FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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**BIOGRAPHY OF ARVID WIITANIEMI**

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I: The following will be an oral history interview on September 29, 1974. The subject matter will generally focus upon the biography of Arvid Wittaniemi. The persons being interviewed are all, with one exception, the children of Arvid Wittaniemi, and we will be hearing from them starting right now. When was Grandpa born? When was Arvid Wittaniemi born, I should say.

Here's his birth certificate.

I: Well, when was it? 1907, right?

No, November 10, 1871.

I: 1871...and where was he born?

Kemi.

I: In Kemi, Finland. What was his father's name?

Sackris Johansson Wittaniemi.

I: And what are these other...

This here is...his father was born in...

I: Well, why don't you simply read it off, O.K.?

His father was born on February 17, 1837 in Kemi and he died January 9, 1885, and he was married in...to Kaisa Greeta Lahdenvuoti...he was married to her on April 8, 1877, and children born to the marriage were Arvid and Henry and Aina Sohvia.

I: Three children?

Three children.

I: What did his father do for a living in Kemi?

Gee, I'm sure I don't know.

He was a tailor.

I: A tailor? And why in the world did he come to America? Do you remember anything he used to say talking about the old times in Finland? If you could tell any of the things that he said that would really help.

Well, his father died when Pappy was 14 years old, you know...but his stepmother lived until he came to this country...but he was a "renki" (hired man)...what's that called?
Like hired man or hired boy.

I: He went around working at different farms in return for board.

Rl: Yes.

I: Do you recall anything about how he used to say what Finland was like at the
time and any of his boyhood memories? Did he say anything to you about that
sort of thing?

Well, he mentioned about that one place...I don't know whether he didn't have
anyplace to go or stay that time, but he was not exactly as a hired man...but
anyway there's some other people that wanted him to come work for them, so one
fella offered him that he's gonna really be good to him and buy him clothes and
then...but he did say that all he got out of that place was a pair of boots that
he come to America in.

I: It probably wasn't the best way to make a living, working as a hired hand.

And when he got the ticket to come to America, the place where he was staying
well, he was...kind of didn't want him to leave, but anyway...what he mentioned
that he was watching through the crack of the door that when this owner disap-
ppears, well then he'll start to America and run away...and when he was watching,
and this owner of the other place was looking from the other side of the crack...
the door...and then, well, that's when he took off and he come to America.

I: You mean they were peaking at one another?

Yeah.

I: So he, in a sense, just ran away?

Well, away from that place...and he did mention that he was like, almost like,
not exactly sold as a slave but just, you know, they were offering him up for
like room and board someplace...and these others wanted him to come and work
for them...that's what he told to this one friend of his, a cousin.

I: Evidently that happened to a lot of young men and women in those times. If
something happened to the family, that's the only way they could make a go of
it, you know...what did he say?

You're the one that remembered that.

I: What did he say in Finnish?

Se sanoo että hän on kraatarin poika, että kyllä hän saatta sukat korjata ja
pakkam penna housuin. (He says that he is a tailor's son and can fix socks and
put a patch on pants.)

I: And a good translation of that is?

He says, "I could darn my socks or fix my socks or put a patch on my pants if
need be...because I was a tailor's son."
Besides, he used to be a real good "suutar" (shoemaker), too...I remember he made shoes for my mother, you know...she never could wear the American shoes...so he always made her the shoes and they were called "sympakset" (boots).

I: Well, when did he come here, then? What was that date again, I forgot it.

RL: June 17, 1887.

I: And where did he come first?

RL: Well, I think this says Quebec, doesn't it?

I: It says Hancock there...oh, he came to Quebec first.

RL: And then to Hancock.

I: What did he do when he first arrived in Hancock?

Well, what I recall him telling he went to my grandfather's and he stayed there for some time down in Omela, Michigan, at Henry Lampinen's...what I recall Arvid telling me.

I: He had a farm there?

That would be my grandfather and they had a farm there...and a lot of people that came from the old country, I guess they kind of stopped there till they got oriented in their own...

I: O. K., where did he go from there, then? Did he work in the mines, to your knowledge?

No, I think from there he came straight to Portage Entry and from there to Jacobsville or Red Rock as it was known then where his uncle Henry Wittaniemi was.

I: His uncle Henry Wittaniemi had a homestead in, what was it, 1889, and was that that same property that was the family farm there?

Yeah, that's the same farm that my dad had and then now I got it...and although the farm has been kind of divided in between, but now it's back in the...the 160 acres back in the Wittaniemi name.

I: Now when did he get married? Was he married in Finland?

No, he married his first wife here in Hancock.

I: And her name was?

Sohvia Wuoti.

I: And he was married in?

September 29, 1892.

I: Did any of you know her?
No, that was his first wife...and he married Mother then later after she died.

I: When did his first wife die...O. K., now this will be a reading of the obituary of Arvid's first wife and her name is...

Frieda Sohvia Wittaniemi, oma sukuwa Wuoti, syntynyt Kemissa, joka hivistävä keuhkotautin sairastettuun levollisesti vaipui kuolon unen uskossa ylösnouseen Herran Jesukseen, Red Rockissa, Pohjois Amerikkassa, 24 Lokakuuta (October) 1898. Eletyn tähän murheitten maassa 28 vuotta, 1 kuukausi ja 12 päivää. Vainaja jäljivät rakkauden ikävällä kaipaaman ja muisteleman hänen allekirjoitunan miehenään ja yksi sisar Amerikkassa ja sekä kaksi velimiestä ja yksi sisar Suomessa kuin myös suuri joukko lähelaisia sukulaisia ja tuttavia Suomessa ja Amerikassa. Allekirjoitan Arvid Wittaniemi. (Frieda Sohvia Wittaniemi, née Wuoti, born in Kemi, wasting away from a tuberculosis illness calmly lapsed into death's dream believing in the resurrected Lord Jesus, in Red Rock, North America, on October 24, 1898. She lived here on this sad earth 28 years, 1 month and 12 days. The deceased left her loving, lonely, longing and remembering husband and one sister in America and two brothers and one sister in Finland and also a large crowd of close relatives and friends in Finland and America. Written by Arvid Wittaniemi.)

I: O. K., can you translate that in English as best you can?

Well, the names are self-explanatory even in the Finnish language, I can't change them...the dates are also...so this is just a death...regular death notice.

I: Did it say what she died of?

It says she died of tuberculosis...a sickness of a long duration...and it also says that she died in belief in the hereafter.

I: Is there anything else there?

And then it does give the names of those that...the survivors...and how deeply they remembered her...and that is all that there is to say in this...

I: O. K., that's very good...well, if they were only married six years and if she had a sickness of long duration she must have been sick most of that time. They had no children, right?

No.

I: After she died, then, what happened...what did he do?

Well, he was...continued to live here in Jacobsville or as it was known as Red Rock then and worked in the quarry, stone quarry.

I: Was your uncle Henry Wittaniemi alive at that time?

Yes, yes.

I: So he was working on the farm?
No, no, he was working in the quarry.

Sandstone quarry.

I: I'm sorry...had he married his second wife at this time?

No, no...he continued to work there...I think...he made a trip to Finland before he married my mother.

I: Do you recall when he made that trip to Finland?

October 30, 1906.

I: O.K., he made a trip to Finland in October 30, 1906. Why did he go back to Finland?

To get another wife.

I: Aha! He was hunting for a woman, eh?

He went there with some of the preachers to Finland and Swedish Lapland. I think there's John Kieri was one...but I'm not sure if Matoniami was the other one.

I think he was one, yes

Then the other ones I don't remember him mention...but John Kieri and Matoniami was two of them.

I: When did he meet...

Rl: He met my mother on that trip.

I: Oh, on the way?

On the trip means that...

On the trip that he was in Finland...that's when he met my mother...but she didn't come here until 1907.

I: And her name was...her full, maiden name...

Kaisa Maria Ylänki

I: O.K., Arvid married Katarina Ylänki in 1907. Where was she living in Finland? Where was her home in Finland?

Haapaväliä.

I: Where is that?

Oulunlääni.

I: I see...how did he happen to meet her? Do you recall him telling their love story?
I think it was at some church meetings and it was this John Kieri that introduced them... that's what I remember him saying, but we should have had you read this... a history of... he was almost 10 years a widower... then he sent for my mother and they got married here.

I: He was 10 years a widower here? What was he doing here during that period?

Well, he was working in the quarry as far as I know.

I: Do you recall any of his tales about working in the quarry, what it was like?

He used to operate the drill in making those holes for putting the dynamite to blast... and he did mention about the drill or the shaft had worn down so he wanted them to get a new bushing for it but they didn't, so he took a piece of a watch spring and put that and then it started working so the boss, he figured, well, it don't need any new bushings... and he was getting $1.50 a day which was a quarter more than the other fellas were making.

Do you recall any of the other things he said about working there in the quarry? That's pretty important from a historical point of view.

They did have little strikes there. One time him and... there was two other fellas that they didn't want to go back although the boss had come out there and told them to get to work and most of them did go right away but there was three fellas including Arvid didn't go, and then, well, the boss kind of begged them or asked them why not, and he said, "Well, we're kind of hotheaded too... that when you tell us roughly like this, well, we don't listen."

I: So it wasn't really a matter of money, it was just the way in which he was commanding them to work that rubbed against his grain.

Yeah... and another time he said that there wasn't any bosses around... they were sitting on the timber out there and that's when most of the fellas jumped up and went to work... well, him and his two partners, they didn't jump up right away, they waited till the boss got closer, then they started moving, and the boss had fired the other fellas, he said that when you're scared like that, well, you must be sitting all the time while he ain't around... the other three that got left there, well, they just took their time getting back to work... and the boss didn't fire him or the other two fellas.

I: The boss figured that that was revealing their bad conscience?

Yeah.

What did you say, Katherine, about somebody asking him who this new fellow was, was it, and he said he had a neck like a "samakko" (frog)... well, relate that, as you remember.

Well, someone at work had said that he's a good worker, even his neck is like a frog, you know... he had goiters.

He had a very prominent adam's apple.

Well, I think he had goiters, too.
Pappy had goiters, yes. He wore a size 17 shirt when he was about 16 years old.

Well, I recall Arvid saying there as he was working in the quarries there that "Kaplaninen" which was cutting the sandstone into building blocks where they'd saw it with a saw that had no teeth, that had water for lubrication and it saved a groove into the sandstone rock and then they put a whole bunch like little cold chisels in there and they split this rock to size which was quite interesting.

I: He was cutting rock to block size then, also.

So according what I recall of his conversation he was quite a stonemason around that sandstone, he knew how it was all prepared, you know, for shipment, and so forth, for industrial use.

And they did use these saws, and they were tubeless saws for cutting them...they had water dripping in there...and then they'd sprinkle some lakes or sand and that would make it kind of wear faster so they could cut quicker...but like in using these cold chisels, too, on some rocks, well, if they didn't have the saw, well, they'd just pick little holes just deep enough to get that chisel standing or wedges, and then they'd tap by turns...go from one end to the other end...if there was like a 4-foot strip to be cut, well, they'd put maybe one in every 8 inches...and then they'd keep on tapping until they would split right through.

I: There was quite an operation there. Do you recall him saying how many people were working there...you mentioned that Jacobsville was called Red Rock at the time, and it had a population of about 800 people.

Yeah, that's during the peak of their workings on the sandstone.

I: And how long did he work on the sandstone then?

I think he worked through about 1915 although he was starting to farm a little before then...like he had these...forty that he bought with his first wife and then he bought the other two forties in 19...

R3: From his uncle?

I: In the fall of 1893 he bought 40 acres of land from his uncle for $450. Then on October 24, 1898, when he was 28 years old, Sohvi died of tuberculosis as we mentioned...and that's about it...Uncle Henry Wittaniami's 160 acres of land were split up...Arvid bought 40, Anselm Maki bought 40, and the firm of Nara Brothers, Pfeiffer & Froney bought the remaining 80 acres. On May 4, 1947, Arvid sold 120 acres to his son Wilho and his wife Anna...O. K., how did he start this farming now...can you tell a little bit about how he started it...was it all woodland?

R2: I think it was all woodland...and, well, his uncle started the farming first and he had a team of oxen there that he...

I: O. K., you say his real name was Saakris?
R2: Sackris Arvid Wittamiemi...but he dropped the Sackris off due to the...one of his cousins was named Sackris, too, and their mail and paychecks used to be...get mixed up...so he started using just Arvid Wittamiemi.

I: When he started farming had he married his second wife Katariina? I mean, can you recall your mother?

No, I don't...it should be here...

I: Did your mother ever live on the farm?

Yes, yes...well, first when they were married they lived in his uncle's place, Henry Wittamiemi's, the forty that he had off that, and that's where Katie was born...and then they moved later to the farm and that's where I was born, then, on the farm...I was the first one born there.

I: Well, what was this early farm like?

It was mostly handtool work...there's still some of his tools at...on the farm...like a grubhoe and he used an old broadaxe for cutting the sod like on that lower swamp forty...to cut that thick brush and that, well, he had to put all those in strips in order to drain it good...and we used to call it the "little farm" now later on...and that...it was like a 3-point hoe but they were made by a blacksmith and they were really husky for pulling the sod off after it was cut with the broadaxe.

What about the oxen?

I: What about the oxen?

Well, the oxen...or my...Arvid drove the oxen team for his uncle when the uncle was farming there...and when the uncle was making hay, even, he'd put one of the oxen in the hay barn to tramp down the hay to get more hay in there...just walk that oxen around.

I: I think that would tramp it down pretty good, eh?

R3: I wish he had done it when we were young, we had to do that ourself.

I: O.K., Ida was the first child born.

R3: No, Katherine.

I: The first-born...you were born in...what year?

1908.

I: And then there was...you were born in?

R1: Yeah, I was born on the home farm then in 1909.

I: 1909...that's now Ida Nordstrom...and then?

R1: Martha.
I: Martha Wittaniemi was born in?
   1911.
I: And then?
   Wilho, born 1912.
I: And then?
   Hilda was born 1914.
I: And then?
   Hilma.
I: Was born...1915...and then?
   Lydia.
I: Was born in?
   1917.
I: And then?
   Selma, 1918.
I: And then?
   Toini, 1921.

There was a son between Toini and Selma but it died about at three days birth, I think, or soon after.

I: Was he named?
   Yes, he was Abner.
I: Now I recall you saying that your mother Katarina died quite young also.
Rl: She died 51 years old.
   She died 49, I think.
   Oh, I thought it was 51.

I was 9 years old then and she was 41 when I was born.

I: About 50 years old...what was this farm like with quite a few girls and one male? That must have been a farmer's headache.

Well, he used to say that you can always get boys with the girls...when they get married, well, then he gets an extra son always.
I: Can you recall what happened...I know it's very difficult...on that farm when you were very young...like what would happen in the morning...in the winter morning what was the first thing that happened that you can remember?

Well, they had to shovel the path to the barn and clean the barn out, feed the cattle, milk, and then carry the water from the well with the buckets, water the cows...and the horse barn was separate, a little further off...the same thing in there that...you feed and then clean the barn and...if it was day to do some horse work or team work, well, then harness them and then go in for breakfast and take a little rest and then start up with the...

I: All that was done before breakfast?

R2: No, well, most of that was...everything was gotten ready and then breakfast and then start out with the horses.

I: I see...what would you have to do early in the morning...do you remember, Katie?

R5: We had to milk cows before we went school.

I: Whose job was that?

R6: The girls.

R3: I suppose Katie and I did it.

I: Can you remember that?

No, I...well, I think in the later years when...maybe the last year or two, I remember milking cows...but I remember around Christmas time my mother used to make toast or what they'd call "korpua"...she'd make the sweet dough like the day before and bake it into loaves, and then on Christmas morning she'd slice it into like "korpua" and toast it in the oven...and that was good!

I: I imagine...any things you remember of those early days...anything, now we've opened it wide up so just anything that comes to your mind.

Well, what was this about Father at Otter Lake, Henry?

Well, I recall...he said in his early years he spent a winter up Otter Lake...they went over there with a group of fellows, I guess, to get some meat...meat must have been kind of scarce...so they figured on poaching a deer or something like that...I don't know what really become...if they ever did poach the deer, as far as that goes I don't think they did, or did they get one.

SIDE TWO

He said he got one deer on this Otter Lake hunting trip and then he said he spent the winter there and he went around collecting names to establish a Post Office up there as I recall him relating...and this is a long time ago...and another thing I thought I'd mention here...Wilko was saying about carrying that water out of the well...well, they had a "ventti" (pole) on this well, what they call as a kind of fulcrum pole on the balance with a weight with a pull on where
the bucket was what lifted the water out of the well...and that way you kept your mitts fairly dry, I guess, in the cold weather where you wouldn't have to expose them right to the water...and he was very capable in a lot of things as far...he made most of his own tools...he was very capable with an axe and a knife and anything he wanted from wood he was...whether it'd be a pair of skis or a pair of ski poles or a maddock handle or...

I: Rakes?

Rakes, he made his own rakes...he made his own spoons and I had some of his axe handles in my garage right now that he had started...in fact, I finished one up yesterday and put it on an axe that Grandpa Wittiniemi had roughed in.

Didn't he make a shingle machine once, too, and remember making the shingles?

Yeah, that was when the lean years of 1930s...his uncle had this shingle mill or plane...it was more like a plane or planer...but that was taken apart so he made it a little different...the blade in the middle of a 14- or 16-foot plank and one end was attached to a wall of the sauna and then the table was under the blade there about 7 feet up on the wall and then the other end of the plank was used for leverage for maybe two, three men pulling it, and every time you pull, well, a shingle would come out...and the house that's on the farm yet, what farm was homesteaded in, is sided with copper shingles made in 1932...and cedar shingles were used on the roof but due to it being kind of a fire hazardous, well, it was later proofed with asbestos or roofing...and that plane is still in there on the farm that...some day I figure on put it to use again.

I: Make a few shingles?

Yeah.

R3: Will you have all the horsepower that Pappy had then?

Well, we hired two, three of the neighbors for pulling that...there was Anselmi Maki, John Maki and...

R3: Well, we used to push sometime, too.

R2: I know...and we were...the children were on it, too, when we needed just a small amount like making these boards for making strawberry cases...they were made by the same plane or planer.

R3: What about this kind of merry-go-round thing with a sled on the end...didn't Father make that...or you...

R2: I made that.

R3: Oh, I didn't remember that.

R2: It was like a pole into the ground and then over a post and then a long, like a winch, from the top of that with the other end maybe one-third on one end and two-thirds on the other end and then we'd put a sleigh on the other end and then from the other end we'd start spinning it around...we really got a fast ride on there.
I: I guess so!

We used to ice that track a little bit, too, you know, and it really went.

Busting the hay...Arvid's fishing sleigh on it, too.

I: You broke his fishing sleigh on it?

Yeah, there was...what are they called, those.

Runners?

The "kilos".

Not the runners, but the...hit so hard on the side.

I: Any other memories or things that you can think of now?

Yes, he was a very capable scythe man...and he could really cut hay with a scythe...and it was a clean work, it was just like a mower had gone through...and another thing I remember distinctly when he cut grain he had a cradle scythe which every time he'd take it would bunch this grain up and then he'd take part of the grain and he'd tie it with the straw...he'd twist the straw up and he'd make a tie and that's the way these bundles were tied up...was quite interesting.

I: Any other stories? Surely. Katie, you must remember milking cows...what was it like working in that early barn there?

Was that with a candle or a kerosene lamp?

Lantern, I think.

Henry, what about the time he almost choked?

Well, Arvid stayed with us...he came to live with us, after he sold his farm he lived with us, he came, I think it was in the latter part of '47 and he stayed with us about approximately 14½ years...and he used to relate a lot of stories and happenings that happened down through the quarry days, and there's one incident, I remember we were having, I think it was a Sunday dinner...and we were having chicken for dinner, and all at once he started to gag and tried to cough and he got a chicken bone caught in his throat, and I looked over and it looked like he was turning color so I picked him up and I turned him upside down...I picked him up by the heels and I gave him a hard slap on the back and I dislodged the chicken bone that was caught in his throat that he couldn't get out...and we were very fortunate in that respect that it did come out, it could have been drastic.

I: I understand he used to cross the Canal here in order to go shopping and in order to do some of the things he wanted to do.

R2: Yeah, he...almost every Sunday he'd walk up to White City or someplace close to the channel like Hunki's and then he'd take a rowboat from there, go to Entry side, usually to Simon Kalliainen's place and from there he'd go, either
stay there for the Sunday or he'd go church with them wherever they had church meetings, and after this...Nars Brothers and George Pfeiffer's store closed, well, he started dealing with Karppi Brothers from Snake River and...

I: Where was this first store you mentioned?

Nars Brothers & Pfeiffer.

I: Where was that?

That's located there where the Lutheran Church is in Jacobsville.

I: I see.

And we'd always, well, he'd always send the order ahead in a week like on Tuesday and...by mail...then they would deliver the groceries either to Palosaari's place or across the channel and then he'd have to take a boat and get them from there, from Kuusisto's and...or either to White City or Fortage Entry...and we'd well, summertime we'd always go with the team, team of horses and wagon, to get the groceries and wintertime we'd use the sleigh...we dealt from there until the Super Quality Market truck started delivering groceries to Jacobsville...so that was...I don't exactly know how many years, it must have been 10, 15 years that we dealt from Karppi's.

Do you remember on Sundays if he didn't go to church how he would read the "Postal" and we would all have to sit down in the other room and he would sing hymns and keep sort of a church service, like...he didn't preach sermons or anything but he'd always read.

Yeah, read from the Bible or Laestadius...and most every Sunday he'd see that before the children could go out, well, they'd have to, like, learn their Sunday School lessons, or he asked if we read the Aspinen or catechism.

I: So even though there was no church immediately around he sort of made his home into Sunday School and church for the children, right?

Yeah.

He was a kind of a strict, God-fearing man but he had a humorous side to him, too...I recall one time he says about "kurtti Antti Kuusamosta pitkä Liisan poika joka ei syöny mitään ko fiiliä ja voita" (skinny Andrew from Kuusamo, tall Lisa's boy, ate nothing but 'fiiliä' and butter) which was a kind of a saying in Finnish, it's a kind of a comical saying, you know, just good, dry humor.

I: Yeah, it won't sound right translated into English but for my sake would you do it, translate it?

Well, that's pretty hard for me to...what would be a...what would that be...a skinny, canker-some Andrew...would...he was from Kuusamo, from Kuusamo, Finland and something that he didn't eat nothing but "fiiliä" and butter "voita"...that's yoghurt would be "fiiliä", eh...but the way it comes out it was quite humorous...and it just come to me...it kind of rhymes in Finnish which it doesn't in English but it's quite comical.
I: Are there any other humorous sides to him?

What was that he said about that "kilju" (squeal)...what was...

Oh, "yo, kyllä minä muisten sen. Se oli samo joku ollu kaivanossa työssä ja se oli ollu sitte toiskielin en aikä miten ne samo. Englantilaisia 'kosejär'...se oli 'kosejakki' sille Suomelaisille samonu että minä 'I kill you'...se Suomelaisten sano sille 'kilju vein mutta minä tapen'". (Oh, yes, indeed I remember that. It was said that someone was in the mine at work, a non-Finn, an English Cousin Jack...the Cousin Jack said to the Finn, "I kill you"...the Finn said to him, "Squeal if you want but I'll kill.")

I: Do the best you can in translating that.

Well, it's just that "kilju" in Finnish would be, "I'll scream", while of course it's "kill you" in English, you know, so he just said, "Well, scream, but I'll kill" in other words.

I: I know but there was a lot more to it...can you...

Oh, the giving of it.

I: Yeah, can you.

Ah, was it an Irishman or Cousin Jack? I really didn't hear the beginning of it, you tell the beginning in English.

I: Do the best you can to give us the gist of it.

It was a Cousin Jack and he says, "I kill you" and in Finnish "kilju" would be, "I squeal or scream" and he didn't understand that...he thought...he told him, he says, "Go ahead and scream", but he says, "I'm going to 'tapa' you"...that which means, "I'll kill you."...so...

I: Do you recall any peddlers coming around at the time...I understand peddlers used to...

R2: Usually come some of these peddlers peddling clothes that they bought from the stores that were out of fashion or like that and they went to the farming countries...peddled...and he usually bought some clothes for himself and the children and then there was sewing machine repairmen used to travel around, too...and he had the sewing machine fixed by this fella once.

I: Did you have any home remedies for...

R1: My mother used to have during the flu time...during the first World War when we had the flu...she would boil some milk with some butter and onion in it and she would make us drink that.

R3: And remember we used to take a sugar lump dipped in kerosene for a cold.

I: What did she call this mixture of milk?

Well, it was just...I think it was...she just called it boiled milk.
I: I thought she might have had some exotic name for it.
No, no.
I: And sugar lump in kerosene, eh?
Or either few drops of turpentine in a lump of sugar...that was for colds.
Like for sore throats.
Kill or cure.

I was going to say about the time that when he used to raise potatoes and in the spring, then, he'd sell them, you know, and he'd have the Huuki boys take it to Houghton with their boat...and this one time, you see he would have to take them there with the team and then he would have to bring the team home and then walk over there again...so this one time I promised I'd take the team home...so we started off but he wouldn't let me take it all the way from Huuki's home...he went as far as that road, that White Kemi Road, and then Wilho and I took the team home from there...and I'll tell you that team knew there wasn't Pappy behind them...oh, they started to go so fast and I didn't know how we were ever going to get home...and anyway we got in that front of the barn and then we got, anyway, the horses separated from each other and when we got them in the barn, I closed that door...but I didn't offer any more jobs like that to do.

He used to go to Calumet with the team and he'd sell a cow for somebody out there and he'd bring it out there and he'd stay a night, but I know one time he made the trip in a day, I think...

Katie and I went along.

Did that...talking about them peddlars, did that Immonen, a guy by the name of Immonen, did he come around selling pots and pans and stuff like that...I kind of recall him in my earlier days back in Onoha making the rounds and I just wondered if he made the rounds out here.

No, I don't think...there used to be one they called the "incheri peddler" or what was it...did he come to Princess Point?

There was a "halpa Jussi". (cheap John)

R2: That was a different one than "halpa Jussi"..."halpa Jussi"...and afterwards Nicholls.

I used to trade, you know, eggs and butter and whatever a farmer had...and a lot of time they didn't have the medium of cash, they just used exchange for a product where he'd take so many dozen a eggs for an item or pounds of butter...whatever potatoes and then he'd trade them again and it was just a kind of a bantering trade business going on...there wasn't lot of times maybe not too much cash involved.

Yeah, mostly it was...farm income was from butter and potatoes and eggs.

I: How were these marketed, now...only to the peddlars that came by?
No, these were like the local people that didn't have any cows, well, then they'd buy butter and it usually was put in those 3 or 5 lb. crocks.

I: And you'd haul this to the store?

R2: No, right straight to the families...I know we had one...he used to be a hired man for my dad...well, and that's the only way he got paid was by butter and that...his payment lasted for many years after he didn't work any more...finally he got paid up just by bringing about, I don't know was it 5 lbs. of butter, well, I'd say about every two weeks.

Well, Bridgeman Russell played an important early role where they sold these cream in these 5 gallon...

That was later.

That was latter years, I guess.

Yeah, that was about 1920s or like that when we started shipping the cream.

I: But up until that time he would haul the butter around to the various farms around here?

R2: Various families...farms, they usually had...or maybe it wasn't separated with a regular separator, it was just made like "fiili" and then the cream was skimmed off from the top of that and then that was made into butter.

That was before the days of the separator.

R2: Yeah.

I: And he would also sell the eggs the same way, right?

Yeah, eggs...he had the chickens there but it was a certain time, I don't remember the year...it probably was around 1920 or 1919...that the price of eggs went down to 13¢ a dozen or so, well, then he sold the chickens...in the mornings he used to tell me to go leave the chickens out, and I was a small boy, well, I opened the chicken coop door and them chickens would come flying out of there and I'd always run off out of their way...one thing I remember that Mother used to tear newspapers into small bits and feed that for the chickens and then that...

I: You mentioned that your mother would feed the chickens newspaper?

R2: Yeah, newspapers, and lot of times you'd see that printing on the shell of the eggs, then.

Was this for a calcium deficiency, or what...stronger eggs?

No, just to get that vitamins or whatever the egg shell is made of.

I: You mean you could actually see printing on the egg shell?

And then she used to...I did that, too, later on...break, like, broken dishes...well, break them up small and feed that for, like chicken grit, or what they'd...
For the crops.

Yeah...that would be like grinding their feed.

He used to ski a lot, didn't he, and make wood all winter, and even when he was at Holman's, why, in his later years when he was in his 80s, why, didn't he still used to make the wood all the time and carry it in?

I: He was a cross-country skier?

Well, he traveled lots with his skis...they were his main source of transportation in the wintertime...and just like the wood when he stayed with us, like we'd get the wood sawed and that with the tractor, we'd saw up the wood, well, then put it in the woodshed there, well, he'd want to split that wood and he wanted to keep the woodbox full, if you went and carried wood into the house you were kind of infringing on his franchise and he wasn't too happy about it and he'd let you know...that was his baby.

I: That's very interesting.

He used to ski all the way from on the farm to Entry and sometime Snake River to Luusua's...and ice fishing he used to do lots...he took me out first time ice fishing when I was about 12 years old...the heaviest fish he got was from Rabbit Bay, fishing through the ice, was 48 pounds...and the price of fish were only 5 cents a pound.

He sold the head for 50 cents and it weighed 5 pounds.

I: It sounded like times were very hard, I knew they were...was there a great source of anxiety over trying to make the payments for the land or for the taxes? Was money very scarce...do you remember him talking about that sort of thing?

It was scarce, all right...I know that he had a farm mortgage there and, well, he couldn't make payments but the mortgage holder was really a good friend that didn't press him for it until his daughters started working out and they were helping out with the payments.

I: And I remember during the first World War, I think at one time we were the only ones that had a cow that had calved in the fall...and the neighbors all came over to get milk...they had 5 pound lard pail and that was 5 cents.

I: What was Christmas like? You remembered one part of Christmas, your mother making the *korpua*...how was Christmas celebrated, can you recall?

There wasn't any Christmas trees, he didn't believe in that...but he did go to Christmas meetings if they happened to be close by or, well, he did after the children got older and he could leave the farm...and he usually went to Christmas church meetings in Hancock or Calumet.

I remember we had little candles, though, that I think some of the girls had gotten from somewhere where they worked...and we used to light them on the windowsill, and I can remember that...and we thought that was a big deal...and sometimes we used to...when Dad was gone for a few days for Christmas meetings, why, we did bring in a little tree and trim it quite home fashion.
And I think we put candles in the tree, too.

I: I don't think Arvid would have been too happy if the house would have burned down... due to Christmas tree candles.

Rl: He came home one time and he discovered the tree in the other room, they weren't expecting him home, and he said, "Take that out tomorrow."

I: Would you give gifts to one another?

No, we had no way of buying anything.

I: I mean things that you would make?

I remember when we were going school and we had learned about the Santa Claus coming and filling the stocking, and Katie and I got busy and put out our stockings... the next morning we went to look and there was nothing there and he told us there was no such thing as a Santa Claus.

I: He didn't go for that business at all, either?

But we younger ones did used to get Christmas gifts after the older ones, and especially Ida, was out working... why, she used to send boxes and boxes of gifts home to be opened at Christmas time so then we did get a lot of clothing and Christmas gifts but of course by then we knew it wasn't Santa Claus.

We had these animals and in those days you were allowed to have your cattle out in the public lands, you know, and then we had a bull... and, of course, there was couple neighbors that didn't like the idea that he had put a bull out, so they decided to go town and see a lawyer about it... and then Dad gets a letter from the lawyer saying that he's got a bull out in the public lands and he's not allowed to do it anymore, that he's got to take it in... so he knew who the neighbor was that went to complain about it so he took the letter and went to see the neighbor and he told him, "Now must I bring the bull in to the court, too?"... and the neighbor got real red in the face and he said, "No, I think you can leave it at home"... he says, "Well, I wouldn't like to start taking him out there, he's got even a sore leg."

Oh, this what I was going to tell that we had a custom on the farm that if we had something like many, well, then the oldest one always had the first choice... like we had quite a few apple trees, well, then there was oldest one picked the best one, and then the next, and so on... and it's still some of those trees are on the farm they're called by a certain name if that tree is still standing up, well, like today we were picking off of Ida's tree, there.

We also had cows that, like, belonged to one or... they didn't really belong to them but we each had our own cow... that we would say, "That's my cow"... and the older ones picked their choice first, too, you know, and we younger ones picked what was left.

I: Do you recall any of the names of the cows?

Yeah, there was a Milikuma, Buniki, Sumteri, and usually if the cow freshened on a certain day, well, the calf was named, like if it was Sunday it was Sumteri, Monday was Maateki, Tuesday was Tiistiti.
Mumsiki, there was.
Yeah, Mumsiki and Mesenki.

I: So you generally named the cows after the day of the week that it happened.
Yeah, on Thursday that was Tuoreti, and Perjaka on Friday...there was.
I remember the name of the cow that we had during the war time...her name was Maatiki.

R6: I suppose that was Monday.

R1: I don't know but the name was Maatiki.

I: Do you remember any of the horses you had at the time?

Yeah, we had about...maybe dozen and a half horses on the farm...not at one time...but usually we had a team and if one was kind of old already, well, we got rid of it for the winter and then in the spring we got another one.

I: Do you remember any of the horses? Did you have any horses that were real characters or had a lot of spirit or had some funny quirks?

Well, yeah, almost all of them 'cause I remember all the horses as far as I know that we had...and the first team, well, both of the horses were named Das...well, then there was...oh, Arvid went to the Mill, Michaelson's Mill in Trap Rock and he lost one of the horses there...so he had to borrow a shalves for the team sleigh and come home, back home, with one horse...so one horse...I know the two older ones used to go and unhitch the horses and when Arvid would come, you know, from the field...one of the horses bit the older one on the arm.

I: Was that you?

R1: She left the horses alone after that.

R5: So we took the harnesses from the side there and he bit me like that.

R2: And, well, usually a strange horse if we put them in the front of a.

TWO

I: That was kind of a problem?

My dad usually walked behind so that he won't fall off in case the horse starts running with it...so one horse, he really was scared the first time but then after he got used to it, well, he was the best horse in front of the mower, as soon as he got to the corner he didn't stop and he'd just turn around and started the next side up...one big horse we had in the later years, well, he was all right in every other way but the first time on the hay rake, well, he was scared of that...and I was driving it and we were hauling it, just raking the hay right in front of the hay barn while the others were putting it into the barn...so the horse was running so fast or, that the rake didn't have a chance to be on the ground much...
and then the wheels would just be sliding sideways when making a turn...and I had one more field to rake that day so I told Arvid, or my dad, that I think I better take the other horse 'cause we're leaving the hay on the field in that place so the rake don't have a chance to be on the ground hardly at all when you dump it off it would be gone about 10, 12 feet before it would be down again so that...after that I raked with the other horse.

I: Now that you're on the subject of haymaking how did the whole family pitch in on that...was that everyone's job?

Yeah, it was...well, usually somebody stayed at the house or, if there was to spare, but mostly it was the oldest one...Katie stayed on...

Of course, at first when he started to farm he used to have that old bachelor, he used to come and make hay when we were real small.

I: Do you recall his name, this old bachelor?

R1: John Kujala...so he came always on every summer to help make hay.

R6: Did he stay at the house?

R1: No, he traveled from where he lived by Huuki's.

R2: He's the one that I was telling that got his pay later on in butter.

I: And when you were older what were your jobs? What do you remember you had to do?

I had to start pitching the hay and then there were younger ones on top of the load.

R6: And then we would also...the younger ones raked...and the little older ones would pitch the hay on top of the loads...and Wilko always drove the horses with Dad, you know, it was the horses mostly...of course, they did the pitching, too...well, mostly after it....

I thought Katie was mostly on the bay load...earlier.

Yeah, well, maybe earlier but I know I had to start pitching...but I was with Martha later on.

I: Did you always have a barn or did you ever make those large stacks?

Oh, we had to make stacks, too.

R4: We called them "nukko's", eh?

R2: No, that was "suovia" (stacks).

"Suovia", with a stake in?

R2: Yeah.

And then with a cross bar?
No, this was just a one pole in the ground stuck in there... that was like many loads to that one stack, but that one you're talking about like in the field for overnight or rainy time, well, we'd make those "nukkos" or little piles of hay.

'Course Dad used to open the roads for all around Jacobsville for many, many years... and he lost I don't know how many horses on that, even.

I: How would he do this?

He had a homemade plow that he made himself... and he'd get up early in the morning and start off... and lot of times he'd even have to go in front of the horses and shovel so that the horses would get through first.

I: The plow was somehow attached in front of the horse?

No, behind, they were pulling it... so that's what made it so hard for the horses to go through the snowbank, that he'd have to go and shovel the snowbank before he went through with the horses.

I: What a job for even a horse!

I don't know, he did that for many, many years.

I: Did he get paid for this?

Oh, yes, yes.

I: By?

Township paid.

About how much?

I don't remember... I thought he used to mark in the calendar... I thought they were... I don't know was it $3 a day or what...

I think it was $3 but then they went up to $5 and later on, if I remember right, it was $7 a day... but then he had to make a little further strip like up to Huiki's or Lantto's... like coming around this way he had to usually first time he made it to White City... but then he had to make this extra strip to Lantto's to get that $7.

I: Can you describe what this plow looked like?

Well, it was like two runners or planks about three feet apart and then there was kind of a scoop in the front and then that would... and then a V on top of that... they would kind of clear it off to the sides... and then the side wings started a little further off and they had, like, little slopey blades on there that would kind of cut if it was packed a little harder... but it was too narrow for a car... it was just for sleighs or horses.

And he made that himself?
Yeah...then the Township later on made one similar to that one but wider so that cars could travel on it...and that, the one they made, or Township made, was called "opas".

Did Father pull that with his horses also?

No.

I see.

No, Father got little disagreement with the Township foreman up on this end and that's when they made the other plow and then the other teams...later on when the Township Highway Commissioner was voted out and the next one came in then our team was pulling it once in a while with another team, that was for two teams, that other plow...

He worked for a while on...let's see, what was this that when the pier was made over to the new lighthouse, didn't he work with the team there...on CWA?

R2: No, I was driving the team there...12 days that I worked on that.

I see...with the team, oh, I see...I thought it was...

R4: Didn't your dad help with that ice bridge they made across the Entry with the planks and cables...didn't he work on that project sometime or another?

R2: Yeah, he might have been on that.

R4: They'd string the cables and planks and then they'd freeze them in across the channel, make a road from White City to Portage Entry.

Well, they were like...well, they were called pontoons, they were made out of cedar poles with skids in under and then cedar poles nailed across or bigger ones bolted...and then they were...they were sectioned about, maybe, 20 feet long and then maybe 16 feet wide and they were cabled down to each other...and in that way they'd have like a floating bridge...but it was hauled when there was ice already...and cars used to go through there on top of it but other times they didn't...they didn't put any in there and then there was a few times that horses fell through the ice...I know one time Ruonovaara's horse or team, Art Ruonovaara was driving and they had fallen in but they said Art was a good teamster, that he got the horses out of there.

I: While we're on the subject...even though it's a biography of your father, can you recall anything more about your mother? I know she died and you didn't know her that much, can you recall any more things about her? Perhaps Ida and Katie can and you can, I bet.

Well, I can't remember too much of her but was some little things like when she used to bake the bread always she'd have that pan of dough rising on top of the stove or that warming closet on the stove.

R1: I remember when we used to butcher she used to make bread out of that blood and then she'd make it into round things with a hole in the middle and she'd hang it on the wall to dry...and that was made into, like, porridge in the morning.
Is that what they called "kiisselia"?

Maybe, I don't know what it was called.

I: I've heard of that.

Yeah...and then he used to...when he raised some grain, you know, he used to take it then with the team over to Chassell...they had a flour mill over there and he had to start real early, he would just make one trip in the wintertime...and he'd start about 4 o'clock in the morning, he'd load that sleigh the night before and then he'd make it back the same day and he'd have it ground over there.

I: And then your mother would make all the bread?

Yeah.

I: What kind of a person was your mother? I've not seen any of my grandmothers. Can you describe her?

R2: She was more on the short and stout side, what I remember her.

R1: Yeah, she was dark.

I: She had dark hair...what was her disposition like?

R1: Well, oh, I think she was real nice person...some people across Entry told me that when she came from Finland, that she was the healthiest looking person and she was real pretty, you know, she had such red cheeks and she had her own teeth, but she worked hard, you know, and it was really hard having so many children so close together.

I: I imagine...and what kinds of work did she do?

R1: Well, she just did the housework but she used to go out in the barn, too, and help.

And worked in the fields, too.

R1: Yeah.

I: When did she finally die? You mentioned she was 50 years old.

1931, I think it was.

I: Can you remember that?

I wasn't home even then anymore.

I: Was anyone home?

R6: Well, we were home.

I: Can you remember?
I can just remember that those days the body was in the living room, you know, they didn’t keep them in the funeral parlor.

R1: No.
R6: They weren’t embalmed either, were they?
R1: No.
R6: It was wintertime, March, I don’t remember do they...they must have used a horse and sleigh.

R2: They were going to use the horses but anyway they used the cars...they were going to use the horses first but then they figured that, well, they can make it with the cars...I suppose it was frozen.
I: What did she die of?
R1: Pneumonia.
I: Pneumonia...from the way you described it her life was very hard having so many children and with so much work to do. Was she always rundown and chronically sick?

No, she was kind of plump there till the later years she lost lot of weight.
I: Can you recall anything about her, anything she used to say to you?
R3: I can’t remember.
I: Can you, Katie? If it’s not recalled now it probably won’t ever be.

Only thing what I remember much of is she’d call me, like, “Come here, little boy”, or something like that.
I: Who used to administer the whippings when they were necessary or who was the enforcer?

Father...Mother used to protect us a lot. I remember that one time we were in the habit of stealing sugar, you know, ’cause we never had any candy so sugar was sweet so then Mother said, “You better all go upstairs and your father’s coming up there to talk to you”...I told her, “You’re not going to let him whip us, are you?”
I: What did she say to that?
She said, “No, but he’s going to talk to you anyway”...I think there was Katie and I and Martha and Wilho.

Father did have a temper which I’m sure he tried to battle but he had it ’cause one time...we used to have to pick a lot of rocks into a sled or a stoneboat, I think you called it, in the spring from the fields, newly plowed fields, and this one time we had to throw them into the stoneboat and of course we should
have carried them over closer and sometimes we'd throw them from too far and I did this and at the same time my father was putting one into the stoneboat and I hit a rock and it hit him on the temple and, I don't recall, but I could see he was mad and I ran and I hid...and I hid in the barn and for the longest time and finally he came over there and he found me and he said it wasn't my fault, that it was all right.

I: But initially he was mad and you thought it was best to lay low.

R4: One interesting fact I think I should bring up--he mentioned the fact that he brought the first body into the Jacobsville Cemetery...and I think that's a thing of history itself, it's a quite old cemetery...I don't know who the corpse was, I don't remember that, maybe Wilho does.

R2: Seems to me that it was a Nara child, just a young child.

R4: There was something about a fee for the burial plot or something, was it to Lantto at the time?

R2: No, that was Herman Ruonavaara.

R4: Herman Ruonavaara...so he said, well, he says, it's going to be buried anyway so he said he took it under the fence so they buried this here child, or whatever it was, so he had kind of a...was one of the first original ones, pall-bearers, to bring a body into the cemetery.

R3: He carried it on his back, though, didn't he?

R4: Carried it on his back, yes.

I: Was it in a casket?

R4: Some kind of a homemade pine box, I guess...I guess it was a small child

R1: He buried his own son in a little pine box, you know.

R3: That he made.

R1: Yeah...and he didn't even have a minister that time to bless the grave so then when someone else was buried, well, then he'd have the minister do it years and years later.

I: While we are on the subject of disciplining and enforcing, can you recall any other humorous or not so humorous times?

R2: One thing was that if he heard any of us, like, swear, then we'd get the switch then...and then there was one...

I: Where did he have the switch in the house?

R2: It used to be above the mirror on the wall...the mirror was on the wall and then he'd have the switch right behind it...stuck there.

I: What kind of a switch was it?
Well, mostly birch.

I: And if you said the wrong thing he'd jump up and you'd have a switch and then you wouldn't say that then.

I know Martha and I, we had a quarrel or something, and then he switched me and not Martha, so I told, well, how come she doesn't get it...I don't recall what he said to that...it was usually that I got the switching.

Didn't you get one when you were quite old?

Yeah, that was one time that...well, that was when we had the cars already and this...it was 4th of July and the neighbor boy wanted to take us for a ride and he took us all the way to Hancock and going around towards Calumet, well, then his car broke down, and we didn't tell Dad anything about that we were going out like that and then he was worried...he had gone up to the neighbor's to look around that where they are and I think the neighbors or this fella that was taking us out for the ride, well, his brother started looking for us and we met him and we were coming home in the taxi cab, and when I walked in, well, he grabbed hold of me and he swung me around...and that's when I made up my mind that that was the last time he's going to touch me, but it never happened that he didn't have to try even anymore.

I: He seemed a very stern man.

I think a lot of it was because he was really brought up very, very strict...his father was a stern man, too...if anybody brought cards in the house, he took them right away and burnt them, playing cards, you know, and anything that he did, you know, he right away got a licking from his father for it...I remember him telling me that...he was brought up so strict, you know, and then, of course when his mother died he was about two years old...then his father married again maybe a year later, and then the stepmother, I guess, wasn't too fond of him because then she had a son of her own with his father.

I remembered him say that...saying to one fella out here that the only bad thing that stepmother did once was throw a dishrag at him.

R6: That wasn't too bad.

I: I can think of worse.

R2: He didn't stay too long at home even after.

I: But he felt as though he wasn't loved all that much by his stepmother.

No, no, that's why he...I know that he...I remember him telling that she wasn't too fond of him, you know, because she had a son of her own, you know, and that's the reason then that he went out to be a "renki poika" (hired boy) so young.

I: I remember he didn't appreciate his grandchildren running through the oat fields...several times Alfred and I and Judy and Carol would be playing hide and seek in the oats...you know when they're nice and tall you could go in and then you could duck down and you could yell something and run over a
little and duck down...boy, he came and just the look on his face would tell you that he was in such rage even though he was already so old that he couldn't hit very hard or he couldn't run fast...just the look on his face let you know that that men was mad and you'd better get out of there...and we used to run around the barn just fast enough so he wouldn't catch us and if he ever would have caught us we would really have gotten it.

Just from the tone of his voice you know he meant business.

I: He was strict.

When he was in his 80s he was still repairing buildings or trying to and this one particular time he was putting a new roof on the outhouse, and my husband and I happened to come over and he said...oh, my husband told him that to get down from there, that aren't you afraid you'll fall, and he said, well, "How will I fall when I'm hanging on."

He didn't really give up working till, I mean doing something all the time, wouldn't it be till the past year of his life?

He was working on Holman's barn even there when they were making that big barn.

Yes, he was very capable...I recall we needed a set of ladders and I was saying, well, I should buy a set of ladders to get up on the roof on account of ever having a chimney fire...so he says no, he says he'll get the ladders, so he went in the woods and he got the stringers and he got the crosspieces and he hewed these all out and I think the ladder is still up the farm, it was new just in recent years that it deteriorated, that it wasn't too safe, and it was a quite long ladder. I'd say it was about 20 some foot long and then he made a small ladder on the roof that hooked over up by the chimney so you had good access to the chimney at all times in case of chimney fires...which he was always worried about chimney fires.

That's why he was worried about it because we had a chimney fire when we were at home, you know, and we had been cutting out of these cardboard dolls out of those cardboard boxes, you know, then we took all this cardboard and we put it in our stove in the other room, and of course that started a big fire and it went up in the chimney, and he was over at his cousin's place, he had gone on a Saturday night to sauna over there...and it was wintertime and of course somebody happened to look out the window and they saw that we had a chimney fire so he started on skis from there and he was coming as fast as he could, he didn't even have a chance to go sauna when he started home...and then in the meantime my mother found out that we had a chimney fire so she gave me a pail of water and told me to climb up the ladder and go throw that water in the chimney and I did...and it's a wonder I didn't bust the whole chimney...but the fire went out anyway and there was some bush in between and when he came from the other side, he saw there was no more fire and he wondered what happened, you know, that how come they could see a chimney fire from Witteniemi's and when he got home there was nothing.

I: Cedar shingle roofs were very dangerous for that sort of thing, you could lose the whole house if you got a bad chimney fire, right?

Yes.
I: When you look at that picture there what does that remind you of?

R2: Like ready for bed, almost, in the evening.

Yes, I believe that is...he was relaxing and having a smoke before going to bed.

I: What kind of tobacco would he smoke?

He smoked Half 'n Half and he smoked, what was that, Bugler, he smoked quite a bit of Bugler...that was a mild cigarette tobacco but he smoked it in a pipe.

Bugler or Tops.

Tops, too, and Half 'n Half quite a bit...Bugler quite a bit, I'd say, that I recall...and I guess he did smoke Peerless at some time or another, too.

Earlier he used to smoke that.

He used to chew Peerless, too.

Because it was a custom they'd have this big can of Peerless and that would be in the living room and somebody come over, well, if they smoked a pipe or chewed, well, they'd pass this around as they visited.

I: Do you remember him as he used to sit there?

Well, yes, thinking like of you, Mike, there...you think of him as "Äija", that's what you used to all call him, "Äija", if you recall.

I: Which means old men, right?

And I look at this picture, I see him sitting here, he's sitting in the kitchen at the end of the stove by the coffeepot...he was quite fond of coffee, we used to drink coffee quite a bit together, I'm quite fond of coffee yet...and he's smoking his pipe there and he's got a kind of surprised look...I think I took this picture of him...and he kind of lifted up his eyebrows as what's going on here, you know...and 'course he's got like a half of smile on there...I guess he didn't get too angry with me...and his bedroom was just a little ways off of the kitchen there where he used to sleep, he used to have his bed there and that was more or less his domain.

I: Wasn't his morning chair on the other side of the stove? Wasn't there a rocking chair on the other side of the stove, also?

I think earlier there was.

I think he's sitting in a rocking chair here but you don't see it, I think that's a rocking chair here, isn't it? Sure it is, I'm sure this is a rocking chair here.
At that time you had a woodbox, then, on the other side of the stove and then that's what he sat on over there.

R4: And that was that woodbox on the other side of the stove that he didn't want us or nobody else to fill because he figured that was his baby and he used to carry and keep that full and he had kindling, special kindling, there for starting fires, he used to start the fire in the mornings and put the coffee on and stuff like this, he used to be an early riser...as I recall.

I: Did he ever eat anything other than "puuroa" (porridge) in the morning?

R4: Well, his oatmeal, I think, was his mainstay that was...there's nothing like a good, big bowl of oatmeal, it suited him fine and I guess he got the nourishment out of there that he figured he oughtta have until dinnertime rolled around.

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And he cooked it himself.

R4: He cooked it himself and he salted it to his own taste...and he cooked a good pot of oatmeal, there's no doubt about that because he had a lot of experience doing it because...

I: What do you think of that when you see him there?

R5: He just looked like himself.

I: Does that bring back any memories?

R1: Sure.

I: What do you think of when you see him there?

Well, I think of seeing him sitting there........at our house.

Talking about making that oatmeal, when his granddaughter Kristine was born, well, he used to always take a little oatmeal for her into a bowl and set it on the table and Kristine and Grandpa would eat their oatmeal together in the mornings.

It looks like he was ready to tell a funny joke.

I: Would he tell jokes?

Oh, yes, he did have his old-fashioned ones now and then but I can't remember any of them.

I: He would retire quite early too, wouldn't he?

Yes, he'd retire...he went to bed with the chickens and he got up with the chickens, and he'd retire early and go to bed early and get up early.

He used to talk with the neighbor, Mr. Maki, about Finland, what they did out there and how they did certain things like Mr. Maki was really interested in trapping always and they'd be talking about the kinds of birds or berries or
or something like that and compare them to American berries like "fulupas" and "hillas"...I don't exactly know what they're in English...well, "hillas" is, I think, thimbleberry.

I: Do you remember him as he used to be in that photograph?

Yeah...he looks a little like his hair is more stiff, maybe he just washed his face and his hair got wet.

SIDE TWO

R2: They'd always say that there goes the Wittaniemi brothers...like he'd buy himself a overall jacket, well, he'd always get one for me and about the same size, but he liked his a little looser, a little bigger...we were the same height and just about the same weight, too.

I: What did he wear for working clothes?

Well, working clothes he usually had overalls on during the time that he was on the farm there farming...and then mostly blue chambray shirt and...

I: Long, woolen underwear?

R2: Long, wool...like half wool during the summer, or quarter woolen...then he'd go for 100 percent woolen for wintertime.

I: Did he ever talk about wearing those long underwear in the summer, how he could stand it?

He said that that was really very good because it helped with the sweating, you know...he said they...it would...something that it didn't bother him, you know, if he had long underwear because the sweat would go on that and then his body would be that much freer from the sweat...that's what I remember he used to...

Like, almost like a towel, absorbing towel.

Perspiration...this picture here I look at him, I can remember my dad used to come up the farm and my dad was more or less a staunch Democrat and Arvid was more or less a staunch Republican...and Arvid used to get the Minnesota News and then when he'd read it he'd pass it over to my dad...and looking at this picture I see my dad has the Minnesota News in his pocket and he was over to get some milk and they'd discuss politics...although they had a little different views they never really got in any big hassle about it but they'd voice their opinions, you know, back and forth and what they thought about this one and that one and it was mostly politics which were a big thing in their day.

I: Do you remember any of the things he used to say about politics?

No, not in particular...'course, you know it's just like they had their pros and cons on certain people that were running for office and then they'd say that, well, "I don't know, that do you think he would make a good...what are his fine points"...you know, this and that and they'd go back and forth and they'd hassle these things out...it was kind of interesting, it was all in Finnish and it would have been very interesting if that was on tape record-
I: He became an American citizen in 1906...and he once told me he never missed a...

Presidential election?

Yeah, or any election...he always went to vote.

I: Oh, he was very concerned about exercising his voting rights...do you recall who he used to vote for, did he talk about that?

Well, of course he always did, I know when I was home he always voted for a Republican president.

I: Did he ever say why he was a Republican?

Rl: No, he didn't, never.

He had the idea that the Democrats were somewhat Socialistic and sort of "red" and he was not in agreement with them, you know...that's why, I guess, he was Republican.

He was a very good citizen because, in fact, he sure exercised his voting privilege because he told me after he became a citizen he never missed voting in an election for president, he said he's voted for every one of them, right up to date...ever since he was in this country, which is quite a record.

I: Where would he go to vote?

Usually it was at the...

Store.

...store or schoolhouse...I know they voted at the schoolhouse there when I was going school...he did mention that but I forgot...what was the first president that he voted for?

That's what I was trying to recall here and I just can't recall now...we'd have to look back in history.

I: Do you recall now that it has been brought up anything he used to say about the Communists? At one point in this Copper Country early settlement around, oh, from 1917 to 1937 there were many Socialists around.

Rl: Yes.

I: Do you remember what he used to say about them?

Rl: There used to be some I think in Snake River Hill and he used to go and visit some people over there, and then they used to talk about them and some of these people they even took off to Russia...they took anything they could take with them and they went to Russia and I remember him remarking that when they get
there they're going to have really a surprise because he...I think from his
days even at in Finland when he was a boy, you know Finland was under Russia
then...and he knew what they were so he didn't really believe in them at all.

R2: I think there was this one from Snake River that went...Kaupajoki...but he
come back from there and...'cause he didn't like it out there...so then when
they had another meeting out there, well, then they were going to kind of whip
this Kaupajoki, the other Communists, but I 'spose it went down anyway and Dad
when he used to travel out there Entry and Snake River...he'd be talking about
it that that guy sure got fooled, he figured he could keep all the money he
had but he come poor back than he left then...and barely made it back, I think
he had to skip to some other country from there in order to get off then.

R4: It seems to me like nobody ever learned much of his political views because
everyone that knew him knew his belief...he was a very religious man and reli-
igion and politics didn't mix in his opinion, therefore they didn't question
him, they left him pretty well alone on that political viewpoints.

I: Is there anything else you'd like to say now before we just go into the final...well, when did he die, the exact date again?


I: And he was how old at the time?

Eighty-nine years old.

I: Eighty-nine years old.

And about eight months or...89 and eight months.

I: Almost ninety...how was he doing right up until the end, the last few years.

He still carried the wood in at the end of May that same year so he just...
Then he moved to Katie's?

Yes

For the last, what was it, two weeks he stayed there?

No, one month.

End of May to July.

I: So he kept working right up to the end...that must have been very important for
him to carry that wood in.

It sure was...he went to the hospital, I think, about two weeks before he died,
and he died on July 25 and he was buried here at the Jacobsville Cemetery....it
was one of the biggest funerals held here in Jacobsville.

I: He died of a stroke eventually?
Well, he was two weeks in the hospital........his speech went........he didn't want to go bathhouse and he just got that stroke........

I: This was at the Maki farm when you were about ready to go to the sauna...he had a stroke?

Yeah............go lie down on the........fall on the floor........the next morning he was taken to the hospital by ambulance on Sunday.

You did get that he left his farm, he sold it to his son Wilho and they still have the farm, and that he went to live with his youngest daughter.

I: Any last comments about...

He was very religious and I know that, or I recall that, he used to go some- time the night before or either when they had these special, like, June meet- ings, St. John's Day meetings, or some other meetings where they would be more than one day and they would serve dinner at the church, well, he used to go there the first thing in the morning and make a fire for the cooks, you know, so they'd have hot coffee, I think he used to make the coffee even, the first pot.

He used to stay at Bukeme's then right next door to the church.

And they really appreciated him warming up the place for them.

I: And which church was this that he would...

The old Apostolic Lutheran Church.

I: The one on Pine Street?

The small one.

I: That was the one he always attended whenever he could.

Always.

I: Any other comments...a summary as to what kind of a father he was.

Oh, he was a good father even though he was a very strict one.

But he certainly tried his best, I believe...and he believed it took a lot of discipline...he wasn't one that believed in permissiveness, by any means.
KUPARISAAREN ALUE

EMIIS JUUVUNTAJIN TESTIT
8 s. Kolmin. p.
Room. 6: 19–23
Luul. 12: 42–43
1 Moos. 39: 1–5


— Michiganin kesikurssitieseilla, joita on toimennut kansallinen tiedemiehen yhdistys, on ollut mukana myöskin seitsempi Kuparisaaren koulun opettaja: Robert Syrja, Doel-Leonard, Peter Raymond La-
Ansesta, Ronald Richards Laid-
din kouluista, Bernard Nelson Painsedaleesta, Charles Wicker Washington-koulusta Calumetis,
ta, Dick Brown Calumetissa ja Harold Wittala, joka tulee täällä opettamaan ensi vuonna. Nämä kurssit kestävät 8 viikkoa.

— Copper Range rautatioiden työläisten lakko on edelleen käynnissä. Tämä rata kulkee aina

— Kuollut. Jacobsvillassä Arvid Wiitanen ovat vuonna 10. p. 1871 ja saapuut Amerikkaan vuonna 1887. Siitä asti eli melkein 75 vuotta Wiitanen asui Jacobsvillessä, työskennellen aluksi kivikouluimaisilla ja sitten maanviljelyssä. Vuo-

— Mr. Stalo ja mrs. Mayrand ovat Mattsonin tyttöjä. Hancockista; Van Nuysista, Calif. ja lakimies

— Valtionpoliitikko John Gor-
kisch ja William Scott, jotka ovat palveluneet viisi vuotta L’Ansen asemalla ovat saaneet siirrot, edellinen Jacksonin ja jälkim-
mäinen Clintonin; molemmat paikat ovat ala-niemekeellä. Scottin puoliso on mar ja mrs.

— Hurontounin metodistikirkko vietti sata-vuotisjuhlaansa vaina sanuvahtini. Piispa Mar-
shall-Reed ja useat entiset palme-
etti ovat puhujuina ja past. Giles

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Käyttöibsille allaslevan tilausnim.