

Sherry Salo

Mrs. Hilia ^{with} Kantola

This is Sherry Salo, I am interviewing Mrs. Hilia Kantola at her house in National Mine, Michigan. The date is December 9, 1989.

me: ~~When~~ and where were you born?

Mrs. K: In Palmer, Michigan.

me: What year?

Mrs. K: 1905

me: What were your parents' names?

Mrs. K: My parents names were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Para.

me: How many people were in your family?

Mrs. K: Well, there was four boys and one girl.

me: What were ~~the~~ their names?

Mrs. K: Well, my oldest brother's name was Nester Jacob Para,

and my second brother's name was John (Jophed) Para,

and my name was Hilia ~~Para~~ ^{Arora} Para, ~~my~~ and my brother Herman's name was Herman (Nuti) Para, and my smallest brother's name was Raimo Auld Para.

me: Where did your family come from originally?

Mrs. K: From ~~Finland~~ Finland, Delva.

me: Why did the first members of your family come to America?

Mrs. K: What I heard they came to seek for gold.

me: They came to get rich in America.

me: When were ~~they~~ ^{your parents} married?

Mrs. K: I don't know when they were married, they got married in Finland.

me: when did you get married?

mrs. k: 1927, IT was January 1927.

me: How many children did you have?

mrs. k: we had eight children, seven living.

me: Where did you go to school?

mrs. k: IN Palmer, Michigan.

me: How many years did you go?

mrs. k: Just four grades

me: what was school like when you were young?

mrs. k: Oh, the school was ^(trying to remember) ~~the~~ them days the teachers that were teaching us they were nice teachers and they really tried to teach children to learn.

me: what ~~was~~ subjects did you take?

mrs. k: Oh, we had kindergarten first, I ~~can't~~ remember what we were taught, we learned about what little children do learn first.

me: what was your favorite subject?

mrs. k: I ~~think~~ think all the subjects I liked was reading, and then ^{language} and arithmetic, spelling.

me: How did you get to school everyday?

mrs. k: Not everyday we couldn't get to school because we had to walk two and a half miles.

me: what were the teachers like?

mrs. k: Our teachers were really nice teachers in them days. I can remember some of the teachers names there was mrs. mitchell the kindergarten teacher, mrs. Rona was the third and the fourth grade teacher and there was 45 pupils in a grade, with one teacher to

teach them
me: what responsibilities did you have around your house as a child?

mrs. k: we had to do chores, carry wood, wash dishes, and on Saturdays we had to clean the house.

me: what did you do for fun?

Mrs. K: For fun? We used (laughingly) we used to play Pom-pom-palaway and jump the rope and play with jacks. The boys used to play marbles.

me: Did you get to travel much as a child?

Mrs. K: No. Not too much, because there wasn't any cars them days; there was only horses, horse and buggy days!

me: What was Christmas like when you were a child?

Mrs. K: We had a tree in the house, and mother used to put it in the middle of the floor, and I used to cut decorations for the tree, because ~~we~~ we didn't have much decorations to put on the tree, and we used to ~~have~~ have candles on the tree. We used to sing around the tree, Christmas songs and we had only - we never had gifts - we had popcorn ball and oranges; one orange and one apple.

me: Did you have a job before you became an adult?

Mrs. K: Yes, I was only a hire girl, you didn't get paid much for a hire girls, didn't get much pay; maybe five dollars a week or ten dollars a month.

me: What was your first real job?

Mrs. K: Oh, milking cows (laughing)

me: How did people react to the stock market crash?

Mrs. K: I can't remember.

me: How was your family affected by the Great Depression?

Mrs. K: When the Depression came in 1930 ~~the~~ the mines closed down and we lived in ~~Ishpeming~~ Ishpeming, we had to move to a place where we had cheaper rent and it was a hard time we couldn't get hardly no help from anywhere no. There wasn't ~~any~~ no jobs to be able to buy things, ~~Even~~ you couldn't get a job. It was kind of hard them days. But somehow a person always gets along.

me: How did your family make ends meet during the Great Depression?

Mrs. K: Oh, ~~it~~ it was hard to meet anything, but we didn't get much any help from anywhere. But some people gave us some clothes and cloth to make ^{some} clothes for children and old clothes

me: What was your opinion of Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Mrs. K: Well, He was the best president there was. In Depression time otherwise people would have died from being hungry, if he wasn't a president.

me; Did your friends or relatives work on ~~govt~~
government programs?

Mrs. K; well, my husband ^{George} used to work on the WPA.

me; What did he do?

Mrs. K; They were working on the roads.

me; Did living through the Depression change your life?

Mrs. K; After the Depression, when he got work in the mine and there was; what do they call? I can't remember

me; What has made this area ~~so~~ special to you?

Mrs. K; I was born in the Upper Peninsula and I love it here.

me; What was the most rewarding part of your life?

Mrs. K; Bringing up my family, our family.

me; Thank you for taking your time, for doing this interview.