

THAT HAD STOOD FOR A LONG, MANY YEARS.

"WHAT IS THE FINNISH THING ABOUT THE STEAM BATH, OR SAUNA, AS WE CALL IT? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, CULTURALLY, THAT MAKES IT SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING? I GUESS WHAT I AM GETTING AT, WERE THERE A LOT OF THEM IN ROCKLIN, DID THE FINNS HERE HAVE THEM?"

THE FINNS HERE, WE HAD OUR OWN STEAM BATH, LOTS OF PEOPLE HAD THEIR OWN STEAM BATHS. AND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF PUBLIC BATHS. THE KOSTIS ACTUALLY HAD A PUBLIC BATH UP HERE THAT PEOPLE USED FOR MANY YEARS.

"DESCRIBE WHAT A STEAM BATH IS? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?"

A STEAM BATH IS JUST A, A NICE STEAM BATH HAS A DRESSING ROOM YOU GO IN. THE MEN GO IN ONE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND THE WOMEN ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING, GENERALLY. YOU HAVE THE DRESSING ROOM, THEN YOU GO INTO ANOTHER ROOM THAT MAY BE, MOST OF THEM WERE ABOUT PRETTY GOOD SIZED ROOMS, ACTUALLY. THEY WERE PROBABLY EIGHT BY TEN OR EIGHT BY EIGHT.

AN EIGHT FOOT HIGH CEILING. BUT THEN THEY HAD A BENCH THAT WAS BUILT UP SO YOUR HEAD WAS JUST AT THE CEILING HEIGHT TO GET THE BENEFIT OF THE STEAM. THE STEAM RISES. INSIDE THERE WAS A STOVE, A COMPLETELY ENCLOSED FIRE BOX AND THE METAL ON TOP HAD ROCKS ON IT, RIVER ROCKS. WHEN THEY GOT HOT, WHEN THEY WERE REAL HOT, THEN YOU Poured WATER ON THEM, AND MADE IT WET STEAM. AND IF YOU GOT UP, YOU USUALLY HAVE A BUCKET OF WATER WITH YOU ON THE BENCH. YOU JUST SPLASH A LITTLE WATER ON THERE AND THE STEAM WOULD COME UP AND OPEN UP YOUR PORES.

"WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE STEAM BATH? WAS IT FOR HEALTH, WAS IT SOCIAL?"

OH, SURE IT GOT YOU REAL CLEAN. YOU FELT REAL CLEAN WHEN YOU CAME OUT. AND THERE WAS PROBABLY, I DON'T KNOW IF THERE WAS SO MUCH SOCIAL, THERE WAS, I GUESS, IN SOME OF THE PUBLIC BATHS AND THERE IS TODAY. PEOPLE GET TOGETHER AND HAVE THIS. MY SISTER THAT LIVES IN IDAHO, WE STILL DO IT. FACT IS, THERE WERE ABOUT SIX OF US AT A TIME IN THE STEAM BATH UP THERE.

AFTER THE STEAM BATH, EVERYBODY BRINGS CAKES AND NISUA AND EVERYTHING. YOU HAVE COFFEE AND DESSERT AFTER YOU COME OUT OF THE STEAM BATH.

"WAS THERE A CERTAIN DAY OF THE WEEK THAT YOU USUALLY USED IT?"

GENERALLY, SATURDAY EVENING IS WHEN IT TAKES PLACE. BUT THERE WERE QUITE A FEW OF THEM AND WE USED TO HAVE OURS AT HOME. WE WOULD HEAT IT TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK BECAUSE WE WERE WORKING AND WE HAD MODERNIZED OURS TO WHERE WE HAD A SHOWER AND EVERYTHING TOO. SO WE COULD GO TO WORK AND THEN COME HOME AND TAKE A SHOWER RIGHT AWAY. IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER THE STEAM WAS ON OR NOT.

IF SOMEONE WAS IN A HURRY, WE WOULD ALL RAISE CAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD COOL OFF THE STEAM BATH. YOU TURN THE COLD SHOWER ON. ANYWAY, WE WOULD TAKE A SHOWER. WE MADE A FEW CHANGES IN OURS THAT THE OLDTIMERS DIDN'T. BUT WE TOOK THEM TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. A LOT OF TIMES WE WOULD COME OUT OF THE SHOWER AND DIVE IN, WE HAD A QUARRY HOLE FULL OF WATER RIGHT NEAR AND WE WOULD GO SWIMMING RIGHT OUT OF THE STEAM BATH.

THAT'S WHAT WE DID IN FINLAND TOO. YOU WOULD COME OUT OF THE STEAM BATH AND DIVE RIGHT INTO THE SEA, IN THE COLD WATER. YOU DON'T EVEN FEEL THE COLD WATER AT FIRST UNTIL YOU'RE IN IT A MINUTE OR TWO AND THEN YOU COME OUT OF THE WATER AND GO RIGHT BACK INTO THE STEAM BATH. YOUR TEMPERATURE IS REAL HIGH AND THEN IT GOES DOWN, REAL COLD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD IT DOES, IT MAKES YOUR BLOOD BOIL A LITTLE, I GUESS.

"IT SEEMS LOGICAL IN A CLIMATE LIKE FINLAND TO HAVE A HOT, STEAM BATH LIKE THAT. IN CALIFORNIA IT SEEMS UNUSUAL TO ME THAT THE FINNS IN ROCKLIN CONTINUED THAT CUSTOM IN A HOT CLIMATE."

THEY DID, THOUGH. I WOULD SAY THAT PROBABLY, I THINK ELMER SANDWICH BUILT OUR STEAM BATH. AND I'VE THREATENED TO BUILD ONE.

"THAT WAS MY NEXT QUESTION. YOU DON'T HAVE ONE TODAY, THEN?"

NO, I DON'T HAVE ONE TODAY.

"WHEN DID YOU STOP USING THEM, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?"

WE STOPPED USING THEM PROBABLY FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. THE ONE AT THE HOME PLACE WENT TO POT SO WE QUIT USING IT BUT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT BUILDING ONE. THERE ARE VERY FANCY ONES NOW. THEY HAVE A LOT OF THEM IN SWEDEN TOO, JUST LIKE IN THIS COUNTRY, ALL OVER; HOTELS AND SO FORTH. SOME OF THEM USE DRY STEAM TOO. THEY DON'T POUR WATER ON ROCKS, AS SUCH. THEY HEAT THE ROCKS.

"WAS IT JUST A FINNISH CUSTOM IN THE EARLY DAYS OR DID YOUR WIFE'S FAMILY, WAS SWEDEN ALSO INVOLVED?"

NOT IN THE EARLY DAYS. I DON'T THINK THE SWEDES WERE INVOLVED EXCEPT ALONG THE BORDERS; I GUESS THEY OVERLAPPED.

"I WAS WONDERING. I'VE HEARD ABOUT STEAM BATHS BEING A SOCIAL EVENT BUT ALSO ABOUT STRONG COFFEE. WAS COFFEE AN IMPORTANT PART OF CELEBRATION WITH THE FINNISH? IS THAT TRUE? I WAS WONDERING ABOUT FOODS AND THINGS THAT WERE SERVED SOCIALLY."

THEY DRINK A LOT OF COFFEE IN FINLAND.

"DID THAT SEEM TO CARRY OVER TO LIFE IN ROCKLIN?"

I THINK SO. WE HAD COFFEE EVERY AFTERNOON. WHEN WE GOT HOME FROM WORK AT 4:30, WE HAD COFFEE. WE ALSO HAD COFFEE AT 10.00. EITHER THEY WOULD BRING IT TO THE QUARRY OR YOU CARRIED YOUR OWN TO WORK. SOME OF THE STONE CUTTERS CARRIED THEIR OWN COFFEE TO WORK EVERY DAY. ABOUT 10:00 IN THE MORNING THEY HAD THEIR COFFEE. AND THEN AT 4:30 WE ALWAYS HAD COFFEE WAITING FOR US.

"WAS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE GROCERY STORES, THE RESTAURANTS IN ROCKLIN THAT A PERSON COULD TELL A LOT OF FINNS LIVED HERE? IN TERMS OF THE FOODS OF THE DRINKS THAT WERE SERVED?"

THEY USED TO HAVE THE FINNISH BREADS BUT IN LATER YEARS IT WAS ALL MANUFACTURED IN BERKELEY, AND THAT AREA; EL CERRITO OR BERKELEY, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH CITY, AND IT WAS DELIVERED UP HERE. BUT THEY USED TO HAVE THAT IN THE STORES ALL THE TIME.

"WHAT GROCERY STORES WERE IN ROCKLIN WHEN YOU WERE REALLY YOUNG?"

PEKURIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN ONES, EDGARS HAD A STORE, EDGARS WASN'T FINNISH, PEKURI WAS FINNISH. I THINK THEY WERE ABOUT THE MAIN GROCERY STORES. THEN WE HAD A COUPLE OF SPANISH STORES, PLACER MARKET AND SOME OF THOSE IN TOWN THAT TOOK OVER. BUT IN THOSE YEARS AND LATER YEARS WE HAD RED & WHITE WAS AN OLD STORE THAT WAS IN TOWN. IN MY ERA.

"IN YOUR TIME, WHAT OTHER KINDS OF STORES WERE IN ROCKLIN? WHAT OTHER KINDS OF BUILDINGS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS?"

THERE WEREN'T TOO MANY BUILDINGS, ACTUALLY IN MY TIME. WE HAD SOME GARAGES, SERVICE STATIONS. WE HAD SALOONS, BARS, BUT DURING PROHIBITION YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THAT. DURING PROHIBITION THAT WAS OUT. GROCERY STORES, ICE CREAM PARLORS, WHAT ELSE. GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

"WHAT WERE SOME OF THE SOCIAL EVENTS THAT WENT ON AS YOU WERE GROWING UP, AS FAR AS THE FINNS? DID PEOPLE GET TOGETHER IN GROUPS? WERE THERE SPECIAL EVENTS GOING ON IN ROCKLIN?"

I GUESS THE PICNICS CARRIED ON. EARLY, EARLY YEARS THEY USED TO GO TO SOINTULAS. THEN WE WENT DOWN HERE TO THE CHINA GARDENS WHEN I WAS A KID. THEY WERE MORE DOWN IN THE CHINA GARDENS IS WHERE THE MEETINGS WERE. BEFORE THAT, IN THE EARLY DAYS, 1910, 1915, THEY USED TO GO TO SOINTULAS. YOU COULDN'T DRIVE. YOU HAD TO WALK THERE, PRETTY MUCH.

"WHAT IS SOINTULAS?"

SOINTULAS IS THE NAME OF A FINN WHO OWNED THE PROPERTY, REALLY. HE KNEW THERE WAS A QUARRY ON IT. THERE WERE A COUPLE OF COPPS QUARRIES OVER THERE AND IT'S AN AREA

RIGHT ON THE CREEK THAT PICKED UP THAT NAME. THERE IS A SPRING BEYOND IT, A RUNNING SPRING. THE AREA DOESN'T HAVE ANY HOUSES ON IT AT THIS TIME. HOBART MILL HAD A DAM ON THE CREEK SO EVERYBODY SWAM THERE. IT WAS A GOOD SWIMMING HOLE AND IT WENT UP THE CREEK ABOUT 100 YARDS OR MORE. IT WAS A GOOD SWIMMING HOLE IN OUR TIME.

"WERE THERE FINN PICNICS?"

THERE WERE FINN PICNICS, YES. I DON'T KNOW IF THE BROTHERHOOD PUT THEM ON AS MUCH AS ANYBODY. PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN THIS AREA. IN THE EARLY DAYS THEY USED TO HAVE PICNICS IN ROCKLIN. ROCKLIN WAS ALWAYS NOTED FOR PICNICS. THEY USED TO COME FROM THE BAY AREA, ACTUALLY. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD HAVE BIG CELEBRATIONS AND THEY WOULD COME BY TRAIN FROM SACRAMENTO TO HERE IN ROCKLIN. ROCKLIN WAS GETTING OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS IN THE EARLY, EARLY DAYS.

"WERE THERE A LOT OF FINNS IN THE BAY AREA AND IN SACRAMENTO IN THOSE DAYS?"

BERKELEY WAS A GOOD FINN CENTER. QUITE A FEW FINNS IN THAT AREA. SACRAMENTO, I DON'T THINK WAS NOTED FOR FINNS. IN THIS AREA, RIGHT HERE. I THINK THE OTHER DIRECTION WAS FORT BRAGG TO THE NORTH AND REEDLEY TO THE SOUTH. THOSE WERE THE MAIN FINN CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA, AS FAR AS I KNOW. THERE WERE SOME FINNS THAT WERE SCATTERED, LOGGERS AROUND HOBART MILLS AT ONE TIME. I'VE HEARD OF A FEW UP THERE AND SOME SWEDES WERE UP THERE, LOGGING IN 1914 AND 1915, IN THOSE YEARS. THIS WAS THE MAIN AREA FOR THE FINNISH POPULATION.

"YOU MENTIONED THE SPANISH WERE HERE WITH STORES. WHAT OTHER KINDS OF PEOPLE LIVED HERE AS YOU WERE GROWING UP?"

BESIDES FINNS, THE IRISH WERE HERE, IN THE WAY EARLY YEARS. IT WAS A MIXED POPULATION, ACTUALLY. THE FINNS CAME IN AND THERE WERE A LOT OF THEM. IN THE 1910'S, ABOUT 1905 TO 1915 IS WHEN THE SPANISH POPULATION CAME TO ROCKLIN.

"WERE THEY MEXICAN?"

NOPE. SPANISH. THEY CAME FROM SPAIN. A LOT OF THEM WENT TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. AND THEN FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS THEY CAME TO CALIFORNIA. THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN. THEN WE HAD THE JAPANESE. WE HAD AN EARLY INFLUX OF JAPANESE INTO CALIFORNIA BACK THEN, THE GOLD RUSH DAYS. THEN LATER, AROUND 1910 OR SO, WHEN IMMIGRATION ALLOWED, THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN IN THIS AREA. IN ROCKLIN, LOOMIS, PENRYN, THIS AREA. THEY WERE MOSTLY FRUIT FARMERS.

THE SPANISH WERE HEAVY ON THE FARMING. NOT MANY OF THEM WENT INTO THE QUARRY BUSINESS, VERY FEW OF THE SPANISH. I RECEIVE LETTERS ONCE-IN-A-WHILE FROM PEOPLE TRACING THEIR HISTORY AND THEIR FOLKS WERE STONECUTTERS IN ROCKLIN, THEIR RELATIONS. THIS ONE SPANISH MAN WROTE TO ME, BACK IN 1895 HIS DAD WAS A STONECUTTER IN ROCKLIN.

"HOW DID ALL THESE PEOPLE GET ALONG? I GUESS WHAT I AM GETTING AT HERE, DID THE FINNS EVER SUFFER ANY DISCRIMINATION OR PROBLEMS WITH EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY? HOW DID THE PEOPLE MIX IN ROCKLIN DURING THOSE DAYS?"

I THINK THE PEOPLE GOT ALONG REAL GOOD. COMPARED TO OTHER AREAS I HAVE READ ABOUT, I DON'T THINK, THE FINNS INTEGRATED SO MUCH WITH THE AMERICANS THAT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A BIG PROBLEM. IN SOME AREAS, YOU CROSS A STREET AND YOU WERE IN IRISH COUNTRY OR FINN COUNTRY. THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE HERE.

I HAD HEARD REMARKS. MY OLDEST BROTHER USED TO SAY, ONCE IN-A-WHILE YOU GO OVER THERE AND IT'S TOUGH BUT ACTUALLY, THIS WAS NO PROBLEM, I DON'T THINK.

"DO YOU LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS? DO THE FINNS LIVE IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE SPANISH IN ANOTHER? HOW WAS ROCKLIN SETTLED?"

I WOULDN'T SAY THEY LIVED IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD SO MUCH, ALTHOUGH THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN, ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE TRACKS THE MAJORITY OF FINNS LIVED. THERE WERE SOME FINNS LIVING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE TRACKS. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A DEFINITE LINE. PROBABLY FROM JUST BEING ABLE TO VISIT THEIR NEIGHBORS, SETTLED A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TOGETHER. THEY WERE SCATTERED PRETTY MUCH FROM THE END OF SOUTH GROVE TO THE END OF NORTH GROVE IN ROCKLIN. THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROCKLIN IN THOSE EARLY DAYS. FROM THE CEMETERY NORTH, WE HAD SOME OF THE FINNS THAT WERE PRETTY MUCH SETTLED UP GROVE STREET AND UP IN THROUGH TOWN.

"SO THEY WEREN'T IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD?"

NO, THEY WEREN'T IN ONE LITTLE GROUP AT ALL.

"DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF YOUR BACKGROUND? DID YOU EVER FEEL THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM OR A HIRING PROBLEM OR ANYTHING BECAUSE OF YOUR NATIONALITY?"

NO, I ALWAYS FIGURED I HAD A JUMP ON EVERYBODY. NO, I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ANYBODY THAT HAS EVER BEEN DISCRIMINATED BY NATIONALITY AT ALL, IN ROCKLIN ESPECIALLY. A COUPLE OF TIMES SPANISH PEOPLE HAVE SAID IT BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN A PROBLEM FOR EMPLOYMENT. EDUCATION MAY ENTER INTO IT, YOU KNOW, IT'S

A TYPICAL THING THAT SOME JOBS MAY REQUIRE MORE EDUCATION AND THAT PROBABLY WOULD AFFECT SOME PEOPLE. I DON'T THINK IT'S BEEN NATIONALITY,

"IS THERE A GENERAL ATTITUDE ABOUT EDUCATION AMONG THE FINNS THAT YOU MIGHT COMMENT ON? DID YOUR FAMILY HAVE A CERTAIN ATTITUDE ABOUT IT?"

YES, MOST OF THE PARENTS REALIZED THAT THE KIDS SHOULD BE EDUCATED. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A PROBLEM HERE OF LETTING THE KIDS GO TO SCHOOL SIX, EIGHT YEARS AND THEN TAKING THEM OUT. BUT I THINK EVERYBODY HERE PRETTY MUCH WENT TO SCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. SOME OF THE OLDER ONES MAY NOT HAVE FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL BUT THEY ALL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL, GIRLS TOO. MORE OF THE WOMEN WENT ONTO MORE EDUCATION THAN, I THINK, THE MEN. ACTUALLY, THEY WENT TO BUSINESS SCHOOL AND SO FORTH.

EVEN IN OUR FAMILY EVERY ONE OF THE CHILDREN WENT TO COLLEGE OR ONES OF THEIR CHOICE OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER.

"SO WOULD YOU SAY, EVEN AMONG THE OLDER GENERATION THE LITERACY RATE WAS HIGH AMONG THE FINNS, MOST OF THEM COULD READ AND WRITE?"

YES, I THINK MOST OF THEM COULD READ AND WRITE. FACT IS, IN THE OLD DAYS I'VE HEARD THAT THEY HAD TO READ AND WRITE TO VOTE IN FINLAND. SO THEY DID HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL. I'M QUITE SURE THEIR LITERACY RATE IS REAL HIGH NOW.

"HOW ABOUT YOUR PARENT'S ABILITY TO READ AND WRITE IN ENGLISH, WAS IT EVER A PROBLEM? WHEN I SAY LITERACY, I WONDER ABOUT THE ENGLISH PART OF IT."

NO, THEY COULD WRITE. MY DAD WAS IN BUSINESS SO HE WOULD SURPRISE US. IF WE WERE AROUND HIM WHEN HE WAS CONDUCTING BUSINESS, WE WERE VERY SURPRISED AT THE ENGLISH WORDS THAT HE KNEW THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW. HE DIDN'T LET ON THAT HE KNEW THAT MUCH WHEN HE WAS AT HOME SO OFTEN BUT WE WERE SURPRISED BY WHAT HE WOULD SAY. NO, DAD COULD WRITE AND HE DIDN'T HAVE THE BEST HAND IN ENGLISH BUT HE HAD DAUGHTERS AND SONS THAT COULD WRITE.

MOTHER COULD WRITE. SHE WPOKE ENGLISH. SHE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON ALL THE TIME.

"WHAT'S THE LANGUAGE CALLED 'FINGLISH' ABOUT? DID I SAY THAT RIGHT?"

THAT'S KIND OF. THE REASON IS THAT SINCE FOLKS CAME TO THIS COUNTRY LIKE MY FOLKS IN THE 1890'S AND THEY LIVED HERE AND TALKED ENGLISH AND LEARNED ENGLISH AND TALKED FINNISH. THEN THEY GOT SO GOOD AT TALKING ENGLISH THAT THEY WOULD HARDLY KNOW WHICH LANGUAGE THEY WERE SPEAKING IN SOMETIMES. IT'S LIKE, OH LOT'S OF WORDS . . . (SPEAKS 'FINGLISH') THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL 'FINGLISH'. BRUSA, THAT'S PUSH; BABY BUGGY YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

"AND THEY UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER?"

YEAH. THAT'S THE WAY THE OTHER PEOPLE WOULD SAY IT. BUT WHEN YOU GET AWAY FROM THE FINN, THAT WAS THE MAIN THING. ALTHOUGH I FOUND OUT WHEN I WENT TO FINLAND THAT MOST OF THE OLD FINNISH YOU LEARN WAS PRETTY GOOD FINNISH. BECAUSE WHEN I GOT THERE AND THEY TALKED TO ME, THEY USED WORDS THAT CAME BACK TO ME INSTANTLY. I HAD NOT USED THEM FOR 15 YEARS.

I KNEW THE MEANING OF THEM IMMEDIATELY. TO THIS DAY, I DON'T THINK IN ENGLISH AND TRANSLATE TO FINNISH. WHEN I SPEAK FINNISH IT AUTOMATICALLY COMES. IT'S NOT A TRANSLATION.

"AND THE FINNISH HADN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH WHEN YOU WENT TO FINLAND, IT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME?"

IT WAS STILL QUITE A BIT THE SAME. THEY HAD LOTS OF NEW WORDS IN FINLAND. I HAD FORGOTTEN SOME, THAT'S THE BIG PROBLEM WAS THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN SO MUCH FINNISH. BUT I MANAGED TO GET ALONG.

"WHEN DO YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK FINNISH NOW? HOW FREQUENTLY ARE YOU ABLE TO USE IT?"

ANY TIME I SEE A BROTHER.

"DO YOU SPEAK FINNISH WITH EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN IN ENGLISH OR JUST FOR FUN?"

OH NO, JUST FOR FUN WE'LL TALK IN FINNISH. SOME OF OUR BUDDIES, LIKE AND I WILL GET TOGETHER AND WE'LL TALK FINN. THE WIVES DON'T UNDERSTAND IT SO WE CAN TALK. NOBODY SPEAKS MUCH FINNISH ANYMORE.

"BUT IT DOES COME BACK TO YOU?"

YEAH, IT COMES BACK. IT'S JUST LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE. YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER.

"WHAT'S SPECIAL FOR YOU ABOUT BEING A FINN? DO YOU FEEL FINNISH OR AMERICAN? IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT THAT?"

OH WELL, WE'RE AMERICANIZED TO THE POINT. FINLAND IS SOMETHING GOOD TO COME FROM. WE DON'T EVEN CONSIDER THAT PART OF IT.

"YOU FEEL REAL POSITIVE ABOUT?"

AMERICANISM, SURE. IT'S A FINNISH HERITAGE JUST LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. IF YOU COME TO THIS COUNTRY THAT'S THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT THE MEXICAN THING, AND THE BALLOTS IN TWO LANGUAGES. TO ME, IF THEY WANT TO LIVE HERE AND ADOPT THIS COUNTRY THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

"IS THAT HOW THE FINNS FEEL?"

THAT'S RIGHT, YES, DEFINITELY. YES, MY FOLKS DEFINITELY ADOPTED THIS COUNTRY AND THERE WAS NO IF'S ANDS OR BUTS.

"THEY NEVER CAME HERE WITH THE SENSE OF GOING HOME?"

NO. THEY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY TO STAY, JUST LIKE MY WIFE'S FOLKS FROM SWEDEN AND ALL THOSE OLDTIMERS CAME HERE, MOST OF THEM. NOW YOU READ ABOUT SOME OF THE FINNS THAT THINK ABOUT RETIRING BACK IN FINLAND OR SOMETHING BUT I HAVE KNOWN SOME THAT HAVE GONE BACK, EVEN TO SWEDEN, AND THEY CAME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY DIDN'T STAY. THERE IS ALWAYS GOSSIP THAT RUNS RAMPANT. MEDICARE WAS ALWAYS A BIG THING. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE 'FREE' MEDICINE. WELL, THAT'S FINE BUT YOU DON'T LIVE IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE EITHER.

"SO MANY OF THEM CAME BACK AFTER A TIME."

SURE.

"BUT THE FINNS THAT CAME TO ROCKLIN HAD THE IDEA OF STAYING WHEN THEY CAME HERE?"

I THINK MOST OF THEM DID.

"WAS IT A STABLE POPULATION? DID A LOT OF PEOPLE MOVE OUT ONCE THEY CAME? DID THEY JUST VISIT?"

I THINK ROCKLIN WAS A VERY STABLE POPULATION. UNTIL THE YOUNGER GENERATION MOVED AWAY TO GREENER FIELDS TO THE CITY, LIKE THE WOMEN WENT TO BUSINESS COLLEGE AND THEY GOT GOOD JOBS. AND THEN THEY GOT OLDER, THEY MARRIED AND HAD GRAND-KIDS AND THEN SOME OF THE FAMILIES MOVED BACK TO THE CITY TO BE NEAR THEIR CHILDREN. NOW SOME OF THE CHILDREN HAD MOVED AWAY AND NOW THEY ARE STARTING TO MOVE BACK TO ROCKLIN, FOR RETIREMENT. NOT ROCKLIN. BUT PLACER AND EASTERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY. CITRUS HEIGHTS, FAIR OAKS, AUBURN; WE'RE GETTING QUITE A FEW OF THE FINNS MOVING BACK, REALLY.

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT WAS A STABLE FEELING?"

IT WAS PRETTY MUCH OF A STABLE POPULATION. WE DIDN'T HAVE PEOPLE MOVING IN AND OUT ALL THE TIME. THE QUARRIES KEPT OPERATING BUT THEN WHEN THE QUARRIES SLOWED DOWN, SOME OF THE OLDTIMERS WERE FAST REACHING RETIREMENT AGE BUT SOME OF THEM WENT INTO RAISING CHICKENS. THEY MOVED FROM THE QUARRIES TO RAISING CHICKENS. BECAUSE THE BUSINESS IN THE QUARRIES STOPPED DURING THE DEPRESSION. JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE.

"THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ROCKLIN?"

A LOT OF THEM DID LEAVE ROCKLIN. IT WASN'T A BIG, MASS

EXODUS TO SOMEPLACE BECAUSE EVERY PLACE WAS PROBABLY THE SAME, AND THEY KNEW IT. LOT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION, LIKE I SAY, THEY MOVED. EVEN MY AGE GROUP. SOME OF THEM WENT TO THE BAY AREA TO WORK IN VALLEJO AND ALL THOSE PLACES.

"WHAT ABOUT TODAY? IS THERE STILL A LOT OF FINN ACTIVITY TODAY IN ROCKLIN? HOW HAS ROCKLIN CHANGED IN THE 1980'S COMPARED TO THE EARLY DAYS? IS IT A DIFFERENT SORT OF PLACE NOW?"

YES, IT'S GETTING DIFFERENT. IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO DO WITH THE FINNS ANY MORE. THERE ARE STILL QUITE A FEW OF US AROUND. THERE ARE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS OF FINNS. THERE IS QUITE A GROUP. WE DO PUT ON THE OLDTIMERS REUNION. MY WIFE AND I PUT THAT ON MEMORIAL DAY AND HELEN KESKY IS INVOLVED AND SOME OTHERS WE HAVE QUITE A FEW FINNS COME BACK FROM THE CITIES TO ROCKLIN FOR A REUNION. BUT IT'S AMERICAN AND ALL THE OLDTIMERS SO WE DON'T LIMIT IT TO ANY NATIONALITY. I JUST STATED THAT A LOT OF THEM ARE FINNISH DESCENT. THEY COME BACK FOR THAT.

THE FINLANDIA CLUB IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION HAS BEEN MEETING IN FINN HALL. THEY STARTED MEETING THERE TWO YEARS AGO. ACTUALLY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT TAKES PLACE THAT IS REALLY OF FINNISH ORIGIN. EVERYTHING NOW IS AMERICANIZED. IT'S AMERICA, IT'S NOT ANY NATIONALITY MIXTURE.

"HOW IS ROCKLIN DIFFERENT, THE TOWN. AS YOU WERE GROWING UP? IS IT QUITE A DIFFERENT PLACE NOW? IS IT A LOT BIGGER?"

OH YES. IT'S A LOT BIGGER. WHEN I WAS A KID THE POPULATION DROPPED TO ABOUT 360-370, NOW IT'S 7,000-8,000. EIGHT

THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED, I GUESS.

"WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S BRINGING PEOPLE IN?"

SUBDIVISIONS. LEAVING THE BIG CITIES AND COMING UP TO ROCKLIN.

"DO MOST OF THEM WORK IN ROCKLIN?"

NOT TOO MUCH WORK IN ROCKLIN. THERE ARE SOME MILLS, FIBERBOARD AND SO FORTH. SIERRA COLLEGE. THE MAIN THING WE'RE FINDING OUT IS THAT SO MANY OF THE PEOPLE GOT DISGUSTED WITH THE CITY. THEY HAVE MOVED TO THE COUNTRY. ROCKLIN IS COUNTRY TO THEM. BUT THE WORST OF IT IS THAT THEY WANT ALL THE SERVICES THEY HAD IN THE CITY SO THEY ARE TRYING TO BUILD ROCKLIN BACK INTO WHAT THEY CAME FROM. AND THIS IS THE SORRY PART OF IT.

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. ALL THE OLDTIMERS THAT LIVED HERE REALIZE THAT THE CITY IS GOING TO GROW. PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY, THE OLDTIMERS FIGHT IT. BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S THE NEWTIMERS THAT FIGHT THE GROWTH. WE KNOW IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

"MR. RUHKALA, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES OF ROCKLIN WITH THE HISTORY CENTER."