

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

HISKI SALOMAA was born in Kangasniemi, Finland, in 1891. When he came to America as a young man of seventeen he settled in South Range and found work as a tailor. His musical talents gained him everlasting fame even to this day. He composed music for the accordion and his "Tiskarin Polkka" is still danced to when accordion players entertain. Translated to "Dishwasher's Polka" most of us know the tune (the opposite side of the 78 rpm recording is "Askon Kolmerivinen").

Salomaa wrote the words and music for eighteen songs which were recorded by Columbia Records in New York City. Funny and witty, they describe the life of Finnish immigrants in America. His humorous and popular songs were performed in the Finnish halls in the Copper Country. He and his music are as well known as those recordings of Viola Turpeinen, and of the same time period, the early 1920s.

Salomaa died in New York in 1957. Does anyone remember him as a tailor or musician? Did he ever come back to South Range? Finnish-American music is being studied by Finnish folklorists in America and we can help.

