

Informant: Eino Parkinen (b. 1910)
Ethnic Group: Finnish
Date: July 16, 1979
Address: Hancock, Michigan
Fieldworkers: Matthew Gallmann
Sara Poynter

We arrived at Eino Parkinen's at 1:00 p.m. and were welcomed by him. He had us sit down in his living room. We met his wife whose name we never found out. Then Eino showed us an album of chromatic accordian music and played it on his stereo. Then Eino and I looked through his albums and he showed me another chromatic accordian player album.

Then Eino asked if we were going to record and he asked what it was that we wanted. He was very perceptive as far as realizing that we wanted background information, the older songs as opposed to his Yankovich repertoire, and a good recording. Eino seems to have a good understanding about the project.

Eino was addressing most of his questions and statements to me as if I was the leader of the show. Sara later commented to me that she felt this also.

After the album was over Eino went upstairs to get his accordian. When he came back down he asked how I wanted to start the interview. Then he began to tell me of how he learned music. I asked him to begin with this story and he did just that.

The interview is self evident except for when Eino asked me to turn the machine off because he had to "warm up". "You have to warm up too", he said. What he meant was that Eino and I had to take a shot of wine. It's hard to tell where this happens on the tape. (See index).

Eino also made it known that this was his interview. He motioned to his wife several times to "be quiet".

Eino was nervous when he started playing and at various times throughout the interview.

After the interview Eino showed me his "fun machine". Eino and I walked through the house looking at the products of his pastimes. The "fun machine"

is made by Baldwin organs. For \$1200.00 you can have an organ, chord accompaniment and drums at any beat you like, rhumba, polka, Latin, rock, etc.

Eino showed us "saunas" that he makes, and a saw run windmill which I got a picture of. I also took pictures of Eino himself with the accordian.

Eino has alot of hobbies. He collects minerals and used to belong to the same "rock club" that Lilly Haataja belongs to. He showed Sara and I puzzles that he makes. Eino seems to get ideas from different sources and then creates things with his hands adding his own ideas. For example: the puzzles are types that I've seen in souvinir stores, a triangle with a series of holes and pegs in the holes. You take out one peg and then "jump" the remaining pegs. The object is to get as many pegs off the board as possible. Of course, one peg will always be left.

The windmill with a man that saws wood is another thing that Eino saw and decided to build himself.

Eino is an intelligent man and quite a bit acculturated. His wife is French and thus Eino goes to a Catholic church, instead of a Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church.

The Parkinens seemed excited to have us over. They made coffee at around 3:30 p.m. and toast which we smothered with Mrs. Parkinen's homemade strawberry and raspberry jam. Mrs. Parkinen made us "homemade toast". They take an old wood burning stove cover plate (cast iron) and place it on top of an electric coil on an electric stove. When the plate gets hot they put bread on it until it toasts. It was good. The Parkinens claim that it is different than regular toast.