FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
(Funded in part by the National Endowment For The Humanities)

(Funded in part by the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission / U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service)

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**COMMENT**

- Finns considered carriers
- Contains an interesting underground description of the mines
My parents, John Wiljanen...Selma Kooivala Wiljanen. We have preserved both of mother's and father's so called (???) or an extract from the Parish Register which was required for entry to the United States. Literally translated, this certificate declares that Uho Walfred Yakom Poika Wiljanen or Selma Dagmar Golvantota Kooivala belongs to this Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, has been vaccinated, has partaken of Holy Communion and is a good citizen. And on Mother's certificate the words, "With clean reputation" are added in pen and ink. Father was born in (???) 2-19-1883. The extract is dated August 30, 1899 and signed by Vicar (???) Albert Stahlhamarra. Mother was born in (???) September 7, 1888, but lived in (???) most of her life and this is where she was when she left for America, so her extract is dated April 17, 1909 and signed by the (???)...or Vicar Toivo Consonnen. Father came to America then in 1899 because his father was here. They lived in a lumbering village by the name of Cooks near Manistique. Grandfather returned to Finland shortly after and Father moved to another lumbering village called Dorcey, now known as Sundell. And this is the place where Mother came to in the Spring of 1909, to work for her cousin at his boarding house. This is then where Mother and Dad met and they were married on October 16, 1909. Three daughters were born to them in Dorcey.

In about five years they moved to Midway near Mumising, yet another lumbering village. They joined the church in Ebben Junction and Father was active in temperance work. Mother was often called on for midwife duties as well as other practical nurse duties. Father would write to a Finnish doctor in Duluth, Dr. Lindgren, describing the symptoms of a sick person and then Dr. Lindgren would send the appropriate medicines. So, they too became good citizens of these logging...lumbering communities.

Then in 1919 they bought a forty-acre tract in Lawson in Marquette County and had no more than gotten a roof over them when Father died in April 1920, of a heart attack. Fortunately, Father had taken out a one-thousand dollar life insurance policy from the New Era Life Insurance Company. Mrs. Hilma Robertson of Ebben was the saleswoman. With this money Mother was able to take care of funeral expenses and to pay up the forty-acre tract and still had two hundred dollars in a savings account in the Negaunee State Bank in 1933 when many banks closed their doors during the bank holiday...so called bank holiday during that Depression.
period. The winter following Father's death, Mother managed the Arhomo Lahti farm in Skandia while the Lahti's themselves ran a large logging operation somewhere beyond Carl Zend. The five Lahti boys who were still home did the barnyard chores and Mother prepared the milk and butter which was delivered to the logging camp. It probably was a lonely winter for Mother, but to us girls it brings a lot of memories and we remember it with nostalgia...such as the moonlight rides in a cutter drawn by a beautiful brown horse and we snuggled in the warmth of the sleigh and the boys riding the runners while Mother drove the horse and in the sky was the full moon and underneath the crackling snow.

We returned to the Lawson farm and Mother raised potatoes for two years to try to make a living, but decided that it would be best for her to move her little brood to a city where her children would have the better advantages of school and where she would be able to find work. That she picked Negaunee was because her brother and sister lived there. Again immediately the family joined what is now the Emanuel Lutheran Church and Mother worked for the wealthy Moss and Seise families who owned mining lands in the Negaunee area. We three sisters started to earn early also by babysitting and then in our high school years by doing housework and working in a gift shop.

About in 1926 we almost lost our Mother as she was very ill with inflammatory rhumatism and was in Dr. Tolso's hospital in Ishpeming for nine weeks. Two families were ready to adopt our youngest sister, Eve, but Amanda and I vowed that if Mother died we three would stick together. TB was the dread disease during our teen years. Many Finnish young people died and we Finn students were almost considered as carriers of it and some how or other looked down on. Many Finnish families had cows and those who didn't have would buy the milk from their neighbors and drink this raw milk. Only a few doors from where we lived, two boys in the same family died and then another family with two girls. The family of the boys had about three cows and when the authorities checked them...checked the cows, they were found to be tuberculous and had to be killed and it was during that time then that it became mandatory that anyone selling milk would have to have it pasturized.

During the 1920's I remember that the Finnish students were estracized in many ways. We came from poor families and our life-style was somwhat different; but on the other hand, on the average, the Finnish students did very very well with their...in their lessons. In our family, Amanda, the oldest, graduated as third in her class and my youngest sister Eva and I were victorians of our classes. In the 1950's...for seven consecutive years, the victorians or salutatorians or both were students who had attended Emanuel Lutheran Sunday School.

We boarded children who temporarily needed homes, but in 1943, three year old Paul Williams became a member of our family and has been raised and educated by Mother and myself. He has an Electrical Engineering Degree from Michigan Tech and has a responsible position with Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles.

At the time of his death, Father had his so-called first papers for naturalization. Mother's naturalization would have been accomplished
very easily when Father fulfilled his requirements for his final papers, but this he never did...so Mother became then a naturalized citizen on her own in June 1929, having attended night school for two years to meet the requirements. She has always been a staunch Republican and we have followed her tenance. At eighty-six years she still continues to exercise her right to vote. I have been active in Republican affairs in the city of Negaunee and also on the county level.

Both my sisters went on to get degrees in higher education; but after one year of college I became a secretary to a mining official. Now, in my older years, I am pursuing that degree that I never got and hopefully some year I will be able to finish it.

In the third generation, my sister Eva's sons...John Kiltinen has a PHD degree in Math from Duke University which he received at the age of twenty-five and the other son James Kiltinen has a degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Tech.

I mentioned that I was a secretary to a mining official and I will continue to talk a little now to talk about the mining business as I got to know it through my contacts. Iron ore was discovered in Negaunee in 1844 and this was at a time when a man by the name of Burt was running survey lines for the U.S.G.S...United States Geological Survey...and when they came to this area of Negaunee, an Indian Chief somehow or other was able to get them to go to a tree stump and he showed them this spot and they...this is where the iron ore was discovered. There is a monument that the Cleveland-Cliffs, I think it was the Cleveland-Cliffs or maybe it was the City of Negaunee with them, placed where this iron ore was discovered and it was in what we used to call in Negaunee, the Cornish town area. Now that area has subsiding ground and so they've finally decided that that monument would be changed and so it's in an eastern entrance in a small park in the City of Negaunee. And Negaunee was incorporated in 1846 and about that time or about 1845, the Jackson Mining Company was organized and they began mining the Jackson Pit. In the early days, the iron ore was mined underground whereas shortly afterwards all of the mines in the Negaunee-Ishpeming area have been underground mines. The Palmer-Richmond area has had the open pits, but these were underground mines. And after that, after the discovery of the iron ore and after the Jackson Mining Company, there were a lot of small companies that began to try to exploit the ore and to mine it and etc...organize companies, but...and there were many many mines listed; but eventually it became so that Cleveland-Cliffs emerged as the largest mining company. They have also had the J & L...Jones & Laughlin Steel Company...and Picans-Mather...Hanna Company...who have done mining in the Negaunee area; but Cleveland-Cliffs is really the major company.

The first Finns began to arrive in Negaunee about 1870 and they mostly worked in the mines. Some of them had farms on the outskirts, but even then they worked in the mines. We can truly say that the Finnish mise...the strength...the raw brawn of these Finns played a very important role in getting out the iron ore for Cleveland-Cliffs and
other companies. In those early days before all the modern equipment, it really took strength and stamina to drill and then to shovel the iron ore out and to brace the walls, and to timber...these heavy big timber logs that they brought underground to build up the walls...to hold up the ore veins, etc...that it took strength and stamina and truly, Finnish seesu...so that we often that it's this Finnish seesu that really mined the ore. There were many job descriptions...job classifications such as you had trammers and timber men and powder men and pipe men and cage men and all of these kind of people; but the hope of most of the Finns was they could become a contract miner because with contract mining there is always an incentive after so many tons per man was exceeded...that was a certain base level and once they exceeded that level then their wages were increased accordingly...and this is how these Finnish miners probably were the top earners also. I've tried to think of different names and I've checked with different ones, but that generation has just about all gone as to whether there were Finnish men who were foremen or head-of-the-gang, so to speak...the timber gang, etc...and...but I personally know that there's a man by the name of Abel Lietenen and August Jolkenen who were foremen. They were called shift bosses. Then there's another man in Negaunee by the name of Dave Puuenen who could do just about anything in the mines. He was a real phenomenal brain as far as Cleveland-Cliffs were concerned. He could do a lot of construction. He had good ideas. He could take and figure out a much better ore pocket, so to speak, or something that they needed underground or some kind of construction. He'd build it and then the engineers would direct it, put it on the blueprints so that this was it. They worked backwards...instead of having specifications first, David would make the thing and then they would go ahead and draw the blueprints afterwards. And it's interesting to note that this Puuenen family have had education. The oldest son, Raino Puuenen is a graduate of Michigan Tech and has been with the United States Department of Bureau of Mines in Duluth since his graduation and others of that family are teachers and social workers and nurses, etc., so that was a very well known family in Negaunee. Then, on these men who I was just saying who just by hard work earned themselves the name of good miners, I'd like to put in the name of my uncle, my mother's brother, John Kuivala who worked in the mines from a teenager until his sixty-fifth birthday and in that same neighborhood you have people like Henry Pekala and then you go in for back...the older men...you have men like Matt Manny, Sr. and there are all of these...most of these people...all these Finnish names in Negaunee, most of them were in the...worked in the mines and some of them, of course, got out of it and then went into some other kind of work; but the Finnish people certainly can take much credit for it. And there's one other name of that generation but this would be out in Palmer who had worked with the M.A. Hanna Company in the open pit mines in Palmer, Captain...he was always called Captain Huutala, a Finnish man who came from Finland and worked himself up so that he was the supervisor...the superintendent of that...he was always called Captain Huutala and his family have gone on and I think most of his children were girls, and they are school teachers, etc. Then in the second generation the name, Onnie Margaman crops up...he was a mining
engineer graduate of Michigan Tech and a mining engineer for Cleveland-Cliffs and went on up so that when he just retired a few years ago, he was the superintendent of several of their properties. He was a very valuable man. Onnie's father died in a mining accident and in those days there was very little compensation and his mother raised a large family by having cows and selling milk and Onnie worked in the mines himself and then went to Tech and always on weekends worked two shifts and worked in the summertime to earn money to put himself through school. There are quite a number of young men who have done this. Cleveland-Cliffs used to be very good to the children of their own men so that when they did go to Michigan Tech, then they were allowed to work in the mines. We have another name...this second generation and younger yet, would be Roy Koski who has a very...Michigan Tech graduate who has a very outstanding position with Cleveland-Cliffs in Ishpeming and another young man by the name of Heino Koski, Tech graduate, got his degree the same way...that they'd work to earn their money to go to school.

Now, to come on to the company I worked for...but before I go into that maybe I should talk just a little bit about the labor organizations in Negaunee. This...the socialist movement began in Negaunee and they organized in about 1905, what was known as the Socialist Organization; and these people built the labor temple in 1910. They had quite a large membership and this labor temple was a very outstanding building, built up on a bluff off Bluff Street in Negaunee; but then due to inner conflicts, the group kind of scatters and this beautiful building was eventually sold for taxes. But its influence was felt in Negaunee for many many years because anyone who had any connection in the top organization of this party were more or less blacklisted as far as work was concerned so that when there were any layoffs, they would always be the first ones to be layed off and, in fact, it got to the point where there were several of the men who were asked to kind of denounce their socialist feelings in order to be able to hold their jobs. And they would not so they were never able to get back to work with the Cleveland-Cliffs. So this was always a kind of a blot on the Finns and it took awhile for the Finns to overcome this kind of feeling that there was a little bit of (?) in many of the Finnish people. Many of them then even joined the church just to get away from this stigma. But then as the years went by and when the CIO became involved in organizing the unions in the area, that too brought a lot of conflict; but on the whole, the good steady miners were always company minded and very loyal and faithful workers. But it finally got to the point where unions are here to stay and so, we just lived with them; but this was kind of an early blot on the Finnish people.

Now, I will go on to talk about the kind of a mining company I worked for. This was organized in 1933 and called the North Range Mining Company and it was a closed corporation owned by two families, the Archibald family of Negaunee, Ralph S. Archibald being a mining engineer and geologist and had graduated of LeHeigh University in 1907, and had come into this area to work for the Hanna Company and then later on as an independent mining consultant and worked for the Hanna Company, Jones & Laughlin, and Inland Steel Company. So, he was the brains of the company and then the money was put in by Buok family of
Detroit, they were the Buck-Cadillac people and they had already earlier invested money in iron lands in the Iron River district and now came in with the Archibalds and organized the North Range Mining Company. Frank Buck of Detroit was president and Ralph S. Archibald of Negaunee was vice-president, Mr. Buck's secretary...male secretary, Elmer Holmgren became treasurer of the company and I, as secretary to Mrs. Archibald was made assistant secretary to the company and all of the papers and legal work was actually done in the Negaunee office so that I was more of an executive secretary and then the assistant secretary of the company; and we were more or less called scavengers because by in the 1930's many of the iron ore deposits in the underground mines had been depleted as far as the large mining companies were concerned...but we with the small overhead were able to take these properties and mine out the ore that was left. We too had some fine young men working for us...Finnish decent...second generation...we had Matt Haarsala as one of the shift bosses at the Mary-Charlotte and also at the Blueberry Mine. We had John Biemiel who was a shift boss at the Mary-Charlotte mine. Martin Marrineimi, Rev. Ahmost Marrineimi's son...his dad was minister then in Gwinn and Marty was a graduate of Michigan Tech. He was a mining engineer for our company. We had a very fine man from Champion, Mac Lampi, who was the overall carpenter and did all of that kind of work for the company.

End of Side A

R: But also, in Iron River, Crystal Falls, Ironwood and on the Minnesota Ranges in Evelith and in Elie, Minnesota; but as the years went by, raw ore was not acceptable anymore. It all had to be processed and you had to have a tremendous amount of capital in order to be able to put in these new plants and Mr. Archibald tried very hard to interest other companies in taking over part of our operations but this was not feasible to them and so finally in 1967, the company was phased out; but during the years that too gave much work to...especially in the Champion area where there were no other mining properties. Our company probably then was the last company who operated a raw ore mine. That means that we were able to bring the ore up to surface, load it into railroad cars, ship it down to the dock in Marquette or Escanaba and it would be taken into the vessels and directly down to the consuming interests then down in the lower lakes.

A little bit now on the church in Negaunee. Emanuel Lutheran Church, as it is known now, was born in 1887. The first church was a two-story wooden school building which the city of Negaunee auctioned off in 1887, and it was bid in for the congregation by two men, Abram Bolsom and John Mitchell. It is interesting to note that the...one of the Board of Directors and a great man on and worker for Suomi College, Dr. VannerHoover, his wife is of this Bolsom family...This Bolsom is either a grandfather or great-grandfather to Mrs. Hoover. But that's where Mrs. Hoover was born and spent some of her early years in Negaunee. And John Mitchell was very well known in Negaunee, then he moved...had a store business...and then he moved to Three Lakes, his family is around in the area. They bid this wooden school building for the congregation and then they had it moved to a lot of Mitchell
Avenue and the church bought this lot from the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company. The congregation worshiped in this building, first on the second floor and then they renovated the first floor and were able to worship there, and then the Ahmohusko Temperance Society was organized in this church building in 1888, and held meetings there for a period of about ten years until that society then built what we know...used to know, as the Gonsongooti and that was eventually taken over by the Knights and Ladies of Gulliva and when that part of the City of Negaunee became undermined so that it was on subsiding ground, that building was destroyed and the Gullivas bought another building for themselves because it really could not be moved from that location.

The first resident pastor at Emanuel Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Negaunee in 1901 was Rev. Octo Stadius and in 1902 the congregation decided to build a parsonage next to the church and this was completed then in 1903 and served the congregation for many many years. After Rev. Stadius, then there was Pastor Sadionin and Rev. Gaava and in 1919, Evert Mattila. This is an important interesting time of the church...in 1919 - 1920, Rev. Mattila became...while he was minister there he finally gave it up and went over with the Apostolic Lutherans and started a congregation there in Negaunee and many many of our good congregation members of that period went with him. One of them I must mention and I should have mentioned his name when we were talking about the mining industry and the Finnish names connected with it was Victory Maki. He was always known as (???) because he was in the security or custodial staff, really police staff of the Cleveland-Cliffs at their Negaunee mine; and (???) did so much for the people of Negaunee...made no difference if they were Suomi Synod or Apostolic or Socialist or nobody, no connection, temperance, it made no difference to him, if they had a need, he was there to help them so that many people really felt his help. But that family went over with this Rev. Mattila, a Wigg family went over who were very strong members...so there was kind of a break of the congregation at that time. The Sunday School in Negaunee was organized in 1890, and the Sunday School was always a real good arm of the church and active, etc., but by the 1930...late thirties, it began to go downhill because the Finnish language was the only language used and children weren't learning the language at home anymore. They were coming out of maybe mixed marriages or where Finnish was not being used in the home anymore so that when Pastor John Huutala...I should not skip over to him this fast, I should talk a little bit about Rev. Cardo having been the minister in Negaunee for seventeen years and it was Rev. Cardo who build the new church or was the minister there when the new modern brick church was built and the cornerstone was laid in 1922 and it was dedicated in 1923. And during Rev. Cardo's time, the church was very active especially in the musical end. He was and is very musical and his choirs were known throughout the Upper Peninsula. In fact, in 1931 he took a choir over to Finland to tour Finland. Going back then to this...during all this time of course, only Finnish was being used. It was used in the Sunday School and in church. Rev. Cardo was a very fluent speaker of the English language also; but there never seemed to be that much of a call for the English language in the services. But, maybe this was a mistake because the Sunday School and the church attendance began to drop more or less. Then when Pastor Cardo went
out to Seattle, Washington, Rev. John Huutala became the minister in Negaunee. He came in the fall of 1940 and immediately he established the English department for the Sunday School. Then the Sunday School began to grow so that it seems like only thirty-four years ago, the Sunday School was all conducted in Finnish...it just doesn't seem possible that we were able to keep that Finnish language that long. Then there was a period where the Finnish wasn't used at all and now, of course, all the young people...the third and fourth generations want to learn to speak the Finnish again. It was kind of difficult for us who had been confirmed and had taken all our religious training in Finnish to change our way of teaching to the English. We found that we had to almost learn a new vocabulary to be able to pronounce the names correctly...it took a lot of work to be able to teach in the English language and I think this early use of the Finnish in the church and Bible life has stuck with a lot of us. I'm sure I'm not the only one who says that the Finnish Communion Service is much more meaningful than the English. That there is some kind of a mystical element to it that is unexplainable; but that it is a meaningful service to us and that even yet the study of the Bible and reading of prayers and singing of hymns and all is much more meaningful to us in the Finnish language. Well anyway, the Sunday School grew and grew and grew and at one time, the enrollment was almost four hundred and we had a very fine group of teachers sometimes running up into forty and forty-five so that the teacher-student ratio was very good and it was easy to teach in the Sunday School. I was happy to have accepted the call to be the Superintendent of the English Department in 1940, and then continued on for another thirteen years as the Superintendent.

Back in 1938 the congregation entered into an agreement with the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company under which the company, the Cleveland-Cliffs took possession of the church property. The church itself and the parsonage because there was talk that the ground was subsiding and that we would be in an area where that church would either have to be moved or something would have to be done; So, this was one of the things that Rev. Cardo did before he actually left Negaunee....was to have this agreement entered into and then the Cleveland-Cliffs took care of the whole church property. Any upkeep, any renovations that had to be done, one year they took and they painted the inside of the sanctuary and the whole church, so that his was a good agreement that we had. Then when the time came when they felt that the church had to be mover, that it was hazardous for the church to be there, they would either pay for it or move it and eventually it was moved then...but not until 1952. It was moved to the new location, the location that is now where it is now on Highway US 41, so this church was actually put on wheels and moved over through the fields. The brick veneer was taken off and the steeple was taken down and it was moved and the Cleveland-Cliffs through their construction firm, Prox Construction Company, built a brand new church basement and then the church building was placed on that. And it was during this time that this young man, Onie Marganam, was such an asset to the Emanuel Lutheran congregation and he was on the Board of Trustees and he acted as the liaison man between the church and Cleveland-Cliffs and the Cleveland-Cliffs did a very fine job. They put that church in very good condition so it was redicated then in 1952; but the parsonage...Cleveland-Cliffs had in 1939 I believe it was
that they exchanged the parsonage that we had on Mitchell Avenue for another large home on Baldwin Avenue that would be right next to where the church would be moved; but this building proved to be too hard for a minister's family to live in...it was a three-story building, so it was sold and then a modern home was built in 1940. So, here we see this connection again between the Finns and the Cleveland-Cliffs that there has been a good cleavage between them. Sometimes, you know like children crab about their parents, maybe some of these miners crabbed a little bit about the Cleveland-Cliffs, etc., but that was normal, more or less. It was kind of a family affair that the Cleveland-Cliffs as far as the Finnish people are concerned, they have assisted in many many ways.

And as the Sunday School then continued to grow, they decided...the Board of Trustees studied the matter and it was decided at a congregational meeting that we must add on to the church in a two-story addition and it was put on the west side of the church. It provides a chapel, dividable classrooms, nursery and conference rooms and the church office and the pastor's study is on the second floor...so that all of this then was dedicated in May, 1960. So, my heart is there at Emanuel. I find that it was a second home, it was a marvelous place for Mother to raise her family...her three daughters. Two of them then left and now, for the last six years, I've been here in Marquette and my heart still is in Negunee.

I should list some of the pastors that we had...I started off with Stadius, Sadionin, Gaava, Mattila and Cardo...then we did have Rev. Lepalitto for just an interim pastor for one year before Rev. John Huutala came...oh, and we must mention that then came Dr. John Wargelin and it was from our Emanuel Lutheran Church that Dr. John Wargelin went to Hancock as the Bishop...the President of Suomi Synod. In fact, it was the Emanuel Lutheran Sunday School that gave him his first Bishop's Cross. He has had one since, but this one he always treasured because we had given it to him. After Dr. Wargelin, we had Rev. Herman Mattor, he was there for four years from '51 to '55, and after that Rev. Octi Kaatiala (?) from '55 to '61, and then came Rev. William Saadivilla from '62 to early '68 and presently Rev. Rudolph Kempaainen is the pastor.

Stop in tape.

My interviewer Elma Ranta was quite interested in the Blueberry Mine because she remembers as a young girl that her father was with the Duluth South Shore & Atlantic Railroad and he would often be working at the Blueberry Mine...that is switching iron ore cars and I suppose pulling them on down to the docks in Marquette. The South Shore Railroad was the only railroad that really served the Blueberry Mine. This property was drilled by the Palms-Buok Land Company which was part of the Buok family from Detroit and then they in turn leased it to the Ford Motor Company. This was the first venture that the Ford Motor Company had in iron mining. They were in the logging business and did well in that business, but as far as iron mining was concerned, they could not make a go of it because they spent too much money on the equipment and the building and keeping all of the things painted up to snuff and all of this kind of extra overhead expense and so they finally closed down
the property; but it had a beautiful layout...the drive and the offices, etc. And that's why really the North Range Mining Company was born then because they then took over the operation of the Blueberry Mine and operated it until it was exhausted. Now there is no mine left there and they are also one of the moving firms has their offices there. It may be interesting to note that as a woman I was able to go underground at the Blueberry Mine. That was a mine that was very wet and you had to wear oil coats to go underground. In the early days of mining it was fairly easy for women to go underground, but somehow or other then the men got the idea that if a woman went underground it was a bad sign...they'd have an accident or something...so then they just barred women completely. And I had a little difficult time to go underground, but the bosses own daughter, Alice Archibald, wanted to go underground so the two of us then did go with the Safety Director and viewed the underground workings, the levels and the raises, etc.

When I was talking earlier about the Finns and mining, I had kind of forgotten...I was going to tell you about the language...the new dictionary almost that was created for mining terms and it wasn't until after I was working for a mining company that I realized what these expressions were. I had heard my uncle always talk about a sotpe (?)...well that is the shaft, and there were (???)...and I thought what on earth would (???) be...well, that was the lathing, those were wood strips that were used for backing up their (???)...and a (???) would be a raise, and a leveleena would be the level and all of these different words that were really Finglish. They just added onto them but for someone who was not acquainted with the terminology of mines, you wouldn't really know what it was.

But I also had a opportunity to go underground at our Champion Mine. Now the Champion Mine was originally developed by the Oliver Iron Mining Company which is the United States Steel Corporation. The Oliver Iron Mining Company was a branch of it and that was developed way back in the 1880's; and there was some very good engineering that went into it. The shafts...there were two shafts, No. 5 and No. 7 Shaft, and one of the shafts had seven definite knuckles in it. The shaft would go down straight for a while and then it would bend and then it would bend again so there were these seven knuckles as you'd go down underground, you bouff...bouff...bouff...bouff as the cage went down. So that took some very fine engineering to be able to do that kind of a shaft and you went down in this hard rock because that's what the Champion Mine was...is a hard-ore mine. So I went down again this time now with the daughter-in-law of the Archibalds and with the Safety Director and we went down in the cage in No. 7 Shaft, and it was like in a beautiful cathedral in that mine. They didn't need any timbering or anything to hold up the walls because the ore itself is so hard that the walls never caved in...so they just kind of pull it out, so to speak, the ore from the ceiling and it would just kind of drop on down. You had to wear lights and you could hardly see the top of this big cathedral-like opening. Then we came back up in No. 5 Shaft and then there you only have to...went into a skipp...the skipp that brings up the ore. So that was quite an interesting experience to be able to be underground and I'm probably and these two Archibald women, probably the only women that were allowed to go
underground. I know in this area we would have been the only ones because it's even difficult for other people to go unless they're... men to go unless they have something to do with the company that is doing something underground.

I: That's interesting because I know my sister had to go all the way to Finland and there she was able to go into a copper mine...and she said, "I come from a mining area and I had to go to Finland to get to go down into a copper mine". And you don't in Finland either as a woman. So, you have made history.

R: Elma Ranta still wants me to add on. She says we want to be sure and get into this tape the fact that as a woman I was on the Board of Directors of Suomi College from 1957 until 1963. These were exciting years for me to be on the Board and then Mr. Ralph S. Archibald, then President already of North Range Mining Company was very very proud of the fact that his secretary was picked to be on this Board and was always very anxious for me to get to the meetings. I was Secretary of the Board for quite a number of years and was on the Board at the time where the life of Suomi College was kind of in the balance. There were some on the Board who said, "Let's throw in the hat". But, there were enough of us who said, "No", so that Suomi College now lives and I also was on during the time when Dr. Jalkenen became President and it's just been a great thing to see that college grow the way it has under his leadership; and I feel very honored and very flattered that I was able to be on that Board at that time.