FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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A: This is July 24th and we are at the home of Mr. Bill Wakeham, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wakeham, on Laminga Road. And, we would like to begin by asking Mr. Wakeham about life in England, where he was born. What year were you born?

B: 1899, March the 14th

A: And, were you born in a large family?

B: No, just three of us

A: Three children, and a father and mother, of course. And, what type of work did your father do?

B: Oh, he was working in the farm

A: Did he have a big farm?

B: No, you can't own a farm. You work for farmers, five dollars a week. You had to raise a family with that.

A: And, could you describe the farm a little bit? What was it like what did they raise?

B: Oh, there was some cattle, and grain, and they used to have quite a bit of sheep.

A: About how many acres on a farm like that?

B: Oh, I would say 80 acres. Some were bigger.

A: Well---what part of England was that?

B: Cornwall, the county of Cornwall.

A: Was that an area where there was a lot of mines too?

B: Yes, there were a lot of tin mines.

A: Tin mines. Did anyone in your family mine?

B: NO.
A: The first years of your life, then, were spent growing up on the farm, and going to school there too?

B: I went to school over there, yes.

A: Well——when you grew up to be a young lad, what happened then?

B: Well——I lost my mother when I was——she died in February, and I would have been 14 in March. My father, he remarried again after. I used to go work for the farmers, go and live with the farmers, just live with their family, you know. I got so much a week and board.

A: How long did you stay in this type of work?

B: Oh, all the time until I came out here, in 1927. After I had 3 years in the army.

A: Oh yes——3 years in the army——when was that?

B: That was in 1915, I was 16 years old then.

E: (his wife) Will that pick up my voice too?

A: Sure, just add something if you want to, go right ahead.

E: No, I was just going to ask about that service, when he skipped farming to come here.

A: Yes, there was a time in the service. Do you remember, where did you go in the army? Were you put in the front lines, or what happened?

B: Yes, well——I did most of my training in Ireland. Then, I went across to France from Ireland. We were on the front in——with a thousand men, and only 20 of us came out——the rest were killed and captured prisoner.

A: Was there one decisive battle, or were there several?

B: That was in one battle. That was in 1918, when the Germans were driving us back. And, there was a river there, and we crossed. We went on pontoon, and then when we got to the other side, we would blow them up so the Germans couldn't come across. Then I was in Kelly, a place called Kelly, on Armistice Day. We didn't know what it was all about, and the whistles were blowing and everything, we didn't know what was going on. We thought people were getting_____, and that's when the Armistice was signed. And, I was waiting for the boat to go home on furlough at that time.

A: Well——when you were in the army, were you an infantry man, or a machine gunner?
B: Yes, a machine gunner. There was two machine guns, one on the right and one on the left.

A: Could you describe the kind of machine gun you had?

B: It was Brown----a Louis Brown machine gun.

A: And, about how much did it weigh?

B: It was mostly made out of aluminum, it wasn't very heavy. It would get hot quick, and cool quick.

A: So, you had quite a few lively spats? Yes) How was the moral of the men?

B: Good,

E: You had to wear those gas masks!

A: You had to wear gas masks?

B: Yes, I have had that on for 24 hours straight

A: Well----after the war was over, you went, did you go back home?

B: Yes, and then I went to work for farmers again. Then I came out here. When I came here I landed near----I left England the 30th of April and I got up here the 9th of May.

A: Well---that was a fairly fast trip, then!

B: Yes, six days and five nights on the water

A: Why did you decide to leave England?

B: Well---my father told me to come out here.

A: He had come here earlier, right?

B: Yes, he came in '21.

A: And, why had he come?

B: Well--his brother-in-law was out here before. His brother-in-law, and they were living over here in Freda.

A: So, there were jobs to be had?

B: Yes, and there was better money.

A: When your dad came over, what did he do? Did he start farming?

B: No, no----he worked in the mill.

A: What type of job did he have in the Freda Mill?
$2.90, but when the Depression came----that's when they started
to pay the other.

A: Oh, the Depression really made it hard!? (Yes) But, you could
still work during the Depression?

B: Well----there were times too that we used to be on call. We
weren't working steady then. You had to go up and look at the
bulletin to find out when you were going to work again.

A: Well---you were a feeder, did you say?

B: Head-feeder!

A: Then what did you do?

B: Then I was a spare-arm, he would go and help repair

A: Different machines?

B: Yes, different machines

A: Well----that must have been a pretty hard job. You had to know
all the machines and everything.

B: Oh, yes.

A: Well---you came in '27, then. When did you get married?

B: '38! (laughter)

A: You waited a little while, then?

B: Yes, yes!

A: Well---can you recall what it was like around here during the
Depression? Were most people out of work, or on welfare, or---?

B: Well---I don't know if there was much welfare in those days,
was there?

B: We had a little relief, though----WPA

B: Oh, yes----WPA----20 dollars one payday, and 22 the next

A: What did you have to do for WPA?

B: Make roads.

A: Where were the roads that you made?

B: Back roads, and all over different places

E: This one----and Snake River
A: How did people get food—did they go out and kill some deer, or what?

B: I never did, but maybe some of them did.

A: When you came did you get this piece of eedee property right away, or ----?

B: Oh, no----I got this in '38, hey?

E: Yes!

A: Oh, after you got married, then?

B: Yes, it was an estate of her fathers. And, there was four brothers besides her. So, it was a state house.

E: We used to raise most of our meat—and we had milk and cream.

A: Sure!

E: Then, you couldn't get WPA until you had those citizen papers!

A: Oh, yes! That's right—you had to be naturalized!

B: Oh, yes.

A: When did you get your citizenship papers?

B: That was in

E: No, I remember that he couldn't get on WPA because he was an alien. And, I told that—I told him that I didn't care where we got the money, but that he had to get the papers.

B: Oh yes.

E: It was only 7 dollars to get the citizen papers. Then after a while it didn't matter—a lot of the people didn't use them.

A: Did you go to Hancock to get your papers, or Houghton?

B: Houghton

A: To the courthouse, I suppose.

B: Yes.

E: You have to have that if you live in this country. You see, he didn't have to—he was full right away because I was here, I was born here. He didn't have to take that

A: Well—when you got your papers, you could vote then?

B: Oh, yes!
A: Do you remember the first presidential election that you voted in? Was it when Roosevelt was running, or who? Or, was it after?

B: Let's see----it must have been when Roosevelt was in!

E:

B: He was a good president

A: Yes it was under him that we got the WPA

B: Yes, and social security. I never was much for fishing or hunting. The last time I went fishing the mosquitoes nearly ate me up-----and I never went anymore.

A: When you came over, did you meet a lot of other people who had come over from Cronwall? There weren't too many Cronish in this area?

B: Oh no----there were some, but I didn't even know them.

A: They say that there is a lot of good stories that Cornish---English people can tell. Do you remember any of them?

B: No.

A: I guess it was the Cornish people that started the pasties here?

B: Yes, you bet!

A: Did you have any pasties in England before you came here?

B: Oh, yes!

A: How did they make a pasty over there, do you remember?

B: Yes, I can even make them myself!

A: Is that right------what does---

B: Well----you roll it out and you put your meat and potatoes in there. And, you turn it over------until it's in this shape!

A: About how big around a piece of batter would you have?

B: Well------you could make them different sizes!

A: And, what do you put inside? Meat, potatoes, and anything else?

B: Yes, onions, rutabaga, turnip------anything like that. Then, over there we used to make what we called a pudding. You don't know how that is? (No) Well------that is made the same way as a pasty, but it is made into a ball. Then it is put into a cloth,
and the cloth is tied around there. The water has got to be boiling, and then you boil it for two hours.

A: Is that right?

B: Oh, that's good stuff! Hey?

A: Oh, you mean the same ingredients are inside there----potatoes, and the whole bit?

B: Yes, onions and everything.

E: If you have a pressure cooker, then you can make that.

B: She made that one time, and the people would come over and ask what that was, and I would say that we eat rags over here and that! (laughter)

A: Well----that's interesting, I had heard of a pasty, but I had never heard of that pudding.

E: They call it puddin'. I will make that once more, and You will have to come and try some.

A: Yes, sure. Well----when you would go to work, did you take a pasty very often? Or, just regular sandwiches?

B: Yes, regular sandwiches.

A: Well----you have got accustomed to some Finnish cooking too, haven't you?

B: Oh, yes.

E: Yes, I make Cornish pasties too.

A: Let's go back to your work at the mill. When you came you mentioned what you did and how much you got paid. Was the work very dangerous?

B: No. It was worse when the crushers were in. There was so much dust. There wasn't any dust when we were running the other machine.

A: About how many men were at the plant then?

B: Oh, over a 100.

A: Were these men of different nationalities?

B: Yes, there was Finnihs, Irish, English----not too many, but some

A: How did the men get along together? Was there a union there when you first came in?
B: Not at first, no. I was the one who started the union.
A: No kidding! Was it an independent union, or a national union?
B: International.
A: What was it?
B: Steel Workers.
A: I see. What year did you help organize a union?
B: Oh, that must have been in------'42. She was telling me that I was going to get fired----"Oh, you're going to get fired!"
A: Well---how did you get the idea to start the union here?
B: Well----so we would get protection
A: Did you go someplace for help?
B: Well----Gene Saurri was the International Staff representative. We had to get it going there.
A: Yes, well----Gene Saurri was very active there.
B: Did you know him?
A: Well---I know about him. I have read about him. He helped to organize the miners and----. Did you come out here and----did he talk to the men?

B:
A: What sort of impressions do you have of Saurri, and his work with you? Was he a pretty straight-shooting guy?
B: Oh yes------sure he is. I was there for many years.
A: Yes, well----how did the company feel about you starting the union?
B: Well----of course no company wants a union----but, they had to pay. But, they kind of cooperated.
A: Did you have to sit down with the company, then to negotiate the contract?
B: Oh, yes. Saurri----he was alright. He used to have meetings down there to negotiate for more pay. They said, "Well---we shouldn't offer you any money, but we're going to." Two cents for the first year! Three cents for the next three years! Saurri said, "If you come here with that stuff, I'm going home!" (laughter)------Two cents!
A: Well---do you recall what you were able to get on your first contract?

B: Oh-----25¢ anyway

A: So, that meant roughly that a guy would get what for an eight hour day of work?

B: He would get between 3 and 4 dollars.

A: Did the company throw in any other benefits----sick benefits, or health benefits?

B: Oh they wouldn't throw in anything. You had to fight for that.

A: Yes,---but, were you able to get anything besides wage increase?

B: Well---we got insurance too.

A: So, all of the time afterwards, that you were at the mill, the union was there and it was pretty active and strong?

B: Yes, right to the end.

A: I get the impression that you feel that you feel good about the union----that it was a big help.

B: Yes, you bet! Then you had protection, you see?! They couldn't kick a man out----they had to have a good reason.

A: Yes. Did that improve the relationship between the company and the workers?

B: Yes, that changed things alright

A: Did you work a 6 day week, or a 5 day week?

B: Five

A: Well----you had some time off. What did you like to do for a good time when you were free of working in the mill?

B: What do you mean, what's that?----Oh, we had cows here.

A: Oh, you had a farm on top of that! Oh, my gosh! How many cows did you have?

B: We have had as many as 12 at one time.

A: Gernsies, or----?

B: Yes, and a team of horses.

A: How many acres have you farmed here, then?
R: Eighty!
A: And, you had hay, I suppose. Did you have any other grains?
B: The last time I planted oats, and the grasshoppers started eating it out. That was the end of that—I wasn't going to feed the grasshoppers. (laughter)
A: Well—you, Bill—and let's see, who is it Eva—Eva, you were married in 1938. And, how many children do you have?
B: Eight!
A: And, they all grew up here on the farm?
B: Yes.
E: That's why we had to have cows! (laughter)
A: How many boys and how many girls?
B: Five boys and three girls.
A: And, when they grew up did they all pitch in and help here on the farm?
B: Yes.
E: The younger ones not so much. We haven't farmed so much this last year, you see.
A: I see. Do you think a farm is a good place to raise children?
E: I think so. You see, the kids have something to do on the farm, different things. But, when you live in the city or town, there is really nothing for the kids. And, a lot of the kids would probably pick up something that is left.
A: Sure. None of your children—they were too young to be in World War II, but maybe in the Korean War—did any of your sons belong to the service?
E: Oh, four of our boys were in the service!
B: Yes, but no active service.
E: Two were in Germany, and one was in the navy, and then he was in the air force too, hey?
B: He was in three different outfits in 6 months!
E: He couldn't adjust to service life. He used to have nightmares at home. And, then this young one—he was in the Medics.
B: The oldest one—he's been a beggar ever since 1916?
E: No, not since he was 16.
B: Yes, that's what I mean.
E: Then, Flyode—he went to Suomi for two years. And, he went into the service to get money to continue college. He is thinking about going to college this fall, but I don't know.
A: Could you tell me a little about this community around here? When it got settled, were you the first people who settled it, or does this go back many years?
E: Well—it goes back so many years, that we can't really go too far, you know. There were some people that came here about 1902.
A: Your folks were here at one time—is that right, your parents?
E: Yes, that's right.
B: My parents too
A: Did they come from Finland?
E: Yes, they were pioneers, my grandparents and that.
A: Do you recall from where in Finland they came?
E: Yes, my father's side they come from Ulanie. And, my mother's side—they came from Dibosuski.
A: Were they married when they came?
E: No, not on my father's side, no.
A: Did any of the men in your family work in the mines?
E: No
A: They came in the farms in the very beginning, then.
E: Yes, they were in the lumber too. But, if anybody would know way back—-Mrs. Poussa would know
A: Does she live around here?

(End of side #1 of tape)
side #2 of tape

B: When you hit the blacktop, go straight across---there is a road going up past the school. You can't miss it.

F: Yes, there's only one. So, they would remember before I would remember. I think she will be 90 or 91, one or the other. We have a lot of new families here. The new families don't mix with anybody, they just stay put. We have one from New York, down at the corner there. We have one, two, three----moving away, and they don't mix either.

A: Yes, well----in earlier times, did the people mix quite a bit? Oh, yes

B: They would always help one another.

A: How----in making hay, or----how did they help?

E: Yes or anything that people need, you know.

B: Bailing hay and everything----send the boys over there, and tell them to put it on the bill and everything, you know.

Carpenter work----they would help each other. If you need some, or he need some----they would just go, see? There was no money involved, but this new generation----they don't do that.

A: Why do you think it has changed so much?

E: I can't tell you, because I don't know

A: But, at least it just doesn't seem like it is the same anymore

E: Yes. I don't know if it is the schools, people come from the big cities now. That is not the best place to live now.

A: I think I am going to have a little sweet roll, I----if that's OK? ------------------- (food)

E: I think really, that like to live by themselves.

A: Yes, did the farmers around here ever go into partnership to buy a thrashing machine, or a combine----or anything like that?

E: No, not as far as we know.

A: Everybody bought their own equipment?

E: Yes, the only thing that I know, many years ago, a bunch of boys bought a car----but, it didn't work. But the machinery----I don't think so, do you know?

A: Could you tell me how you us.
A: Could you tell me how you used to make hay, when you first got started? Hay-making has changed———was it just with horses, or what?

E: I say———hay-making is really a picnic now, on the side of years ago, ph yes. The bailers throw the hay right into the truck. When we make hay———I make the load and he picks it. There was a lot of women's work here.

A: All the women helped to make the hay here?

E: Oh, yes!

A: Did the women ride on the load?

B: Yes, you bet.

E: Yes, all the women used to work. They would make the piles, the wind goes first and then they make the piles, and when the pile is stiff, they had to hand rake. It was always cleaned out, it is not these messy fields——it is really nice. But, now they have the bailers and everything———just press the button. You put that hay in the barn, and in the wintertime you had to hand-sigger———and, boy would you pull hard to get that out, to feed the cows. Those days in the barn———a lot of people had to hire hay knives to cut that.

A: Yes, did you———when you had the hay in the______, you said that there was sometimes a knife to cut the hay. Did you ever put any kind of salt or stuff on the hay?

E: Yes, we would salt it in the hay barn when we would hoist the———maybe a load. And, then we would sprinkle salt all over. Then we would bring another load and we would sprinkle that, and then we would get some more salt. And, the cows eat that hay better, and they drink more then too.

A: Did you make a lot of home-made cheese?

E: Well———yes. But, then———Finnish cheese———I can't make that, I tried, many times. People would teach me, and I still can't make it. It is like rubber! I just doesn't come! My daughter likes it———it's like rubber, but that's the kind she likes.

B: That's good. I used to like that (Finnish)

A: Did you ever butcher any cows for meat?

B: Yes, pigs too.

A: How many people did you have to have around to do the butchering, did you do it just by yourself, or did you have the boys to help?
E: Oh, we used to help them butcher. The first years when he worked we used to hire. They would come in for 4 dollars—a hired man to butcher a pig. So, he started himself.

A: Did you butcher—did you shoot the pigs with a gun?

B: Yes I hit them with a hammer sometimes.

A: We had a—this is probably not the thing to talk about when we are eating here—.

That's alright. If you can talk, we can sure listen.

A: There was a man Amaasak who used to always be hired out to butcher. He was a man with one eye, he had a patch on his eye—and, he was very good at it, and he was that kind of guy that after he killed the animal he would take a cup, and he would take the blood—and he would drink that blood.

E: Yes—-—I have a brother like that. When they butcher a cow, he doesn't drink from a pig. But, this other neighbor, he is dead now—he used to drink from the pig. But, my brother never did that, except from the cow.

A: Did any of the wives make blood pancakes?

E: Oh, yes.

A: We used to make blood cake.

E: If you had a recipe for blood cake—you would put every other kind of ingredient that you would put in a normal cake, except that you would put in blood—or what?

E: Yes, salt and pepper, and rye flour—or if you want whole wheat, barley—or whatever you like.

A: Was that supposed to be pretty healthy for you then?

E: That's what they say. He doesn't care for that, but one of the boys likes it. But, when they were small, of course we all ate it. But, I never make blood sausage—he doesn't eat it, so I don't buy it. It is too big for him.

A: Did you—where did you have the meat cured? Did you hang the meat up someplace?

B: We would bring it in to the locker downtown.

A: Oh I see—-bring it into a locker downtown.

E: People around here used to make——(Finnish). Do you know what that is?
A: Jerky-like?

E: That's dry meat. They used to make a lot of that, my uncle used to make that every year. They used to make that, and they would hang it up outside. I don't know how long they would keep it there. I can't remember, did they salt that before or after?

A: Did you sell the hide then, to somebody downtown?

Yes, but this last year--you couldn't sell it anywhere, nobody wanted it.

A: Is that right?

E: We had it for a while. The only thing is--if you go and buy a pair of shoes with leather--they are over 20 dollars.

A: Yes, that's right. Did you have any home remedies that you would use when one of the kids got sick, or you got sick--what kinds of things would you try?

E: We would try anything---Catherine's Oil, Juntunen's Sauve,--? Did you know that Juntunen used to make that sauve?

A: No, what kind of sauve was that?

E: Well--he sauve and then he used to make that_____. There is a girl, yet, that is living close to Quality----and a few years ago----she quit making that, but her mother made that. And then she wouldn't give that out.

A: She had a special recipe, but she wouldn't let anybody have it?

E: Yes, but that last one was making it----I think her name was Amanda----she used to live in Chassell, I think she still lives there, but I don't know if she makes it anymore.

B: Years ago they used to use that in a hospital, when they were going to take a person's leg off. She went there and_____

A: With that sauve?

E: Yes, we had----Roy, when he was small, he is over 20 now----he had that lump growing here--.

A: A lump on the side of the neck?

E: Yes, a red one. So, we took him to the doctor and he opened that, and it didn't get any better. It was just getting bigger. So, he said that if that didn't get better he would have to take it off and send it to the lab. Well----I told Bill to go and see that Juntunen girl who lived close to the Quality there. We went there and she said to take him to the doctors, that they didn't have to take that off. They gave sauve, and she said to keep-
it on until it dissapeared. And, that's all.

A: Is that right? Now, was this called the Juntunen?
(Yes) Was that brought in from the old country?

E: It must have been, I don't know. She was pretty old, I didn't really know her. But, if we got a sore throat or anything, we just got that and put it in a cloth and put it here. It looked, not black—but, it was dark anyhow. Yes, if you had blood poisoning or anything, we would get that. Last year they made that sauve, but before that they just had ______, and they just put that there and wrapped it up. Oh, that was really good stuff A lot of doctors even recommend that stuff.

A: Did any of the families, here, ----try cupping?

E: Yes, oh----yes. I know how to do that.

A: You know how to do that? I have heard that it existed, but how did it happen?

E: Well----have these cow horns----I suppose you can buy those kind of horns, but they used to make their own. And, then they used to skin the sausage----.

A: The skin from what?

E: The skin from a sausage, or whatever they could put that on with. The horn----one end is big and one end is small----so, they would put that in here and then they would tie that tight. And, then if you would suck the blood, if you don't have that there this would come in your mouth, you see? So, you put that horn there and you keep pulling that, and then once you get red, you have a knife and you pick those little holes there. There is a special knife for that too.

A: Does the knife go through the hole in the horn, or----?

E: No, you take the horn off. You make the little holes there, and then you put the hornback on there. And, you keep sucking and blood runs like mad.

A: Now, what did that accomplish? How did that help the person get better?

E: Well----they say that if you had sore muscles, or anything like that that would help.

A: It brought out the old blood, guess

E: Yes, that's it. They used to do that in the sauna.

A: It was done in the sauna?
E: Lots of them do that in the sauna. That Mrs. Juntunen from Quincy used to do that. You see, when you are really hot, it really runs then. We had a friend once who had a sore neck. He went everywhere and somebody told him to go to this Juntunen, to get the horns and that. He said that he would try that, and he was fine in years. He said, "No more sore neck!"

A: Is that right?! Well---that's very interesting.

E: Yes, I know how they do that too.

A: Have you done that recently?

E: No, I have never done that, but I know how to do that. I have seen many of them do it.

A: I recall, when I grew up----my folks did something, it was something like cupping, but it wasn't quite the same. Dad took a glass, a drinking glass something like this, and he put some wax paper in the bottom. And, if he had like a sore muscle, he would take a match and he lit that wax paper so it was burning, and then while it was burning he would put it on the, your back and press it tight, so the fire burnt out, and the skin kind of puffed up inside and it would go about so high. Have you ever seen that done?

E: No, I have never seen that, but I have heard that. I didn't know how they did that. Oh, yes------there is all kinds of medicine.

B: Bread dough works too

A: How does that work?

B: You heat up some bread with hot water, and put it in a cloth and put it where the wound is. And, that will draw.

E: You can use milk too, if you want. It doesn't matter what moisture you use.

B: There are a lot of remedies

E: Years ago, people didn't handle money, and a lot of people didn't believe in doctors, so they had obvious home-things. But, now people don't----they run to the doctor. They don't use anything. But, it is different now----we have different food, and a lot of times the home remedies probably wouldn't work. It would have to be something that is stronger than that. Years ago we didn't have the foods that we have now. Now we have all the foods strained, and years ago they didn't have that. The only sprays they had were to kill the bugs and mosquitoes.

When you put your well in here, did you do it with
E: Oh, yes—we still have that well. It was made by hand.
A: But, did you do it—some of the people used to use a rod?
E: Oh, yes—agor—to find if there is water
A: Did you use that here?
E: Oh, yes. We used that.
A: No, I meant that some people use a stick, a twitching stick
B: Oh yes—to find water?
A: Did anybody use that around here?
E: Oh—they used that, but I don't believe that there is water. I believe that there is water—but, how deep that is. I just can't get that in my head, and they have been trying to put that in my head since I have been little.
A: Do you think that that is maybe ust a superstition?
F: Well—I don't know about that, but that could prove that there is water—but, how deep that is, that is the question. Oh, this neighborhood, they really believed strong on that, and Puotta there, he is doing that a lot of places—he lives in Gammel—and, they really believe it.
A: Well—when you came here—you dug your own well, and you did practically everything by-----.
B: No, that was done years ago, before I ever came here.

Yes, we had a well in the yard, and one in behind the house, and one in the gulley, and we had the problem here that there was so much iron in the water, you see. We had it so bad that these two wells here, we couldn't use them. Years ago we used to put a 10 pound sugar bag in the pumps, and in a couple of days it was all red. That's why at this time of the years, there's a lot of rain, and we get a lot of drinking and coffee water.

A: How was the soil here for growing crops?
B: What we needed was light soil
A: suppose there is a good grainage then.
E: Oh, yes—it would rain every day here. On the other side, that's heavy soil there.

3: Have a cigar, can you read that on there?
A: Happy 74th, Super Bill! (laughter

B: My boy had that—he gave that to me for my birthday

A: Is that right? That's quite a good recipe.

E: He works in South Range, making that new funeral home, right across from that church there. He didn't have any work for all winter, and he came home at Christmas time, and he went to Chicago—--and he didn't want to go back to Detroit. His brother told him to come there, but he didn't come. So, he has this job.

A: That's interesting—you mentioned in working on the funeral parlor. What happened, —--if somebody around here died, did the undertaker come down from the city, from Houghton?

B: Oh, yes—-they would come and get the body

A: Where was the funeral held?

B: At the chapel

E: At the chapel, or church.

B: They don't do that now, like they did years ago, when they used to bring them home, and———.

They had one in Calumet last fall, but that's about all.

A: Years ago,—-when someone died, did a lot of people show up for the funeral? And, the whole community get together, sort of?

E: Oh, yes—-they usually do

A: That still happens?

E: Oh, yes. He just can't get over one thing in funerals,——-they serve coffee after. He just can't get that in his head. He goes to a coffee, sure——for the family's sake——but, he doesn't care for that. He can't get that yet.

B: Oh,—-it looks like they celebrate after

E: He said they never did that over in England

B: No, in England when the undertaker comes and gets the body, you don't see it anymore.

A: Is that right?

B: They don't show anybody

E: But, the Catholics even have the lunches after the funeral now.
A: Yes, sure----I guess it has been kind of a custom that has developed.

E: You see,----if we don't have that people think, "Geç, not even a cup of coffee."

A: Well---I guess it is almost the custom to have a cup of coffee in almost every occasion. You had a cup of coffee even for this visit. (laughter)

E: Yes, coffee comes first.

A: Yes, I think people up here are generally pretty friendly, and this is a way to show it.

E: Yes, we went Sunday to see that baptism, at Loglay's Church in Nara's Beach there. They had it in the lake.

A: Oh is that right? It was an outdoor baptism, by the water!

E: Yes, in the water. And, they baptised 17 at that church.

A: Is that right?

E: There was even one Catholic that was baptised. He was in his 50s, don't you think? When you look at the Bible pictures and that, it is really interesting. They were on top there, and then on the side of the river bank.

A: Years ago when you got married----and even before that----were there ministers who sort of rode the circuit. They would come to visit around, or was there a local church that everybody would go to?

E: A local church

A: Where was that

E: Liminga Hall----they call it the Community Hall now. That was a school in those days.

A: Who was the minister in those days?

E: Oh,----there was Haidinen, and Tauronen and Michaelson.

B: Our minister said that one time when he was preaching, and he noticed that a fellow was sleeping. So, he said that he stopped his sermon, and asked the fellow next to him if he would wake him up. He said that that man looked at the guy sleeping and he looked at me, and he said, "Wake him up yourself----you're the one who put him to sleep!" (laughter)

A: Yes, that can happen.
E: But, now the Liminga Church is getting very small. There are so many Catholics here, and they go to Atlantic now. They go to-the-church-of-the-seal-----the church was sold, and the boys bought it and I think they are going to make a hunting camp—the Freda boys.

B: There was an old man—he must have been over 70, he bought a ticket for the derby sweepstakes and he won, but they didn't know if they should tell him—if they did he would get a heart attack, or something. 47,000 dollars! So, they decided that they should go and see the minister and see if he could help. He said, "I will go and tell him, sure!" I won't tell him right away, I'll just talk away at him first. Well---after a while he said, "Well----John, I heard you bought a ticket in the sweepstakes." (Yes) "What would you do with the money if you won?" And he said, "If I should win it----I will give half of it to you." And, then the minister dropped dead! He had a heart attack! (laughter)

A: That's a good story! Well----that's one of the interesting things of years ago----people used to like to tell stories. And, they would gather around. In the Liminga Hall----did the people ever put on their own little programs, and plays and stuff like that?

E: Christmas programs and stuff like that. It is a community church, so there are different things that you can have there. Like, you can have wedding receptions, but no drinks, just like you can have in a church-----a Catholic church anyway.

A: Besides living in a church-----did you have a community hall where people could go? Where they would gather?

E: No, that's the only one.

A: That's the only one.

E: One time they weren't going to have a church here, but people wouldn't cooperate.

A: They couldn't decide which priest should affiliate?

E: Yes, and then we had that community hall where they have dances and all of that stuff.

B: Now,---you take a Catholic religion-----I don't believe them. They will go to church, and then they can do anything. Sabbath day—you're supposed to keep it holy-----isn't that right? They don't. And, they go and bow down to graven images in the church. The Lord said that 'thou shalt not worship any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth, for I am the Lord thy God, and I am a jealous God, living in the iniquities of the fathers upon the children under the third and
and fourth generation—and then that ate me. And, then showing mercy on the thousands men that love me and keep my commandments.'

A: I think this man has given a few talks and sermons in his days! (laughter)

E: He would always do that for the other people, but he would never do that for his family. Well—in England, they have to go to church on Sunday. There is church choirs and everything there, so—he knows—he doesn't need any Bible. He can just keep going. Oh, yes.

A: So, you memorized quite a few Bible verses, and-----

B: Psalm—the 23th Psalm. 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, he made me lie down in green pastures, I leadeth me beside the still waters, he restoreth my soul, he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake. Ye, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they will comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me, in the presence of my enemies, thou annointist my head with oil, my cup runneth over, surely goodness and mercy should follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.'

A: Yes, he surely knows it!

E: Yes, he does. He doesn't need a Bible. You just ask and he will keep going.

A: Sure. Was there a Sunday School around here, then? For the children?

E: Yes, they had some. Some go to Hancock Sunday School, we have a local Sunday School too for the kids.

A: Did you ever start a 4-H Club? In this community?

E: Oh, yes—we had many of those too. Yes, all of the kids were in those.

B: Yes, that's a nice thing.

A: All of your own children were in 4-H?

E: Yes, they were in different things.

A: Were you ever 4-H leaders?

B: Me————?———no.

A: You were pretty busy with the mill and the farm. That was enough to keep you going.
E: Yes, he doesn't have any kind of trade that he could teach. He could teach Sunday School, I suppose. (laughter) He never did you know----other things he can't.

B: Like one time-----we had 12 cows milking, and I had the afternoon shift. We had to milk those 12 by hand. Our boy was born the next day.

A: Oh, my God. You had most of your children here at home then--is that right? Or, did you go to the hospital?

E: No, I had them at home except these last two.

A: Was there a lady who was a mid-wife in the community?

E: Yes, whoever it happened to be, you know. But, then the doctor wouldn't let me stay home----he said that I was going to die! But-----I'm still here!

A: Was there a special person, the lady, who was the mid-wife?--For the community?

E: Mrs. Bicco used to be it. She used to go all over the places. Mrs. Jackala----always old ladies.

A: Did they have any special training for this?

E: No, not years ago

A: They just leaned how.

E: This last year they had this----a lot of the girls go for training.

B: Years ago----the doctors would come out here, but not anymore. You had better be in the hospital now.

A: Do you remember any times that the doctors came to the farm here?

E: Oh, yes----sure.

A: Who were some of the doctors?

E: Doctor Hilmer and Doctor Johnson. Doctor Johnson used to be before.

B: Yes, and you had the honest ones.

E: Yes,----those were the days, hey?

A: Paul Jalakanen----he interview Doctor Janice. And, he was telling about several cases when the people didn't have money to pay so they gave him potatoes and--------.

(End of side #2 of tape)

(End of interview)