

Interview with Bertha Livermore

Mrs. Livermore tells about the only Finnish social organizations she knew of as the Finnish bath houses and the Finn Hall. There were a number of bath houses in town, though most of them were privately owned. It usually cost about 25 cents. One of the Finnish families that owned one of the private bath houses were communists, and in about 1938 they went to Russia. Many years later they came back but all of their possessions were kept back in Russia.

As for the Finn Hall, many of the lumberjacks out North of town were foreigners and for a \$2.00 fee, they could go to the Finn Hall and get a hot breakfast and clean up a little.

Mrs. Livermore tells the story of the 1937 riot in town. One interesting thing she noted was that the firemen were supposed to start spraying the oncoming trouble makers when the power house whistle was blown. It was her husband that had blown that whistle.

She also talks on the dividing of the town of Swedes and Finns. The railroad tracks running north and south were the dividing line, though nobody ever came out and said it was.

The workers at the Charcoal Iron Co. (some of the workers) lived in Red row. This was a row of company houses just north of the east-west tracks.

Mrs. Livermore states that in the later 1930's store owners were being pressured not to hire Communists and to fire any that were still working around town. Bertha worked at the Falls Hotel as a cook and she remembers one Communist worker who the Hotel managers would not fire <sup>her</sup> because she was such a good cook. After the Communist cook made some sly remarks about Americans, Bertha quit work there.

She states that the Finns she knew celebrated no special Holidays.