

## FIELD NOTES

Informant: Eino Parkinen  
412 Mine St.  
Hancock, Mich.

Collectors: Matthew Gallman  
Sara Poynter

We arrived at Einos around 1:00 p.m. on July 16, 1979. Eino greeted us at the door and introduced us to his wife ( whose name escapes me ). We went into the living room and Eino played an album for us of accordian music. He showed us his collection of records. His wife offered us candy and then sat on the couch in the living room. Eino inquired if we were going to be tapeing. He had begun to tell us how he learned to play music and then stopped because he realized his story should be being taped. With the tape on he repeated the story from the beginning. Eino was nervous at first. He talked directly at the mike- even looked straight at it. His wife was showing me her crocheted afghan until Eino made it quite clear to her that he wanted her to be quiet. He'd glare at her and wave his hand motioning her to stop talking so as not to mess up the tape. This happened a few times during the interview. Eino was obviously very concerned with making a good tape of his life. I noticed throughout the interview that Eino mainly directed his conversation, regardless of who asked the question, toward Matt. At one point I felt as though my interjections were annoying Einos and my reaction was the feeling that he didn't acknowledge me as he did Matt because I am a female. I sensed quite a bit of chauvinism - when he spoke of his family while naming the sibilings he spoke only of his brothers. He didn't name his sisters, he just acknowledged their existense. This, of course was not intentional of Eino - he was not consciously being rude.

At the end of one song Eino suddenly motioned for Matt to turn off the machine by frantically waving his hands. The machine off he said he needed to "warm up" and he got up and as he walked out of the room he told Matt that he needed to warm up too. He said he didn't have enough for me and that he was sorry. I then realized that he was referring to alcohol. His wife then offerred me some lemonade.

Eino is a hefty man of average height. He's been a hard worker all his life. He's had many jobs. He worked for Chrysler in Detroit, he worked in Quincey Mine, and for the Army Corp of Engineers. He worked for the City of Houghton, Mich., and he is presently working maintenance at Soumi College. He's very clever with his hands. He showed us many things he'd made - a small rocking chair from a beer can, several

three dimensional pictures made from wood of Finnish saunas. Matt was especially taken by his wind driven lumberjack. On a weather vane Eino built a little wooden man sawing wood and the faster the wind blew the faster the lumberjack would saw. Then he showed us some games and puzzles he'd made out of wood and we sat around for a while trying to figure them out. Eino took great pride in being able to solve them all for us. Then he showed us his prize mineral collection and gave us each a piece of copper. Then Eino and his wife insisted that we stay for coffee and "home made toast". Home made toast is toast toasted on a wood stove. Since the Parkinens didn't have a wood stove they used a burner cover they'd gotten from a wood stove. They both raved over it about how it tasted so different and better than toaster toasted toast. It was good especially with some of Mrs. Parkinens fresh jam on top. After a bit of conversation over coffee Matt and I left with a jar of fresh strawberry jam that Mrs. Parkinen gave to us!