

MARIE MARTELLA OJALA
INTERVIEWED BY SUSAN HARDWICK
AUGUST 21, 1983
ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"THIS IS SUSAN HARDWICK OF THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY CENTER. IT IS AUGUST 21, 1983. I AM SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM OF ONE OF THE FORMER FINNISH RESIDENTS OF ROCKLIN, MARIE OJALA. MRS. OJALA LIVES AT ROSSMORE, A RETIREMENT CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX IN WALNUT CREEK. I WILL BE SPEAKING WITH HER TODAY ABOUT HER MEMORIES OF LIFE IN ROCKLIN."

"MARIE, YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST FINNS TO COME TO ROCKLIN IN THE EARLY DAYS. TELL ME ABOUT WHERE HE WAS BORN IN FINLAND AND WHAT WERE HIS EXPERIENCES GETTING TO ROCKLIN."

MY GRANDFATHER WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE TOWN OF LITHIA IN FINLAND NEAR THE CITY OF RASA. HE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AROUND 1889. HE WAS HERE FOR TEN YEARS BEFORE HE SENT FOR HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN, WHICH WOULD BE 1899. MY MOTHER AND HER TWO BROTHERS CAME WITH GRANDMA AND MY GRANDFATHER'S BROTHER, SAM.

"DID THEY HAVE MORE CHILDREN AFTER THEY GOT HERE?"

TWO CHILDREN, A BOY AND A GIRL WERE BORN IN ROCKLIN AFTER GRANDMA GOT THERE. THEY WERE MUCH YOUNGER THAN THE THREE CHILDREN THEY HAD BEFORE.

"WHAT BROUGHT YOUR GRANDFATHER TO ROCKLIN? WHAT WERE HIS EXPERIENCES AFTER HE LEFT FINLAND, WHERE DID HE GO?"

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER, HOW OR WHY HE CAME HERE BUT HE MUST HAVE HAD SOME GRANITE WORK IN FINLAND

BECAUSE THEY DO HAVE GRANITE QUARRIES THERE, SO HE MUST HAVE BEEN A STONE MASON IN FINLAND.

"WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? YOUR FATHER?"

MY FATHER, BEING A YOUNG MAN, HE WAS 17 AND HE LEFT FINLAND. HE GOT A JOB ON A SAILING VESSEL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID, I GUESS HE WAS A SAILOR AND LEARNED A JOB. HE WAS DOING THIS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THEN CAME TO THE UNITED STATES, I THINK AROUND 1900. I HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY DATE. HE CAME TO CAPE ANN, THAT'S IN MASSACHUSETTS. HE WAS THERE FOR AWHILE BECAUSE THERE WAS A FINNISH COLONY THERE. AND THEN HE DECIDED HE WANTED TO SEE THE COUNTRY,

HE WENT DOWN TO FLORIDA TO ENJOY THE TROPICAL WEATHER DOWN THERE BECAUSE HE WAS FREEZING TO DEATH IN MASSACHUSETTS. BUT THEY HAD THE BIGGEST SNOW STORM THAT FLORIDA HAD EVER HAD. SO HE DECIDED THAT WASN'T FOR HIM, HE WANTED SOME WARMTH SO HE HOBO'D ADROSS THE UNITED STATES AND ENDED UP IN BAKERSFIELD. WHAT HE DID THERE I DON'T KNOW BUT I IMAGINE HE POSSIBLY DID SOME KIND OF WORK,

SOMEHOW HE FOUND OUT THAT THE TOWN OF ROCKLIN HAD A COLONY OF SCANDANAVIANS AND SO HE SAYS, "THAT'S THE PLACE FOR ME," SO HE HIKED OVER THERE. WHEN HE GOT INTO TOWN HE WAS LOOKING FOR A JOB SO HE WENT TO. AND STOOD AT THE EDGE OF A QUARRY PIT. THERE WAS A MAN DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE QUARRY PIT, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE MY GRANDFATHER. MR. KESTI WAS MY GRANDFATHER. WHEN MY GRANDFATHER LOOKED UP TO SEE THIS SIX FOOT TALL DARK MAN WHO WAS ALL SUNBURNED, HE SAYS, "WHAT A BIG HOBO THAT MAN IS." SO HE GOT A JOB FOR MY FATHER AND MY FATHER WORKED FOR HIM FOR A LONG TIME. AFTER THAT MY

FATHER MARRIED MR. KESTI'S DAUGHTER.

"DID THEY TALK MUCH ABOUT LIFE IN FINLAND? WHAT WERE THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT FINLAND?"

FINLAND WAS A GOOD PLACE TO BE, THEIR HOME COUNTRY. BUT BECAUSE FINLAND WAS A OF RUSSIA, THE GOVERNMENT THAT RUSSIA HAD OVER THERE, SO A LOT OF THEM LEFT FINLAND TO A BETTER LAND. THEY HAD HEARD THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS A PLACE FOR OPPORTUNITY, SO THAT'S WHY THEY LEFT, MOST OF THEM THAT GOT HERE.

"SO THEY NEVER REALLY INTENDED TO GO BACK TO FINLAND?"

NO, THEY NEVER INTENDED. SOME OF THEM WENT FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT HERE OR THEY GOT HOMESICK. THERE WAS ONE MAN THAT HAD TO GO HOME WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN BECAUSE HE WAS THE OLDEST SON IN HIS FAMILY AND THE FATHER HAD DIED. IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS A CUSTOM THAT THE OLDEST SON INHERITED THE PROPERTY.

"WHAT DO YOU THINK BROUGHT THE FINNS TO ROCKLIN, OF ALL THE PLACES IN CALIFORNIA, DO YOU KNOW WHY THEY ORIGINALLY CAME?"

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I GUESS MAYBE THE TRAINS, BECAUSE ROCKLIN AT THAT TIME WAS THE RAILROAD CENTER IN THAT PART OF THE STATE. SO THEY WENT THERE AND GOT OFF THE TRAIN AND HEARD FINNS TALKING ON THE STREETS AND SAID, THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE.

"LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU, SPECIFICALLY. TELL ME WHEN YOU WERE BORN AND WHERE, IF YOU WERE BORN AT HOME OR AT

A HOSPITAL, SOME OF THE CONDITIONS."

I WAS BORN AT HOME BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS THEY HAD MIDWIVES, THEY DIDN'T HAVE DOCTORS. WE DID HAVE A DOCTOR AT THAT TIME, DR. WOODRIDGE. LATER ON, DR. FLETCHER. BUT THESE SCANDANAVIANS. THEY DIDN'T HAVE DOCTORS WHEN THEY WERE AT HOME IN FINLAND. THEY WERE THEIR OWN DOCTORS AND THEY HAD A DOCTOR BOOK AND THEY DID THE BEST THEY COULD. THE MIDWIFE HAD TRAINING SOMEPLACE ELSE BEFORE THEY CAME HERE. SO THEY TOOK CARE OF ALL THE BIRTHS AT THAT TIME.

"YOU DON'T REMEMBER GOING TO THE DOCTOR AS A CHILD?"

NO. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT ELSE THEY DID. THEN, WHEN DR. FLETCHER CAME, I REMEMBER HIM BUT I DON'T REMEMBER DR. WOODRIDGE BUT MY MOTHER REMEMBERS HIM BECAUSE HE HAD A DAUGHTER MY MOTHER'S AGE, AND THAT WAS HER FIRST AMERICAN FRIEND. THEY CHUMMED AROUND AND I REMEMBER MY MOTHER HAVING LITTLE TOKENS OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP SOMEPLACE IN A BOX BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE IT IS BECAUSE I NEVER SAW THAT. BUT THAT DAUGHTER TURNED OUT TO BE AN OPERA SINGER. SHE SANG IN SAN FRANCISCO. I CAN'T REMEMBER. ANNA SOMETHING . . . WOODRIDGE. HER FIRST NAME WAS ANNA, I THINK.

"WERE YOU BORN INTO A BIG FAMILY, DID YOU HAVE A LOT OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS?"

ALTOGETHER, THERE WERE SIX CHILDREN. I, AND A BOY AND A GIRL. THOSE TWO DIED. THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER BABY AND THAT DIED. THEN 20 YEARS GO BY AND I HAVE A BROTHER AND A SISTER. SO THERE ARE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ALTOGETHER.

"WHY DID YOUR FAMILY CHOOSE TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE WHERE YOU WERE BORN?"

WELL, THERE ARE FINNISH PEOPLE, NOT ONLY THE FINNISH BUT THE SCANDINAVIANS, EVERYBODY WANTS TO OWN A HOME BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS FEEL THAT IF THEY HAVE A HOME THAT THEY CAN PAY FOR, NOBODY CAN THROW THEM OUT. SO EVERYBODY WOULD BUY A HOUSE OR BUILD THEIR OWN HOUSE. MY FATHER BUILT HIS OWN HOUSE, THAT'S THE HOUSE I WAS BORN IN.

"WHERE WAS THAT HOUSE LOCATED?"

IT'S ON HIGH STREET IN ROCKLIN.

"WHY DID YOUR FAMILY LEAVE ROCKLIN? DIDN'T YOU MOVE AWAY WHEN YOU WERE QUITE YOUNG?"

WHEN I WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD, WE MOVED TO BERKELEY BECAUSE MY FATHER'S BOSS, MR. PERNU, SENT HIM TO BERKELEY FOR BUSINESS REASONS. WE WERE ONLY THERE A YEAR-AND-A-HALF. THEN WE WENT BACK TO ROCKLIN AND WE GOT THERE, I THINK THE EARLY PART OF 1918. WE WERE ONLY IN ROCKLIN A FEW MONTHS AND THEN WE MOVED TO SAN FRANCISCO. IT WAS TOWARD THE END OF MY TIME OF BEING IN ROCKLIN.

"WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ROCKLIN AND BEING IN THE BAY AREA, WAS IT A SHOCK TO YOU AS A YOUNG GIRL?"

I THINK MY GROWTH WAS STUNTED. BECAUSE, WE KNEW EVERYBODY IN A LITTLE TOWN, I DON'T CARE WHO IT IS, YOU KNOW THEM, AT LEAST TO SAY HOWDY DOODY. BUT WHEN YOU GO TO A STRANGE

CITY, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYBODY.

"WERE YOU HAPPY THERE. AFTER YOU GOT THERE?"

I THINK THAT, I'M KIND OF EASY THAT WAY, I COULD MAKE FRIENDS. I HAD A BUNCH OF NICE FRIENDS. I ENJOYED THOSE YEARS. THE YEAR-AND-A-HALF I LIVED IN BERKELEY. SAN FRANCISCO WAS A LITTLE HARDER TO TAKE.

"YOU WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL IN SAN FRANCISCO?"

YES, I WENT TO COMMERCE HIGH. I GRADUATED FROM ADAMS COSMOPOLITAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL ON THE CORNER OF VAN NESS AVENUE. THEN I WENT TO COMMERCE HIGH FOR A YEAR AND THEY WE MOVED TO OAKLAND IN SEPTEMBER, 1921. MY BROTHER WAS BORN IN OCTOBER, THERE. I STARTED TO GO TO SCHOOL AT OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

"WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT SCHOOL IN ROCKLIN, YOUR EARLY ELEMENTARY YEARS, DO YOU REMEMBER A LOT OF SCANDINAVIAN CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL?"

"THERE WERE A LOT OF SCANDINAVIAN CHILDRN THERE, A LOT OF FINNS THERE. I THINK BECAUSE OUR FAMILIES WERE ALL FRIENDS TOGETHER, THAT'S WHY WE HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER ALL THESE YEARS AND WE HAD GROWN UP TO THIS RIPE OLD AGE, WE WERE SO CLOSE BECAUSE OUR PARENTS WERE ALL FRIENDS TOGETHER. AND THEN WE WERE FRIENDS TOGETHER.

"TELL ME ABOUT THE SCHOOLS IN ROCKLIN, WAS THERE A HIGH SCHOOL THERE?"

NO, THERE WAS NO HIGH SCHOOL. WE DIDN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL ANYPLACE NEARBY UNTIL 1915, WHEN THE ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WAS BUILT.

"HOW DID THE KIDS GET FROM ROCKLIN TO ROSEVILLE?"

THEY TOOK THE LOCAL TRAIN.

"THEY WENT DOWN EACH DAY?"

THEY CAME BACK ON THE TRAIN THE SAME DAY. I THINK THE TRAINS WERE SET PURPOSELY SO THE SCHOOL KIDS COULD USE IT.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE TEACHERS FROM YOUR SCHOOL YEARS IN ROCKLIN, IN THE EARLY GRADES?"

WELL, THE FIRST GRADE WAS MRS. OSBURN, THE SECOND GRADE AND THIRD GRADE WAS MISS MILDRED SMITH, WHO BECAME MRS. ROSS LATER ON. THEN WHEN I WENT TO FOURTH GRADE MISS HANSON, ROSE HANSON WAS MY TEACHER. I THINK SHE IS STILL LIVING. SHE'S QUITE OLD. I SAW HER A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AT A ROCKLIN DOING. THEN IN FIFTH GRADE I HAD, WHEN MISS HANSON GOT MARRIED, THEN WE HAD GLADYS PENDERGRASS. THEN WHEN I WENT TO SIXTH GRADE, I HAD AMANDA SHARP, THE BEST TEACHER IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL. THEN, AFTER THAT, I WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

"DID YOU REMEMBER, IF THE TEACHERS TAUGHT YOU ENGLISH? YOU MUST HAVE LEARNED FINNISH AT HOME. TELL ME ABOUT LEARNING ENGLISH FROM THOSE TEACHERS."

ONE OF THE TEACHERS, THE FIRST GRADE TEACHER, HAD A MEETING AND SHE TOLD ALL THE IMMIGRANTS THAT SHE WOULD APPRECIATE IF THEY WOULD TEACH THEIR OWN CHILDREN THEIR OWN MOTHER TONGUE AND SHE WOULD, WHEN THE KIDS CAME TO SCHOOL, FROM THE FIRST DAY, SHE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT WE KIDS WOULD ALL LEARN ENGLISH CORRECTLY, WITHOUT AN ACCENT.

"SO WHEN YOU STARTED SCHOOL YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ENGLISH VERY WELL."

I KNEW A FEW WORDS, OF COURSE, THAT KIDS LEARN, ALL KINDS OF WORDS. WE LEARNED A FEW WORDS. WHEN IT CAME TO GRAMMAR AND LEARNING THE A B C'S, I HAD TO LEARN THAT IN SCHOOL.

"WAS IT DIFFICULT IN ROCKLIN WHEN YOU JUST SPOKE FINNISH WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE STORES?"

THERE WERE A COUPLE OF STOREKEEPERS THAT WERE FINNISH BUT SO MANY OF THE FINNS, THEY JUST MADE UP THEIR MINDS THEY WERE IN AMERICA AND THEY WERE AMERICANS, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NATURALIZED. THEY WERE STILL AMERICANS. THEY JUST MADE IT THEIR BUSINESS TO LEARN ENGLISH. NO ONE HAS TO BE AN INTERPRETER. THE ONLY TIME THEY WOULD NEED AN INTERPRETER IS WHEN THEY HAD TO GO TO THE COURTHOUSE IN AUBURN. THEN THEY WOULD TAKE AN INTERPRETER ALONG.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY HOLIDAYS OR SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS AT HOME AS YOU WERE GROWING UP IN ROCKLIN?"

JUNE 21, THAT WAS A SPECIAL HOLIDAY MIDSUMMER DAY, THAT WOULD ALWAYS BE A PICNIC DAY. CHRISTMAS WAS DIFFERENT. EVERYBODY



HAD CHRISTMAS AT HOME, NOT IN GROUPS LIKE WE HAVE NOWDAYS, A HOUSE FULL OF COMPANY, IT'S JUST THE FAMILY, VERY PRIVATE, BUT CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE FINNISH HALL, WAS A BIG CHRISTMAS TREE LIT UP WITH BEAUTIFUL CANDLES AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS, THERE WAS SANTA CLAUS, BUT PARENTS BROUGHT ONLY ONE GIFT SO NO ONE GOT MORE THAN ONE GIFT, WE COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL SANTA CLAUS BROUGHT US THE GIFTS THAT WE WANTED, WE HAD OTHER GIFTS, IF THE PARENTS WANTED TO GIVE MORE GIFTS, THEN THEY DISTRIBUTED THEM THE NEXT CHRISTMAS MORNING, I GUESS I GOT MY FILL TOO ALONG WITH THE REST OF THEM.

THERE IS A HOLIDAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF HOLIDAY IT IS BUT IT WAS SOME KIND OF CELEBRATION BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS.

"WERE THERE A LOT OF FINNISH PICNICS?"

THEY WERE JUST GRINDING THOSE PICNICS OUT, YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY CAME FROM DIFFERENT PLACES, NEIGHBORS WERE WELL NOTED FOR THEIR PICNICS. THEY HAD GOOD FOOD AND FUN THERE. PEOPLE WOULD COME FROM ALL OVER, THAT BIG MAY, 1913, THE BIGGEST PICNIC THEY EVER PUT ON, THEY EXHAUSTED THEMSELVES WHEN THEY DID THAT, SO THEY NEVER HAD ANOTHER PICNIC. THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAN A SPECIAL TRAIN JUST TO PICK UP THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO GO TO ROCKLIN FOR THE PICNIC, IT STARTED IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND AND THEN IT WENT TO BERKELEY AND MARTINEZ, WHEREVER THE TRAIN STOPPED AND SACRAMENTO AND WAY STATIONS, THE TRAIN STOOD ON A SIDE TRACK OR SPUR TRACK ALL DAY AND THEN TOOK THE PEOPLE HOME THAT NIGHT.

"THERE WERE FINNS ALL OVER THE BAY AREA?"

OH YES, LOTS OF THEM,

"ROCKLIN WAS KIND OF THE FOCUS?"

IT WAS THE FOCUS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT ROCKLIN WAS A RAILROAD CENTER BEFORE ROSEVILLE. THE WOMEN THAT CAME TO ROCKLIN, THEY COULDN'T FIND WORK, THERE WERE A LOT OF SINGLE WOMEN THAT HAD TO WORK AND THEY WERE ALL DOMESTICS. THEY WERE TRAINED AT HOME TO BE DOMESTICS. THEY WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO AND THEY HAD A BALL. BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL GOOD COOKS AND HOUSEKEEPERS. THEY GOT GOOD JOBS, THAT IS HOW THEY SPENT THEIR LIFE THERE.

"WHERE WAS THE BIG PICNIC HELD IN ROCKLIN YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT?"

IT WAS CALLED IN FINNISH, SOINTULAS, WHICH MEANS ECHO LAND. THAT IS BEHIND THE ROCKLIN CEMETARY, NOT TOO FAR FROM THERE. NOW IT'S ALL BUILT UP WITH HOMES SO I DON'T THINK I CAN FIND THAT PLACE ANY MORE. SO TO HAVE THIS PICNIC, THEY BUILT A SWINGING BRIDGE AND THAT WAS A FUN THING TO WATCH THEM BUILD THAT SWINGING BRIDGE. THEN WE WALKED OVER IT. WE HAD TO GET OUT A STEP, THEY SAID ANYBODY THAT WOULD STEP ON THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BREAK OR FIND US IN THE CREEK.

"DO YOU REMEMBER THE STEAM BATHS?" WAS THAT A COMMON THING TO DO?"

EVERYBODY DIDN'T HAVE ONE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE THINGS, YOU KNOW BUT MY GRANDMOTHER HAD A STEAM BATH AND MRS. ANDERSON HAD A STEAM BATH. MRS. HEBACK HAD A STEAM BATH. THEY WERE ONLY HEATED ON SATURDAYS.

"SO IT WAS A SATURDAY EVENT, WAS IT FOR FAMILIES?"

FAMILIES OR ANYTHING. IT WAS A SOCIAL EVENT,

"THAT WAS THE MAIN REASON TO HEAT IT UP?"

YES. I GUESS MOST OF THEM, THE FINNS, AT HOME, EVERYBODY HAD WHAT THEY CALLED A SAUNA. IT WOULD BE A LITTLE HUT OR SOMETHING. WHEN THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN, I GUESS MANY OF THEM DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BUILD A SPECIAL BUILDING SO THERE WERE FEW THAT HAD THE MONEY SO THEY BUILT A BIG SECTION FOR MEN ONLY AND WOMEN ONLY AND CHILDREN. THAT WAS A FUN THING. I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL SATURDAY CAME ALONG SO WE COULD GO IN THE STEAM BATH.

"SO THEY WERE FAMILY CELEBRATIONS?"

IN ALL THINGS. YOU COULDN'T GO TO CHRISTMAS EVE, YOU DIDN'T GO TO CHURCH. YOU DIDN'T GO TO FINN HALL OR ANYTHING, YOU HAD TO HAVE A SAUNA; WHAT DO THEY SAY, THERE WAS CLEANLINESS. . .

"CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS?"

YES. I GUESS THAT'S THE WORD.

"SO THE SAUNA WAS USED FOR CLEANLINESS?"

SO IT WAS SORT OF RELIGIOUS IN A WAY. THE FINNS. THE SCANDINAVIANS WERE BROUGHT UP VERY RELIGIOUSLY. YOU NEVER WENT TO CHURCH UNLESS YOU HAD A BATH.

"AND THAT'S WHY IT WAS ON SATURDAYS?"

SATURDAY,

"WHILE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH, I REALIZED THAT IT WAS THE STATE CHURCH IN FINLAND AND THE PEOPLE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT LEFT. WERE THERE MANY CHURCHES AROUND ROCKLIN, WERE THE PEOPLE THERE VERY ACTIVE IN IT?"

WELL, THEY DIDN'T HAVE MINISTERS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM SAN FRANCISCO. SAN FRANCISCO HAD GOOD MINISTERS AND THEY HAD THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES AND WHATNOT. SO THEY LIVED IT. THEY DID HAVE ONE CHURCH, A SMALL ONE-ROOM PLACE THAT THE MINISTER WOULD COME FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND HE WOULD BE THERE FOR SUNDAY SERVICE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT,

"DO YOU REMEMBER THAT CHURCH, WHERE IT WAS LOCATED?"

OH YES, BUT IT'S NOT THERE ANYMORE. IT WAS ON THE SOUTH GROVE STREET.

"IT WAS A LUTHERAN CHURCH?"

YES.

"HOW DID YOUR FAMILY FEEL ABOUT THE CHURCH ONCE THEY GOT TO ROCKLIN?"

MY FATHER CAME FROM A VERY STRICT LUTHERAN FAMILY AND THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS HE LEFT HOME. HE DIDN'T LIKE IT, THEY WERE SO STRICT. SO HE DIDN'T GO TO CHURCH. IF MOTHER WANTED TO GO, FINE. I USED TO GO WITH MY GRANDMOTHER. MY MOTHER DIDN'T GO TOO MUCH.



"AND THEN WITH YOUR OWN CHILDREN, DID IT BECOME IMPORTANT AGAIN, OR DID YOU MOSTLY FOLLOW THE . . .?"

OH WELL. I JUST DID IT SO NOBODY HAD ANYTHING TO SAY, I DIDN'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER,

"WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE BUILDINGS IN ROCKLIN, THE CHURCHES AND THE CELEBRATIONS," YOU MENTIONED FINN HALL A COUPLE OF TIMES, MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT FINN HALL. WHAT IS THAT? DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN IT WAS BUILT?"

IT WAS BUILT IN 1905. IT WAS CALLED FINNISH TEMPERANCE HALL. MOST OF THE FINNS BELONGED AND THAT'S WHERE THE FINNISH BROTHERHOOD LODGE WAS. THEY DIDN'T AS A RULE, USE LIQUOR. NO ONE'S HOME HAD MUCH LIQUOR. IT WAS NEVER SERVED FOR COMPANY. A LOT OF PEOPLE DRANK BEER, MEN ESPECIALLY, USUALLY IN HOT WEATHER, THEY LIKED TO HAVE BEER. AS A FOCAL POINT OF ENTERTAINING, YOU NEVER SAW LIQUOR IN ALMOST ANY HOME. THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME EXCEPTIONS,

"SO FINN HALL WAS BUILT AS A TEMPERANCE HALL. WAS THAT A REALLY BIG PART OF FINNISH LIFE?"

THAT WAS THE MAIN THING. THEY HAD ANOTHER FINNISH HALL, WAS CALLED LABOR TEMPLE. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY, WE WENT TO BOTH HALLS. MY FOLKS BELONGED TO THE LODGE. THEY WERE KIND OF OPEN MINDED ABOUT THINGS. WE WOULD GO TO ALL THESE DIFFERENT HALLS.

"WERE THEY MOSTLY SOCIAL EVENTS? TOWN MEETINGS, OR WHAT KINDS OF EVENTS?"

TOWN MEETINGS IN THOSE DAYS, THEY WERE HELD ON THE PLATFORM OF THE RAILROAD, DOWN BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS. MY FATHER USED

TO GO TO LISTEN, MY MOTHER DIDN'T. BY THEN SHE HAD HAD ANOTHER BABY. SO MY FATHER WOULD DRAG ME WITH HIM AND I WOULD STAND THERE AND LISTEN TO GUYS HARANGUE ABOUT SOMETHING. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

"SO THEY WEREN'T HELD IN FINN HALL. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DID YOU DO THERE?"

PUT ON PLAYS. WHEN THE SCHOOL GRADUATED, THE SCHOOL BROUGHT PLAYS OR THEIR ACTS, PEOPLE SING AND WHATNOT, PUT ON A SCHOOL PROGRAM.

"WERE THERE DANCES THERE?"

OH. THE DANCES, THEY WERE KNOWN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, THOSE DANCES. A LOT OF THOSE DANCES, THEY DIDN'T START UNTIL ABOUT 9:00, 10:00 AT NIGHT BECAUSE IT WAS FARMING COUNTRY AND THE FARMERS HAD TO GET THEIR CHORES DONE. THEN THEY WOULD COME THERE AND DANCE UNTIL 6:00 IN THE MORNING AND THEN GO HOME AND MILK THEIR COWS.

"WAS THERE A LIVE BAND?"

YES, IT WAS THE ROCKLIN ECHO BAND. AND THEN BY THE TIME I WAS A TEENAGER, THEN WE HAD CANNED MUSIC.

"WHO IS THE ECHO BAND? TELL ME ABOUT THE ROCKLIN ECHO BAND."

THE ROCKLIN ECHO BAND WAS A BUNCH OF FINNISH PEOPLE WHO LIKED TO PLAY INSTRUMENTS. THEY WERE VERY FORTUNATE IN HAVING AN ITALIAN MAN WHO WAS SCHOOLED IN MUSIC AND HE TAUGHT THEM ALL THAT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, ITALIAN MUSIC, OPERAS, ARIAS AND EVERYTHING ELSE. HIS NAME WAS DANTE FORSULATI. AFTER HE

GOT THE ECHO BAND STARTED, HE NEEDED A BETTER JOB SO HE WENT BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO.

"SO MUCH OF THE MUSIC THEY PLAYED WAS CULTURALLY . . .?"

YES, IT WAS ALL THAT OPERA STUFF. THEN, OF COURSE, THE MARCH MUSIC, THAT WAS TO US, SOUSA BAND. THEY WERE IN SACRAMENTO MANY TIMES AND MY FOLKS AND ALL THE MEN IN TOWN WOULD DRIVE WITH HORSE AND BUGGY TO SACRAMENTO, THERE IS A PARK THAT IS RIGHT DOWNTOWN, I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS STILL THERE, WAY DOWNTOWN. THAT'S WHERE SOUSA USED TO PLAY HIS BAND.

"WAS THERE A DANCE THAT WENT WITH THE SOUSA MARCHES? YOU MENTIONED THE PROMENADE,"

THE PROMENADE WAS FOR DANCING. WHEN YOU HAD DANCING, I THINK THE MUSIC LASTED THREE MINUTES EACH TIME AND THEY WOULD PROMENADE. THE LADIES WOULD BE ON THE MAN'S RIGHT ARM, ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CIRCLE. THEY WOULD CIRCLE AROUND THE BALLROOM FLOOR AND, OF COURSE, THE WOMEN WOULD HAVE THEIR BEST GOWNS ON AND THEN THEY WOULD MARCH FOR ABOUT A MINUTE AROUND SLOWLY. THEN THE MUSIC WOULD START FOR ANOTHER THREE MINUTES AND THEN THEY WOULD DANCE, THE POLKAS, THE ONE-STEPS, THE QUICK-STEPS, TWO STEPS, ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF.

"SO DANCES WERE A REALLY IMPORTANT PART?"

OH YES, THEY WERE REAL MUSIC LOVERS. THEY WOULD LISTEN TO ANYTHING. THERE WOULD BE ITINERANT MUSICIANS GO THROUGH, NO MATTER WHAT THEY PLAYED. THEY WOULD SAY, COME TO THE HALL AND WE WILL ALL BE THERE.

"DO YOU THINK THAT THE ECHO BAND MEMBERS BROUGHT THEIR INSTRUMENTS FROM FINLAND?"

I DON'T KNOW BUT I DON'T THINK SO. BECAUSE THE WAY THOSE PEOPLE LEFT, THEY LEFT WITH THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS, YOU MIGHT SAY. THEY DIDN'T HAVE MONEY. THEY WERE ALL POOR.

"THEY BECAME MUSICIANS AFTER THEY CAME HERE?"

THEY MAYBE HAD MUSICAL SCHOOLING AT HOME OR WERE NATURAL MUSICIANS. A LOT OF THEM, SURPRISING, WERE NATURAL MUSICIANS.

"WAS MOST OF THE ECHO BAND FINNISH OR WERE THEY ALL TYPES OF SCANDINAVIANS?"

I THINK IT WAS MOSTLY FINNISH. THERE WERE PROBABLY SOME ITALIANS, THERE WERE SOME SPANISH PEOPLE THAT PLAYED THE GUITAR. AND TO HEAR IT, THOSE MEN, AFTER THEY HAD WORKED ON THE RAILROAD ALL DAY, JUST BEFORE THEY WENT TO BED AT NIGHT, IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING, TWO OR THREE MEN WOULD TAKE THEIR GUITARS AND THEY WOULD PLAY BEAUTIFUL SPANISH MUSIC.

EVERYBODY. THOSE PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS, THEY MADE THEIR OWN MUSIC BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS, PHONOGRAPHS DIDN'T GROW ON TREES.

"DO YOU REMEMBER THE MUSIC AND THOSE DANCES AS YOU WERE A YOUNG CHILD? WAS IT JUST TEENAGERS THAT WENT TO THE DANCES OR WHO?"

OH, EVERYBODY WENT, THEY EVEN TOOK THEIR BABIES,

"WAS THERE BABYSITTING AVAILABLE?"

NOBODY BABYSAT, THEY TOOK THEIR OWN KIDS TO THE DANCES AND IN THE LADIES RESTROOM THEY HAD A SHELF, A THREE FEET WIDE AND ABOUT SEVEN FEET LONG AND IT WAS FENCED OFF WITH A BOARD IN FRONT AND ALL THE BABIES WERE LINED UP, ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE SLEEPY, THEY WERE ALL LINED UP ON THE SHELF SLEEPING AND THEN MOTHERS WOULD TAKE TURNS BABYSITTING THE CHILDREN,

"AND SO YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE BABIES?"

I GUESS I WAS IN THERE TOO,

"WAS YOUR FAMILY INTERESTED IN MUSIC? YOUR PARENTS?"

MY FATHER WAS, MY MOTHER DIDN'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, SHE WAS INTERESTED IN AMATEUR ACTING AND SHE WOULD BE IRONING IN THE KITCHEN AND STUDYING HER ROLE,

"DID YOUR FATHER EVER PLAY IN THE ECHO BAND?"

YES, HE PLAYED SEVERAL INSTRUMENTS,

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHICH ONES HE PLAYED?"

A BARITONE HORN, THAT WAS HIS FAVORITE, HE COULD PLAY ANY HORN, YOU KNOW, THEY ARE MORE OR LESS ALIKE, I GUESS, JUST DIFFERENT TONES. OF COURSE, HE PLAYED THE ACCORDIAN AND

HE COULD PLAY THE VIOLIN. IN FACT, HE GAVE ME VIOLIN LESSONS WHEN I WAS A KID. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT THAT.

"THANK YOU FOR TALKING ABOUT THE SOCIAL EVENTS IN ROCKLIN, IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCITING PLACE TO BE."

I WISH I WAS THERE.

"LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S WORK IN THE GRANITE QUARRY, A LITTLE MORE ABOUT EMPLOYMENT. YOU SAID HE CAME TO ROCKLIN AND FIRST GOT A JOB IN THE GRANITE QUARRY. WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIM FROM THERE? DID HE ALWAYS WORK IN THE QUARRIES? TELL ME ABOUT HIS JOBS."

HE WORKED IN GRANDFATHER'S QUARRY, OR ANY QUARRY THAT NEEDED EXTRA MEN.

"WAS HE A STONE CUTTER, OR WHAT DID HE DO?"

HE WAS A STONE CUTTER. I STILL DON'T KNOW, I NEVER THOUGHT OF ASKING. HOW COME HE SIGNED UP AT INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. HE DIDN'T EVEN TALK ENGLISH ENOUGH TO EVEN WRITE A LETTER TO THEM ABOUT JOINING THE SCHOOL. HE SIGNED UP AND IT TOOK HIM SEVEN YEARS OF HOME STUDY TO GRADUATE, ON THE FIFTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1914.

HE WAS ALWAYS A STONE CUTTER. HE HAD HIS OWN BUSINESS. WHEN HE WORKED FOR MR. PERNU, AFTER HE HAD SOLD HIS PLACE, MR. PERNU HAD SUCH A BIG COMPANY, HE COULD BID ON BIG BUILDINGS, LIKE IN SACRAMENTO, ONE OF THE STATE BUILDINGS. HE WOULD GO TO SAN FRANCISCO. TWO THERE THAT I CAN REMEMBER USED TO BE THE BANK OF ITALY

"WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL, HOW MANY SUBJECTS DID HE TAKE?"

THERE ARE THIRTY SUBJECTS. HE TOOK AN ARCHITECTURAL COURSE. AS IT SAYS HERE, 'HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND FOUND DULY QUALIFIED.'

"DID HE STAY IN THE QUARRY BUSINESS, THE STONECUTTING BUSINESS ALL THE REST OF HIS LIFE?"

NO. NOT THE REST OF HIS LIFE, BUT HE DID FOR MANY YEARS.

"WHY DID HE COME TO THE BAY AREA TO WORK?"

BECAUSE MR. PERNU, AFTER MY FATHER GRADUATED, HE WORKED IN ROCKLIN FOR A LONG TIME AND THEN AROUND DECEMBER, 1917, WE MOVED TO SAN FRANCISCO AND HE WAS MADE OFFICE MANAGER BY MR. PERNU, AND ESTIMATOR. THAT WAS THE TITLE. ALL THE BUILDINGS THAT WERE BEING BUILT, HE BID ON THEM.

"WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BUILDINGS THAT USED ROCKLIN GRANITE, SOME OF THE FAMOUS BUILDINGS?"

THE BANK OF ITALY, WHICH IS NOW THE BANK OF AMERICA, WAS AT CORNER POWELL AND MARKET STREETS IN SAN FRANCISCO, THE U.S. POST OFFICE . . .

"THOSE BUILDINGS USED ROCKLIN GRANITE?"

THERE IS A LIST SOMEPLACE OF ALL THE BUILDINGS THAT WERE MADE WITH ROCKLIN GRANITE.

"SO YOUR FATHER WORKED IN THE BAY AREA BUT HE WAS STILL CONNECTED WITH THE ROCKLIN QUARRIES?"

OH YES. BEING A STONE MASON HE KNEW ALL ABOUT STONES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, HOW THEY HAD TO BE CUT UP. HE HAD TO MAKE DETAILED DRAWINGS OF EVERY PIECE OF STONE SO THAT WHEN THE MEN CUT IT ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, THEN THEY WERE MARKED AND LABELED. THEN WHEN THEY LANDED AT THE BUILDING MY FATHER HAD TO SEE TO IT THAT THE RIGHT STONE WENT INTO THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

"DID YOUR MOTHER EVER WORK OUTSIDE THE HOUSE? DID SHE HAVE A CAREER?"

NO, SHE DIDN'T HAVE A CAREER AT ANYTHING. SHE WAS BUSY WITH THE KIDS AND KEEPING HOUSE. ROCKLIN HAD A SHORTAGE OF RENTALS FOR SINGLE MEN SO OUR FRONT PARLOR WAS MADE INTO A BEDROOM FOR TWO BROTHERS. SO THAT KEPT HER BUSY WITH EXTRA WORK. WHAT THE FINNISH PEOPLE DID, WHENEVER A WOMAN WAS SICK, OR WAS HAVING A BABY, IT WAS ALREADY FIGURED OUT WHO WAS GOING TO GO OVER THERE AND TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS, WHO WAS GOING TO MILK THE COW AND WHO WAS GOING TO DO THE COOKING, AND WHO WAS GOING TO CLEAN HOUSE.

THERE WAS JUST THIS BUNCH OF WOMEN THAT WOULD TAKE OVER AS HOUSEKEEPERS. IF THERE WERE SEVERAL CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE, THEY WOULD BORROW THE KIDS AND BRING THEM HOME AND FEED THEM UNTIL THEIR MOTHER GOT WELL.

"AS A GIRL GROWING UP IN THOSE DAYS, WERE YOU ENCOURAGED TO GO TO UNIVERSITY AND DEVELOP YOUR CAREER?"

THOSE THINGS, AS THE TIME GOES BY AND IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THE TIMES ARE LIKE. MY FATHER JUST KIND OF FELT THAT GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL WAS ENOUGH, BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE OLD TYPE

THAT FELT THAT WOMEN'S PLACE WAS IN THE HOME AND IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DIDN'T EDUCATE THE GIRLS AS MUCH. THAT WAS THE WAY IT WAS. THERE WERE A LOT OF GIRLS THAT WENT TO CAL BUT THEY CAME FROM EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES OR THEY WERE EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS.

"DID YOU HAVE YOUR FATHER'S INTEREST IN ARCHITECTURE?"

BECAUSE I WAS BROUGHT UP ON THAT BECAUSE I WATCHED MY FATHER DO IT ALL HIS LIFE, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE WAS STUDYING AT HOME, SO MANY TIMES I SAT BESIDE HIS DESK, AND I GUESS, JUST TO KEEP ME QUIET, HE WOULD GIVE ME A PENCIL AND PAPER AND LET ME DRAW ALL THE FIGURES I WANTED TO AS LONG AS I DIDN'T BOTHER HIM. I WOULD TAKE A PEEK AND SEE WHAT HE WAS DOING. SO I JUST PROBABLY HAD IT IN ME AS I GREW UP, THE URGE TO DO THE SAME THING.

"DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE?"

NO, I DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE. I WENT TO WORK IN AN OFFICE AND ENDED UP DOING OFFICE WORK.

"TELL ME ABOUT MEETING YOUR HUSBAND. WAS HE ALSO A FINN?"

YES, HE IS MY SECOND HUSBAND. HE MARRIED SOMEBODY ELSE AND I MARRIED SOMEBODY ELSE AND THEN OUR SPOUSES DIED. SO THEN, WE DECIDED, WHY NOT, SO WE GOT MARRIED AND WE WERE MARRIED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS BEFORE HE DIED.

"HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?"

I HAD ONE DAUGHTER AND MY HUSBAND HAD A SON.

"DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR CHILDREN LEARNED MUCH ABOUT BEING FINNS?"

NOT SO MUCH. IT'S FUNNY HOW THINGS CHANGE. WE LIVE IN A DIFFERENT AREA AND I LIVED FOR MANY YEARS HERE, ESPECIALLY AFTER MY DAUGHTER . . . WE DIDN'T HAVE THE CLOSENESS ANY MORE. WHEN I LIVED IN BERKELEY, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER THING BECAUSE THEY STILL HAVE A BIG GROUP THERE.

"DID YOU EVER TEACH HER ANY FINNISH WAYS, RECIPES?"

I DID TRY TO BUT SOMEHOW OR OTHER IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO LEARN SPANISH IN SCHOOL AND GERMAN IN SCHOOL AND FRENCH IN SCHOOL BUT THE REST OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES, YOU WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD LEARNING THOSE THINGS.

"DO YOU THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING IN RAISING YOUR DAUGHTER IN YOUR CELEBRATIONS AT CHRISTMAS THAT WAS ESPECIALLY FINNISH THAT YOU REMEMBER?"

NO WE KIND OF WERE AMERICANIZED, MORE OR LESS, THEN.

"HOW AWARE, DO YOU THINK YOUR DAUGHTER IS, OF BEING A FINN? IF PEOPLE ASK HER WHAT HER NATIONALITY IS WHAT WOULD SHE SAY?"

SHE USUALLY SAYS, BECAUSE WHEN YOU LOOK AT HER, YOU CAN SEE THAT SHE IS SCANDINAVIAN LOOKING.

"DID SHE MARRY A SCANDINAVIAN?"

NO, SHE MARRIED, THE FIRST HUSBAND WAS ITALIAN AND DANISH,

AND HER SECOND HUSBAND WAS CANADIAN.

"AS SHE WAS GROWING UP, WAS IT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY MAINLY FOR HER UPBRINGING OR DID YOU SHARE IT WITH YOUR HUSBAND?"

WELL, MY FIRST HUSBAND DIED WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS FIVE, AND THEN MY MOTHER BROUGHT UP MY DAUGHTER WHEN I WENT TO WORK. SO SHE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A FINNISH TYPE HOME, THEN, WHEN I GOT MARRIED A SECOND TIME THEN SHE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD. THEN WHEN THEY GET TO BE TEENAGERS, YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAY GOODBY!

"WHAT EXPECTATIONS DID YOU HAVE FOR HER? DID YOU WANT HER TO GO TO COLLEGE?"

OH, SHE GOT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND I WANTED HER TO GO TO CAL OR SOME COLLEGE BUT AT THAT TIME IT WAS SO HARD, NOBODY COULD GET THEIR KIDS TO GO TO COLLEGE, THEY KNOW EVERYTHING SO YOU CAN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING. THEY WENT THROUGH THAT STAGE. THAT WAS AROUND EARLY 1950'S, BUT SHE HAD THREE CHILDREN AND THE OLDEST GIRL, I GOT HER TO GO TO COLLEGE. SHE LISTENS TO GRANDMA.

"DID YOUR GRANDCHILDREN FEEL LIKE THEY'RE FINNS? DID YOU TALK ABOUT THINGS WITH THEM?"

NO, YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE, THEY'RE SCATTERED AND WERE OF A DIFFERENT GENERATION.

"HOW ABOUT THE THINGS THAT YOU COOKED?" DO YOU HAVE ANY RECIPES, COFFEECAKE OR ANYTHING ESPECIALLY FINNISH?"



No, I WAS NEVER A FINNISH COOK.

"WELL, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ONE MORE THING AND THAT MIGHT BE, HAS IT BEEN SPECIAL FOR YOU, BEING A FINN? WHAT HAS IT MEANT TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE? DO YOU STILL FEEL FINNISH IN A WAY OR DO YOU REMEMBER MUCH OF THE LANGUAGE, DID YOU EVER TRAVEL TO FINLAND? WHAT KIND OF CONNECTIONS DO YOU HAVE?"

IN 1958 I WENT TO FINLAND, MY FATHER DIED AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT YOU GO TO HIS HOME TOWN. OF COURSE MY HUSBAND WAS WITH ME. SO WE WENT TO FINLAND AND VISITED HIS HOME TOWN AND HIS RELATIVES, THE ONES THAT WERE STILL LIVING THEN AND I ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH. WE ENJOYED THE TRIP.

"DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE?"

OH YES, I COULD STILL TALK IT, UP TO A POINT, I CAN MAKE MYSELF UNDERSTOOD. AND I READ FINNISH MAGAZINES IF I CAN. THEIR LANGUAGE TOO, HAS CHANGED AND I DON'T HAVE A NEW DICTIONARY BUT I HAVE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THE WORDS BECAUSE THEIR LANGUAGE IS CHANGING AN AWFUL LOT.

"SO IF I WERE TO ASK YOU YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF FINNISH OR AMERICAN?"

I AM AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A MOTHER AND A FATHER THAT WERE FINNISH, THAT'S THE WAY I LOOK AT IT.

"THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES"