FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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Subject: Discussion of Old Photographs of the Pelkie Area

Respondents: Bill, Matt, Art Waisanen

I: Oh, is that Gauthier's Saloon?

R1: Yeah.

I: Oh, I thought that might have been Kahkonen's blacksmith shop.

R1: No, Kahkonen's blacksmith shop was close with that...church what they dis- mantled, yeah.

R2: Right across the road, that's where it was.

R1: Yeah, and then this is, Gauthier built this store...and this was, who owned this saloon that was Gauthier's brother.

I: You recall his name?

R1: Alphonse Gauthier was the storekeeper.

R2: I think that was Frank who owned that...

R1: They called him Middy.

R2: Red-headed guy.

R1: They called him Middy, but I don't know was that his nickname or what was it, but his last name was Gauthier.

R2: Did he own that Pirkola's farm? Which one owned that Pirkola's farm?

R1: No, that's another man, another fella, I think that was, no, Alphonse owned that...

R2: Brother...

R1: Oh, that was Frank that owned that farm.

R2: Well, that's what I thought....and here's the Post Office where Rueben Turunen lives, you know that drunk right across...that's the first Pelkie Post Office.

I: You mean Rueben Oja.

R2: Yeah, that's the same and there was a French couple there...and their father, what do you call that barroom right across from Gamble's...his father and moth- ter run that Post Office.....they're related little bit to, they're cousins with Cote's and their sister was a school teacher...I forgot the name, my mem- ory's not...
I: Picture No. 2 here.

R1: This is Gauthier's Store and this is Ruona's Store...Matt Ruona used to own that store...and here is the Section House...and here's that...

I: Murto's?

R1: That there...Murto's place, Matt Oja owns it now.

R2: Well, that's the one I'm telling...

   No, but there's an addition built on this one since.

   Yeah, Rueben lives there

   There's a picture of the addition on that.

   Turunen remod...

   Or a wing or whatever they call it, you know.

   Turunen remodeled that.

   And this is the creamery over here.

I: And what's that just beyond the creamery, there's a building there a little higher...can you see the roof of it?

   Well, that's the creamery and this is the wing of it.

I: I see...and then way further down there's a little shading of a roof, could that have been...

   I think that looks like this Tom Bond's place...Tom Bond's saloon...where that Post Office is now.

I: Right.

   This is taken way after...that...

I: Way back here you can see a little shaded...

   Yeah, that's Tom Bond, that's the creamery, see...there's a railroad between there, Mineral Range railroad between there...where the Post Office is, Ruona bought that, that's where Tom Bond's Saloon used to be.

I: What was this building like, this Middy Gauthier's Saloon in Picture 1? Were you ever in that building?

   Yeah.

   Yeah, we been there.
Yeah, we stopped there...Middy was a nice guy, he was well liked.

R2: This was Funke's Store.

R1: That's at that garage now, that gas station in Pelkie, that same place now.

I: Oh, it's the same structure as Ralph's Mobil?

R1: Well, I don't know...I don't know if that's the same structure 'cause it's all made of cement blocks.

I: Right, but it's in the same place.

Yeah, same place.

I: Middy was a pretty good guy?

R1: Yeah, he was a nice guy.

I: What was he like, what did he look like, was he...what was his appearance?

R1: He is...just a workingman's appearance, that's all, he was like the rest of us around here, had no education.

Who was that?

Middy...Middy Gauthier.

Oh, yeah, he died in Baraga.

Yeah.

He run that corner building when you go on the old road...that's taken away. Is the bank there now...where his store used to be...sure, Superior Bank is.

No, Gauthier's Store used to be over there close where Emil Pelto used to live...that's where Gauthier's Store was in Baraga.

Yeah, that there old Co-op Store...it was rebuilt...that used to be...

I: Did Ruona have that store first? Gauthier had the first store.

Ruona have his own.

R1: Gauthier had the first store.

I: And then Gauthier moved to Baraga.

Well, really the first one was...just in a small scale at...

Silver River there in the corner.

R1: No, where Tepsa lives now...there was the first store there...I forget their
name...Sedor, what was it?
I forgot...we used to...
He was a Frenchman.

I: King?

King was living where Turunen lives.

He's the first one that really homesteaded in Pelkie but he...King, or I mean Pelkie and John Dunsmore, they're the first who moved in, they carried their stove from Keweenaw Bay in parts...and that stove is still in Dunsmore's house there, yeah...but the boy died in California, married three weeks with that kind of woman, I wouldn't even look with field bags at her...I think he poisoned her...and got the place, now she's married to Bill Narhi.

I: Do you recall whether Matt Ruona and Matt Oja were in some kind of a partnership? I've heard a rumor that they were in some sort of secret partnership.

I don't know.

Ruona logged up here...up Stonington, was it, or what is that, Wyandotte...and he went and shipped some logs in Turunen's contract, Roshen Bush, Wisconsin...and they were old logs and they were shipped from there, his contract was on, you know where the Baraga County Line is over here...he was logging both sides of the road there...and their decks were all decked in Pelkie and Turunen went broke...they busted the contract on him...and I remember then...

I: Do you remember when that was? When they busted...

1920...Depression stepped in.

Oh, that was after First World War.

Yeah, yeah, Depression stepped in.

I: That first depression, early '20s.

Before that.

That was the Depression in '21.

'21, that's where he went broke...had 1,000,000...that was all decked with logs...you know where that old, right across from Post Office is that old building, Co-op building there...that used to be a landing and there where the gas station was done, that used to be a hole...we used to roll logs with a canthook and downhill, you know, tracks were so low...and then there was a swamp there and it's all filled in, now it belongs to Co-op property, cheese factory and them was dumped in there...cheese factory was on the Pelkie landing, too, you know.
I: Like in Picture No. 3 there, there's a little boy there in front of a store, looks like it might be Oja's Store, there's some kind of an old gas pump or something there.

Yeah, they used to have them kind of pumps where they'd put gallon at a time.

I: That would pump out a gallon at a time?

Yeah...you had to set that there regulator on how many gallons you'd put, well, they'd stop right there, then...if you wanted three gallons of gas, well, they'd set the pump.

I: And it would go up in the top here...first?

I can't exactly remember that...

Is that Fred Silvola's place?

No, this is Matt Oja's Store there...Matt Oja's house, I guess.

I: See that funny looking gas pump, it looks this way, there's a little boy standing there, there's the door and odd looking gas pump.

Yeah, that's a kind of an odd picture, ain't it, not very plain, eh?

I: No, I couldn't, I tried developing it better but that's the best, see, these are from very old photographs.

Rl: Oh, that's from aerial?

I: No, no, it's a photograph of a photograph.

Oh, oh, oh.

Well, I'll tell you, I betche I know where these is taken from...that's George Oja's garage where whatscall is now, that's the place...see, the gas pump is here and here's the outside, you know, looking towards Elo, you know...well, here's the door that goes to that store and then the garage is right next, that's what that is.

I: George Oja's?

Yeah, George Oja's, I mean, George Maki's Store...where what do you call got his gas station now...right across from Ruona's Store.

No, that ain't Ruona's.

Pesola.

That ain't Ruona's storefront.

No, no, Pesola's garage front that is...see, here's the pump here...and here's...
the store right here...and here's this on the side...that looks like, well, there's a road both sides of this pump like it is now.

I: Looks like there's a barrel in there.

R2: Well, I don't know.

I: And a little motor on top of a barrel?

Well, it seems to be like electric cord, that could be but I don't know...but that looks like more modern store and that could be Ketola's...I'm not sure but...

I: Picture No. 4.

Looks like that same boy in there, eh?

I: I don't know who he is.

That's Ruona's Store...belongs to Co-op now.

I: Do you remember when Ruona started that store?

Yeah.

I: Do you remember when he started that store?

Yeah, I think it was 1912...yeah, 'cause 1913 he had a team hauling logs from just about a half a mile west from where you live now...I was over there even loading sleighs one time that winter...he built this 1912.

I: What kind of products did he sell at the time there?

General store.

I: Do you recall who used to work in it?

R1: Yeah, there was Emma Haro worked there long time and...

Buck Silvola.

And Buck Silvola worked there and...

R2: And one of them brothers worked there...they lived by the Silver Bridge, that's Gauthier's place...that's where the first store be in Feltie, by the Silver Bridge, that Silvola's...

R1: Yeah, well, that was not a regular store, he was just selling farm machinery.

Yeah, I know...and they burned it last summer.

Yeah, this is Ruona's Store.
Yeah, that's it...and that belongs to Alfred Pelto now...yeah, that's Ruona's Store...I tell you this here could not be a boy...but he's got, them days they had funny caps...there's lot of people around Pelkie living then...they're renting houses, you know, working around the woods, that would be, that looks like he just come from Finland...funny dress, I never seen that boy in Pelkie...Ruona had a crazy girl...she would go right in front of you and pull her dresses up and look at her, you know, foolish and go up and sit right on top of the woodpile and train going by, she didn't care looking like that, they sent her to Newberry, she died there...

This house over here used to belong to Pelto, the blacksmith.

I: Oh, yeah.

I don't know who lives there now, but...no, Chartier, Chartier lives in there.

I: Right...can you tell me a little bit about Pelto, the blacksmith? What kind of a man was he, I've heard he was a pretty good blacksmith.

Yeah, he was...you know that sagging garage there with that low flat...something like a shed-type roof on it.

I: I know, it's across from the old Ruona home there and there's a bunch of signs on it.

Yeah, just about across there, that's his old blacksmith shop...Alfred Pelto owns that now...and he done, he was a good blacksmith and he was reasonable, Communist Pelto.

'Course he wasn't perfect for everything but he made a stab at it, anyway, we're satisfied and then one thing about him he had a conscience, he didn't rob you when he charged you.

I: You could expect honest dealings with him?

Oh, yeah, I know we're satisfied.

I: You remember having him do work for you?

Yeah, he done lot of work for us, shod horses and fixed trucks and bad farm machinery.

Done they sell coffee and meals there, too?

Yeah, and then when there was mealtime, he gave us lunch...I haven't got no kick although he was a red-hot Communist but still I had respect for him.

He lives in Baraga now.

RI: Yeah, he's about 90 years old now.
Kahkonen was the first blacksmith there.

I: What was his first name? This Kahkonen?

John Kahkonen, John...he shot himself.

Ri: What was that Pelto's first name?

I: Emil

Emil, yeah.

I: How do you spell this Kahkonen's name?

K-a-h-k-o-n-e-n, Kahkonen.

I: Yeah, I heard he came to a rather tragic death.

He shot himself...do you know when you go to Pelkie...that farm on your right...and then is Kuivinen on the left...old flour mill, that's where the first Turunen flour mill...he bought Joe Oberg's place and that's where he shot himself.

He didn't shot himself, he hang himself.

Yeah...he's got a boy living in Baraga.

I: He was very sick, right?

Yeah, he was...

I: Had a lot of pain?

He was in bad health...

Very talkative man.

Losing his mind, I guess, or something.

He was a good man...he made sleighs and everything...his blacksmith shop was around there where the Pelkie Church is, across the road someplace in there...opposite side.

He was awful mean for horses, though...using that hammer and pounding the horses.

I: He didn't have any sympathy for them, eh?

Ri: Oh, no, no sympathy.......I brought our team in there one time...and we had bought a new horse, we had only had that about five, six months...and I told him...then he had a man working for him and he was a good horse shoer and also a pretty good blacksmith, too...and, well, I told him, "Take the hind leg," I told him, "take that last," I say, "he's a little tender on that hind foot...
put the other shoes on first and then take that one." You know what he did? He goes to work and takes that first...well, naturally he start pounding with that hammer, you know, and I said, "Hold on, hold on." I said, "That ain't your horse, that belongs to my father, them horses." I said, "Don't you pound them." I said, "Do just what I told you to do and there'll be no trouble." So the other, that his helper, you know, he said, "He drives that team, he knows what team acts like, why don't you listen to him?" Well, we couldn't shoe that horse anymore in the blacksmith shop...he had to take him outside...and it was wintertime, too, and then he told his helper to go and put the shoe on.

Oscar Hill was working for him.

Yeah, Oscar Hill was the helper.

He went crazy, too, he run over the railroad track...Copper Six.........chasing a train.

So...went outside...I was just patting the horse from the front, you know, and talking to the horse, there was no trouble at all.

I: There's a store you remember...that's Picture No. 5...it says Oja's Store up there in the corner.

Yeah, yeah...what is that a dog there or what.

I: It looks like there is a dog playing with that boy there.

Yeah, I remember that.

I: What was that store like?

Well, that store was all right but Matt Oja done some funny tricks for some of the customers...just like my dad, he used to trade...that's the only store, once in a while we'd trade with Ruona's...and he, my dad wanted to get some "silakkas" (herring), you know what "silakkas" is like...so he says, "Yeah, I got them over here" and then he had that warehouse, right next to the store there was a warehouse...all you had to do is push the tow rope and he was in the warehouse...so over here there were no lights or nothing in the warehouse. He said, "I got some "silakkas" here." They used to come in kegs them days. And the old man just looked like this and said, "All right, give me 10 pounds of them." And instead of waiting for the train he walked that 4 miles up here...he had other stuff to carry, too, and that 10 pound bag on one hand. So we were all working out somplace in the bush up here close, we came home for dinner anyway that day...and the table was all set and ready to go and I said, "What in the world stinks here so rotten?" Well, my mother said, "I feel the smell, too, myself...I been wondering myself what's happening." So I went close to the bench, Dad had laid that close to the bench...and them "silakkas" stunk...so I opened up the bag, I said, "What do you got in here?" He said, "I got 10 pounds of 'silakka'," Dad said. I said, "These 'silakkas' are all yellow, these are the ones that are stinking over here." And, boy, Dad didn't like that...he cut down the business with Matt Oja down pretty thin.
I: Oja was opposed to the Co-op.  

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah...yeah.

I: You know, 'cause it would take away his business at the time.

Yeah, and that Pesola's Store in Elo...he closed that 'cause he sold that junk to the Co-op in Pelkie...poor management, you know...and the Co-op sold it back to that garage keeper in Elo...that's Pesola's boy, see...and that fellow who run that store, he come to be a manager downstairs in the Co-op in Pelkie selling machinery...he would have burned that store, he hated him, you know, the Co-op...then they had a big business, they built that Co-op Store little before in Elo, now they're going to close that up and the one in Nisula they're going to close up...so the business is gone to the supermarkets, you know.

I: That's Picture No. 6.

That's the Post Office, that's old Matt Oja's place, too.

I: He had a pretty good deal with the Post Office right where the store was when people came to get their mail they'd probably...

Yeah, but his sister sure...

Yeah, but he was very close to losing his postmastership.

Twice.

You know, somebody'd go over there to by the Post Office and wait for their mail, they didn't give a damn about the mail, the Postmaster was serving the customers...and somebody reported that and he was almost losing that place.

I: He was paying more attention to the merchant business than customers, yeah.

And then he...some kind of forging in Postal funds...his sister served one year in prison for that and Matt Oja's supposed to go prison...and during World War Two he was gambling with the Turpeinen boy's check they sent down to come home on a vacation...the money never got there...so Turpeinen went to the Post Office and told him, "How come the boy never got the money?" He showed the letter to him...that he can come home, you know, he sent all the money home, see...so Matt Oja monkeyed with that mail, he pretty near got caught...well, the bugger is getting pension from the Government.

Yeah, and so then his sister had to serve time for that.

That looks like...that's Oja's Store.

Rl: But you just keep those to yourself.
R2: He was a great Heideman hunting partner...now that Pelkie Church is breaking up again...Matt Oja got his service in L'Anse Town Hall...different minister and they laid him off the president's job in Pelkie...and it's breaking up and a lot of people went there together...you know, God's Peace and all that, you know, they don't even look at you and walk by and like the day when that was organized in Calumet, what they call a "Black Sunday"..."Musta Sununtai"...they used to collect from every house that belonged to, you know, Heideman church, up there all together...well, Heideman put a order, "At Communion only give for those I got in the books, but others, drop them." Well, they wouldn't go and collect the dues like they used to there, see, they dropped them...then Ramberg said, "Well, let them people be who wants to be...and collect from every house." Heideman had passed the word for the Communion, who served Communion, not to give Ramberg Communion because he's really not our member, so Ramberg quit that church then.

Romberg was a member of the Board of Directors.

Yeah.

And he had recommended that, "Let them come."

Voluntarily.

"The ones that pay their dues" so they fired him, too.

R2: Because Heideman had put a word, "Then people that rejected this break-up, don't collect from them, just the ones that belong to our church." That's where it got the name "Black Sunday", "Musta Sununtai"...and it's breaking up now...it's broken up in Ishpeming...and there's some of them ministers want only Old Country ministers...you know, that when they come they're bosses, that's what young Heideman come with a Old Country minister...and now Torola came, he's one of the best, he's a good minister, Torola, I like him...but he didn't like Heideman's system...now he's fired...and I don't know about his boy, he's a minister, is he the head of it or what in Calumet, but it's broke up pretty bad, three ways...Calumet is different way and Pelkie and then Matt Oja's church in...he ain't got no church.

I: Well, there was a pretty big split around the '30s, around '32, right in Pelkie.

R2: That's the one.

R1: Yeah, that's when it busted up, though...

R2: They started in Pelkie...I'll tell you right at that old church...there was 'sposed to be a working bee, fix the floors downstairs and you know where you'd serve coffee at table, and make more room...membership was big, they didn't know what was going on...they went there, was it Monday, whatever it was, to work, you know, when they had spare time, with hammers and saws of their own...and fixing everything, you know...they had the doors locked, only that certain gang, so they told them to open the door, that, "We come to work, we got time now, working bee"...they wouldn't open the door...they got them arrested...for blocking up their own place I be there and they lost
in court, now they're twisting that their own church lost...but there's only one Laestadian Church in America...they cannot belong to that but that's putting a concrete wall, you know, first Laestadian Church...there's only one...same as the Catholic, Roman or other Catholic...there's two of them, you know, they're divided and they're still divided.

Yeah, this is the Co-op Store...and this used to be...

I: Creamery?

Creamery...yeah, that used to be the creamery but...Co-op Store released that for a while...they had it for a warehouse...and farmers had that creamery first...but they went out of business...so this here Matt Turunen, he rent it for one year...and then they rented again for Matt Oja, Pesola and Alec Kimunen, he used to be in Alston.

Kananen...Kananen?

No, not Kananen...Ed Pelto, Ed Pelto, and then...then when they built the cheese factory here, then this one went out of business.

I: That's in 1918...I know that.

That picture was...this store was started before that.

I: What was the store like at first when you went inside it? Here it is again in Picture 8.

Yeah, it was something like that.

You know Pesola was a cheese-maker in that, that's why he came, he came here from Annandale, Minnesota...

I: Old man Pesola?

He was a single man and he married that there girl from that house who got that big barn...Keranen, Rudy, yeah...that's Mrs. Pesola's home.

R1: She was Miss Moilanen.

R2: Yeah, Miss Moilanen.

I: What was that early Co-op like in the inside? Who used to work there? My sister worked there, too.

R1: Oh, there were many different, Ed Pelto was the first manager there...and there was George Maki worked there and...fellow by the name of Waisanen worked there.

He was a manager.

And Katie Klemetti, well, she's Mrs. Kuivanen now...and then there was...
TWO

R2: Laamanen.

R1: Laamanen, yeah, yeah, Helmi Laamanen was there.

Yeah, she worked there.

Yeah, and...Mary...that married that there Pirkola's boy...Mary...

Oh, Mary Kuivinen?

Kuivinen, yeah...and I forget...there's many of them there.

There's a funny story about a falla had to go to a funeral.

Oh, yeah, and my sister worked there, too...

I: Was that Fanny?

Fanny.

And then there was...Carl Kemppainen worked there.

Oh, Carl Kemppainen was the manager and Tammela was the manager.

Yeah, and then whatchacall that worked there...Klemetti boy...Riwin.

I think Tammela was the second manager, Ed Pelto was the first one.

I: What's the story about a funeral?

Well, he had to go to Calumet...he worked in the store, didn't have no pair of pants, so he took them off the shelf and dressed up with them and when he came back he put them back, what was his name again?

Matt Varkey.

Varkey, Varkin Matti, yeah.

Yeah, he was working for Ruona.

Yeah, he was a comical guy.

He was a comical guy.

Yeah, he went to Finland, he died, he used to own that farm when you go to that little bridge...last river is Silver, you know when you go on the left where they had that fire, that's where he used to live...and his brother, Jack...well, that's...and a Romberg was a manager there...but that's way up, last ones.

I: That's Picture No. 10. I think that's Emma Maki in Maki's Store...Emma Maki,
the wife of Waino Maki.

R1: I don't recognize her there.

I: Do you remember going in those old stores?

R1: Oh, yeah.

I: It was a lot different than today's stores.

R1: Yeah, yeah...that might have been Pauline's sister...she lives over there on the flanks of the road there.

R2: Right...what was it like to go in and buy something in a store like that?

R1: Well, it was like any other store.

R2: You could get more information about that, get lot more, one of the sisters right now with her husband, she's at that home...George Maki's old home...you know who live on top of the hill right towards Palkie...second house...and there's a kind of a white car in front...just a car...you know Wilho Maki on the hill there?

I: I don't know Wilho Maki.

R2: He used to to work in the Po, is that Wilho, no, that's.

I: Joe Maki?

R2: Joel, yeah...well, it's a little bit up from Joel's on the hill, you know when you go from here and you go over that hill, then it drop, first is Mattson.

I: And then there's Eino and Hemmi Kuivinen.

R2: Well, Kuivanen, Helmi, next house down...well, that's the home of George Maki's.

R1: Her husband could give you a lot of information.

R2: She could give you a lot, she was born there.

I: There's a picture of a store, I think that's...

R1: That's Ruona's.

I: In Picture II, is that, that's Picture No. 9.

R1: Yeah, that's Ruona's Store...see, you went upstairs on the side here, you know.

I: And they lived up there?
R1: Yeah, they lived on top here.

And a boarding house up there upstairs...for working men.

R1: They had their working crew, too, you know, yeah.

I: Looks like...did you ever go to store with a wagon like that?

R1: Oh, yes...we still have, we got a set over there.

R2: We got a set and we give it away, yeah.

R1: 'Course it's under the shed, it's dismantled

R2: No, yeah, well, all you have to do is put the rigs, the pole in there...

R1: Yeah.

I: Here's Maki's Store when he started selling...

Yeah, machinery...well, Ruona was selling machinery there, too...before Maki got in, he was selling the Deering machines...them days, you know. International Harvester Company was selling five kinds of mowers...there was McCormick and then there was the Deering and then there was a Playdo...no, wait a minute...McCormick and Deering and Playno...and I forget the last one.

R2: Oliver.

R1: No, no, no.

Yeah, that tractor.

I'm talking about mowing machines.

R2: Oh...Champion?

R1: No, Champion was the first one.

I: You remember that store?

R2: Yes, that's a lumber yard now.....another bunch of humbugs.

R1: Matt Ruona happened to be in the store one ..... cup of coffee.

R2: He wasn't good.

R1: We said, "No, no, we had coffee already." "Yeah, but after walking four miles you ought to be able to take a cup of coffee."

I: He was a pretty good man, eh?

R1: Yeah, we got along fine with him.
We wanted some sugar or they had wanted some sugar, you know, World War I, I wasn't here...but he had brought ten bushel of oats, ten sacks of oats, and he had said, "There's 100 pounds of sugar but don't say..."

My folks had a renter in the last two rooms over there so my mother asked that, "Did you bring that sugar?" "Go in the warehouse, there might be something amongst the bags is open." Oats, you know, sack of oats, there was a 100 pounds sugar.

I: That's a lot of sugar.

I laughed, you know, he was a fast talker...he always had ready to fly, you know, busy men and their girl used to, was a very pretty girl and she died of TB, she used to drive with them wagons and a horse, deliver...but one time there's a good friend died of ours and Ruona's, you know, and Ma was a religious woman...and there was two kinds of talk, he was logging back here, tough roads, you know...so Dad asked, "How many teams you got hauling?" He says was it seven or eight, one towing fast...so Ma asked then, "Was he a Christian? Was he confirmed before he died?" So then Dad said, "How many horses you have?" Or somebody asked, he said, "I got eight on the team, yeah, he was converted." Just like that, gee, we could have laughed but he was in a hurry...

Rl: I'll tell you how honest he was with us...you know, he used to take our contract from the mines from mining timber, you know...and he used to take big enough contract so farmers could send in a carload or two or more than that even...so he had a car of flat timber we shipped over there so Dad sent me to Pelkie and that was a Monday morning...Dad sent me to Pelkie if he got the money from the flat timber...so then there was fellas by the name of Oger, John Oger, he met me at the water tank there and we were waiting for the train, I said, "Where you going?" He says, "I'm going to Pelkie," he says, "back here couple months ago I sent carload of flat timber in Ruona's contract."

Solomon Maki, Solomon Oger.

Yeah, Solomon.

You said John.

And I said, "That's what I'm going for, too, myself." Well, we went and naturally when we went there Ruona was in the store...and he seen us, you know, well, he invited us upstairs for coffee...and Oger, he beat me to it, you know...so he asked Mr. Ruona, "Have you received the money for the car of flat timber I shipped in your contract?" "Yeah," he says, "I got that money....I got the money for Waisenen, too, but I can't pay him now, I used that money myself on my own business."

I: But he told you.

Rl: That's what he told, ain't that an honest man?

I: Very few people would say that.
No, very few.

He died...he got stuck up here on the old 26, he had a job in Wyandotte, bringing stuff up there with an old ton job Model T truck...and he got stuck and some way he moved that truck and had an accident...he dropped dead, got scared...and he had a Matt Oja's cousin was living upstairs of that Oberg's place I told you of right there, you know, Wayrynen lives there...well, that's Oberg's place and that's where Kahkonen bought last, they went from here to New York, they used to live up here where Chester Wolfe lives, that's where they moved in...and...

R1: Lease Peterson's gas station.

I: Yes...did you ever get a little gasoline there?

R1: Once in a while...mostly bought our own direct from the company.

Lease spoiled his own business barking at all the people, crazy.

I: He was quite a character there.

R1: And he was always knocking some other business...people don't like that, you know.

You got to use your head when you're in business.

Then another thing he start going around with some men, you know, and he'd be gone for days so his wife was taking care of the gas station...

It was closed half of the time.

Woman doesn't know anything about motor troubles or anything like that, once in a while a car come in there with a missing, needs a new spark plug or something like that, but he wasn't there, well, she couldn't do it...so finally it went so that there was hardly nothing to do...finally got so there was nothing to sell anymore.

R1: I hear that used to be kind of a visiting center or a hangout for the boys when they had a little free time from the farm.

They did, they did.

I: He sure had enough signs on that place.

R2: Yeah...them are the old days...yeah, he spoiled his own business.

R1: Yeah, he spoiled his own business.

R2: So Matt Oja's cousin, he came here from Pennsylvania and very nice fellas, he worked in the Section, see, Matt's father was Section boss here...and he was sawing logs, you know where that 38, there's an old road that used to go around that power saw man, Schwalm...he was sawing on them. I was working Pelkie landing...for Matt Ruona and we stayed in there where George whatcha-
call when that first Post Office, that was Matt, he bought that then he sold out, see...that's where the first Pelkie Post Office was, but house is bigger and he got killed and his wife just had a baby upstairs of that Kakhonen's place...but Kakhonen didn't own it but he rented that from Joe Oberg, you know...and they had hard luck when they moved there, little girl disappeared, they found her drowned in the West Branch there near Oberg's about two years before that...his wife was in baby bed upstairs there...woman from every help, no money...so in the evening he wouldn't come home so she says, "What's happened?" "Well, he had to go doctor and he had his finger...filing a saw some..."

This must have been a spring flood.

I: Yeah, 1950 spring flood...can you remember those sorts of things in Pelkie?

Oh, yeah.

And he got killed so he never had no insurance...so Ruona had to pay $1,000 and ship her back to Pennsylvania...you know, they settled it, that's where Oja's house, Ruona bought it, that would been $3,000...yeah, I remember these ones...that's where the landing used to be, right there...whatchamacall that bridge that picture you got...that bridge was washed away, you know, that goes to Houghton like we said...'27 took the steel bridge off, it was panned, steel beams...

I think this is Andrew Maki's.

I: That's right, that's Vinsipientti...he's sitting on top of a big, pine stump that they had just dynamited in Turunen's clearing...I wanted one of those because there were so many of those stumps around here, the people who cleared the farms will never forget those...they'd maybe like to.

R1: Yeah, we had a big one over there.

I: Hello, Art.

R2: Yeah, that's him...he's been dead a long time...whatchamacall that foot bridge was...

I: A picture of Vinsiantti in Picture 16.

Oh, yeah, boy oh boy, he be shooting that stump, too.

Yeah, he lost a boy, too, in mine accident...one in a car accident.

I: Did you ever have to work on one of those stumps before?

Oh, God, we done...

That's what Bill and Matt been doing most of their life.

I: I'll show you these other ones. Here's a logging crew...clearing land on Turunen's.

I can remember those days
Is Matt Korppi working there, Korpelan Matti?

Gee, that's funny we did very little pictures what we been taking in this house.

You know who took lot of these pictures?

R1: Couldn't afford it.

R2: Whatchacall...

I: Matt Oja took a lot of them.

R2: Yeah, and Bert Carlson's brother, Nick...he shot himself in Detroit, he was a policeman...he had that camera all the time, dollar a dozen, and people didn't have money to take lot of his pictures...yeah...funny how that white team, I can't remember that.....got to pull it back.

Plow would be coming up from the ground and you'd have to be pulling it back...

I: Backing the horses up?

R3: Backing the horses up.

R2: And pulling them evenem, you know, on the ground

R3: That was hard work...but in the old meadows it was just walking, that's all

R2: What helped most is to press on a handle, you know, when the horses were backing...then pull that plow and drop it back in and get a new start.

I: That one here is Dunsmore moving Evert's team.

Is this Larson's?

I: Yeah, that's Evert Larson.

R3: A cream can there.

I got one of them plows here...Peerless...one of the first ones...

I: A Peerless?

Yeah...we got a John Deere, too.

Gee, but that Dunsmore family was a good family.

R1: He was a nice guy.

R3: You darn right.

All them people them days were nice.
Yeah, they had to be, they wouldn't get along...you know you had to help each others...and nationality didn't mean nothing, only your help.

You know where Jokipiik's farm is?

Who is that?

I: That's Jack Peterson and Laase Peterson. Laase's the little boy there.

Taken in White Siding...White Siding.

Oh, that's his dad, eh?

I: Yeah, that's old Jack Peterson.

R1: Manttijakiki his right name is.

R3: Mantyla.

I: Yeah, he was the Section crew head did you ever work for him?

No, he was married to Manna Oja's sister.

It's long ago when that picture was taken.

Yeah, and Laase is in the grave, too...that's a threshing machine.

No, I don't recognize that.

I: That's that old Emil Johnson farm...1910.

That's the kind of power we had when we had the first threshing machine here.

I: Steam driven?

Yeah.

I: What was that barrel there for?

Water.

Water, for water, yeah...you had to have barrels them days for...

R2: They hauled the wood there, too.

R3: Yeah, pile of wood.

R1: Had a big pile of wood.

I: How come that belt was so long?

Oh, because it had to be tight, see.

No, it had to be, keep away from so that it wouldn't start the fire on the
straw.

I: Oh, that steam engine was snorting sparks and everything?
R1: Yeah, oh, yeah...she go tu-tu-tu-tu-tu-tu hear that fella go by.
R2: Just like a railroad engine pulley but it's one place, you know...sparks flying.
I: That's one of the best pictures we have there.
R2: Whose threshing machine is that?
R1: Must be Bommer's.
R2: Oh, yeah, self-going?
R1:
R3: Boy, that was a long bent on it, eh?
R2: Could be Ed Pelto's.
R3: But he didn't have no steam, did he?
R2: No.
R3: That's steam.
I: That's that old Emil Johnson's farm, now the Johnson brothers are there.
R1: Yeah, that bridge there.
R2: No, this is not, this is not...Bommer's was self-twined, a big one...this is small...like Alston, same thing, 12 horsepower....yeah.
R3: That was strong horsepower because it had a long piston on it, see.
R2: Whatchacall that was a 30 horsepower on the pulley...and self-going, that's the first one, Bommer had it.
I: What was it like to work on one of those?
R1: Bommer had first one just like that, too.
R2: Yeah, yeah, but he got the steam, that's what was up there at Jack, where Heikkila's live.
R1: Kiviranta fired that, too.
R2: Yeah, but shit that's nothing, he come there...right across from Big Jim's, Tapper's...
R1: Well, this is 1910.
Yeah, I know, but I mean...

Mia Kiviranta came here 1908.

Hillyer... last Sunday they had, came there with a threshing machine... that was Bomier's... and people run from all over hell, I happened to be at Misula, you know, kid, I went up there... big bunch of people.

That was a big day at threshing.

That was a big machine, that was a big thresher.

We even skipped the school so we could see the thresher.

But you ought to see when the first Ford came here.

Here they got a gasoline motor, see, they're pulling on the belt to start the motor.

I: Oh, in Picture 22, right... do you remember using those, too?

Sure, yeah.

Yeah, we went through all that mill.

See, they didn't have no blowers on the dug thresher, they had elevators.

They had a threshing machine here... one time Bert Lein came, he came here, he was operating that Pelkie threshing machine that time... they had a fella by the name of Joe Kylkonen working for us, helping, drive the threshing, and Bert had lot of trouble with starting it... he first tried it with a turning the fly-wheels, see...

See, them little ones.

... couldn't get it going...

Little separator.

... so then this Joe Kylkonen lay down right on side, almost right on side there tractor there... laid down and put his hand like this, he told Bert, he said, "When you get it going will you wake me up?"

I: I bet Bert liked that, didn't he?

Bert was mad first, then he start laughing.

If we had field glasses I could probably know some of them guys, but, you know...

But Bert was good for...

I: Do you have a magnifying glass here in the house?
...hard because lot of them got too big of a herds for their property...had to be hauling hay from all over, big farming...farmers used to loan hay from one another, you know, when they was smaller...we rented ours for that Anderson, you know, there in the corner.

R3: You know they're laying off men now even at Pettibone.

Sure.

I: Like in Picture 23 the women used to work in the hayfields, too.

Oh, yeah, yeah.

R2: Mike Messner had all women rakers.

R1: Mike Messner, almost the richest man in Houghton County, all his workmen's wives were in the hayfield with handrakes raking the hay, you know, and doing it for nothing.

I: For nothing?

That's what they say.

I: Oh, while he was paying just the men.

Yeah, yeah.

R2: They worked just because he was just workingman's Messner, they were crazy to work for nothing...handraking all day long, women.

Woman used to cock bay, oh, they done everything like that...even some of them women used to cut hay.

R2: Yeah, he made his money, he scaled snow piles.

You know my mother? My mother and me and Matt...first year we moved here in 1901, me and Matt was by turns on the other end of the cross-cut saw and Mother was on the other end...we pulled that saw by turns.

Yeah, but this picture isn't too long ago because...

That's a fact, too, it's no lie.

...because this lady's got, them days, olden days, they didn't have no pants on a woman...that was a sin.

I: To wear pants?

Yeah...now they, see that picture, I know this is a more modern picture.

They didn't show their legs like they're showing them in the hip pocket, but you seen that in the radio...boy, they would see that, they would die.

I: Yeah...here's how they used to stack hay in Picture No. 24.
Yeah, yeah...I used to go with Dad. I was the oldest kid, you know, oldest boy, cross the river over here close to...there's a homestead clearing over there...across the river...Dad used to cut the hay with a scythe and I had to go behind and spread the hay to dry...and then when it was ready to put on a stack, they cocked them up first...and then when they, I forget what they called them, "takkavihta"...

R3: Oh, yeah, I don't know what they called them...

R1: Long sapling...oh, it was about, oh, 12 feet long or so...then Dad made out of a twisted brush...and something like a rope...and then on the end of that he made a hole like this and then he shoved that thing through...he used to carry about 4 or 500 pounds of hay on that, by the site there.

I: In a sling like over his back?

Yeah, over his back...and might have been, he was a very strong man, there might have been over 400, could have been 500 pounds of that hay.

I: What was that sling called?

I had to haul, help him to get it on his back and...

"Takkavihta" they call them in Finn..."takkavihta".

I: "Takkavihta"

R1: That's the kind of transportation they had for hay in the swamps in Finland, and then I had to help him on his back...although I couldn't do much but anyway he told me to give him a push...then when he'd get it by the site there where we going to make the stack...then he dropped his load there and he came around pitch some more...then when we made the hay stack then I had to be on top there tramping that thing down, there was a pole on there, we put a pole there...

R3: On the middle.

R1: In the middle...and against that, my dad told to pack that just as tight as you can get it around that pole...but there was a little bit different shape, it wasn't like this, it had to be a little bit wider on the top so it kind of shed that water off the hay.

Like a roof.

R1: But this, water was running all the time on this one right straight down, you know...and 'course, you know, kids are kids...I used to get a bawling out once in a while, too.

I: Sure.

R3: Kids, you know, they're a little lazy...let me see that.

Not lazy, but...couldn't get the idea of what he mean, you know.
Oh, I got to see this picture good.

I: Everyone stacked their hay that way in the early days, eh?

Yeah, early days, yeah, when they didn't have no barn or anything like that, then when you were out...you know where...who lives on that Hiltunen's old place...Matt, Art...who lives on that Hiltunen's old place?

There's that, what is that man...Brown?

Yeah, he just come in there couple years ago.

Yeah, I think his name is Brown.

Well, he used to make hay over there and...

He's a mechanic there, you know, in that new Volkswagen garage close to Chassell...he's a mechanic there.

Oh, here's a hay load.

I: Here, all of these pictures, 25, 26 and 27, show how they used to haul hay. There was a special knack in pitching a load, wasn't there, so it would stay on?

Oh, yeah, you had to spread it out and get it so it wouldn't split open, you had to make it so that if you bind the load while you're making it, you had to spread your hay all the time right so it would be like a one chunk.

Otherwise you're loading like young kids like we were...when they just made a big load with a fork, well, a bunch would slip off, you know, if you didn't spread that load good enough, you know, each pile they had to be just like one unit.

I: Did you ever lose part of a load?

Yeah.

I: Did that make your pa happy?

Yeah, it make everybody happy.

I: I bet.

Yeah, crackgrass was bad for that.

I: But you had to kind of pitch it in in a circle so it leaned in toward the center, didn't you?

No, you got it there, we had to spread it so it's even all the time...tap it around, see.

That's what that man is doing on top there.
I: He's tramping it down?

Yeah, and spreading it.

He's just finishing his load, otherwise he wouldn't have had that

I: They had some pretty good horses in those days, eh?

Oh, yeah.

They always were.

I: Did you ever operate one of those?

Yeah, yeah...we still got one over there yet...but it's got a tractor hitch on it now but we don't use it, though...it's a Deering.

I: That looks like it's an old mower, eh?

Yeah, it's an old mower.

I: What's it like to ride one of those things behind a horse?

That was kind of hard because there's no springs on them, only that seat got a little spring in it but...

It wasn't bad because you wasn't used to anything better.

I: But some of these farmers today if they had to sit on one of those things. Now they got and everything on them.

Is that Evert Larson?

I: Yup.

PART TWO

I: ...one of the Johnson's...Emil Johnson or Turunen.

I think Turunen, I mean, Ruona...Ruona, you know, he had a old Mogul...yeah, Mogul...and then Laird Township had a Titan...gas engine...Mogul was made by International Harvester Company, so was Titan.

I: How did that thing use to operate?

You should see that...gee whiz, I can't remember...

We got one up there in the bush.

Yeah, we got one up in the bushes there...binder...reel, they called this a reel this here...puts it on the table over here...and then she came up and through here and down in here and that's where it made the bundle...and then
it tied it up and threw that in the field.

You know where you can see a binder? I think they'd still have it...in that George Maki's home...remember when we looked for that cat, got away from our rear trunk.

I: That's Aksel Tepsa...that's a canthook he has in his hand, I believe, and he's loading big hardwood logs onto the Mineral Range...see where it says Mineral Range there?

Yeah, yeah.

I: Did you ever load them onto those...

I loaded this car hundreds of times.

I: That same car?

Rl: Same car, yeah...89.

I: What was it like to load that car? Tell me a little about it.

Rl: It's hard work...them days...this here, this is poor shape of a load, this here, see how it flattens as it goes...

They loaded logs long before that.

Rl: At Mass there, you know, we had jammers...but them days when this was done, well, they were using decking lines but this car was loaded in Palkie...they could get, roll the bottoms here by canthooks...see, and that was hard work, decking lines days but...

I: A decking line, that's a line that comes down and there's two lines and it hooks on the end of the log and the horses...

Rl: No, you throw, there's a spothook on one end and the other end...

R2: Throw it around the logs.

Rl: ...and you throw that around the log...

R2: Hook it on top.

Rl: ...and then you hook again back onto the car...and then the other end is, on the other side of the car, and then you hitch the horse on that line, then she pulls that log up by rolling.

You got a ginpole.

And then sometime two men, sometime, most of the time there's one man steering that log, you got to pull it ahead or pull it back so it go even onto the pile like this.
I: And the rope is constantly moving so the log's constantly rolling.

Hl: Yeah.

I: And you roll it right up the side of the car?

Hl: On top of the car.

I: Did you have some kind of a ramp?

Hl: Well, it didn't need any ramp when it got on top of the car the horses would pull it from notch to notch...that's a good picture.

I: You bet...where did you use to load this car?

Well, you see, it went all over the line here...we used to load it here at Hazel and we used to load it near Egypt, we used to load it at Gidding, we used to load it at Hazel and Pierce and Drew Siding...a lot of places we loaded...lots and lots of times I loaded that car.

That's mineral logs.

No, that's no mineral logs on that car...that's not a mineral load.

No?

That's a Mineral Range car.

Yeah.

But my dad bought that second-hand.

I mean stulls....then are going Calumet.

I: Quite an outfit, eh?

Yeah, must be about 100 years old.

Ivar Johnson...yeah, I loaded on that landing, hundreds of cars...yeah, me, Albert Torola, August Pelto...whatchacall that Tepsa, he worked there way after...that's Turunen's deck piled, I guess...I think.

I: That was pretty rough work, eh?

Is this the picture when they were putting the steel up?

I: I don't know, I just have the picture, that's that old Standard Oil building in Picture 34.

In '38 they pulled the steel out.

Hl: '38 they pulled the steel up.
I: Looks like there's an old truck there, I can't tell what kind it is, can you?

Looks like a little dump in there, looks like a little dump box we had there, doesn't it?

I: Looks like some kind of a tank...gasoline tank maybe.

Standard Oil Company.

Silvola.

I don't know if these are Ford logs or are these Matt Turunen's, I don't know which...I think they're Ford's...that's the time they had lot of decks in Pelkie.

Ford?

Yeah, when Matt Oja was jobbing.

I: Yeah, well, Matt Turunen was his partner.

Yeah, he was his partner...but he skinned him, too...that's what I heard.

I: How did that partnership work? Who did what? I heard Matt Turunen ran the actual business and Matt Oja kept the books.

That's what they say.

And I tell ya...Matti Oja screwed Turunen.

And Kemppainen?

They didn't have no belt, they didn't have no Standard oil station.

Sure they did.

I: Sure, that's what that is...that one and then here's another view...

Oh, that's right through right across Farmers Store...old Farmers Store.

That's a flat timber car.

I: That's some kind of a crane, I think.

That crane in that building now.

I: Over here in Picture 36, it was a very heavy storm and the train got stuck in Auhola.

Yeah, Auhola Siding, yeah, I can remember that...but I can't remember when it got stuck there, though.

I: I think it was around '35.
R2: That's right below...Mattson's there when you go over the hill...that's where that out.

There was lots of bears up on the hill before Auhola Siding came...lots of bear...you know, because it's sandy hillside, they can dig in there, it's dry.

That's the same time they came and by...

Herman there.

...by Kemppainen's...Ahti Kemppainen's place there...on that hill they'd be driving with horses, you know, that train didn't come over only twice a week then days, you know...and they'd be driving hay along that railroad track and hardened it up then, you know...after they got through from here, well, they thought then they could trip to Alston, that's as far as the train run, then days...and they come with a snowplow and they hit that hard spot, it jumped the track there, and the engine went in there, too...so one brakeman was walking towards our place for a telephone...so they had said there's no telephone at Waaisinen's, so they had to walk back to Peikie then, walk back to Peikie and...who was the fella, was Lease Peterson watching that night when that load come out of there?

Yeah, I think so, yeah

Maybe that's the same picture when, where is that picture he went....

It's a wrecker that you see it

No, but I mean that one what we was looking at last when...that wrecker might have been...

Yeah, that's a wrecker.

...on that trip.

I: I see.

I forgot what it was, Milwaukee train, first time Finnish singer was coming to the Copper Country, was fifty of them...and they got stuck on the main line, South Shore, Herman Siding.

Locomotive water tank?

I: I don't know what that is, I know they're trying to...

Yeah, that's a railroad...

I: They're trying to get it back up with a crane, that's all I know, it fell right off...do you think that was a water tank that was close to the engine?

R1: Yeah, that's what I think, yeah.
Let’s see...yeah, that’s a wrecker.

I: In Picture 38 you say that that’s where the Section crew, that’s their tool shed?

Yeah, that’s their tool shed, yeah.

I: They kept handcars and drills...

Handcars and tools and whatever they needed...and then they had a little bit of a shelf underneath in the basement...they went sharpening their tools and scythes and like that, them days, you know, they used to...every year they used to cut all the grass and weeds off of their Section street and with hand scythes.

Bill, what year was that when that there old country jag went in Milwaukee train and got stuck in Summit?

I forget.

That was the same week when...

I got to go to Alston.

...Charlie Nelson died in the barn.

I don’t remember...

And the snowplow was stuck there and we shoveled all...

...worked there for Matt Oja’s father once

I: Mama Oja?

Yeah.

I: What did you have to do when you...

Oh, we had to, took bad ties away and put new ones in and sometime level up the track and tamp sand onto the ties and...

That looks like Hamar Pelkie Siding, that looks like that potato warehouse.

I: That’s what it is, but that’s the one that was built in 1937 in Pelkie. What was the worst job in that, involved in that railroad track repair business? What did you hate most about that?

Tamping ties.

I believe he be all right but Mama was a man-chaser...I wasn’t too happy about that when...well, they watch them guys pretty close by the roadmasters and all them, you know...they had to produce.
Not Leese Peterson, though... he had to go... he used to fish with the walking Roadmaster... go fishing.

Charlie Milenich bought that Roadmaster...

Have a good kick in the hinder...

Lease Peterson and him, they used to violate, they used to hunt together at night, you know, and...

He used to come with a three-wheeled speeder, one of these hee-haw, he had his own speeder.

The old hand-car.

Did you ever drive one of those?

Yeah.

What was it like to do that?

Heavy work.

It was hard work.

Too many inside.

I'll tell you a story. Mother was just about to deliver a baby, you know, and I was over there around the country visiting... and I came home and old man was madder than a wet hen... "Where you been so long, where you been so long?... well, I had to tell where I were... says, "You got to go to Keweenaw Bay and get a doctor right away"... I says, "I can't do it alone"... there happened to be a visitor up here that time by the name of Lein...

Vainne.

... and he says, "You go with Lein... you go with him"... so it was already dark so we start walking to Pelkie. Dad says to go to Pelkie and take a handcar... so we went there, we got to Pelkie, there was a Section foreman by the name of Verville, Elsie Verville, very nice man, too... and, well, naturally all the lights there was in Pelkie, there was no electricity then days... the only lights they had was kerosene lamps... and there was a little lamp burning on one window there and that's the only lights there was, so I went and knocked on the door. Vainne told me to go there and knock on the door... and I went there and knocked on the door and first thing you know I could see a light figure when she was coming down the stairs and hang, I don't remember was it a lantern or a candle or what it was, came behind the door and, "Who's there, who's there?... I said who I am but she didn't know me... I said, "Is Mr. Verville home?"... "Yeah, that's my husband"... I said, "That's what I want to see"... so she called Mr. Verville down and, well, he knew me right away, you know, he says, "What do you want this time of the night?"... that was about, I don't know... 8:30 or 9 o'clock and I told him what, I said, "We got to get a handcar from you and go to Keweenaw Bay and
get a doctor, my mother is sick...so he heard the news, well, went upstairs or I don’t know where he went but anyway he put his shoes on and clothing on and he came over there Section what picture we were looking at there...he gave me the, oh, yeah, he asked me, "Are you alone?"...I said, "I got a partner"...he said, "Who is he?"...so I told him so he knew this Lein, too...so then he came over there and give that handcar...us two pumped that handcar nine miles to Keweenaw Bay and that was pretty hard work but we made it...so then I, naturally we lift the handcar off the rails and then it was my job to go and hunt the doctor but I knew where the doctor lived, you know, so I went there and that was everything, Keweenaw Bay had electric lights already...and I knocked on the door again, the doctor’s wife came to the door...and, "Who is there?"...I said, "I’m from Hazel Siding...I want to see the doctor"...so she went and the doctor came there and, well, he knew me, too, you know..."What’s your trouble?" he asked me, and I said, "My mother is going to have a baby and they want you to come over there and help"..."How you going to, what kind of ride have you got?"...I said, "There’s a handcar over there"..."I’ll come, I’ll get ready"...and he been gone maybe ten minutes or something like that, he was coming with his two little grips so then we started back and that’s 1½ miles from here to Keweenaw Bay along the old track...and we got here, it was after midnight already...and after, oh, he worked here about, oh, good half hour anyway or something like that...and we had to bring the doctor back, too...so we brought him back and then we had to bring the car back to Pelkie so the Section crew can have it in the morning...

And walk back...

...and walk from Pelkie here four miles...that was a nice little hike.

I: I bet you were pretty tired when you got home.

Al: I was but that wasn’t all yet...Mother wasn’t feeling very good...so naturally, I got home 3, 4 o’clock that morning...so then...what was I going to say...oh, yeah, I was in bed, naturally I was sleeping sound as a rock...old man came and chased me up, says, "You got to go to Alston and come back on the train and get a pint of whiskey from the saloon"...I done that...came back home, that train got here at 8 o’clock then...and I had the whiskey...Dad was worried if the saloon-keeper would give it to me ‘cause I was young, you know, but Willette knew us so he gave it to me...and I never forget that day...I almost got a beating from Dad ‘cause being so late coming back...you know, from my visiting trip.

I bet you were tired by then.

Oh, boy.

I wonder who’s standing on that handcar.

I: I don’t know...Picture No. 40, the bridge right behind Pelkie.

Yeah, Sturgeon River bridge...I walked through there many times, that’s when the flood broke all this here...and then way up in No. 40, that’s what, somebody been taking the Finnish history and they been asking Albert Pelto, "How
did Pelkie get the name?...so he had explained to him that there was a
tailor name from Chicago, Telkie, so he took up, that's in that Finnish his-
tory, that's bullshit...Pelkie is the one that we just said, Dunsmore and
Pelkie, used to be yard foreman for Thomas Nestor...then are the first one,
they carried the stove from Keweenaw Bay with parts...through the bush...
you know where them big balsams are...this side of Erickson's, across the
road.

I: Oh, yeah.

Well, that's Dunsmore's place, that stove is still there.

I: I got a picture of Dunsmore here.

Yeah, well, then that's...he had a Finnish wife, her name was Miss Pukkila,
'couldn't speak a bit of English but they got along good and Johnny was
born...lived with this woman three weeks in California and god-damn it at
the end he died of heart failure, don't know how, she owns that place now,
she's married to Narhi, Bill Narhi...I wouldn't touch that woman with a
100-foot pole, I wouldn't trust her no place.

I: Did you ever go swimming off of that bridge?

Yeah, we used to swim the Sturgeon...I seen...the first bridge was, yeah,
that's the one.

I: Do you know when they took that down? It was before 1915 when they took
that top structure down.

R2: Yeah...that was, you could only go through, had to be careful with the
whistle logs...we used to load logs here, this is taken in '41, eh?

No, that's just the number of the picture.

Oh...yeah...that's it...I seen water come over them rails, you couldn't walk
over...that's where Kyro...No. I got all washed out.

I: When was that again? Was this bridge totally washed out?

R2: No, no.

I: But the flood went over it, eh?

Yeah, but they had to renew it and then this was not long in operation when
railroad quit business in 1938, that was a helluva good bridge but that's,
it had to be took it away...automobile, truck and all that come in, began to
ruin it already...Model T trucks came first...yeah, I remember that.

I: That's that potato warehouse built right in Pelkie...built in 1937, WPA job.

Yeah, I remember and they built one in Bellaire Siding, too.

I: Do you remember who used to work on that building it?
No, I can't remember, well, there was many...mostly relief people...building it, you know, helpers...and that was built according to government specifications, Marsh's got a roof like that now in their new barn...but they only working on Saturdays or Sundays...yesterday they missed again and Sunday before they missed...too slippery and wet...Golden is the head man, he's a good carpenter, I got him up there from, he owns that strawberry farm...

I: Oh, that Golden...that's the Pelto homestead. Was that August Pelto? That's the one that's right back here, back of your place, back by Charlie Waisanen's.

Yeah, yeah.

I: Picture No. 43 and 44.

They burnt that down...I watched lot of deer out of there, they came here same summer but little bit later than we did.

I: Have you ever been in there?

Oh, yeah...we came, we were born on the same street...and we were born...this was built by Oscar Salminen and Frank Salminen, they built these...boy, they were axe men.

I: When was that built? About 1901?

Oh, no, that was built about...it was added to the old house, this is the first house and this was added...and then they built it, see, that's only got two rooms, here's a kitchen and here's a sitting room...all made out of cedar timber...some bugger burned it...it was burned about 1918.

I: That's a darned shame...do you remember that, Bill? That's the August Pelto homestead.

At Section 4.

Over here?

I: Right.

R1: Yeah.

R2: It looks different there, though.

I: And here's the sauna on that same place, before they were burned...Matt was saying that around 1918 someone had burned it.

Yeah, they burned it, burned that place, was good buildings there, too...was around 192-, between 1920 and 1930 they were burnt.

R2: Yeah, well, they know who burned it.

R1: This here picture...of a load of logs on a sleigh...I happened to visit the other morning through there so I'm in that picture, too, me and my partner,
Bill Porhola, that's Bill Porhola right there...

And Bill Erickson.

RL: Can't find my place over there anymore.....what was that Carlson's teamster's name, that...

Andrew Nelson.

Andrew Nelson, yeah, yeah.

Used to be on a car

Then there's Emil Olson over to the last one.

I: And who's the last one?

Emil Olson here and this is me and Bill Porhola and...I forget...no, that's me over here, that's me over there, that's Bill Porhola and I forgot, there's Emil Olson in there, oh, it might have been...trackman or, I mean, the road monkey.

I: Where was that picture taken?

Just a half a mile west from where you live.

I: Somewhere around Charlie Waisanen's clearing?

Oh, no, not that far.

RL: No, little bit farther up, close to where Ahj lives up there.

I: Oh, west of where I live right now, I see, I thought you meant...

R2: Carlson had camps there.

RL: Carlson had camps there where that one birch site there, that's where you turn into Larson's.

I: Yeah, who was this Carlson?

Gunnard Carlson, he was from Frankfurt.

Gunnard Carlson, he used to be a logger.

R2: Nice fella.

RL: Yeah, he was a logger.

I: What was he like?

Good fella, nice fella.
I: Did you ever work for him?

Yeah, four winters.

Oh, yeah, that's the winter we was working for him...he was jobbing for Worcester Lumber Company that time.

I: He was from Frankfurt?

Yeah, lower Michigan, yeah.

I: He was a Swede, evidently, eh?

Norwegian.

I: Norwegian?

Yeah.

His son, Carl, helluva good ball player and a nice fella...I heard he's married with a hotel keeper's daughter in Lake Gogebic...and we went by there and we should have stopped and find out if Carl's there...we used to play ball together, and the oldest boy was Lemming, he shot himself...and they had a girl by the name of Auma.

There's a picture, there'd be the picture from our place.

I: In between Waino Maki's and Larue's over there, across from where Lutey Hilliard's old homestead was...

Rl: I don't even know where Lutey Hilliard's....

I: It was burned...you know where the Froberg Road hits the Pelkie Road...0. K., right at that section, crossing, if you go west, oh, about a quarter mile on your left-hand side...

Oh, Hilliard had a homesteading there?

I: Yeah, Hilliard had, Lutey Hilliard homesteaded on the right-hand side...it's Evert Larson's fields now...but I think, I forgot the name of that house, it was quite a house at the time.

That man looks familiar but...

I: That was a "kirkkoherra" driving around. (Minister or church "big-shot")

You know where that probably was taken? Before Tepsa's come there.

Old-time cart.

I: Yeah, he was evidently a fairly well-to-do traveling "kirkkoherra".

What's his name?
I: I don't know.
Yeah, good picture, though.

I: And that's Picture 59, is Larson's.

Oh, oh...another good picture...we had a buggy like that, too.

I: What was it like to drive to town in one of those?

Good...yeah, 'course it wasn't like sitting down in a

Where did you get this from?

I: That's from Matt Oja's album.

R2: ei se Heidemann ole? (That isn't Heideman?)

R1: No, that is no Heideman.

R2: Tällä poikalla miehellä niinkö sota mies, to helmet senn se on samosena.
(This boy or man looks like a soldier, that helmet, it is like...)

I: That's how they used to have to travel over water.

...Pelto, remember that Pelto that was here, Waino Pelto...well, at his home
when the flood was all over his clearing, you know what the kids used to play,
horseshoe in the kitchen.

I: Holy smokes, no other place.

No other place...you was there, too, wasn't you?

Yeah...

I: That's how they used to travel.
Adolph and I was up there...and you know we started up in the Plains, see,
this is the swamp road...and somebody hollered, we got off that morning
train where that potato warehouse is now but it wasn't there then, way back
1909...somebody hollered, the train was switching and we just kept a coming
and we went that far in that ice water and we got half way and we pretty
near froze from that ice sprinkler was going...and we had a mile and a half
to come to Pelto's...so we walked back and our legs was all red...and flood
time...and we came with the raft all the way to August Pelto's, boy, that
was hard...

SIDE TWO

R2: ...pitch dark, no flashlights them days, you know...and by God that log hit
that, we went top that barbed wire fence, I tear all my pants, pitch dark,
and zigzagged the one up there in the pail when we came back we were all
wringing wet and Elmer said, "Go upstairs and change your clothes" and they
brought some rags for us, bunch of girls and boys still up in the house, too, whole family of them together, I tell you that water, and then few weeks after we went down there, we're swimming up there, a big lake where Tahtinen's live, you know, right there, William Murto used to live there before, and we were swimming there, Bill and I...

Is this by Erickson's?

I: Right...Erickson's, that's taken in 1926.

R2: Yeah, and that washed away, that's how we built that Horoscope Road, there was no road between Palkia, you couldn't go over...before the flood went down and then Laase Peterson and Oscar Hill built that.

I: That bridge there?

R2: Yeah...Baraga County paid for it...

Quite a flood that time.

I: Is that the bridge, too, same bridge? This all is, right?

R1: Yeah, that's the same bridge.

I: That used to be something, crossing that bridge around flood-time, eh?

Well, that's the old bridge road over here, see.

I didn't go down that bridge after that, I heard that the bridge is gone, I didn't go around that place so that's why I didn't notice that there was a foot-bridge on there.

But all the time in the spring crossing a bridge was kind of a dangerous proposition, I mean, looking at those men right there.

There's the old bridge you can see it.

I: Oh, yeah.

But this was gone, all the pillars are off of it, you couldn't go across, it was all shot...they didn't go deep enough with the cement posts, you know, down...but now it's a good bridge, they had a piledriver there, way down there about 80 feet some of them...when they found the bottom...others are less, hasn't moved an inch, it's a good bridge.

I: I think that picture No. 59, that was also an earlier Otter River bridge.

Yeah, that was the one that washed away, wasn't it?

Yeah, yeah.

I: When did that wash away now, that one?
1928.

'27 or '28, either one.

I: Well, I thought this picture here was in 1928.

Yeah, it was '27 or '28, yeah.

Do you mean this was all that's left of it or...

They put that after that...

They fixed it up.

Something like a pontoon bridge.

Yeah, they fixed it and the flood took that, too.

I: I see, this bridge went out in '27, '28, and they put up that temporary pontoon bridge.

And they went above and built the other pontoon, you know, pretty close there when the first... used to walk by foot from Larson straight up... but that Neil Pesonen... Carlson off that he wouldn't put his farm if it come around... he was a dirty rat, that Neil Pesonen.

I: That's Fred Paananen's car.

R1: Yeah, West Branch river there.

I: Do you remember that?

R1: Yeah.

I: Do you remember that day when that happened? Did you see that car there?

Yeah, I don't remember the day anymore but I remember the time... 'cause... there was... I happened to be at the bridge and there was that guy, that there... had to... the temporary bridge there then... and they were looking around, there was Ed Pelto there, too, and he belonged to the Road Commission that time, Ed Pelto... and there was some other guys, too, you know, I made a remark there, I don't think they liked it very good, when they was making fun out of Paananen drove in there, you know, I said, "There's no use laughing at Paananen, guys," I said, "the guys who was in charge of this bridge that time," I said, "they be shot in that car and drunk in there then, too..." they quit laughing.

I: Yeah, it was the fault of the bridge, that one there.

R1: Yeah, the fault of the Commission, yeah.

R2: *Kenenkä murhaalainen ukko....kenenkä paana tuo olli?* (Who is that murderous old man.... whose was that barn?)
Paanasen. (Paananen’s) Fella used to wear those whiskers.

I: Do you remember that truck? I hope you do, not many people do...that’s the Alston Store company truck in Picture 62.

International, I betcha...Charlie Heikkinen’s truck or Sander’s.

I: Do you recognize the man there?

No, I don’t.

I: Do you remember that store?

R1: Oh, yeah.

I: Can you tell me a little bit about that store.

R1: Well, the one that first operated that store and built the store was William H. Oakley from Ishpeming...and then he sold that to, he hired a clerk by the name of Gustafson from Calumet...first manager there was, his name was Clark, and he retired or not retired but he resigned and he went to out West, then they got this Gustafson from Calumet, he took charge and then they got another clerk there by the name of Cayanus, Charlie Cayanus.

R2: Is that Emil Heikkinen?

R1: I don’t know.

R2: They’re cousins with Sander Kinnunen.

R1: Not Emil Heikkinen, look like Ed Heikkinen...and they worked there...

R2: It could be or but could be Ed, he’s dead.

R1: They worked there until 1909 or 1910, then they bought the store from Oakley. They operated that store till, oh, close to 1920...or no, wait a minute, no, about 1914...then Gustafson sold his share to Charlie Heikkinen, fella from Nisula...and they operated that store until, Cayanus and Heikkinen operated that store until, oh, it was after the First World War...and then he sold his share to Alec Kinnunen...and Cayanus and Kinnunen operated that store for several years...till Sander and Cayanus got mixed up in ideas, you know, and so then who bought it then...Charlie Cayanus was running the business alone then, that’s what it was, yeah...and he was running it alone till...when did he leave from here, 192...

I guess Sander Kinnunen bought it out, he was alone then, Sander was.

R1: Yeah, after Cayanus quit when Sander bought it then...and Sander had it till it...when was it about 1949, 1950, when he sold away or was it after that, I forget.

I: And where is the store today, what location? Where was it?
R1: There's a little house, it's right on his place now.

He died here last fall, didn't he? Art Laplander.

Laplander died last spring.

I: Alston was quite a place in the early days, right, they had a sawmill there.

Yeah, there was a big sawmill there.

That was way after

I: Who ran that sawmill?

There was two different guys, first was...

Christiansen Lumber Company.

No, that was...what was his name from Baraga running that sawmill after it went busted...that big guy, what was his name?

Clausen?

No, no, no, not...he had a mill in Nisula first.

Was Clausen.

Clausen, yeah, yeah, Clausen.

Herb Clausen.

R1: Herb Clausen, he had a mill there and then he had a by the name of...
used to be a log scaler, veneer buyer from Baraga, used to be a bookkeeper for Nestor, too.

R2: Oh, what the hell was his name, he died in Newberry from flooring himself, he would buy birch, too.

No, he was a Warden...no, that was a different guy...Warden...yeah, he bought birch, yeah, yeah...and...

R2: What the hell was his name again.

And then Christiansen Lumber Company bought it...and then this Christiansen Lumber Company sold it to...what was that Jew's name?

Wendell.

R1: Wendell, yeah.

R2: He shot himself in Detroit, woman spent all the money in stocks, went haywire, went cock crazy, broke.
I: I understand there used to be some sort of theater in Alston.

There was a little theater...

His son is married to one of the Kuivinen wife's sisters...this here Wendell.

Ed Mili and some other guy put up that little show there, that didn't last long.

I: And there was a hotel in Alston also?

Yeah, John Willette Hotel.

I: John Willette?

Yeah.

I: And was there some sort of bar and saloon there?

Yeah...used to pull teeth there in the barber chair and I had two pulled, Dr. Hanna from Mass.

I: Right there in the saloon, in the hotel?

Next room, not right in the saloon.

R2: He asked me, he pulled it without anesthetic, I was a kid and I walked up there in the morning, he came in the morning train, you know, next train...he said, "What do you want?"...I said, "I should get couple teeth pulled"...I suppose he seen I was a little nervous and he said, "Did you ever drink whiskey?"...I said, "No"...he said, "I'm going to have one," he says, "you might as well come too," and he said, "give this boy whiskey"...and boy, it went up my head, you know, and then he put me in the barber chair and Buck Gillstrom held my head...and he pulled this one, three-rooter in there like that...blood was coming and he went other side and pulled the other one out...and I was spitting blood all the way down the track when I came on the Mineral Range there...no pain after...then he give another drink, he said, "Wash your mouth out with that whiskey and don't drink no water"...and I was coming down the track, every once in a while I spit blood...when that anesthetic died out that hurt but I got three pulled in Belgium...hiking in Germany in World War I, 'gainst the wall...one from here and two from down here...they was aching, just stand against the wall, another fella pushed against the chest and he pulled three of them out, no anesthetic, he just put some kind of iodine around it and put the tongues and twisted them out...and he went up there and pulled this and then he pulled this one...boy, did that hurt...no anesthetic.

I: Geez.

...yeah, that's a snowplow.

I: Picture 63 through 67.

R1: That's in Pelkie?
I: Right...those old V-plows, could they do a pretty good job? Looks like some kind of a truck...

Yeah, they did a good job, yeah.

That's by Oja's...Oja's store.

R1: Some of these trucks look like they were four-wheel drive trucks.

Well, they were FWDs...built in Wisconsin, there's still FWDs on the road...
this plow...

I: What does FWD stand for?

What is that again, Bill, FWDs?

That's initials for who makes the trucks.

Yeah, forgot the name of that...

I forget the name, what do the initials mean.

Yeah, that's a cable hoist.

R1: Here's Laase Peterson's garage.

I: Boy, he sure advertised, eh?

R1: Yeah, Laase Peterson's gas station, I meen.

R2: Yeah, but you went there and there was nobody home, he was on the road someplace.

I: He was quite a character.

No good, I never liked him.

I: ...Pesonen's woodpile there in '68...you know that man used to measure them down to 14 inches with a ruler, he got it down to the 1/16 of an inch before he'd cut it, he'd measure every piece.

14 inch?

I: 14 inch, I guess.

Neil Pesonen?

I: Yup.

He used to make them 16 inch them days.

I: That's a recent...

R2: He built rocking chairs...his daughter's married in that house right there.
I: That's right, I know her... he was pretty handy with wood, wasn't he?

Yeah, he was a half-ass blacksmith, too, yeah.

He lived to old age.

Crabby old guy, too.

I: That's what I've heard... he used to go out, he used to work that bucksaw on that wood and he'd measure each piece exactly and then cut it and then pile it up like that... that's quite a woodpile there... that's quite a knack piling that wood, isn't it?

Yeah, yeah.

Lot of them pile it standing up... little bit thin, like a rope, they dry faster that way... see, these middle piles don't hardly dry at all unless there's a foot of space like between, the air can get in there... especially you take poplar, you know, it's strict for rain... they won't dry at all, they "vetty" (soak), you know, they get... yeah, soaked, they gotta be far away from other piles where the sun can shine both sides, then they dry quick, morning sun.

I: That's quite a knack, I know, I started piling wood for Sulo Jokela and he shook his head, I was doing it the wrong way.

R1: And here they're sawing wood, eh?

I: Yup, that's Evert, Evert and his buddy there... making wood.

R2: Yeah, he's an old-fashioned guy, Evert is.

R1: Yeah, but he's a nice guy.

I: You bet.

R2: But he's tight, they don't throw money away.

I: I imagine.

R1: He's tight... with the chips.

R2: They got the money...

R1: But that's the right way to be, too.

He's got about 17 forties there... second growth.

R1: Here's a old picture... this picture was taken when Pete Hiltunen was logging on Sturgeon Hill up here... do you know where the old road used to go, the old Baraga highway... no...

I: By Schwalm's there.
I: Yeah, well, you know where that dairy farmer is there...what's his name, Heikka.

I: Heikkinen?

Heikka...not the Sturgeon Hill.

Yeah, on top of this that's where Hiltunen had his camps.

I: Which Hiltunen is this?

Peter Hiltunen from Nisula.

I: When was that taken about?

That was about 19...I'd say about 1911 or '12.

I: Do you remember that picture?

Yeah, I even remember, here's Mr. Hiltunen looking right here, that's him.

I: On the right-hand side, that's Pete Hiltunen?

Yeah, this fella with the fur cap on.

I: Can you recognize any of those other fellows?

Then this fella that's hanging up over here on the hill, he's that Oscar Hill...he was with Kakhonen when I was telling about, telling him that teamster knows that horse's tricks, you know...well, he's the guy on top there.

I: He's standing on top of that, I didn't get him in there too well, can you see?

And this fella is...what was his name now...his cousin's son was with me in the Army, too...I forget his last name.

I: Can you try to remember?

R2: Matt Saari?

He had a brother living up there close to Chassell, too.

Yeah, he died.

He took sick over here at Bert Lein's camp and they brought him to the hospital and he died over there.

What the hell was his name again.

I forget his name...horses a lot, that fella.

I: Bill, was he good?
Oh, yeah.

I: Good teammate, eh?

Oh, yeah... but these are over here, I can't place them anymore 'cause...

I: Try it with the glass, see if you can...

Yeah, but I mean I don't remember their names anymore... right here, John Niemi.

I: Oh, the one that's living out in Horoscope now?

No, no, no... he used to work for Manna Oja in the Section here one time...

Oh, yeah, I remember him.

Nick Niemi's brother... I can't place them two other guys.

I: Who did Hiltunen have a contract with at that time?

He was logging for Worcester Lumber Company.

I: About 1913, eh?

No, 1911 and '12, I guess...

I: I see... looks like a lousy load of logs they have there, eh?

Yeah, these are hollow, this is a hollow log, must be a cedar, I guess... you know, them days Worcester Lumber Company used to make cedar shingles, too, you know...

I: Oh, so they'd take cedar.

R1: ... so they'd take cedar logs.

R2: Yeah, but did they use Worcester's camps, Bill? Worcester had big camps there.

R1: No, Hiltunen built them camps.

R2: Not for Worcester.

R1: No, Hiltunen built them camps and that's when this...

I: Here, you want the glass, Matt, to zero in on that? Were you logging for Hiltunen at the time, were you working for him?

R1: No, I just, I wasn't working that time for him, I was staying at home that time.

I: What kind of man was Hiltunen?
Good guy, nice fella.

I: Did he know his business?

Oh, yeah, yeah.

I guess that's Anssi Wanhaenen, Bill, that teamster.

No, that's not Anssi Wanhaenen, bigger man than him...wonder if this is pulpwood or fence posts or what is it.

I: That looks like pulpwood, I've heard, and I think that's Bergstrom...

Art Bergstrom.

I: ...on that...maybe with the glass you can tell a little better, it's kind of hard, it's not too clear.

Yeah, they're just coming into the landing here.

I: Wait, I'll see if you can tell who that is first.

R2: Worcester had, you know where that there...what was that farm, Bill, wasn't it named on top of the Sturgeon Hill on the left?

I: Heikka?

Heikka, yeah...Worcester had camps there...Andrew Tolto was the foreman and big Johnson that run that restaurant in downtown, that hotel, he was a cook there.

I: This was right in the Pelkie landing?

No, I think that's at Kyro...that was in Kyro spur, just about a mile east, mile and a quarter east from Pelkie.

I: Now can you.

R2: No, I can't tell...that's pulpwood, I think, 4 foot...that's about 3 cord load...looks like, I wouldn't know...

I: I heard it's Art Bergstrom.

R2: Sitting down there?

I: Yeah.

R2: Could be...that might be in Pelkie, too, but not landing, it's taken on the road...Worcester had camps there, when you used to come from Berega, night train, we used to walk...and then have coffee in that Heikka's place, big camps there...and then the other side of camps at Hamar Siding...

R1: I don't know that.
I: That might be a man that worked for Turunen, he was a real good teamster, and he had a crooked leg.

Oh, yeah.

He worked for Bert Lein, too.

R1: Yeah, he stayed at Bert Lein's a lot, too.

I: What was his name?

R2: I forgot.

I: We're trying go get his name.

They was even trying to, there were people saying, "It's funny they leave a cripple like that come to the United States."

R2: And happy falls...and Bert took mercy on him, he...you go to Bert Lein's, the boys can remember him.

I: Sulo might know him?

R2: Oh, yes.

I: I guess he was really quite a teamster, he really knew...

That's all he done around here 'cause he was lame like that, that's what he do is driving team.

I: But evidently he could really handle horses.

R1: Oh, yeah, yeah.

I: That's a pretty nice load of hardwood there, isn't it?

Yeah...that's a big load

Yeah, he was a, he died long time ago...is that him driving that team?

I: Yeah...that's one of Matt Turunen's sleighs.

R1: We used to watch when he come down from a load, you know...

That's Bert Lein's team.

...he was hanging on the to get down on the ground.

That's Bert Lein's team, ain't it?

I: No, that's Turunen's team, I believe.

But this looks like that wonderful horse Charlie...and then when he got in the old age, he went one morning, Bert went up in the field, he was dead... life was too easy, oh, he was a...yeah, this other horse looked like Charlie's mate.
I: Do you remember those horses?

Well, no, there's so damn many horses, pretty hard to remember them...teams all over.

I: That's in Picture 73, that's a river drive. If you look closely in the glass you can see a man standing on a log there in the middle of the Sturgeon there.

Oh, yeah, I can see that, he's got a peevee or something on his hand there, yeah.

I: Did you ever see the drivers go by on the river?

Yeah, we seen them...they used to drive through here, too, on West Branch.

I: What was it like to see them go by? What kind of men were they?

Just ordinary lumberjacks, that's all.

There was Holappa from Chassell.

And you know them olden days, there were old country guys coming over here from different countries...well, they were mostly the guys that done that job.

R2: Wonder...beautiful team...was that a log drive?

I: Yup, there's a guy right there in the...

R2: Yeah, there in the water, yeah, I see.

I: So those were the old country guys, the guys came straight from the old country.

R1: Yeah, well, yes, and they come from Canada, Frenchmen come from Canada, you know.

Yeah, we had a good one here, remember Pah-tiju-isi, one-eyed guy...slippery "sypäks" (boots) up here, was Arvela spikes in his shoes if he would have got drowned and he jumped on the logs over there changing, got him by the shoulder and pulled him out.

Whose is this outfit here?

I: I think that's one of Oja's camps, Turunen's and Oja's camps. Did you ever stay in one of those camps?

R1: No, no...Art might have been, Art used to work for them.

Yeah, well, that's where whatchacall Mrs. Oja's brother was shot, Eilola, Turunen's camp, is it?

I: Yeah, Oja and Turunen were partners there.
Oh, that's up Wickstrom's but...

Oh, I have been at these camps.

I: Maybe you can shed a little light on this one, Picture 76.

No, I haven't been there either...that been a big layout.

I: Is that the Fox Company out of Alston? That's what Evert thought, he didn't know for sure but he thought it might have been 'cause it looked like a pretty permanent...

No, not in Alston.

I: Maybe Matt might...quite an outfit there.

Might be in that Fox's Camp 10, Camp 4, Camp 6...and then they had a camp here on side of, what is called M-38 now.

I: Who was this Fox guy?

He was from Iron Mountain, they had a big sawmill over there.

I: Was he a pretty good man, did you know him?

Well, what we done deal with him everything was all right...

This could be one of them big camps...but this is not where O'Meara lives, that was one of his small camp on the 38.

Yeah, that was a small camp.

Bill, O'Meara lives there, I don't...

That Camp 10 wasn't big camp, they wasn't in tiers like this, they were on a hillside over there...

I: Who did he have contracts with? Fox.

R1: They had their own sawmill.

Up Iron Mountain.

R1: Yeah, at Iron Mountain.

I: They hauled the logs all the way to there, eh?

Milwaukee train took them, train.

They shipped them by rail.

I'll tell you, this looks much like Porterfield's camp in Porti...first big camp...but I don't know.
I: Skid......outside?

   No.

I: A haircut?

   No, but we done lot of saw filing on the stove.

   You see him sitting on a chair there.

I: Oh, he's on the chair, yeah.....looks like it's taken at a lumber camp....
   maybe you can tell me a little bit about that picture, No. 78...it says
   Short Stuff Logging Company, I don't know, it may be a joke or something,
   do you know any of those fellows or have you ever seen that picture...I got
   it from Theresa Erikainen.

   You know where this is taken?

I might know the guy.

   Jack Maki's place, Pelkie, he used to be a barber...mikä se oli se' (who
   was he), he died of heart failure...remember, Bill...he built that Jack Maki's
   what Raymond Maki owns it now in Pelkie.

Wähämäki.

   Wähämäki, that's him...see, that's the door that goes in the house, old house,
   it's...

I can't place this guy...eyes are faded, I mean shaded...

I: Right, you can't.

   That's taken by Wähämäki, that's what that is, he used to barber right on
   front of the house...on the farm there, wintertime...he cut sometime 20 heads
   in a day...he charged a quarter...and his brother was an expert but his name
   was Long, he was a barber and that's where John learned but he was a miner,
   he used to be with C & H...and one of the boys married Matt Oja's sister...
   Minokki boy...and one was a cripple, he died, he was a big boozer, kind of
   a cook, that's his home right there...I'm pretty sure, Wähämäki...I'm going
   to take that glass and look at that man.

   Sawmill layout.

   He's got button shoes on, this fella.

PART THREE

I: ...Kuivinen in Picture 80 there...do you recognize any of those other fellows?

   I think the other one is Bill, but...

   Bill was the oldest one.
Yeah, I know, but Charlie died heart failure...and Maki lives in that place now, he retired from Detroit.

Charlie died of heart failure.

Yeah, yeah, but that he's married to his sister and he got that farm...on 38 there...yeah, that's Charlie who died.

I: Ever seen that camp? That's one of Turunen and Oja's camps

I never was in Turunen's camps or Oja's camps...no, this must be Turunen and Oja.

I: It is...you ever been in that camp?

That's the last camps he had, yeah...Matt Oja's sister left from there with bunch of guys and one of the guys got shot there by Pelkie Cemetery...Kemppainen boy, Leslie.

I: How did he get shot?

His cousin shot him, Waino Kemppainen...argument in the car.

I: Where was that camp?

That's cross the road, I forgot how far it is.

I: Close to Bill Maki's home?

R1: Close to dam.

Close to the dam...but Matt Oja had different camps where he was last...that's where they left...like a line is there, that's where they were.

I: Here's their fleet.

You mean where you live now?

I: No, this was that trucking fleet, Turunen, Oja and some other trucks...lined up in Pelkie there.

R2: Yeah, they're the old type, small trucks.

I: What's going on in...

I forgot that jobber, that was no...he was a jobber hauling logs.

Small tractor towing truck load.

I: And there's some kind of a crawler tractor.

Yeah, well, this is, they're towing that logloads over behind there.
I: Do you remember those days?

R1: Yeah...or maybe they're loading that truck, either one...you don't see no jammer there, do you?

I: No.

They're lined up waiting for their load.

I: That can't be too old of a picture, it looks like a fairly modern truck, eh?

Yeah.

I: That's one of Matt Oja's trucks going out with a load of mighty big logs... what do you think those logs are?

R1: Pine, I think...these big ones are pine...these small ones are pretty small for pine or stuff like that...hardwood very seldom runs that big......but I seen hardwood, I even had to help to roll it off the sleigh...Beckman brothers had here, they got it to Gidding Siding, birch was...I forget was it 14 or 16 feet long, and it would have scaled, it was a little bit flat...it scaled 1,000 feet...that big birch...but then I forget was it 2 inches or inch and a half smaller the other way so it wouldn't scale 1,000 feet the regular measure....that's the biggest birch I ever saw...I seen a soft maple that was 31 inches from the top, 16 feet, yeah.

I: This is the remains of Gunnard Carlson's old camp just before it burnt down.

Yeah, yeah.

R2: Oh, Strand asu siina se haussl (Oh, Strand lived in that house.) Strand used to live there...he lost that place for government mortgage...yeah, that's Gunnard Carlson's.

I: You ever been in that camp?

Yeah

I: What was it like in there, looks like a real small camp, eh?

It wasn't big, his camp was, oh, about 20 men, like that.

Yeah, and he fed good, boy...just like Finnish food, you know.

But lot of farmers come around work at camp and stay at home, you know, they working by the day...

R2: He didn't make much money but he surely was a nice fella...always wore a fur cap.

I: A what?

R2: Fur cap.
R1: Fur cap.
He was already old when he was up at the last camp.

I: He was a pretty fair man, eh?
Yeah, then when I got a order, I was working there, two of us got a order
to come to the Draft Board in Houghton in 1917...and we went there then...
then beginning of 1918 I left here on March the 1st, 4th...and we had to
leave there...had to run around Copper Country so we both quit...and I sold
my Savage and still we didn't go till next fall, 1918.

Is this Nestor's old mill?

I: Right, that's the old Nestor mill in Picture 90...there's a boom of logs
there.
That was a fast mill...this made for softwood.
Ennis was that guy's name what trying to think of, Frank Ennis.
Frank Ennis, yeah.

I: Which one?
The one that was running that mill with Clausen up here in Alston.

I: Did you ever see that mill, you fellas? Nestor's Mill?
Yeah, yeah

R2: Yeah, we seen it, we shipped logs there...they had their own cars on the
railroad, Russell cars, only one tier on them...Thomas Nestor.

I: Was he a pretty fair man?
Yeah, that's where Pelkie used to be yard boss, that road that went right
across...
Yeah, well, we were satisfied...was better than Worcester.

R2: Charlie Orgie was the scaler, he was a good man.

I: Can you describe a little of what's in that picture, some of the more features
of that?
Well, I'll tell ya I was a kid when I was in Bearage, you see, that mill burnt
down...it was around 1908 when that thing burnt down.

I: Oh, it must have had quite a fire.
Oh, yeah...that's when the machinery was brought to Alston...

R1: That old machinery was brought to Alston then around 1921, I guess...something
O.K., there's another one, here is the Hilliard mill.

Yeah, that's Funke's old mill.

Yeah, that's Funke's old mill.

Funke owned it? Isn't it the same mill as Nestor's?

No, not this...this is the Funke mill and that was the Nestor mill.

Oh, they're in different locations?

Different, yeah, different sites.

Well, that mill is now right the location where All-Wood mill is in Baraga.

First it was Funke?

Yeah.

And then?

Hilliard.

And then?

All-Wood....that's All-Wood now.

All-Wood built a new mill in there now.

Yeah, that's already in the railroad days there.

But the road goes through the old yards and everything, you know, that highway used to go through Baraga, don't go through Baraga no more, it shift over...where Catalina Restaurant now, that used to be mill sites in all them places...

Where was the Nestor Mill then? I'm confused.

Little ways up from that there, that's a big outfit...little ways up from that where Monkey Ward store was.

Remember where the old railroad depot used to be?

Yeah, where the stamp...where that dock is?

Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's where part of that old Nestor Mill but the mill itself was built towards L'Anse from there, just a little bit...but that was where they load the ships on that and also they would have some of their lumber stacked up, too.

Oh, that was a real big outfit.
Oh, yeah, that was a big outfit.

And then left of depot was that there Funke Mill...and they left $6,000,000 when Nestor died and the girl and the boy when they come up around Baraga.

Is this Baraga?

I: Yup, that's Baraga about 1890.

They went to Monte Carlo and they come back broke...same as Morrison...yeah, that's Baraga.

I: Baraga looked pretty busy in those days, can you recognize any of those shops or...

I can't tell...a lot of them are remodeled...like this building here, it's not...yeah, I know this place...that's the Side Track Bar right there.

I: Which one, that second building right there?

No, this one.

I: The first building, eh?

Yeah...Ernest Ramm run a, the whole picture is not on this...Ernest Ramm run a restaurant there when Zenith Lumber Company run that Thomas Nestor camp, big mill...from Milwaukee...right there, that belongs to Juntunen's...and I think Gauthier's Store is about there, used to be in Pelkie, I'm not sure, but...these places you can't see very well...there's lot of these are exchanged, you know, taken away...that's a old horse and buggy around 1910 and down there.

I: Do you want the glass on there?

I can't see very good, even...my eyesight's kind of dim.

I wonder if this is the corner building right here.

That's what I say, it's the corner building.

I: Where the Side Track...

R1: That would have been the Company, Nestor's office, yeah...if that's the corner building that'd be Nestor's old office.

Oh, yeah, the road is changed now, yeah, it was Thomas Nestor's office.

I: Right there, that very first building in the corner.

Yeah, right here if this is the corner, yeah.

R2: It's the corner of the old, where you turn in for Honeymoon Hotel, that's Nestor's office, yeah, yeah.
I: See, right here if they would have taken a full view on the corner on the hill here there was a bandstand also...but that bandstand been out of there for a long, long time...so how early this supposed to be?

I: I'm not sure, I think it's in the 1890s...but I can't be positive.

Well, wait a minute, is this street running north or south?

I: That's looking south, I believe.

No, west and east.

No, no, that's south...the road that starts from Baraga this way, that's west.

Yeah, yeah...but going to Houghton it's west, too.

According to me, that's going north and south...so this Nestor's office would be on this side of road on the corner, yeah.

Yeah, well, that's on the old Honey Hotel road, see, the 38...

I: Sam Rajala there in the upper left-hand corner.

Yeah, next to the corner.

I: Recognize any others?

You know he was teaching Sunday School, he was a big...

There's old man Erikainen over here.

I: Where?

Right there, right there.

I: The man with the cap and the mustache on there?

Yeah, yeah...there's some of the young fellas I don't remember even.

I: Who's that old man with the beard there...in the right-hand corner.

Gee, I couldn't tell you that one.

 Probably that's that old Erickson...Emil Erickson's father.

Might have been, I don't know.

I: Do you remember who the pastor was there?

No.

I: That's a very old one, isn't it?
Yeah, and this here is that there Miina that had that station in Baraga, too; what was that... Tiina or Fiina or something like that.

I think that was married to...

She used to be a teacher at Suomi Opisto.

I can't remember.

Yeah, that's her right there.

I know who you mean.

Oh, yeah, who built that there motels there on the lakeshore.

Yeah, West Wind Motel.

And then their daughter was teaching in Alston... they're both dead... Monkey Ward office there, you remember, well, that's the place.

That there... the fella with the mustache...

I: That's Jack Johnson or John Johnson?

Jack Johnson.

Where is John Johnson?

I: ... used to make ice on the Sturgeon with a crosscut.

RL: Yeah, we used to do that, too.

I: Where would you do it?

RL: On the West Branch here.

I: What was it like to do that? Tell me a little about that.

Well, only thing it was wet and that ice was heavy... heavy cakes.

Yeah, and then you had to watch that your saw will freeze there tight, you got to keep moving.

I: That's pretty hard on the saw, isn't it?

No, but it's slow going.

It all depends how deep the water was... if you hit the bottom with the saw then that was hard on the saw.

I: What about the guy underneath who was on the other end of the saw, that was pretty rough on him, eh?
Rl: Yeah.

You mean underneath? Yeah.

I: Well, how would you get it out of there once you cut it?

Lift it out with tongs.

Rl: Try tongs, ice tongs.

I: Big ice tongs, eh? And you'd get it up onto the sled...what size blocks would you cut?

They cut them...

24...

24 by...

Rl: It all depends on the thickness of the ice.

R2: Somebody 24 and lot of them cut them square, lot of them cut them little bit longer and about 24 inches, pretty heavy work with them, you put them up with skids because it's wet.

Rl: We had some company visiting here and Arthur Jolgren was here, he was a pretty good man with mouth you know, and then there was some schoolteachers here too living...so we were asked what we been doing today or something like that, you know, and Art said, "I been cutting ice today"...teacher said, "You been cutting ice?"..."Yeah"...he said, or one of them teachers asked him, he said, "How do you cut ice?"...he says, "There's two men cutting ice"...he said, "Is there a fella cutting the ice, too, from the bottom?"...Art said, "Yes, that's what I been doing today."

Under the water.

Rl: "Under the water," Art says, "All day."

This is around 19-, below 1920, taken.

I: How would you store that ice then?

Put sawdust between and then pile it...always put sawdust.

I: How much sawdust did you have to cover that...

Rl: About an inch.

I: Just an inch and that would hold it?

No, but you got to put more on top and they got to put, you got to...
And on the ends, then on the ends you gotta have, oh, four, five inches.

You don't have too much of a pit because...it begins to drip water, you know, when the ground gets warm...should be concrete bottom in there...it's a lot of work when...all your pails and everything what you bring, they're all wet, you know, same as ice box defrost, you can't defrost them damn places...and then when you open it up it begins to melt and it won't last all summer.

I: But it goes into June and July, eh?

R2: Oh, it goes, yeah...it's a big bother...they are handy but now this electricity is so damned high that might as well shut them off.

I: Go out and do that again, eh?

Yeah...you got good ice water and you got a big cupboard, don't need them. regular ventilated, you know.

I: That's a Watitalo at the Grist Mill.

Watitalo?

I: It's one of them, I don't know which one.

Oh, it must be...

Paul...wouldn't be Arvo.

Kaino, I guess.

I: That's an old picture.

That's Kaino because he's got shoepacks on.

I: That's right...I've heard that said...that's Kaino Watitalo?

R1: Yeah.

I: Can you describe a little about that mill there, what some of those things are in that picture?

R1: They had a mill there, they could make lumber and...

R2: Siding.

R1: ...and shingles and they had a grist mill there and attached to the same building, they made flour and like that, yeah.

I: Pretty big business there then, eh?

R2: No, down in that gully, hill of a place, talk about mud and everything, I had a hard time getting out of there...I was there deer hunting season.
I: Did you have a hard time getting out of there?
You bet, but I had a good team and got out.
He had a midget model flour mill there, made flour.
Is this Kaino Walitalo?
Yeah, that's Kaino.
Yeah, he died long time ago...then brothers are all gone.
I: That's Evert Larson in 1917, I believe.
Nice buck.
I: You bet, do you remember when Evert looked that young?
R3: Yeah, he was a good-looking boy.
I: He was quite a hunter in his day.
I met him up there many times
I think he still got that gun, too.
I: You met him in the woods?
Yeah, many times...when you're young you can hike long in a day, used to bump into one another out in the woods.
I: I imagine you were pretty happy to see another face sometime out in the woods.
Oh, yeah, but...
I: I don't know who those are, all I know is the boys had to wear those knickers and it wasn't until you went to confirmation school that you got your long pants....I don't know who that is.
Well, there's somebody knows these but then I suppose the party whose kids they are they got the pictures taken...and they pass them to a neighbor or something like that, you know.
I: Do you have any idea who that is?
No, them fellas got their faces down, I can't make it, I don't know the women...maybe Art knows.
I: Sure you don't know them?
No....who is this?
I: Urho Erikainen...do you remember him?
Why, sure, he used to be most of the time up in our house.

He used to work for us a lot.

I: Was he a good worker?

Yeah, he worked hewing ties.

Good for hewing ties, too...and then at last he was making a history.

I: What finally happened to him then after he quit hewing ties and went to work on the farm.

Yeah, he went to farm.

He went to farm and then when Theresa came there, well, I don't know, something went wrong so he went out there and lived by himself, working for Niemisto and he worked around South Laird up there...

That was Urho's fault...he built a nice big barn there, you been up there?

I: Yes.

Then when Theresa came from Chicago with Urho's brother, they were married, he was working in Chicago and Theresa left there and then when his brother came back they got a place of their own and by God Urho started to take history like you are, you know, but he was taking history, forgot the farming, then cows looked like bunch of skeletons, they're half starving, and that's they went to the court and Urho can't even stay a night in his own room...and Theresa got that place.

I: That's what I heard, that's what Urho told me, too.

Yeah, well, that's lot of Urho's fault...you got to have the lines and bridle when you're dealing with things like that...and there might be something else to it, too.

I: Yeah, I heard.

R2: I guess she was, I never had use for that goddamn big woman, she's a big liar...

Who is this, Art?

I: I know who that is...you know him, Bill?

Looks like Dr. Lancozy.

I: That's William Pelkie.

Old man Pelkie?

I: That's William Pelkie, right.
I: Yeah, I never seen him.

R3: And his family, you're looking at him right now, that's a very rare photograph.

I: Yeah, that's Pelkie and there's three girls and the mother.

R3: 'cause we were up the dance over there at Bellaire Hill.

He called quadrille there.

Yeah, Pelkie and there's three girls and the mother.

No, he wasn't there but his wife...she used to jig...yeah, she was pretty good at it, too.

But he was short-winded but them girls were good looking.

They're all handsome girls.

Yeah, I never seen old man but Mrs. Pelkie I have.

The road from Jackson's, you know, to Erickson's.

I: Yeah.

There was a cement, I mean, a board porch and they sit there and highway goes you stop few times and they give you tea and all that.

That's a real good picture.

We used to go Pelto's farm, Sturgeon...

I: You'd stop over there and have tea with them?

Yeah, they were nice people...

I: In a little tea cup?

He'd breathe and...that's what sawdust got him.

I: In his lungs, he had bad lungs from sawdust?

Yeah, short-winded...yeah, he's the first man that came to Pelkie, carried the stoves from parts from Keweenaw Bay with John Dunsmore...he gave that two forties for winter's work for John Dunsmore and they split the claim... they got, his logs went for nothing, somebody stole them.

R3: And Worcester Lumber Company...

I: I heard about that.

That way...he gave two forties with John Dunsmore and kept two himself.
I: I heard that they lost their first year's work in those logs... they already put Worcester's mark on it, sent them down the river and when they told, no, Nestor's mark, and when they told Nestor that their logs are coming down there, Nestor said, "Where are they? All these logs here have my mark on them." Pelkie used to work for him, he said, "I put your mark on them up on my place, floated them down the Otter, you know"... and never got the money for them.

No, no, no, that's what happened, yeah.

Yes...logged for him through pine, see, and goddamn it, you know, he worked...

I: Do you know who that man is? That's John Dunsmore.

Oh, boy

Onko se Dunsmori? (Is that Dunsmore?)

Yeah.

He used to cut pigs and everything, go around...

Yeah, Bert got a section here.

I: Cut pigs?

Yeah, castrate them.

He used to castrate them.

He cut here many times.

He was a good old man.

Yeah, he had a Finnish wife.

Pukkila, her name was.

I: Pukkila?

Iina Pukkila... John Johnson got him, he said, "I need a wife" and he said, "Come with me to Baraga" and they went down and when they come back he come back with a Miss Pukkila.

I had some business up his place so he was working outside... I think he was around the cabbage field, and he said, "Let's go in and have some coffee"... you know, we used to give him coffee when he'd stop here... "Let's go and have some coffee"... so I went in the kitchen and he said, "This is my wife but you got to talk loud to her, you can talk Finn to her, you can talk English to her", then he says to me, he says, "Talk Finn to her" so I didn't talk very long, well, she says, "Hah" and "Talk loud to her" so then I talked louder and then we got into a conversation.

I: What nationality was Dunsmore?
F3: Scotch.
    Yeah, he was Scotch.
I: What was he from originally?
    I don't know.
    I think he came from Scotland.
I: Was he a pretty good man?
    Oh, Number One.
    Oh, yeah, he was a good guy.
    Them people were good, Pelkie and him.
    You went there any time, there's a big pot of bean stew...and good.
    First time we went there...
    And he raised lot of peas, pea soup.
    ...I think Matt was with me, first time we went to Bellaire up there, that
    was 1907...
    These are what names should be on the Pelkie big...
    You darn right.
    ...reservation place, not Biekkola...this fella Biekkola never carried no
    stove but he carried stove parts through the bush...
I: What were you saying, Bill? You went over there once in 1907?
    Yeah, we wanted to go visit Pelto's up there on the Sturgeon River so we did-
    n't know how to go there so we asked Dunsmore then where's the road...we did-
    n't know that road was over there through Pelkie's farm that time, see...so
    he says, "Just walk right through that field over there," and he says, "when
    you get across the fence turn to your left and you'll find a road over there."
    Boy, he was a nice guy, yeah, he had always a good word to say.
    He was a real prince.
    Yeah, he was a real man.
I: Do you know that man? Picture 110, he lived back there in a little shack by
    Charlie Waisanen's...he was quite a trapper.
    Oh, Dorphy.
    Bill Dorphy.
I: I bet Matt knows him.

No see se on, yo, Dorphi mies. (That's who it is, yes, the Dorphy man.)
You got Dorphy's picture?

I: You bet.

R3: He's got an owl in his hand, yeah, snow owl, see, Canadian snow owl
He used to work for us, too.
He's the biggest liar that ever walked on two legs.

I: Was he a BSer?

R3: Yeah.

I: Tell me a little about him, I'd like you to tell me some stories about him.
I heard he was quite a character.

Yeah, well, Bill can tell more about him.

I: Can you tell me about Dorphy?

R1: Dorphy...we were over there peeling bark up in the bush over there and he was
going up there to Matt Oja's camp, he was a watchman up there, you know...so
I met him in Houghton in 1916...I was working up there at Copper Court myself,
and he met me at the street over there...so...

SIDE TWO

...was acting as an interpreter, see, and this fella was staring at Bill all
the while, you know... ?

I: Wait, Bill only spoke Finnish and you were the interpreter and Bill was really
"likkered up"...

R1: Yeah, not too bad but he was "likkered up" that he was talkative, see...so
this guy was looking at him all the while and had kind of a grin on his face,
you know...so then Bill told me to tell him to ask questions...he says, "I
really need money...I haven't got no other income...I ain't able to work, I
didn't get my paycheck yet"...so this guy tells me to tell him that, "You
don't need no money today"...so naturally Bill got mad...so I said, "Hi tan"
ssa kirota"...(You can't swear here)...I said, "Se on paljon parem etta lahett-
tan siivosti pois"...(It is much better that we leave quietly.)...paassimme
ulos pois, Herrä, (we got out of there, Lord), boy, he start swearing...and
I said, "Bill, I told you before we went in there," I said, "place you got
business like that you got to be sober...and I could see from your face al-
ready before we went in that saloon that you had some in here"...and he quit,
he didn't say anymore.

I: Did you ever go in his shack over there?
I didn't go in that shack much, you know, once he was in his trap line for
three days, he covered lots of territory, that guy...he knew his timber...and
then, you know, this here...he had put on some bark over, two trees had
fallen from one stump, you know, you know how those trees pull together...it
was on a hillsiade and he made a hole in there between them trees and that's
where he stayed a night...yeah...and then, you know, then he was staying in
Turpeinen's, Eli Turpeinen's home, and he had said, you know he was kind of
big liar, so they didn't always believe what he was talking, he said, "Kyllä
minä löysin ellen sitte ison kuparin paikan"...(I found yesterday a big copper
place.) You know, he found a big bunch of copper...and he said that, you
know, Abrem Koski was a trapper, too...and he was a younger man than Bill...
so, "Minä minä tuota usko"...(I don't believe that.)..."Ete usko, lahet katto-
maal"...(If you don't believe, go and see.) So they went, he went and see...
and he said there was about 30 foot long, he said it was covered up with moss,
see...and he said that he was going to set his traps in there because the
moss cover, you know, you can put moss over your traps and he said when he
pulled that moss off, he said, there was pure copper underneath, a big, long
stretch...and the water was, it was on the bottom of the creek, see...and so
Koski come interested too, you know...then, you know, either one of them had
no money...either one couldn't speak English...and so...but, you know, nobody
don't even know today, both of them died, you know, and nobody knows where
that place is...and I got a pretty good idea where that place is and I went
there one day with a guy up there in Motley...I went with Henry Storm...Henry
said that, "My dad"...there's a huckleberry swamp in there...not very far
from this Winona road, you know, probably about a mile in the woods towards
Motley...but anyhow I went to Storms and I told, he told me that, Mrs. Storm
told me that Henry...last year before he died, you know, it was the Model T
days, Henry died then, it wasn't in the Model T days but this happened in
Model T days...he said, "Me menimme aine mustikkasumpen ja he ajatalli
etta miksihka tuo paperipuu laja"...(We went to the berry swamp and we wondered
why that pulpwood pile...).you know, the pulpwood pile...why it's standing
there and everything else is taken...so then they looked by the pile about
five feet away, they didn't want to drive their horses because the water was
so much water was in that swamp, you know, it was soft...and they looked in
there, you know, and he seen a chain in there, in that water-hole, see...so
they pick up that chain and when they picked up that chain, the chain had
changed all golden color...see, in that acid water, see, your copper acid,
they'll change any steel into copper...so he said they had that chain for
memory because, you know, 'cause it was so beautiful, you know, it was a
new chain, had been a new chain...but they don't know how long that chain
been in that water.

...used to stay lots in Koski's, you know Hubert Koski?

I: Yeah, I met Hubert Koski.

Yeah, well, he knows about Dorphy more than we do because he used to stay
when they used to, they used to live across the Otter on this side...and he
was telling me that Matt Haka tried to get Relief...you know, that's that
Matt Haka's place where Anderson owns it now...but he couldn't get it so I
told the Relief man, I said, "You come with me"...and I give that fellu
dickens for not giving Matt Haka some Relief...and Christ, he could speak
bit of English.
He had said that. "Mitä Dorphille, ei se osa sanoa "Hello" kan."...(That Dorphy, he doesn't know how to say Hello, even.)

...body, but they found him in the lake and John Mäki served year and a half in prison for that.

I just wonder who was them other three guys with him...they looked younger than him.

So then what happened, you know, Korhonen's had hunters on the hill...so they left their car end of North Laird, you know, when they made them cement blocks...and they walked in there and they went to Dorphy's camp...and they were lost...they want to come back to their car...so they asked Dorphy.

Where's North Laird?...he didn't know that, North Laird...so he says, Where's Bruno's River?...br-r-r-r-r, that's way he went...don't know...so they took off and they came right there where you live in Horoscope, came around on that Pyykkönen's logging road...that goes over Sandapakka's, goes to Autio country...and they walked here and they stopped, about six of them...that's the kind of English Dorphy speak.

Then he was an interpreter for Matti, he said he was an interpreter for Hakan Matti (Matt Haka), you know, so he don't have to go to the Army.

Then when he went in the Relief office they weren't going to give nothing, Dorphy said, "I told them in English, 'I'm not leaving here before my partner gets Relief'...and they said, 'Give him something, get rid of him'...so Matt Haka got, never even asked for Relief.

I: That was his story, eh?

R2: Yeah...what's all was selling, my partner was hunting up his shack...he was lying every day, you know, Bill Oger from the hill...he'd laugh at him, 'Christ, keep still, don't laugh...and he'll catch on'...and that bugger had been making good stew out of deer meat...he'd eat the whole pot-full...we know him, I used to hunt in the same gang but I used to start to talk...and sometime he got mad, he threw all the stuff on the floor, he wanted to get rid of us, you know...but he was staying in our camp so he couldn't do that...then we sold the camp to Matt Oja...yeah, we had lot of deer meat over there.

You know I was talking to you about that copper-colored chain...

.....and they were batching in that camp over there...

I know them cop guys, I can't believe it.

...they were sposed to make some flat timber and ties...other fella was very neat, his name was Abel Seppanen...and Bill Dorphy was batching with him...summertime it was when they were over there...well, they had kept the door opened...couple of big toads jumped into the camp...well, this here Abel Seppanen says, "Bill, chase that toad out"...you know, one of them big, rough backs, you know...he said that, "Helvetti, eiko siitä syytä"...(Hell, it's no use throwing it away), he took and step on it and spread it all over the floor and left it there...that's the time Abel quit him, too, and he came away from there.
He was working for us, too, Bill Dorphy.

He was lazy and crooked.

And he was working for us and I and one policeman from Detroit who went to that camp, he was staying in our camp, you know, batching...so you know he had two muskrats, you know there's a Bear Creek that went past our camp, he must have got them from the Bear Creek...and it was on top of the cook stove, you know, it was hanging on a wire and he was skimming it there...and he had a long knife in his hand, you know...then he had a potato pot, stew boiling there close by...and he always went to pierce, thick hide and pretty soon he always with the same knife he was steering that stew...I tell you we looked and I asked what the hell again George Earle, he was a policeman that time...I said, "Let's go and have little of that stew after an hour..."...he said, "I wouldn't eat that goddamn thing if I die right here."

I: I've heard about that. I heard that he used to leave a weasel for bait by one of his traps and if the coyotes wouldn't eat it then he'd eat it...have you ever heard that?

No, I never heard that.

You know when you seen a weasel that stinks like anything.

How that stinks.

He used to skin them in the house.

I: Yeah, he used to leave carcasses in the house.

Yeah, yeah.

One time he was chopping a road up there for Matt Oja and we were hunting, I was with Bill Oger and Bill said, "Let's look in that thing up there" and he was chopping, see...when he chopped and then we would keep still, see...he went about a few hundred feet away from me and then when he'd chop Bill went up the hill, you know what he had in there, rabbit hind quarter, no bread or nothing...when he cooked coffee he always had a prune in there, two, three prunes on top...that was dessert...but it finally got him, but he's great on pancakes...finally he got constipated so bad he died in St. Joseph Hospital...but the poor house.

Bill Dorphy was batching up there and trapping...I was thinking what the hecks is that man coming on the road, you know...because it was WPA time, 1936...and I was driving Bill and Adolph's dump truck there that day...so then, you know, I was thinking what the hecks is that man, you know, that something flaps from his knee...you know that Bill Dorphy had been having a hole in his knee in here, and he'd been putting a patch and sew the patch in there the goddamn pocket on...

I: A what?

You know a pocket on the other torn pants, he had taken the pocket and he
sewed that pocket outside, you know, when he was walking...

I: Flapping around.

R3: It was flapping around, I don’t see how the hecks, yeah, the other guys were laughing there, our neighbor boy, Carl Kimunen, driving the other truck, and he said, "Would your mother ever patch a pair of pants like that?"... pocket from other pants.

I: He was quite a character, that Dorphy.

Koski

And you know he couldn't speak English, you know...

R2: Well, he was staying at Lease's camp.

R1: ...so I says, "Hello, Bill..."

R3: No, but they were staying in Turpeinen's that time.

R1: ...he offered his hand for me and naturally I... shook hands with him... you know, although they were very dirty... so I said, "What you been doing, Bill?" Are you trapping now?"... "No," he says, "no, I haven’t been trapping, there's no price on the furs this time but I've been over here trying to get Relief," he says, "I went to the Relief office and gee whiz they was puzzled with me, they were talking to each others over there, I said, 'What's the trouble you talking, English or Finnish?'... "English, English"... he says, they didn't know what county I belong... I said, "Did you tell them that you belong in Klo?"... "Yeah, I been trying to tell them but they don't seem to understand."

I: He got Relief, though, I understand he used to dress up in real old, old clothes...

He wasn't broke.

I: ...and purposely to get Relief.

But he wasn't broke... he had money planted all over... up there the time when Otter Bridge, you know, Koski's bridge went down by Koski's...

That was the same time when that Jackson bridge went.

I: About '27.

...Erickson bridge went down.

O silla ollu mitän. (He didn't have anything.)

Yes, but Mrs. Koski was still living there and she said that, "Se tuli..." (He came.)... you know, that Dorphy came with two cans... two cans, you know, but they were wet had paper money in there... and then, you know, the other can she said it had copper money in there, I apose pennies and dimes and
nuckles...he'd say, "She can't remember how much there was but"...he was that kind of guy he planted what he had...you know when he was trapping he used to buy lots of new guns, see...he used to buy lots of new guns and then, you know, in case he got in trouble or something like that he always brought so far away, he brought the gun, Robert Koski was talking to me and Matt.

I: He left it in the woods.

   He left it in the woods in a hollow stump or then, you know, hollow log and he said, "That's where they are today."

I: He forgot them as his memory.

   Well, then again, you know, when he had a gun when he died, though, but then again, you know, he was thinking if he gets in that pension he ain't got no gun he can always go and get that one, see...he knew the woods so good.

I: I wouldn't be surprised if that woods back there is filled with old Dorphy traps and everywhere and then there's a tree with one of his guns in it and probably somewhere under a stump there's some money, sure, I wouldn't doubt it.

   Well, this here...Matt, what was the name of that trapper in L'Anse who just died now this summer, last summer...that Frenchman who was up here buying furs.

R2: Yeah, I know who he is...

R1: Tappae.

R3: Tappae, yeah.

   Yeah, he was a poor

R3: I told Tappae about 19...the time when Dempsey and Carpenter had that fight, where the heck, how long ago is that?

   I don't remember.

   That's so long ago, you know, I went to Ishpeming on a train, passenger train, and the train stopped between Champion and Michigamme, I think...no, where the heck did that train stop, between Herman and Champion, somewhere up there...and then, you know, when that train stopped there was a man with very ragged clothes and talk about the furs he had...Holy God, he had lots of furs...and they were piling them along, there were wolf hides and muskrats and all kinds of, beavers and, well, I told beavers already but...I can't remember what all, they were piling in that baggage car.

I: This was Frank Tappae, right?

   Yeah, I don't know what his first name...

I: Yeah, he was a famous trapper himself.
Yeah, yeah, well, he was talking about it up here.

And he was talking about Dorphy and he said that when he died he had 30 to $40,000 somewhere...that'd be very interesting, if I put that in the history then everyone will be walking through those woods looking around there.

Well, that's only a...