

Informant: Henry Luokkanen
Collector: Joel Glickman
Location: his home on Sand Dune Drive, near Eagle Harbor, Michigan
Others present: wife: Anna Luokkanen; collectors: Marina Herman, Ellen Steckert
Time: c. 10:00 A.M.-c. 11:30 A.M., Fri., June 22, 1979

Small cozy cabin on narrow prop. fronting on paved highway and Lake Superior. Cool and cloudy on arrival. Tired but content and relaxed on arrival and throughout interview. Not exhausted. Fire in wood stove. Ships going by out in Lake. Breakers. Nice.

Mr. L. at first cordial but shy, a bit guarded perhaps. Early on seemed morose about his advanced age and a stroke which he said makes remembering difficult. He is the last surviving of 16 children in his family. At the same time, however he displayed a devilish wit; Marina: "lived here all your life?" Mr. L.: "Not yet." I have heard that as part of the chatter with "Arkansas Traveler." Wonder where he got it? Other little quips too from time to time.

He and Anna each widowed, this second marriage for both, relatively recent years. Both grew up in region, she born U.S., he coming from Finland as a child. They met in Detroit where they live in the many colder months. She had heard him sing on radio yrs. before they met. She was a great help in drawing him out. It took us all some doing-encouragement, excellent memory jogging by Ellen. He sang a variety of things, all unaccomp. incl. hymns, operetta tune, sentimental Am. WWI song, delightful folk song in Finnish re. a mythical giant crow, a la Darby Ram, etc. Many verses, lilting vocable refrain. Incl. also a translation, rhyming, Finnish to English and an English to Finnish translation also, both his own, I thought excellent. He commented on the trickiness of getting the right sense and a good rhyme as well. Also played home made phono discs. of his singing in c. middle age. Beautiful tenor. At present still quite good with incredible range. He told me how many octaves he once could cover. I forget. It's on tape.

Finnish National Lutheran Church → *also sang duets + in quartets.* His father was a hymn leader.

Sang in Church Choir, solos in Church and at funerals, on radio. Now sings a capella at work outdoors, chopping too, though he says he doesn't sing and chop at same time. Anna played old pump organ, two hands, a hymn, very nice for self-taught. Has old Finnish Hymnals.*

Small cabin, two interviewers should be max. for visit. Interview ended very positively. Should be a fine source of traditions much more diff. to obtain than, e.g., accord.-dance trads. Fine, gracious, witty. Anna also terrific and probably indispensable. Circular hand gestures of hers as *asides* to spur us on at points were terrific.

*Suomalainen (c., Finnish Hymns and Evangelic Ritual)
Virsi- ja Evangelimi

Kirja

Helsinki

?????????? 1867

J. C. Fionetellin Bojan tufona

also: Rauhen Sointuja
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