't do that myself. All the
girls help and that old grandma was able to clean those berries
yet that time. That takes mine time boiling them and put in the
bottle. That's enough for me between all the other work. I have
to in the barn then, take care of that big meal of those guys
they ate. I got big family in the house and I was yet something.
I was really young and take care of my household anyhow, them
peoples sitting at table three times a day. So, that takes time
and energy too.

t m u ve taken most of our t and energy.

Yes, that's 'or sure.

So it took week to can the berri s usually?

They can't keep very much longer either because they spoil too.
No pace to keep them...no any kind of cold place. Blueberries,
they really stand week, but not more, in cold basement then; so
they stand week, but not more.

I: didn't know it took hat long to set them all into bottles

That take me

Did you e in he mmer'

What...I had to can the meat even that time. There's no any kind
of freezer or ice box yet those days. Had to can that meat also.
Yeah, and in the fall then the cold weathers they keep in outside
building they frozen through; but in summertime it was more some
bigger animal in the springtime, had to put it in the bottle.
Put a big roast in oven and when it's done, you just boil those
bottles and then put that bottles boiling hot and then set this
up and that cook pretty quick that they was done...boiling hot.
There's no pressure cookers, no anything then like that.

I Strawberri s or raspberries?

Yes, if I wa able to ets them Well, kids go and pick raspberries
anyhow...wil raspberi they used to get that time.

id that t ke as ong a eberries to can

P: Well, they take just as long to clean if those biggers get clean
berries. Sometimes there was all kinds of branches in it. But
I didn't get...never get so much raspberries then we used to get
blueberries. That time, there at Plaines they get even my husband
was so anxious to get blueberries, that they had to get them and
they go first here years had to go with the horses...there's no
car yet...us or hardly anybody else. They go with team of horses
and stay there two days and two nights and went even three day:
and two nights. Many pick that kind of milk tank full they bring blueberries then. There were blueberries that time then...us ladies have to start working. (Laughter) But it's that kind that you have to gather all kinds of things what to eat.

I: You made butter?

R: Oh yes, I make butter myself too. Separate the milk and make butter and that was good butter (chuckle).

I: How much butter did you make at one time?

R: Oh, I don't know. Sometimes less and sometimes more. Really, before we got even creamery in country so had to make all the cream for butter and then sell that butter...even twenty-five pounds at a time. So...and couple three times a week.

I: Oh really?

R: Yes, and it's a lots of work make that good butter, you know. Such a job.

I: Who did you sell it to?

In the store...everybody want homemade butter and mine butter anyhow if I'm bragging myself. That's true...everybody asking mine homemade butter.

I: How about eggs? Did you sell eggs?

R: Well, if we got that much chickens; but we don't raise very much chickens. That takes...that's a lot of work too.

I: Didn't a lot of women have chickens around here though?

R: I can't hear you.

Rl: You didn't have many chickens.

R: In the farm?

Rl: Ummm

R: Yes, we have

I mean not too many.

R: Not very many, but once in those last years then we got well almost a hundred layers.

Rl: That's quite a few. We used to have lots of them and we sold eggs.

I: Your mother?

Un hum.
R: Yeah, we sell eggs that one maybe two - three winters, but then we quit that. It's lots of work and I have to take care of almost everything, so I get tired. Then we have all the time plenty eggs in home use.

And washing clothes like this...with a washboard

R: Yeah, no washing machine...no icebox...no anything. No milking machines...then last of all we got last years, we got milking machines and ice box and even somekind washing machine; but we have no electricity so we have to have those gasoline engine who runs washing machine.

I: When did you get your first washing machine?

R: Where?

I: When?

R: Well, maybe 1930 I guess

I: So you had many years of children at home scrubbing clothes on a washboard.

R: Yes, but I have to make the washing anyhow; and so lots of kids so there's lots of washing too. Those men's wear...those heavy underwear and the (?), they had to have a good underwear then they have to go far in school. Lots of snow and those days they don't even open roads yet.

I: Did you wash once a week?

R: Anyhow...

I: At least.

R: Once a week at least; but twice a week. When you got little kids all the time...almost all the time some little kids, so had to wash many times a week. Almost every day some washing.

I: Did you wash in those great big copper boilers that you put on the stove?

R: Yes.

I: Those copper tubs? Is that what you used?

R: Galvanized tub and then wood. Even wooden tubs.

I: Oh, you just heated...

And put it in to boil.

End of Side 2