

"WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FULL NAME?"

MARGARET GENEVIEVE MACKEY SEPPONEN.

"HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY OTHER NAMES BESIDES THOSE?"

YES, MARGARET GENEVIEVE LOPSOMEN. MY NAME, LOPSOMEN WAS MY DAD'S NAME. THE NAME MACKEY WAS MY STEPFATHER'S NAME. I WAS HIS CHILD FROM AGE 4 ON. SO I WENT BY THE NAME OF MARGARET GENEVIEVE MACKEY.

"MACKEY ALMOST SOUNDS FINNISH."

IT WASN'T MAKI, HE WANTED IT MACKEY BECAUSE HE WANTED SO MUCH TO BE THOUGHT OF IN TERMS OF BEING AN ENGLISHMAN. BUT IN FINLAND HIS NAME WAS SOMETHING ELSE AND HE PICKED UP THIS NAME WHEN HE CAME TO AMERICA. IT DIDN'T RELATE TO HIS NAME IN FINLAND AT ALL.

"WERE BOTH OF YOUR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS FINNISH?"

YES.

"YOUR STEPFATHER WAS ALSO FINNISH. SO YOU HAVE GROWN UP IN A FINNISH HOME."

YES.

"WOULD YOU GIVE US YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?"

. THE LAST NAME WAS HER MAIDEN NAME.
MY DAD'S NAME WAS VICTOR LOPSOMEN.

"THE FULL NAME OF YOUR STEPFATHER?"



JOHN WALTER GETULA, BUT WHEN HE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY HE CHANGED IT TO MACKEY AND THAT'S VERY INTERESTING.

"DO YOU WISH TO TELL US MORE ABOUT IT?"

YES. THE WORD GETULA, TRANSLATED MEANS FOX AND WE KNOW THAT WHEN THE ENGLISH AND THE FINNISH BECAME - SO MANY WORDS IN ENGLISH ENDED WITH I OR A WHEN THE FINNS SAID THEM SO THEY BEGAN SAYING, OH, FOXY INSTEAD OF GETULA WHICH IS THE TRANSLATION OF THE WORD GETULA. SO HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CALLED FOXY BECAUSE HE LEARNED THAT MEANT SNEAKY. SO HE THOUGHT, I MUST ADOPT A NAME THAT WOULD BE UPLIFTING AND HAVE PEOPLE LOOK UP TO ME, AT LEAST HAVE THE FEELING OF UP AND UP. SO HE THOUGHT OF MAKI, WHICH TRANSLATED, MEANS HILL. PEOPLE LOOK UP THE HILL BUT HE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE SPELLED THE FINNISH WAY SO HE MADE IT MACKEY AND HE WAS JOHN WALTER MACKEY FROM THEN ON. FORGOT THE GETULA ENTIRELY.

"DO YOU KNOW WHERE THESE THREE PEOPLE CAME FROM . . .?"

WHEN YOU SAY THREE PEOPLE, MY MOM . . .

"YOUR MOTHER AND THE TWO FATHERS?"

THEY ALL CAME FROM THE HELSINKI AREA OF FINLAND.

"DID ANY OF THEM KNOW EACH OTHER IN FINLAND?"

No.

"WOULD YOU TELL US HOW EACH ONE OF THEM CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IF YOU KNOW?"



THEY ALL CAME BY WAY OF SHIP. THE THREE OF THEM CAME INTO THE CANADIAN PORT. MY DAD AND MOTHER CAME AT DIFFERENT TIMES BUT THEY ALL WENT DIRECTLY ACROSS CANADA TO THE WEST COAST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. THEY DID NOT MEET, HOWEVER, UNTIL AFTER THEY HAD BEEN THERE SEVERAL YEARS. MY STEPDAD CAME INTO CANADA ALSO. HE VERY SOON DRIFTED DOWN INTO THE UNITED STATES.

MY REAL DAD STAYED IN CANADA. MY MOTHER, AFTER DIVORCE, WHICH WAS AN UNHEARD-OF THING, LEFT CANADA AND CAME INTO MONTANA AND THEN TO WYOMING. MEANTIME, MY STEPDAD HAD WANDERED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FROM CANADA, BUT THEY HAPPENED TO MEET AT A FINN GATHERING.

"DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY CAME ACROSS?"

YES, IT WAS TO COME TO A NEW LIFE. THERE WAS SOME OPPRESSION A RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION SEEMED TO BE FROM THE BACKGROUND THINKING BUT PRIMARILY IT WAS A NEW WAY OF LIFE AND ALL THREE OF THEM WANTED ADVENTURE.

"DID THEY KNOW ANYONE IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN THEY CAME HERE?"

MY MOTHER KNEW SEVERAL PEOPLE. IN FACT, THEY WERE THE ONES WHO ARRANGED AND OFFERED TO HAVE THE MONEY TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY BUT SHE WOULDN'T ALLOW IT UNLESS SHE WOULD PAY IT ALL BACK. WHEN SHE CAME TO THE FAMILY WHO HAD ALLOTTED THE MONEY FOR THE CROSSING, SHE STAYED WITH THEM AWHILE. THEN, SHE HAD TO WORK HARD TO PAY IT BACK. SHE AND MY DAD WEREN'T ABLE TO SAVE TOO MUCH MONEY AND AFTER SHE GOT DIVORCED, THEN SHE WAS ABLE TO SAVE MORE MONEY TO GET IT PAID BACK, FINALLY.

"WHAT KIND OF WORK DID SHE DO?"

MY MOM WAS, I THINK YOU CALL THEM BESIDES COOKING, BOARDING HOUSES AND BEING JUST A GENERAL JANITOR.

"AND WHAT ABOUT LITTLE BABY, MARGARET?"

SHE TOOK ME WHEREVER SHE WENT. SHE WAS A LIBERATED PERSON, I'M AWARE OF THAT NOW. I KIND OF FELT THAT WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. SHE BOUGHT A CHINESE LAUNDRY WITH THE HELP OF SEVERAL FINNISH PEOPLE WHO ALLOWED HER AND ME TO LIVE IN THE BASEMENT OF ONE OF THE HOMES, VERY CHEAPLY. THEY WERE INTERESTED IN HER AND ME. SO SHE WAS ABLE TO SWING THE PURCHASE OF A CHINESE LAUNDRY. THE AMAZING THING IS SHE WAS FRAIL AND SMALL. SHE LOOKED FRAIL AND SMALL BUT MOM WAS EVIDENTLY SISU, THAT HAD A PLAY IN IT BUT SHE WAS DETERMINED THAT SHE WAS GOING TO RUN A LAUNDRY.

I REMEMBER THE IRON, WHICH SHE TOOK INTO MARRIAGE AND TO MY STEPDAD. I LEARNED TO IRON WHITE SHIRTS. IT WAS A FULL FOURTEEN INCHES LONG AND IT WAS SO HEAVY MY SHOULDERS USED TO ACHE WHEN I DID THE IRONING. SOME OF THE IRONING WAS DONE FOR PAY, THAT'S HOW SHE EARNED SOME EXTRA MONEY WHILE SHE WAS MARRIED TO MY STEPDAD.

"DID YOUR MOTHER HAVE ANY HELP IN THE LAUNDRY?"

IT WAS A TENTATIVE KIND. SHE WOULD WORK ALL NIGHT IF SHE HAD TO GET OUT THE WASH. SHE WOULD SLEEP IN THE LAUNDRY IF SHE HAD TO DO THAT. SHE NEVER PAID OUT BABYSITTING. I WAS WITH HER WHEREVER SHE WENT. SHE HAD PEOPLE COME IN TO BRING FOOD. I REMEMBER THAT SHE WOULD HELP PEOPLE IN ONE WAY AND THEY WOULD HELP THE OTHER WAY BY BRINGING HER FOOD. AS FAR AS THE PLEASURES OF LIFE, AT TIMES I THINK SHE



HAD TO BE VERY, VERY , , , AND REALLY WATCH HER PENNIES BUT MY MOM HAD A WAY OF ENJOYING PEOPLE AND ENJOYING HARD WORK AND ENJOYING WHAT SHE WAS DOING. I REMEMBER PEOPLE COMING IN AT THE RIGHT TIME WHEN YOU NEEDED, EVEN AFTER I HAD MY STEPFATHER.

"WHAT ABOUT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, DID THEY KNOW ANY ENGLISH WHEN THEY CAME HERE?"

NONE. WHEN MY DAD CAME TO CANADA AND MY MOTHER AT DIFFERENT TIMES EACH OF THEM HAD EDUCATION IN FINLAND. MY DAD WAS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT AND LEARNED 20 YEARS LATER WHEN I MET HIM AT THE LOOMIS LIBRARY, BOTH OF THEM REALLY KEPT AT THE BOOKS AND TRIED TO READ WHATEVER NEWSPAPERS THEY COULD, BOTH ENGLISH AND FINNISH. THEY BOTH TAUGHT THEMSELVES THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

"WELL, MOSTLY ABOUT HOW THEY LEARNED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE."

BESIDES READING THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS AND THE CATALOGS WERE IMPORTANT. WE ORDERED SO MANY THINGS. WHEN MY MOTHER AND DAD MARRIED, THAT'S WHEN WE WENT INTO A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PICTURE WHICH WAS THE COAL MINING TOWN IN WYOMING AND THERE WAS VERY LITTLE OTHER THAN THE OCCASIONAL CATALOG, TO LEARN, UNTIL THEY STARTED INTO THE CITIZENSHIP BUSINESS AND THEY TOOK IT VERY SERIOUSLY.

I DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH MYSELF TILL I WENT TO SCHOOL SO MY MOTHER, STEPFATHER AND I LEARNED TOGETHER. THE TEACHER, WHO WAS MY FIRST GRADE TEACHER AND ALSO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, CAME TO THE HOUSE AND I SAT ON ON THE KNEE OR THE LAP OF EITHER ONE OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS. SO I WAS LEARNING SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND EVENTUALLY CAUGHT ON SO QUICKLY THAT I WAS THEN TEACHING MOM AND DAD AS THEY TRAINED FOR CITIZENSHIP.

I BECAME A SCHOOL CHILD WITH ERNEST INTENTIONS. I WAS SO INTERESTED IN THE LANGUAGE. I TRIED TO KEEP UP THE FINNISH LANGUAGE. MOM AND DAD DID TOO BUT PRIMARILY, THEIRS WAS THE ATTITUDE THAT THEY WERE AMERICANS NOW IN A NEW LAND, THEY WOULD ADOPT THE LANGUAGE AND WE HAD TO BE GOOD CITIZENS.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY FINNISH AT ALL? CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE FINNISH?"

OH YES, THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS MUSIC. I THINK OF MUSIC EVEN NOW. THAT'S PART OF MY RETIREMENT. (SHE SINGS A SONG IN FINNISH),

"WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?"

COME TO OUR HOUSE. WE'RE MAKING HOT BREAD FRESH OUT OF THE OVEN. IF YOU COME ALONE, YOU WILL GET SOME FOR SURE. IF YOU COME WITH OTHERS, EVEN MORE.

(SINGS ANOTHER SONG IN FINNISH) IT'S ABOUT A BIRD. IT FOUND A TURNIP, DROPPED IT ON THE ROAD WHEN THE DUMB VILLAGE BOY CAME ALONG AND PICKED IT UP.

"WE WANT TO COME BACK TO THE PRESENT TIME. I WANT TO ASK THIS QUESTION AND THEN I WILL COME BACK TO MORE OF IT LATER. DO YOU BELONG TO ANY FINNISH SINGING GROUP NOW?"

NO, NOT AS SUCH BUT MY HUSBAND AND I BELONG TO THE FINLANDIA CLUB AND THEY HAVE A DANCE AND SINGING GROUP. I TRY TO BE A PART OF PROVIDING PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH GROUPS IN WHICH WE BRING THE SINGING AND THE DANCING TO THEM.

"WERE THERE EVER PEOPLE IN WYOMING THAT WERE FINNISH?"

WHERE I WAS BORN THERE WERE SOME AND SEVERAL OF THEM WERE ACTIVE IN POLITICS, I REMEMBER. PARTICULARLY THE FAMILY WITH WHOM MY MOTHER AND I LIVED, IN THEIR BASEMENT. HALOMEN HAD SEVERAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO LIVED AND THEN THE COAL MINING CAMP ABOUT 30 MILES AWAY WHERE I WENT TO LIVE WITH MY MOM AND STEPDAD WHEN I WAS FOUR. SO THE FINNS WENT FROM TO GEBO, TO KIRBY, TO SURROUNDING AREAS FOLLOWING THE AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS WHEN THE MINES WEREN'T WORKING IN THE SUMMERTIME. PARTICULARLY WHEN DEPRESSION CAME OR STRIKING CLOSED THE MINES.

SO THE FINNS WERE NOT NUMEROUS IN THERMOPOLIS BUT THEY WERE NUMEROUS IN GEBO. THEY AND THE IRISH, SCOTCH, WALES PEOPLE WERE THE PREDOMINANT LABOR FORCE FOR THE COAL COMPANY IN GEBO. THE COAL COMPANY WAS OWNED BY ENGLISH PEOPLE BUT IN GEBO THERE WAS MORE CELEBRATING OF THE FINNISH HOLIDAYS IN MIND. WE USED THE COMPANY COMMUNITY HALL FOR DIFFERENT SEASONAL EXPERIENCES THAT PERTAINED TO FINLAND BUT THE FINNISH PEOPLE, AT THE SAME TIME, REALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ENGLISH HOLIDAYS. THEN, THE OTHER GROUP THAT MADE SUCH AN IMPORTANT ETHNIC PART OF THE HERITAGE WAS THE ONES WE CALL THE MONTENEGRANS. PART CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEIR CUSTUMES WERE SO EXCITING, COMPARED WITH OURS, VERY DIFFERENT BUT THEY DID IT WITH A VENGEANCE SO I WOULD CELEBRATE WITH ALL THOSE WHOSE LAST NAMES USUALLY ENDED WITH A 'VICH'.

I THINK, PROBABLY MORE THAN MOST OF THE FINNISH CHILDREN, I WAS JUST ENRAPTURED WITH THEIR HOLIDAYS AND THEN INVITED THEM TO OURS. THEY HAD LAVISH SPREADS AT THEIR CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SUCH. FOR OUR CHRISTMAS, FOR INSTANCE, IN OUR HOMES WE WOULD PROCEED TO DO THINGS SUCH AS MELTING OF THE METAL, WHICH IS THEN POURED INTO THE WATER.

"OH TELL US MORE. WE HAVE SOME OF THAT ON SOME OF THE OTHER TAPES."

WE SAVED THE METAL AT TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND KEPT THEM ON A SPECIAL SHELF, I REMEMBER. WHEN THE OCCASION, OR THE CELEBRATING TIME CAME, IF THERE WERE SPECIAL DISHES, SPECIAL BOILERS THAT HAD TO BE RESERVED FOR THAT, NOTHING ELSE. THERE WAS SOME KIND OF RITUAL CONNECTED WITH PUTTING THE METAL INTO SOMETHING, I DON'T REMEMBER TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT. THE CHILDREN, OFTENTIMES, WERE SENT TO BEDROOMS TO STAY BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO GET BURNED. I GUESS THERE WERE ADULT THINGS ALSO, THAT WEREN'T SO MUCH PLEASURE FOR CHILDREN.

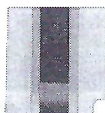
I REMEMBER THAT THEY WOULD READ THOSE FORMS, SHAPES THAT CAME OUT WHEN THE POURED METAL WAS HARDENED INTO SUCH BEAUTIFUL SHAPES. I WAS REALLY THRILLED AT ALL THAT.

"IT WAS SORT OF A FORTUNE TELLING, AM I CORRECT ON THAT?"

OH YES, THE FORM THAT IT TOOK, THE TIMING THAT IT TOOK, THE SHAPE; SOMETIMES IT WOULD PILE UP HIGH. THERE WOULD BE DIFFERENT SOUNDS FROM THE ADULTS. WHEN IT SPREAD OUT, SOME OTHER SOUNDS, COLORS, IT'S INTERESTING TRYING TO RECALL ALL THAT ON THE SPOT. THE FOODS WERE BOTH AMERICAN AND FINNISH. ONE THING THAT ADULTS ALWAYS REALLY WERE STRICT ABOUT WAS OUR NOT TOUCHING WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALCOHOLIC DRINK. I REMEMBER ONCE I DID. I FELT LIKE I WAS IN , , , , I JUST KIND OF SNEAKED INTO THE ROOM AND I THOUGHT OF HAVING FUN IN THAT BOWL SO I REMEMBER DOING IT AND FEELING IT.

"WHAT ABOUT CHURCH LIFE THEN?"

THERE WAS A VERY STRONG ENGLISH SPEAKING CHURCH AND IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE OPEN TO THE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS. OR ELSE THE ETHNIC GROUPS DIDN'T FEEL THAT THEY WANTED TO PARTICIPATE,



I CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT. MOM AND DAD CHOSE NOT TO GO. HOWEVER, MOM ENCOURAGED MY RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE OF THE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE MOM SENSED THAT I NEEDED IT. MOM TAUGHT ME FINNISH HYMNS FIRST, AMONG THE THINGS THAT I RECALL NOW. THEY DIDN'T GO TO CHURCH. MOM ALLOWED ME TO GO.

"WHAT CHURCH WAS THAT?"

THAT WAS JUST CALLED THE COMMUNITY CHURCH.

"I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE MELTING OF THE METAL AGAIN AND THE FORTUNE TELLING. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE GIVEN A GOOD FORTUNE OR A BAD FORTUNE?"

OH YES. IT SEEMED THAT PEOPLE KEPT THE ONES THAT REALLY SOUNDED ROSEY AND BEAUTIFUL. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SAVE THESE. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ALMOST HALLOWED THINGS. I REMEMBER, YOU DIDN'T DESECRATE THEM BUT IT SEEMED THAT THE ONES THAT WEREN'T SUCH GOOD SOUNDING FORTUNES WERE THE ONES THAT THEY WOULD BE SULKING ABOUT. THEY WOULD KEEP THEM INTACT.

"WHO WOULD 'READ' THE METAL?"

I REMEMBER ONE PERSON, LUDIA. LUDIA HAD A LOT TO TELL ABOUT IT. AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ONE WAS HANA WOULD, SEEMED TO DRINK A LITTLE MORE. I GUESS THAT MADE HER FORTUNE TELLING MORE

"WERE BOTH OF THESE WOMEN?"

YES.

"DID THE MEN EVER TRY TO TELL THE FORTUNE?"

IT SEEMED TO ME THAT WHEN THE MEN DID, IT WAS USUALLY TO, I'M SAYING THIS WITHOUT TOO MUCH BASIS IN FACT, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THEY ACCEPTED THE WOMEN'S FORTUNE TELLING BUT THEY WOULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO IT. IN OTHER WORDS, MAYBE IF APPLIED TO THEM OR THEIR WIFE OR FAMILY, THEY WOULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO IT, BUT MOSTLY IT SEEMED TO BE WOMEN. WOMEN IN REGARD TO THIS METAL POURING, MEN WERE BUSY WITH KEEPING THE FIRE GOING.

"WHAT ABOUT, WAS THERE ANYTHING LIKE A SAUNA THEN?"

THERMOPOLIS HAD, FIRST OF ALL, IT IS STILL THE WORLD'S LARGEST HOT SPRINGS AREA. SO THE FINNISH PEOPLE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HOT SPRINGS, BUT THERE WERE SAUNAS, LATER, WHEN MOM MARRIED MY STEPDAD AND WE WENT TO GEBO, THE MAIN SAUNA WAS BEHIND OUR HOUSE. HOWEVER, IT BELONGED TO THE COOPERATIVE AND SEVERAL FAMILIES, BATHING AS A FAMILY WAS JUST TAKEN FOR GRANTED, BATHING AS FAMILIES, SEVERAL FAMILIES, IT WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED. IT WAS A PLACE WHERE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS WANTED TO COME BUT SOMEHOW THE FINNISH DIDN'T WELCOME THEM UNTIL SOMETIME LATER, THE USE OF THE SAUNA BY OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS.

I THINK IT WAS PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY WERE BEGINNING TO SENSE THE SHAME THAT CAME WITH BODY EXPOSURE, THINGS LIKE THAT. THEY DIDN'T KNOW IF THE OTHER PEOPLE WOULD REALLY UNDERSTAND. EVENTUALLY THE SAUNA IDEA SEEMED TO PETER OUT LIKE OTHER THINGS.

"NOW YOU DIDN'T GO TO A FINNISH CHURCH. DID YOU EVER GO TO ANY KIND OF FINNISH EDUCATIONAL SITUATION?"

NO, MOM AND DAD KEPT VERY CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL, AND ESPECIALLY MY MOTHER, ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEACHERS,



PREDOMINANTLY THE FINNISH WOMEN WERE NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY, POLITICALLY ORIENTED SO SHE ALWAYS HAD TO KIND OF SOFT-SHOE HER FEELINGS,

"IN THIS AREA OF WYOMING, WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL CARE AT THE TIME THAT YOU WERE GROWING UP?"

WHERE I GREW UP IN GEBU, IT WAS OWNED BY A COAL COMPANY AND THEY ESTABLISHED ALL OF THE MAIN LIFE OF THAT COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY HALL, THE POST OFFICE, THE COMMUNITY LAUNDRY, BUTCHER SHOP, STORE AND HOSPITAL. THE HOSPITAL STOOD ON THE HIGHEST HILL IN THE AREA AND ALL OF THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF ANY MAJOR KIND WAS HANDLED THERE. SOMETIMES THE FINNISH PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT YOU WERE BUTCHERED THERE. THEY DID NOT ASCRIBE TO MUCH OF THE CARE THERE.

"THEY WERE WELL."

THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE SO MUCH MEDICAL ATTENTION. AT HOME WE HAD CASTER OIL, WATKINS LINAMENT, SOME KINDS OF SALVES. IN FACT, I WENT OUT VERY EARLY AND LIKED TO SELL SALVES.

"WAS THERE A BRAND NAME TO THE SALVE?"

IT SEEMS TO ME, SOMETHING TO DO WITH CLOVER.

"THE MONEY THAT YOU MADE FROM SELLING THE SALVE, WAS THAT YOURS TO KEEP?"

YES, I FELT LIKE I HAD TO GIVE SOME TO THE FOLKS AND TO THE BROTHERS BUT EXTRA THINGS THAT I KNEW THEY COULDN'T AFFORD, I COULD GET, LIKE AN EXTRA LITTLE PENCIL BOX BECAUSE WE HAD TO BUY OUR OWN PENCIL BOXES AND PAPER FOR SCHOOL. THERE IS A



VERY DEAR SPOT IN MY HEART FOR MUSIC AND THAT CAME ABOUT BECAUSE I WANTED MUSIC LESSONS, I WANTED A PIANO AND THAT WAS ENTIRELY OUT OF THE PICTURE. SO MY THIRD GRADE TEACHER, WHO WAS ALSO MY FOURTH GRADE TEACHER, SENSED THIS LOVE OF MUSIC AND SHE KNEW THE FINNISH PEOPLE LOVED MUSIC, THEY DANCED A LOT, SANG, AND WHAT HAVE YOU. SHE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT I GOT TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL TO HELP HER BECAUSE SHE KNEW I WOULD TINKLE THE PIANO AND TRY TO PLAY.

THE TIME CAME WHEN SHE ASKED "WOULD YOU LIKE LESSONS?" WE DON'T HAVE MONEY. "WOULD YOU LIKE LESSONS?" YES. WE HAVE NO PIANO. "IF YOU HAD A PIANO, WOULD YOU LIKE LESSONS?" YES. "ALL RIGHT, YOU HAVE MOM AND DAD COME UP AFTER WORK." SHE NAMED THE DAY. "AFTER YOU HAVE HAD DINNER AND DAD IS WASHED UP FROM THE MINE, HAVE THEM COME UP." SO WE DID SHE WAS VERY DEAR. "YOU KNOW, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO MY LAUNDRY BECAUSE I TEACH SCHOOL, SUNDAY SCHOOL. COULD YOU HELP ME WITH MY LAUNDRY. I NEED HELP VERY BADLY."

SO THIS WAS HOW IT WAS WORKED OUT. SHE WOULD PREPARE HER LAUNDRY. I WOULD GO GET IT IN WARM WEATHER IN A LITTLE, RED WAGON AND THEN I WOULD TAKE IT BACK HOME AND DAD WOULD USE THE WASHBOARD UNTIL WE WERE ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE TO GET A WASHING MACHINE, MAMA SAW TO THAT, GATHER THE CLOTHES AND USE THE WASHBOARD. MAMA IRONED IT WITH A BIG IRON AND I WOULD SOMETIMES HELP HER. THEN I WOULD GET IT BACK TO MISS LAUTON'S HOUSE. THAT PAID FOR MY LESSONS.

IN ORDER TO HAVE PRACTICE, OF COURSE, I HAD TO HAVE A PIANO. RIGHT THEN AND THERE ON THE SPOT SHE SAID, "I HAVE THREE KEYS AND ONE OF THEM IS FOR THE HOUSE. ONE IS FOR THE CHURCH AND ONE IS FOR THE SCHOOL. WHENEVER THE PIANOS ARE NOT BEING USED USE THIS KEY. SHE TRUSTED ME AND MY FOLKS

TRUSTED ME AND I GOT TO PRACTICE

"HOW DID SHE KNOW THAT YOU HAD THIS SPECIAL LOVE, AND ALSO, SHE MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED YOUR ABILITY, HOW DID SHE RECOGNIZE THIS?"

BECAUSE SHE KNEW MY MOM, THAT WAS IMPORTANT, SHE KNEW THIS OTHER LADY, AN ENGLISH LADY WAS LIKE A BENEFACTRESS TO ME, WHO TOOK ME TO CHURCH AND THINGS LIKE THAT. SHE EVIDENTLY HEARD ME AS I PLAYED AND SANG AROUND. I DIDN'T HAVE A FINE VOICE BUT I JUST LOVED THINGS THAT WERE MUSICAL. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON. SHE ARRANGED FOR CHILDREN FROM FINNISH HOMES TO GET EXTRA LITTLE BOOKS. WE WOULD SAVE PENNIES IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT GET, HAVE INCENTIVE, SHE WOULD HAVE US SAVE COINS AND MAYBE 49 CENTS FOR A LITTLE BOOK, \$1.49 FOR BUT THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE THROUGH A PERSON WHO PASSED THROUGH WITH BOOKS AND OTHER PAPERS AND NEWSPAPERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

"WAS SHE FINNISH AT ALL?"

NO. SHE TOOK TO THE FINNISH COMMUNITY.