

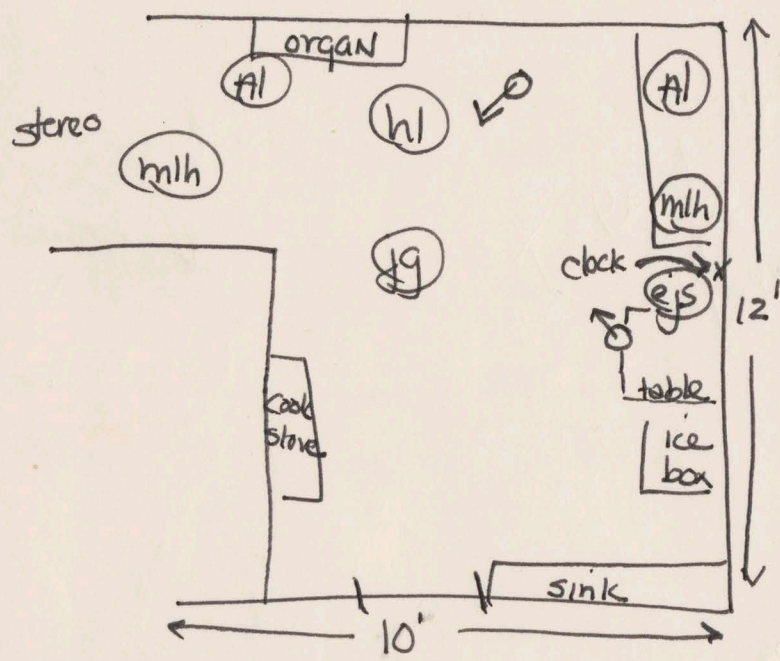
June 22, 1979
(Friday)

Informant: Henry Luokkanen *Worked 30 years in Copper Mines at Ahmeek.*
Finnish Unaccompanied Singer *Born 1897.*
Eagle Harbor, Michigan

Collectors: Joel Glickman
Marina Herman
Ellen Stekert

MLH, JG and EJS left Calumet at 8:30 and drove north on U.S. 41. After we drove through the settlement of Phoenix we turned left on M-26. We then drove 7 or 8 miles through Eagle River towards Eagle Harbor. The Luokkanen cabin is on the Lake Superior side of M-26 on a rock shore.

The cabin is quite small - 16' x 12'. HL's name was on a sign post outside as well as a sign in Finnish which read "Ranta Mokki". (On our way out after the interview, HL said this meant "Shore Cabin".)



EJS had announced the tape in the car as we drove up, so the tape began as we entered the room. The project's letter was on the end table as we came in. AL and HL greeted us and asked us to sit down. AL appeared excited, HL a bit shy.

Once MLH explained the project and what we were interested in, JG, MLH and EJS began asking HL questions. When MLH asked HL if he'd lived there all his life, HL said, "not yet". He smiled broadly and we all laughed. (It appeared to MLH that HL had quite a mischevious streak in him that he didn't let out earlier.) He appeared to be confused or hard of hearing. Early in the interview, AL motioned to his hearing aid, indicating he should turn it up. During the entire interview, HL rocked in his rocking chair. AL sat by patiently at first, but when HL couldn't remember songs, complaining of his age, AL

would prod him along, making motions with her arm to crank him up. At one point, AL said, "well, sing it." (She proved to be quite an asset to the interview, understanding completely what we wanted and how to get it).

The interview had a difficult and slow start, but once HL discovered we wanted to hear old Finnish songs, he sang 7-8 songs. HL rocked as he sang, staring straight ahead as if he was remembering. The last song he sang was a humorous song about a crow. HL's manner changed quite a bit - his eyes twinkling with the humor of the song. HL then translated the song for us, as he had with a couple of the other songs.

After HL sang the crow song, AL got up to make a fire in the cook-

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stove as it was getting cold. We decided to go at this point. (We didn't want to tire HL). MLH said we'll be back again in a month or so. HL smiled and said, "It's up to you." The tape was shut off at 11:15 p.m.

EJS packed up the equipment and we all went out the door. HL walks us to outside and points to the "Ranta Mokki" sign out to us. HL then tells a story of a visitor from Finland who stopped his car when he saw the sign and asked HL about it. (HL seemed to be proud of it). HL went back inside after he shook our hands. MLH went back inside to have HL sign the release form. HL told MLH that Suomi College also had a tape of HL in their archives. MLH said goodbye again and thank you.

Additional Comments: EJS, JH and MLH drove off excited and believed HL would be a good informant.

Songs Sung: "Dream of a Soldier Boy" (in English) *Learned from a Victrola in Detroit in 1926*
"Fair Maiden Song" (in Finnish) *A Finnish ring dance song, gives translation*
"Song of the Fatherland" (in English) *and Finnish*
"A Gypsy Vagabond" (in English) *and Finnish*
"Karalia laiste laulu" (in Finnish)
"Seepans a soja" (in Finnish and English)
"Varikeen Laulu" (in Finnish)