FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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Don Tahtiner

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SUBJECT: Cabbage Farming

SOURCE: Don Tahtinen

COMMENTS:

R: I'm going to listen to the weather forecast too, also but already in the morning before noon I knew there was gonna be a frost.

I: Because it gets so cold early in the morning, hey?
R: Yeah

Stop in tape.

R: I order two types from two companies...the same seed, it was supposed to be the same seed, Danish Wallhand (???). Well, one company had good crop, but the other one they grew into sauerkraut cabbage...I don't know what they even called them and I notified the company but after it was too late and didn't know it until later part of fall when to see what the cabbage was coming like. When I wrote the company they just send me back my money what I paid for the seed; so that was almost a total loss on that crop.

I: Years ago, if one guy when they were planting and they were selling through Cohodas, if one guy's seed didn't turn out, what would happen to him?
R: Well, he was just out.

I: Have you ever heard of other farmers giving him some of their plants?
R: Oh, yeah...yes...yes...yes, I see what you mean...yeah lots of times when we were growing cabbage here, if somebody had more plants than he needed well the neighbor got from there and I mean lots of times.

I: Would he sell them to the neighbor?
R: Oh no, oh no.

I: What would he give for them?
R: Well sometimes if they wanted to pay a little bit for 'em, they paid; but they didn't make no special price for 'em;
but if they wanted to give something, well they could give something. I know one year we didn't get enough plants so this neighbor up here, this Leo Jokipiiz, he's dead now, he had lotta plants and we got from him and then, oh it was a couple years later, well then it went just the other way around. He didn't get no plants and we give him plants. Oh, which way did I say the first time?

I: Ah, first you didn't have plants.

R: Yeah...yeah and then he got plants and then we give him the plants; so that was paid up that way.

T: Did any money change hands?

R: Nope, no money changed hands

I: How do you do all the harvesting and that? Do some people help you on the farm?

R: 

I: You do it all within the family?

R: Yeah, or either find some boys that help a little bit...relation boys like my wife's sister's boys, they come to help me last fall; of course, I paid them some for it...not the top wages, anyways they were satisfied when I paid them.

I: I remember talking with you and you told me once before about how years ago people used to help...like the kids used to run to help, but they never asked how much do I get, they just helped.

R: Oh yeah, yeah

I: And now.

R: Now I guess they like money more or maybe they need it more now than they did them days. Yeah, we used to go help the neighbors and we never asked them for a job or anything, just go and help them when we seen they needed help.

I: Does that happen any more?

R: No...no...it doesn't.

I: What were you gonna say...see if they needed help and...

R: Yeah, and then they remembered it too when we needed help well they come and helped them, they didn't forget it.

I: You don't have anything like that going now?
R: No...might have a little bit like Emil and Lloyd we lotsa times help each other.

I: How do you help him?

R: Well, if he needs something to be done and he needs some help, I go give him a hand. And then if I need something, he gives me a hand.

I: What kind of things have you done for him this summer or this year?

R: Well, this year I haven't done too much because he hasn't done much farming...he ain't got no more cattle so he ain't done much farming this year.

I: Did he plant many cabbage?

R: But like I went there last week there and he had a flat tire on his truck, so I helped him take the tire off and drove him to the station to get the tire fixed. Comming back he asked me how much does he owe me. I said, "You don't owe me nothing...maybe sometimes you do me something in return." Like that, that's alright.

I: You said that to him?

R: Yeah

I: That's good. I really enjoyed talking with you about that.

Stop in tape

R: Him and his wife come and they weeded those earlier so then they could have carrots and they come and got some.

I: They weed the carrot patch here?

R: Un huh. When I was a kid I used to like carrots, of course them days you couldn't afford to give the kids candy or oranges or anything like that.

I: Look at that one...there's another big one.

Stop in tape.

R: One row, I don't even remember what those quite together is.

I: One row of cauliflower plants?

R: Yeah.

Stop in tape.
I: You said up on the hill. Do you mean back toward Pelkie?

R: Yeah, either way...it is the Sturgeon Valley that's good cabbage land.

I: Actually it's the Sturgeon Valley...

R: They can get some kind of a cabbage, but not like the Sturgeon water cabbage.

I: Sandy loam is the best for that.

R: Yeah

I: That's about the best growing soil anyway.

R: It is...it is..

I: So it's not just any

R: Especially cabbage...out potatoes grow up on high hill...the higher lands...

I: Turnips and stuff like that.

R: Yeah

Stop in tape.

I: About how many people would you say come here to buy vegetables directly and not go to a store to get them?

R: Oh, maybe around...not too many...maybe around twenty - twenty-five - thirty maybe.

Stop in tape.

R: And I give them these potatoes and I give lot of them away too.

Stop in tape.

I: You don't storerutubagas until the latter part of July, right?

R: Yeah

I: And most of your cabbages, you sell that though, right?

R: Oh, I had this right full this last fall...well not right to the top but I had it has high as this here board is.

X: You store them in crates?
R: No just loose.
X: Just loose?
R: Yeah, because in the winter it gets so cold and they start freezing up then I put them in here and then I sell from here.
I: When do you sell the last of them usually?
R: Oh, I sold the last last year the week before Christmas.
I: So, you could probably sell as much cabbage as you could store, right?
R: Oh yeah, yeah.
Stop in tape.
R: The younger generation didn't raise any more cabbage, I didn't raise cabbage for a long time either, all I was in was the dairy until...and I worked White Pine and I was Detroit for awhile.
I: When did they stop growing the cabbage around here?
R: Oh, must have been early forties around here and then it layed off until about '59, that's when I started raising them again...I quit White Pine and I started raising cabbage again.
I: Why did they stop earlier?
R: I suppose they figured there was more money in dairy then.
I: How much were they getting a ton then when they...?
R: They were getting ten dollars a ton...and they thought that was good.
I: And what were they selling it for in the stores then, do you recall at all?
R: I don't remember...it's so long back
X: Would they deal direct or was there a middle man then?
R: What?
X: Would they deal direct or did Cohodas go inbetween or something?
Well they dealed both ways. Cohodas used to buy some and they used to sell to the stores but them days they could sell them by the tons, there was a lot of sauerkraut makers. Stores used to buy them by the tons in the fall of the year. Of course the stores took some loss on them too when they put them in the...

That's because the miners...lot of the miners let's say from Yugoslavia and that that...

No...well no, the generation changed. The old timers they used to make a lot of sauerkraut and...

The Finns too? Or all the people then?

Yeah...everybody used to; but now the younger generation they don't make much sauerkraut, in fact any. There's a few old timers that still come and get some to make sauerkraut.

How much of the cabbage was sold through Cohodas?

Oh, there wasn't too much sold through Cohodas...it was mostly through the stores. Maybe about a quarter of it was sold through Cohodas.

But then after...

But still farther back when our dad's was young guys, there was a different wholesaler. He used to come around in the fall of the year and make arrangement, before the cabbage was even ready to cut, and he bought all the cabbage then when our dads was young guys.

Around early 1900's,

Yeah

Do you recall the guys name...the wholesaler then?

Gosh if I remember...Saxby, I guess...one wholesaler anyways.

Saxby?

Saxby, yeah.

And where would he sell this then...the cabbage then, where was it shipped to?

Well, he bought all the cabbage and then he'd sell to the stores.
I: Around here?

R: Un huh

X: Never been any real shipments that would go to like Milwaukee or Chicago markets out of here?

R: No, they tried one year or several years...different times they tried, they tried to make a kind of a cabbage association, but I don't know why it didn't hold out.

I: When were they trying to form a cabbage association?

R: Oh, around the forties, I guess, and then not so long back they had a meeting in Pelkie there and they was talking about trying to make some kind of association and try and get some outside markets for 'em, but nobody seemed to be interested in it. I was again in cabbage already, so it's not too long back...we had a couple meetings at the Pelkie store.

I: Who went to the meetings? Who was interested in it at time besides yourself?

R: Nobody seemed to be too interested in it. Everybody talked about it, but they wasn't too interested in it.

X: Was that Biekkala trying to get it going? Was he trying to get it going...was he behind it?

I: Fred Biekkala?

R: Fred, yeah, and I think we still had one meeting after Fred was gone.

I: With Dick...earlier? How how many years ago was that Dick?

R: With Breyer you mean?

I: Yeah

R: Oh, that ain't too many years ago, maybe about six years back. Just about when Breyer come in. I know Biekkala was in there and we had some meetings and it changed over and Breyer come in there.
SUBJECT: Gardening and subsistence agriculture in the Sturgeon Valley. This contains "folk knowledge" relating to growing food to feed the family.

SOURCE: Alfred Pelto is a native of the Pelkie area. He knows a great deal of this uncodified "craft" knowledge coming from the school of hard knocks.

COMMENTS: We are walking around in his garden, fighting off mosquitos (at least I am) and chatting about the garden and what one can do to get a good crop in a climatic region that is far from ideal.

R: You should let 'em...watch the peeling on 'em, you know, so the peeling will get a little thicker. That'll still get thicker after the frost has hit them it'll from underground growth, it'll...the peeling will get heavier 'cause they'll preserve better in the bins.

I: So you usually pick 'em right after a couple of good frosts

R: Yeah...well see these vines have been partly dead for so long, you know, that they have been developing skin already for a couple of weeks, that's what it takes. Normally, they'll pick them around the last week of September and the first week of October. That's usually potato picking time around this part of the country, I mean for the winter crop, for the late crop.

I: When did you plant this late crop?

R: This here was planted around the seventh or eighth of June.

I: And when did you plant your early crop of potatoes?

R: I planted them all then see, because I was going to California.

I: I see. When do you usually plant your early crop?

R: Around the fifteenth of May

I: And then when do you get them in?

R: Yeah, but this year I had an earlier variety of potatoes, there you see them red ones, that's an earlier variety, a month earlier variety of almost a month earlier variety of potatoes and so they were ready to eat when these weren't yet.

I: When do you normally get new potatoes...you know you went to California this year, but usually when...

R: Yeah...well, between the fifteenth and twentieth or so, twenty-fifth of July...start getting some of those small ones that are eatable alright, but then they ain't much bigger than a marble; but I like 'em that way.
I: They're the best.

R: Yeah...but, well lot of potatoes, like that potato there is considered a sixty-day potato, approximately.

I: And what's the name of that?

R: That's a Red-Morland.

I: And this is the...

R: Well, this is a little mixture in here. I got some Kenebecks in here and there's some Russets in here. I had Kenebecks in here...I planted Kenebecks these four rows, but then I had a few of them that didn't come up.

X: This ones a Russet.

R: That's a Russet, yeah.

I: You can tell by the shape you mean?

R: No, by the color. See that's a kind of a like a rough skin on it where the Kenebeck has got a skin like this.

T: I see.

X: And then there's a little different shape...these usually grow longer than the others.

R: Yeah...it's more of a baking type.

X: In other words, the shape of it is longer and more than these others that gets more rounded. Although, I don't know anything about potatoes here, but I mean potatoes are more or less the same all over.

I: Well, I'm gonna step off your garden. I'll come back and bother you some more.

Stop in tape.

R: Transplants, you know.

I: Who would you get them from?

R: Well, usually there's somebody raises some around here... Bill Perrow would have had some, but I didn't know about it; but normally there, like Santi usually has a few, he's got a little green house that he raises them in and so forth, so he's got some in that...that's where I've gotten my tomato plants always.
I: Tahtinen grows some too.

R: Yeah, but he don't raise too many himself. He orders most of his from the south...plants...transplants. He's ordered some from Georgia and Texas and way down.

I: Okay. Well, I'm just gonna pace off and measure these rows and I'll be back later.

Stop in tape.

R: This is what they call and sandy loam.

I: And it is throughout the Sturgeon Valley.

R: Absolutely, with a certain amount of river silt in it.

I: And it's probably the best soil around here, Isn't it?

R: Absolutely...absolutely.

I: And you said, like right in Pelkie, what did you call that?

R: Well, I'll tell you. From my place this way, you know toward the school, that's red clay.

I: All the way toward right here where this river valley starts?

R: Right up to...close to, well from Waino Maki's, you know where Waino Maki lives, from there toward the Otter again it starts getting sandy.

I: Toward sandy loam again.

R: Yeah

I: Like Hietikko's are on sandy loam.

R: Yes

I: And Sulo Lein is on sandy loam?

R: Partly, yes, and partly on red clay.

I: And then right in downtown Pelkie, toward Jokela's...

R: That's nothing but almost a white sand in these, kind of or reddish sand.

I: And then toward Toinanen's again?

R: Well, then as soon as you get closer to the river valley there, the Pine Creek...oh I mean the Sturgeon and the Pine Creek and the West Branch and the Silver, well all in that area
again is something like this...it's some of this here

I: Sandy loam.
R: Sandy loam.
I: And then toward Alston, toward Mutkala's and up that way...
R: Well that's...it changes so much in there like the Patman hill where Joe is, well that's a loam soil, but it's also rocky.
I: Rocky loam.
R: Yes, and then again when you get on the flat out there where Uno Kemppainen and them, well there's there's...closer to the Limestone it's sand; but then closer to Joe Maki's hill, there's a quite a strip of clay in there...in that area and it varies very much the soil all along there in the foot areas of the Limestone Mountain. But then again when you get up into what...they even call it Clayco...up there, you know where...
I: Clay country...
R: ...clay country where what's-his-name lives now.
I: Oh, Waisenen Brothers?
R: No, Waisenen Brothers are in the Limestone area; but, you know that ranch there where where the horses are...Rolling Acres...
I: I've seen the sign
R: Yeah, Rolling Acres Ranch there, well that upper area in there is all red clay. Nothing but a red clay. They even call it Clayco...clay country.
I: I notice out there toward...on Haara's slope there, they don't get good gardens.
R: No, well it's too weak a sand in there, most of it.
I: Too dry a sand, eh?
R: Yeah...there isn't a subsoil in there so even if it rains, phuff, it's gone see and your base water is too deep for it to really raise...like here, now for instance, well the base water (???) just about, well you get such a dew every night comes up, that it...that forms moisture all the time.
I: So that's how it works.
Yeah...you gotta have a drought so them sleugh's practically dry before the surface here starts suffering from drought. You can have three - four weeks without rain, you know, and you go out here in the morning and you'll come out of here with wet boots, boy.

I: I noticed up towards that way you can grow potatoes, but that's about all that really grows that well. Seems that everything grows down here.

R: Oh yes

I: Including potatoes obviously

R: This would be great corn country in here if it wasn't that it was so awful allergic to frost.

I: You really get a lot of...you mean corn...this area frosts a lot, eh?

R: Yeah, this area frosts very easy in here because it's in kind of a hollow here in-between Bellaire Hill up there and Larsen's hill, see, it in the hollow and it seems like the frost wants to settle in here.

I: And it does too, eh?

R: Yeah

I: What can you do about it? You just...

R: You can't do nothing about it...only I took advantage here mostly on account of these sleugh's, you know, they'll prevent the fall frosts a lot, but they won't prevent the spring frosts because spring that water's cold yet, see, in the sleugh's, but that water warms...it warms up a lot during the summer...

I: And the water radiates out heat.

R: Yeah...sure. In lot of cases it forms a fog and under that fog it seems to hold the heat from the soil...below the fog against the ground.

I: Well, I'm learning a lot quick here.

R: Yeah...you can go in here a lot of times and you'll see that the tips of the corn are frost bitten, but the frost hasn't been able to get closer to the ground.

I: Yeah, you've got a good spot here.
R: Yeah

I: A little problem with the trees shading.

R: Yeah, my carrots didn't turn out worth two cents on account of it I didn't think of it that I had that Elm right there. It done two things...it depleted the soil and it shades.

Stop in tape.

R: You know that little bridge that was there when you come from the woods right there?

I: Yeah

R: There's a little bit of a bridge right there over a little sleigh, this side of that bridge there I've shot three from there in my early days. There's...three sleigh's come in like that and then there's a place...just narrow maybe twenty-thirty feet wide, where they can get across with dry feet, and they travel from these wood area down to that woods area through there.

I: You see a lot of deer there, don't you?

R: Well, some years. Usually you don't see too many before...oh...fourth, fifth, sixth day, like that after the hunting season starts...after the people start chasing them, you know.

I: Then they start to head for the swamps at night

R: Then they start moving and shifting back and forth.

I: Come out of the swamps at night and go in...

R: Yeah

What time do they go in? When it's still dark?

R: Lot of them...when it's just getting dark.

Stop in tape.

R: If you haven't got water available and you get it right otherwise, you don't (???) because you got a (???).

I: This is at Maki's.

R: No...no...up at Ina Johnson's up there toward Baraga on Jake Johnson's place. Ah, here comes the superintendent.

X: You caught us. I stole about a half a dozen carrots from your field already.
R: That's alright...you take'em

X: Why don't you pick all of them out

R: He...Weldon hit it with a hoe and he tried to hide it.

X: I hate to do that,

XX: They don't grow under the vine, they grow up here or up over there.

X: This is about as good a soil as there is in California, isn't it?

XX: Yeah...we had a sleugh there that we had corn on one time and the ears was right here, you know, it was that high.

Stop in tape.

R: Sell him seventy-five and keep five and the house.

X: Well, what are you gonna do with it?

XX: Sit here and look at it.

X: You have to have something to do, don't kid me. You gotta keep some steers and what not in there.

R: I'm afraid that's what you'd find in there pretty darn quick.

XX: That's the reason I'd just want the land.

X: But what does the land do good for you because you're way up there?

XX: Well, that's it...I couldn't do anything to it up here, maybe for two years, but after that...cause you gotta have the land for a start...you gotta have some, you know.

X: Well, I haven't got any idea what I'm gonna do, I haven't any intentions of selling it to anybody yet...perhaps if I do, you will have the first chance.

XX: Alright. No, I was just looking and...

R: He can't get over it... he says out here, thousands and thousands of acres of good grass land clearings doing nothing...growing into weeds and brush and up in the west out there, there's beef cattle circling boulders looking for a blade of hay.

I: Beef could be profitable.

Stop in tape.

I: Who do you generally give to?
R: Oh well, we've been giving a few to a sister-in-law up there in the hills, she don't want to keep a garden any more, we've been giving her a few things here and there, and people come from even the city...some of my relatives come from Detroit, we give them. I have a brother in Chassel, we've been giving them a few and 'bagies and different things like that.

I: Don't any of those people have gardens?

R: Not to amount to anything.

I: And the sister on the hill, how come she doesn't grow a garden anymore?

R: She's too old and in poor shape to take care of one.

I: But years ago you used to grow a garden there.

R: Yeah, sure...especially when her husband lived a few years here, why they used to grow a nice garden.

Stop in tape.

I: Have you got a tractor and all that stuff?

R: Well, I was using Kayo's stuff, but I have a tractor of my own; but I was using his as long as it was here handy.

I: And you did the whole thing with that. Did you put any manure in here?

R: No, not a bit. This is organic...not even organic. (???) during the winter and this spring when I started to work it, well anything that was germinating well the field cultivator would take it up and that formed a quite a bit of humus into it...just weeds...weed stalks...because this was idle last summer...Kayo lost his wife, you know, and he didn't work it.

End of Side A

R: I wasn't able to use all of it.

I: You said that you give vegetables to some of your relatives from Detroit even, is that when they come up to visit you?

R: Yeah

I: In the summer?

R: Yeah and in the fall. Now like my sister is up here now
from Detroit and another sister's boy is supposed to come up pretty soon.

I: And you generally give them vegetables?

R: Yeah, they'll probably take a little spuds back and rutubagas and maybe a few beets and stuff like that...any fresh vegetables, you know, that we haven't had to bother to can them or preserve them in any way. We don't usually give them away. And they appreciate them...that stuff that hasn't stood on the store shelves and showcases, you know I think there's a little difference in the appeal to them.

I: Well, I guess...you're darn right. That's an old tradition, giving vegetables. That's one of the things I'm concentrating on. Remember I told you about the kind of cooperation that was here?

R: Yeah

I: ...years ago? Well, that's one very important part of it, you know.

R: Well sure, it's some tailings of the same thing.

I: Right, and that's why I'm studying gardening now, to get at that.

R: Yeah, that's about the only thing that is left of all that now because there isn't...well people haven't got as much opportunity to serve each other anymore like they used to because there isn't so much building or things like that going on. Like years ago, might as well say that the community was established, why everybody had construction problems and everything else...lack of power, lack of horse power, lack of man power, lack of different things, and you didn't have the up-to-date machinery where one man would do three men's work like they do today. Take fifty years ago...fifty years ago when everything was done by horse whyman didn't have...why now a man with a good tractor and a couple hours he'll accomplish what he did with a team of horses in all day. One man can earn so much more farming than he did then...or grow so much more crops now than he did then days, you know, I think...I've seen it in some agricultural magazines how many times it's doubled...a man's production per hour has multiplied compared to fifty years ago, but then days it was a habit that soon as they could crawl over the door sill the whole family was out there pitching in.

I: Did you have to work in the garden when you were a kid?
R: Me? I haven't had no leisure life in my life at all.

I: About the garden, how was your parent's garden worked? Who worked in it? Who did what? Who plowed it?

R: Well, whoever had charge of the horses or was doing the horse work.

I: That's when your brothers were older. What about when they were younger? Your dad?

R: Yeah...yeah...and then hired men. We used to always have a big enough operation that we had one or two hired men until we grew up.

I: I mean, just for the family garden though.

R: Family garden...well mostly it was my mother that would pick out a plot somewheres amongst the plowing, you know, that had been plowed for other purposes. She'd go around and she'd say, "Now I want a garden in this area here now." And well they'd take a little special care and disc it and work it a little better probably than an oat field or something like that, see, and then that's where we'd plant and we'd have to be in there pitching in, planting and pitching in weeding...

I: You mean all the kids?

R: Yeah

I: Everyone?

R: Just about the whole works...probably one of them would be left in the house to help Ma around, but that's all.

I: But it was the kids that would do the weeding and that?

R: Yeah, ninety percent of it

I: Who would do the picking of the vegetables?

R: Well, in the fall it used to be us older kids...the older ones of the family, we'd do the harvesting.

I: The older children, eh?

R: Yeah

I: Who ran the garden though? Who said to do this and that? Was it Ma?

R: Mostly, mostly yes.
I: Okay, now here's a general question now. What about the other people? Was it mostly the woman who ran it?

R: Yeah, they'd mostly look over it because they were the ones that were interested in it. It seemed like more than the men folks because the men folks were... had the bigger end of the operation than the... you know like your hay making and your harvesting and all that kind of stuff, you know, that was up to the men folks, and the women would at times even take care of milking and that if the men were busy in the hay field all day long, well they at least helped very much with the milking problem and that.

I: What about now? What about the gardens now... like yourself? You do the plowing and that... what about the planting?

R: I do the planting too.

I: And the harvesting?

R: And the whole works.

I: You do the whole works.

R: Yes, because I have a lot of free time. Maybe it'd be different if I was working someplace eight or nine hours... ten hours away from home five days a week, why I wouldn't have so much time here.

When it was that way, who was doing the gardening? Or did you have a garden?

R: We didn't have very much garden then. We just... I just used to always play and have a plot some place that was just big enough for eating out of the field in the fall, but I wouldn't store anything.

I: But now it's for considerably more than that... you get potatoes...

R: Oh yes, I'll have potatoes for the whole winter, I'll have rutubagas, carrots.

I: For the whole winter?

R: For the whole winter,

I: When do you run out of your potatoes about?

R: Well, I usually manage to have enough for seed at the end and then we buy potatoes for about probably a couple months from say May 15th to about July 15th.

I: And what about peas?
R: The peas? Well they won't keep anyhow until you...you gotta can 'em...they gotta be canned.

I: Do you can 'em and freeze 'em?

R: Yeah, and freeze 'em and eat 'em.

I: But do you generally have all the vegetables you want like of the other things other than potatoes...for the whole year?

R: Yeah, just about...except your rutubagas, they don't keep either too long...you have to wax 'em and monkey around with them in order for them to preserve for a longer length of the winter...they get woody and dry and they...in other words they evaporate...the moisture out of them and the flavor goes out with the moisture.

I: Papman has a pretty good place for rutubagas.

R: Yeah, he has

I: Is that moister?

R: Yes, he's got...he's got an artesian well and he has the overflow from that artesian well running in troughs all zig-zagging in that...

I: And he can control the rate of flow too, can't he

R: Yes

I: Well, he's got a good moisture thing.

R: Yeah, he can control the moisture there and then it also, that same water at the same time keeps the frost out in the coldest weather. Probably 45 degree water that running out of that overflow, well it helps to keep the...

Stop in tape.

R: 'ell, I'm gonna go and get them tubs here

XX: Yeah, we'll go and pick up one more

R: Why don't you go down there and get the...bring that Scout here and a couple of tubs.

Stop in tape.

R: Well, quite a bit before you came last fall, there was a guy around here on this same deal practically that you are; but there's one thing that people don't want to reveal
their finances...their financial standing and that, and he
would try to dig them up...and three four of them opened
the door for him and said, "Get out!"...said that we don't
need you.

I: I tried that at first and I sensed that...couple of people
gave me their reaction, so I just said to heck with it.

R:

I: It's not that important.

Stop in tape.

R: ...of reflection to it. It's got to be human nature...your
feeling toward your neighbor.

I: Yeah, but what I say is maybe there's some relationship
between this human nature and the amount of cash a man has,
maybe.

R: Yeah, that could be.

I: I don't know.

R: Some, that's true enough...there's some people become...
they probably start feeling that well I don't need their
help or I don't need them, I got enough of my own now, and
that. That can change their nature and their thinking
toward other people.

I: I've got enough now so I don't have to go help him.

R: Yeah

I: I won't need him...

R: Yeah, and a man...every time practically, that a man that
is pretty well off and can take care of himself, he's
the man that starts to notice faults in another guy...well
he's so and so, he's such and such why should I do this or
why should I do that too, see. Where when he's figuring
that he's going to need this other man's help sometime or
something, well he's thinking different. Do you believe
that?

Stop in tape.

R: He had been working in store just up 'til then, just up
'til he bought this place, this farm. When he started farm-
ing, he says, "I didn't know that a farmer had a sailor's
shift." He said, "It's four hours on and eight off." He
worked like mad four hours in the morning and he would loaf
in the wintertime especially, he would loaf for four hours during the day and then go and work another four.

I: But then in the spring and in the fall...

R: All through the summer might as well say, he's working from daylight to dark. It becomes sixteen hours on and eight off.

I: Yeah, it's just in winter.

R: Yeah, it's during that winter season mostly after his cows are in the barn already.

I: When he's got the time.

Yeah

Stop in tape.