

ARMAS & MARGARET SEPPONEN  
RIBBONS OF MEMORY  
INTERVIEWED BY EDWARD F. & GARIDETH SUNDBERG  
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AMERICAN- SCANDINAVIAN ETHNIC HERITAGE  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

"WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FULL NAME?"

ARMAS THEODORE SEPPONEN.

"WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN?"

I WAS BORN IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 7, 1910.

"WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF YOUR PARENTS AND THE GRANDPARENTS YOU REMEMBER?"

MY FATHER'S NAME WAS KARL AMOL SEPPONEN. HIS NAME WAS  
. . . . . AT THE TIME HE CHANGED HIS NAME TO . . . . .  
AFTER HE LEFT FINLAND BUT HIS NAME WAS SEPPONEN.  
MY MOTHER'S NAME IS SENJA KATRINA SEPPONEN AND HER MAIDEN  
NAME WAS NISULA.

"DID THEY COME FROM FINLAND?"

YES . . . . . FINLAND IN THE . . . . . AREA.

"DO YOU KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY OF YOUR GRANDPARENTS?"

No, JUST SEPPONEN AND NISULA, THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

"WERE YOU EVER TOLD HOW YOUR PARENTS CAME TO THE UNITED STATES?"

No, JUST TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNE AND BETTER WORK CONDITIONS, LIKE A LOT OF FINNS JUST LEFT FOR A BETTER LIFE,

"WERE THEY MARRIED IN FINLAND?"

No, THEY MET IN BUTTE, MONTANA AND MARRIED THERE,

"DID THEY KNOW EACH OTHER IN FINLAND?"

No.

"DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER CAME TO THE UNITED STATES, WHAT ROUTE THEY FOLLOWED?"

MY FATHER LEFT FINLAND AROUND 1900 AND CAME INTO CANADA FIRST. THEN HE EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES. MOTHER CAME TO NEW YORK IN 1905 AND EVENTUALLY THEY MET AROUND 1908 OR 1909, IN THE MONTANA AREA,

"WHAT EVER ATTRACTED BOTH OF THEM TO MONTANA?"

WELL, MY DAD ROAMED AROUND FOR AWHILE DOING LUMBER WORK AND MINING AND THEN HE WORKED THE MINES AROUND BUTTE, MONTANA. MOM WENT TO WORK AT DIFFERENT PLACES AS TYPICAL HOUSE MAID OR COOK, THEN SHE WOUND UP IN MONTANA AS THE BOARDING HOUSE COOK. THAT'S WHERE THEY MET,

"DID THEY STAY IN MONTANA AFTER THEY WERE MARRIED?"

FOR AWHILE. THEY WERE MARRIED IN MONTANA IN 1909 AND

MOVED TO CALIFORNIA WHERE I WAS BORN IN 1910.

"MAY I JUST INTERRUPT A LITTLE BIT, WHAT KIND OF SCHOOLING OR TRAINING DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE IN FINLAND?"

THE AVERAGE SCHOOLING THROUGH ELEMENTARY AND WHATEVER THEY HAD BEYOND ELEMENTARY, . . . . WAS KIND OF A COMBINATION OF REGULAR SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, SO THEY HAD SOME EXTRA SCHOOLING BEYOND ELEMENTARY.

"DID THEY HAVE ANY TRAINING OR JOBS BEFORE THEY CAME HERE?"

I DON'T THINK SO. MOM NEVER MENTIONED DOING ANY EDUCATION OR TRADE BEFORE SHE CAME AND DAD PROBABLY JUST DID RANCHING.

"DID THEY EVER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THEIR PEOPLE FELT WHEN THEY LEFT THE OLD COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND?"

WELL, NO, THEY NEVER ELABORATED ON FEELING, JUST THE USUAL, SORRY TO GO BUT THEY WERE GOING.

"THERE WAS NO OBJECTION FROM THE PARENTS?"

No. THEY JUST UP AND LEFT.

"HAD ANY OF THE FAMILY COME TO THE UNITED STATES OR TO CANADA BEFORE YOUR PARENTS LEFT?"

No, NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

"THEY WERE THE FIRST OF THE FAMILY TO COME?"

Yes. DAD WAS THE OLDEST AND OF COURSE HE CAME, BUT NONE



OF HIS OTHER RELATIVES CAME AHEAD OF HIM OR WITH OR DURING THAT TIME. MOM, THE SAME WAY,

"DID ANY OF THEM EVER FOLLOW? WERE THERE ANY OTHERS IN THE FAMILY WHO CAME?"

LATER ON, MY DAD'S LITTLE SISTER CAME TO CALIFORNIA. MOM, IN LATER YEARS, HAD A BROTHER WHO CAME TO CANADA, THAT'S ALL I KNOW OF,

"HOW DID THEY LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH IF THEY TOLD YOU?"

THEY NEVER TOLD, THEY JUST LEARNED FROM SOMEONE ELSE, COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE AS THEY WORKED AND LIVED, AND SO FORTH,

"DID THEY EVER TELL YOU OF ANY OF THE HUMOROUS SITUATIONS THEY GOT INTO?"

"OR NOT SO HUMOROUS, BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH?"

I DON'T RECALL, I MIGHT THINK ABOUT IT LATER, I DON'T RECALL ANY SPECIAL HUMOROUS OR UNUSUAL BECAUSE OF THEIR LANGUAGE OR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY RIGHT NOW.

"DID THEY EVER GO TO SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES, TOOK ANY EDUCATION OF ANY KIND?"

I THINK THEY TOOK SOME TRAINING, ESPECIALLY TO GET THEIR CITIZENSHIP PAPERS. NO, THEY DIDN'T REALLY GO TO A SCHOOL AS SUCH.

"THEY DID BECOME CITIZENS?"

YES. THEY STUDIED TO GET THEIR CITIZENSHIP PAPERS.

"AFTER THE FAMILY SETTLED IN OAKLAND AND YOU WERE BORN, WHAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S WORK THERE?"

HE WORKED IN THE SHIPYARD AS A CARPENTER. HE WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE MINES BECAUSE HE REALIZED THAT WAS A VERY GOOD OCCUPATION. HE WORKED AS A LUMBERJACK IN THE LUMBER MILLS FOR AWHILE BUT WHEN THEY CAME TO OAKLAND HIS FIRST BIG JOB WAS IN THE SHIPYARD AS A CARPENTER, A ROUGH CARPENTER. THAT WAS HIS TRADE FROM THEN ON.

"DID YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU ABOUT ANY OF HER WORK IN THE FINN BOARDING HOUSE?"

YES, SHE WAS A COOK IN THE BIG LUMBER MINING CAMP AS A MAIN COOK BACK IN THESE BIG LUMBER BOARDING HOUSES AND THAT'S WHERE THEY MET. THERE WAS ONE INTERESTING EPISODE, MOM MADE, I BELIEVE IT WAS DONUTS, AND HIS FIRST REMARK WAS, "THESE ARE TOUGH."

"HOW MANY MEN LIVED IN THAT BOARDING HOUSE?"

I DON'T RECALL BUT SHE SAID SHE ALWAYS WORKED WITH SEVERAL COOKS SO IT WAS A GOOD-SIZED CAMP.

"DO YOU KNOW HOW SHE FOUND THAT CAMP?"

I DON'T KNOW.



"AFTER YOUR FOLKS WERE SETTLED IN OAKLAND AND YOU WERE BORN, WHAT KIND OF A HOUSE DID YOU GROW UP IN, CAN YOU DESCRIBE THAT?"

MY DAD BUILT HIS OWN, LITTLE HOME. IT WAS PROBABLY, AT FIRST, A SINGLE BEDROOM COTTAGE, BUT HE ADDED ON ANOTHER BEDROOM. THE HOUSE STILL STANDS AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN, LET'S SEE, I REMEMBER ABOUT 1905 OR 1906 HE WAS BUILDING THE HOUSE WAY OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS OF OAKLAND, WHICH IS CLOSE TO THE OAKLAND AIRPORT NOW,

"DID HE DESIGN THE HOUSE?"

WELL, I SUPPOSE SO, IT WAS SIMPLE, THE USUAL TYPE HOUSE.

"DID YOUR MOTHER EVER AUGMENT THE FAMILY INCOME AFTER SHE BECAME A MARRIED WOMAN?"

NO, JUST A HOMEMAKER AND MOTHER.

"DID SHE HAVE ANY SPECIAL HOME ARTS OR CRAFTS?"

NO, SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT COOK AND PREPARED AND MADE HER OWN CLOTHES FOR HER FAMILY AND HERSELF. IF YOU REFERRING TO PAINTING OR THAT TYPE OF WORK, NO.

"ALSO CROCHETING, KNITTING, THAT KIND OF THING?"

YES, WHEN SHE HAD TIME, SHE DID SOME KNITTING. I REMEMBER HER MAKING THE RAG RUGS. SEVERAL TIMES SHE WOULD BORROW A LOOM, NOT VERY OFTEN. SHE USUALLY COLLECTED THE RAGS AND SOMEBODY ELSE MADE THEM BUT SHE DID DO THAT TYPE OF WORK.

"DID YOUR PARENTS SPEAK FINNISH AT HOME?"

YES. IT'S FUNNY, WHEN I STARTED SCHOOL THEY WANTED TO LEARN MORE ENGLISH SO THEY INSISTED WE TALK ENGLISH AT HOME, SO THAT THEY COULD LEARN ENGLISH BETTER. MY FINNISH EVAPORATED, A LITTLE.

"SO YOU SPOKE FINNISH BEFORE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL?"

YES. BUT IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE, LIKE ROY RUHKALA SAID, THE OLD FINNISH WE USED AND SOME OF THE WORDS WE DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ANY MORE. BUT ANYWAY, I DID NOT SPEAK FINNISH TOO WELL IN MY YOUNGER DAYS BUT JUST GOT BY, AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, MORE ENGLISH WAS SPOKEN IN THE HOME.

"DO YOU RECALL ANY OF THE FINNISH THAT WAS SPOKEN IN YOUR HOME, MAYBE THROUGH A FORM OF PRAYER OR SOME SAYING?"

No.

"COULD YOU SAY ANYTHING IN FINNISH FOR ME?"

WELL, LET ME THINK, AFTER A WHILE,

"OKAY, WE'LL GO BACK TO THAT."

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY FINNISH BOOKS OR MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS?"

YES, WE WOULD GET SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, LIKE . . . . .  
IT'S USUALLY A WORKING MAN'S NEWSPAPER, NO SOCIAL, NOT EXACTLY IWW BUT IT WAS USED FOR THE WORKING MAN. MOM, IF I RECALL, DID GET SOME KIND OF A LITTLE FINN PAPER THAT WAS PREDOMINANTLY FOR THE LADIES.



"YOU SPOKE OF YOUR FATHER AS A WORKING MAN WHO WAS A CARPENTER IN THE SHIPYARD. DID HE HAVE TO BE INVOLVED OR WAS HE INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE UNION WORK? IT MUST HAVE BEEN AT THE TIME WHEN THAT WAS FORMING."

YES, WELL IN THE EARLY PART OF THE SHIPYARDS, I DON'T KNOW. LATER ON, WHEN WE MOVED TO THE SACRAMENTO AREA IS WHEN HE JOINED THE CARPENTER'S UNION AND HE WAS A FULL-FLEDGED FINNISH CARPENTER. SO HE DID JOIN THE UNION AND HE WAS A REAL, 100% UNION MAN.

"WHERE WOULD THEY HAVE CALLED HOME, WHAT TOWN?"

WELL, CITRUS HEIGHTS, WHICH IS A SUBURB OF SACRAMENTO, WOULD BE HOME FOR MANY YEARS. I DON'T THINK YOU CALL SACRAMENTO, WELL REALLY, UNTIL LATER ON WHEN DAD HAD A HEART ATTACK, AND RECOVERED, SO THEY FINALLY SOLD THEIR RANCH AND MOVED INTO SACRAMENTO SO, I GUESS, THEN SACRAMENTO WOULD BE THEIR HOME FOR THE LATER YEARS.

"YOU SAID RANCH. SO HE WENT FROM BEING A MINER TO BEING A SHIP'S CARPENTER, TO A RANCH?"

WELL, I'LL PUT IT THIS WAY, HE WAS A CARPENTER, ON ACCOUNT OF MOTHER'S HEALTH, THE DOCTOR SUGGESTED LEAVING THE BAY AREA TO GO WHERE IT WAS A DRIER CLIMATE SO THEY INVESTIGATED THE TERRITORY AROUND FRESNO, DRY COUNTRY REALLY, AND THEY INVESTIGATED THE AREA AROUND SACRAMENTO AND FOUND THAT THE CLIMATE WAS MUCH BETTER FOR HER BRONCHIAL PROBLEMS, SO THEY BOUGHT THIS, LITTLE 10 ACRE RANCH AND IT HAD THE TYPICAL FAMILY ORCHARD, PEACHES, APPLES CHERRIES, WHATEVER; A COW AND A HORSE, THE USUAL PIGEONS, PIGS AND CHICKENS, QUITE A FEW CHICKENS SO HE HAD A RANCH, YOU HAD TO WORK OUT AND



MAINTAIN IT AND EARN A LIVING.

"ABOUT WHAT YEAR DID HE GO OUT TO THE RANCH?"

WELL, LET'S SEE, HE LIVED BEFORE 1910 IN OAKLAND, LET'S SEE, 1915, ABOUT 1920. THEY GOT THIS RANCH AND DAD BUILT HIS ONE, LITTLE HOME ON THIS RANCH.

"HOW LARGE A FAMILY WERE YOU?"

JUST MY BROTHER AND I, ONLY TWO.

"WHAT IS YOUR BROTHER'S NAME?"

KARL, SAME AS MY DAD, BUT HIS MIDDLE NAME IS MAX. SO THERE WERE TWO OF US. HE IS A VETERINARIAN.

"IN CITRUS HEIGHTS, WERE THERE OTHER FINNS YOUR PARENTS COULD ASSOCIATE WITH?"

THERE WERE THREE OR FOUR OTHER FAMILIES SCATTERED OUT, WEREN'T MANY AROUND THERE AT ALL, MOST OF THE FINNS WERE EIGHT OR TEN MILES NORTH IN ROCKLIN. THERE WERE A FEW SCATTERED AROUND SACRAMENTO. IN THE EARLY DAYS, IN THE CITRUS HEIGHTS AREA THERE WERE VERY FEW FINNS.

"WHAT WAS FINNISH ABOUT YOUR HOME?"

OH, THE USUAL, THE OLD FASHIONED RAG RUG ON THE FLOOR, PICTURES OR PAINTINGS THAT CAME FROM FINLAND. THE BUTTERMILK CHURN, THE TYPE THAT YOU CRANKED, THE ONE THAT GOES UP AND DOWN, THE EVER-LASTING COFFEE POT ON THE STOVE THAT NEVER GOT COLD. MY DAD DIDN'T DRINK MUCH COFFEE IN THE

EARLY PART OF THE MARRIAGE, AS FAR AS I REMEMBER, MY MOM,  
SHE WAS THE COFFEE DRINKER,

"WHAT ABOUT, UP IN THE CITRUS HEIGHTS AREA, WHAT WERE THE  
OTHER PEOPLE? THERE WERE NOT MANY FINNS, YOU SAID."

NO, THERE WAS MAYBE ONE, TWO, ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE FAMILIES  
ALL SCATTERED OUT. THEY WERE SEVERAL MILES APART,

"WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES?"

ONE WAS THE SAELO? FAMILY, ANOTHER WAS THE HERMANSON FAMILY,  
ALMA KING WAS A SINGLE LADY, THERE WAS THE SAUDIE FAMILY  
IN FAIR OAKS, ANOTHER FAMILY I FORGOT IS . . . . . THEY  
CAME TO THE BAY AREA FOR AWHILE THEN THEY MOVED TO SACRAMENTO,

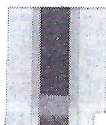
"WAS IT BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE SCHOOLS OUT THERE OR DID YOU HAVE  
TO GO ELSEWHERE FOR SCHOOL?"

WE LIVED ABOUT A MILE FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. MY BROTHER & I  
WALKED OR RODE OUR BIKES TO SCHOOL. THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS  
NEARBY SO THAT WAS WHERE THIS RANCH WAS, BETWEEN THE HIGH  
SCHOOL AND THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THERE WERE NO CLUBS OR  
FUNCTIONS RIGHT THERE FOR THE FINNS AT ALL. IT WAS EITHER  
ROCKLIN OR THEY HAD A LITTLE GATHERING OF THE FINNS IN  
SACRAMENTO BUT NOT AROUND THE COUNTRY WHERE WE LIVED,

"DO YOU REMEMBER GOING TO A FINN CHURCH AS A CHILD?"

No.

"DID YOU GO TO CHURCH AT TIMES?"



No. THE FOLKS, THEY JUST WALKED AWAY FROM RELIGIION, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD QUOTE SOMETHING RELIGIOUS, BUT MY FOLKS GOT AWAY FROM THE CHURCH, I NEVER DID GO TO A FINN CHURCH AS A YOUNSTER.

"WHAT ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS, IF THEY DIDN'T GO TO THE FINN ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE YOU SAID THERE NOT MANY THERE, DID THEY BELONG TO ANY AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS OR CLUBS OR LODGES OR ANYTHING?"

No, THEY DIDN'T REALLY JOIN, OH, MAYBE LIKE A GRANGE, A FARM, COMMUNITY TYPE, OR A KIND OF COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE. BUT THEY DID KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THE FINN ORGANIZATIONS IN BERKELEY, THIS LITTLE GROUP IN SACRAMENTO AND IN ROCKLIN. MY DAD BELONGED TO THE . . . . . YEARS AND YEARS AGO IN ROCKLIN.

"WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL HELP, AND SO ON IN THE AREA? WHAT COULD YOU COUNT ON FOR DOCTORS, HOSPITALS, NURSING CARE, DENTISTS?"

WELL, SINCE WE LIVED ABOUT THREE MILES FROM ROSEVILLE, THAT WAS THE CLOSEST DOCTOR, RIGHT THERE IN ROSEVILLE, THEY HAD SEVERAL DOCTORS. EITHER THEY PHONE UP, OR THE FAMILY DOCTOR WOULD COME OUT OR THEY WOULD JUST DRIVE IN, EITHER WAY.

"WAS THERE EVER ANY SERIOUS ILLNESS?"

YES, MY DAD HAD EAR PROBLEMS AND LIGAMENT PROBLEMS IN THE KNEES AND SO FORTH. ALTHOUGH HE WAS A WIRY, TOUGH WORKER, HE HAD HIS HEALTH PROBLEMS TOO. MOM, HER HEALTH WAS PRETTY, DOGGONE GOOD.

"DID YOUR FATHER BELONG TO ANY TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS?"

WELL, THE . . . . . IN ROCKLIN.

"DID HE PRACTICE HIS TEMPERANCE?"

YEAH, THEY WEREN'T DRINKING PEOPLE. ONCE IN A WHILE, IF THERE WAS A GET-TOGETHER, DAD MIGHT HAVE A BEER, OR A GLASS OF WINE, WHAT WAS THE FINN WORD FOR THAT BEER . . . . . OR ONE OR THE OTHER. HE WOULD MAKE IT HIMSELF, ONCE IN A WHILE BUT HE WAS NO DRUNKARD. HE DIDN'T SMOKE, EITHER. NEVER DID SMOKE. MY FOLKS NEVER SMOKED, WHICH SHOWS, MY BROTHER AND I DON'T SMOKE EITHER.

"IN YOUR CHILDHOOD, DO YOU REMEMBER ANY FINNISH GET-TOGETHERS, ETC.? TELL US ABOUT THEM."

NOT WHERE WE LIVED. SINCE THEY CAME FROM THE OAKLAND AREA, BERKELEY AREA, ANY BIG DOINGS IN BERKELEY, WE WOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO DRIVE DOWN IN AN OLD MODEL T OR MODEL A; IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL HOURS, GO DOWN AND STAY WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES. THEY HAD A BIG FUNCTION MAYBE AT THE FINN HALL, A PLAY OR A MUSICAL, A DANCE, MAYBE A BIG PICNIC. THERE WAS A BIG PICNIC DOWN THERE THEY CALLED IT EAST SHORE PARK OR SOMETHING EVERY SUMMER, PROBABLY THE . . . . . TIME, IN JUNE THERE, THEY WOULD HAVE THE BIG DOINGS. I REMEMBER GOING DOWN THERE QUITE FAITHFULLY. IF THERE WERE ANY BIG DOINGS IN ROCKLIN, AT FINN HALL, WHETHER IT BE A PLAY OR A DANCE, WHY, WE WOULD COME HERE.

FOR THE FUNCTIONS RIGHT NEAR WHERE WE LIVED, WAS OUT AS A FINN FUNCTION.





"YOU WERE NOT A CHURCH-GOING FAMILY, DID YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?"

YES, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

"WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHRISTMAS?"

WE HAD THE TREE, SANTA CLAUS WOULD BRING PRESENTS THAT WOULD BE THERE IN THE MORNING. MOM WOULD MAKE LUTEFISK FOR THE FINN CELEBRATION AND SANG A FEW OF THE FINN SONGS BUT THEY DIDN'T ATTEND FINN CHRISTMAS SERVICES, AS SUCH.

"BUT THERE WAS A CELEBRATION OF THE OCCASION?"

YES, THEY KEPT IT AS THEY DID IT IN FINLAND, THEY DIDN'T GO TO ANY CHURCH FUNCTION. I DON'T RECALL DOING IT AS A YOUNG BOY, ANY SPECIAL CHURCH FUNCTIONS.

"WHAT COULD YOU EXPECT TO GET AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?"

THE USUAL THING TO WEAR, AS SUCH.

"THE HOME WAS NOT SO THAT YOU HAD TO DO WITHOUT AT CHRISTMAS TIME?"

WELL, DURING THE DEPRESSION, IN THE EARLY 1930'S, IT WAS A LITTLE ROUGH, DIDN'T HAVE MUCH. IN FACT, ONE CHRISTMAS, DAD MADE HIS OWN CHRISTMAS TREE. A STICK OF WOOD, AND SOME BRANCHES AND DRILLED HOLES AND BUILT HIS OWN TREE. MOM DECORATED IT WITH THE OLD CANDLES, THE POPCORN STRINGS AND SO FORTH. IT WAS VERY SIMPLIFIED BUT GAVE US A HOMEY ATMOSPHERE, A HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

"YOU WERE JUST EXPLAINING TO US THAT IT WAS A HAPPY HOME EVEN THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN TIMES WHEN THERE WAS NOT A LOT OF MONEY. SO YOU DIDN'T FEEL YOU WERE POOR?"

WELL, YES AND NO. DURING THE DEPRESSION MY DAD COULDN'T WORK SO I THINK WE WERE A LOT MORE FORTUNATE THAN SOME PEOPLE. WE HAD OUR RANCH THERE AND HAD OUR OWN COW AND HORSE AND ANIMALS, POULTRY AND WHATNOT, RAISED OUR OWN FOOD. WE HAD VEGETABLES, LOTS OF FRUIT TREES, MOM DID HER OWN CANNING, COOKING. SO DURING THE DEPRESSION WE GOT BY PRETTY WELL. IT WAS ROUGH AND TOUGH.

"WHAT ABOUT PEDDLERS, THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO CAME TO YOUR PLACE TO SELL THINGS?"

THE ONES I REMEMBER WAS THE WATKINS PRODUCT MAN CAME AROUND EVERY SO OFTEN. IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE WE LIVED MOST OF THE YEARS THERE WEREN'T ANY REAL VEGETABLE OR FRUIT PEDDLERS AS SUCH. USUALLY, ON SATURDAY WAS SHOPPING DAY. FOR MANY YEARS, WHEN DAD WORKED IN SACRAMENTO, HE WORKED A HALF DAY AT A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND THEN WOULD SPEND TIME DOING THE SHOPPING FOR THE WHOLE WEEK, PRACTICALLY.

"HOW DID YOUR FATHER GET FORTH AND BACK?"  
HOW DID HE GET FROM YOUR HOME TO SACRAMENTO?"

HE HAD A CAR. I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN. BUT HE ALWAYS HAD TO ASK FOR A RIDE. HE EITHER WALKED TO A CORNER AND BUM A RIDE OR HIKED, SO TO SPEAK, OR MAYBE KNEW SOME OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKER IN THAT AREA WHERE HE CAUGHT A RIDE. THEN HE FINALLY BOUGHT A CAR TO GO BACK AND FORTH TO WORK. IN THE EARLY WINTER MORNINGS IT WOULD PRACTICALLY BE A FAMILY CHORE

TO GET OUT THAT CAR, GET IT STARTED AND WARMED UP, JACK UP THE REAR WHEEL OF A FORD, POOR HOT WATER IN THE CARBURETOR, AND START CRANKING. IT WAS REALLY A CHORE.

"WHAT YEAR WAS THAT FORD CAR?"

LET'S SEE, WE LIVED IN CITRUS HEIGHTS IN THE 1920'S, IT WAS PROBABLY THE EARLY TWENTIES, MODEL T. AND THEN PROBABLY A MODEL A WOULD BE NEXT.

"WHAT KIND OF GAMES DID YOU PLAY? YOU HAD VERY FEW NEIGHBORS, PROBABLY."

"THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF YOU."

WELL, YES, . . . , HOW WOULD YOU CALL IT, GAMES LIKE THAT, BROTHER AND I, WHICH IS POOL. WE KEPT TO THE RANCH. WE DIDN'T GO PLAYING AROUND MUCH. WE WEREN'T SLAVES BUT WE HAD OUR CHORES TO DO. AFTER SCHOOL WE WOULD COME HOME, LIVESTOCK TO FEED, CHICKENS OR GET EGGS IN THE CHICKEN COOP OR PICK FRUIT OR VEGETABLES, OR WHATEVER, AND WE KEPT BUSY.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE GAMES YOU MADE UP?"

NO, NOT REALLY, THEY WERE JUST CHILDHOOD GAMES, OUT IN THE MUD, PROBABLY.

"NOW THE WORK THAT YOU DID AROUND THE RANCH, WERE YOU PAID FOR THAT?"

NO. JUST A FAMILY DEAL.

"WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER? NOW DID WORLD WAR I AFFECT HIM IN ANY WAY, YOU WERE PROBABLY TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER."

WORLD WAR I, THAT WOULD BE AROUND 1917-18, ALONG THERE, HE WORKED IN THE SHIPYARDS.

"HAS HE EVER PARTICIPATED IN POLITICS AT ALL, THE UNIONS?"

NO, HE DIDN'T PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS. HE WAS QUITE AWARE AND KEPT UP ON THE INFORMATION, READING ABOUT IT AND WAS FOR THE WORKING MAN.

"DID HE BELONG TO ANY ORGANIZATIONS FOR BETTERMENT OF THE WORKING MAN'S CONDITION?"

NO, I DON'T RECALL ANY. HE DID BELONG TO THE . . . . . I DON'T RECALL RIGHT NOW OF ANY PARTICULAR, NO I DON'T.

"WHAT CONTACT DID YOUR PARENTS KEEP WITH FINLAND?"

OH, LETTER WRITING. THEY WROTE FAITHFULLY BACK AND FORTH AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND EVERY ONCE-IN-A-WHILE BETWEEN TIMES THERE WOULD BE A LETTER GOING TO OR FROM FINLAND.

"DID THEY VISIT?"

NO, NOT UNTIL, I'D SAY, IN THE 1950'S, THEY MADE A TRIP TO FINLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME. I DON'T RECALL THE YEAR, 1955 OR 1956.

"HAVE YOU KEPT THE CONTACT WITH FINLAND GOING?"





THE ONLY WAY IS WITH CHRISTMAS CARDS TO SEVERAL RELATIVES,  
THAT'S ALL.

"HAVE YOU VISITED?"

No.

"HOW HAVE YOU KEPT YOUR FINNISHNESS, BY JOINING CLUBS OR  
STUDY?"

THE ONLY CONTACT HERE IN RECENT TIMES, SOME OF THE FINNISH  
PEOPLE FROM CITRUS HEIGHTS, FAIROAKS, CARMICHAEL, FOLSOM,  
SURROUNDING AREAS REORGANIZED INTO WHAT YOU CALL FINLANDIA  
CLUB OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY. SINCE QUITE A FEW FINNS WERE  
COMING FROM FINLAND AND LIVING IN THIS AREA THEY SPEARHEADED  
THE REORGANIZATION OF THE FINNS, AMERICAN FINNS, DESCENDENTS  
AND HALF-FINNS INTO A CLUB, SO WE JOINED AND FINALLY, I  
WAS THE PRESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS OF THIS CLUB, SO THAT HAS  
BEEN OUR CONTACT. WE HAVE REALLY ENJOYED IT.