

Interview of Burton Appelo  
July 25th, 2014  
Naselle, Washington

Interviewers: Gordon Strand & Brandon Benson

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Q. [00:00:00] Today is July 25th, 2014. We are recording an oral history interview for the Nordic American Voices oral history project At the Nordic Heritage Museum. We'll be interviewing Burton Appelo at the Naselle Schoolin Naselle, Washington. My name is Gordon Strand and I am joined by Brandon Benson. So welcome. Thank you for participating. And if you could just give us your name, when you were born, where you were born. We'd like to hear your family's immigration story.

A. [00:00:36] Okay. My name is Burton Arthur Appelo, after my father's name. I was born in Astoria, Oregon on April 11th, 1927. And let's see. My parents were born in Finland. My father was born in 1890 in Sideby, near Kristinestad, Finland.

A. [00:01:43] My mother was born in Pori, which is called Björneborg in Swedish, Finland December 28, 1899. And that's on the west coast of Finland. They were born up the end of the Gulf of Bothnia (in the area called Ostrobothnia. Österbotten in Swedish). So there were two towns, Umeå and Luleå. And that's where the Nordstroms are from, John Nordstrom and their family. So they are really Swede Finns, too.

A. [00:02:44] My grandfather, Karl Erik Appelö, was a road commissioner and a carpenter. When Czar Nicholas and Alexandria came for a state visit to Helsingfors- it was a Swedish name in those days, Helsinki now -- that would have been in the 1890s. And so they commissioned a gazebo, a little dance floor to be built in downtown Helsinki to mark the visit. My grandfather was the lead carpenter. And so Nicholas, and Alexandria came down that afternoon. The gazebo was going to be dedicated that evening.

A. [00:03:40] And so Alexandria, the Czarina of Russia, asked, "Well, Nicky, let's try out the dance floor." Nicholas said, "No. I'm tired. Why don't you dance with the carpenter?" So here, my grandfather danced with the Czarina of Russia and, just 17 years later, during the Bolshevik Revolution -- they mowed down the whole Romanov family, Nicholas, Alexandria, and even Anastasia. It was just awful. There was some talk that Anastasia might have survived that, but now that they've done DNA testing, they found out she was one of those slain along

with the entire Romanov family.

A. [00:04:40] Finland, I was told, was so fiercely independent that, even when they were under Russia -- well, actually, they had also been ruled by Norway, Denmark, and Sweden at one time or another. But when the Russians, the Czarist Russia -- they found that the Finns were so self-sufficient, they had their own postal system, their own stamps, and their own currency. That's what I was told. It'd be interesting to prove that out. And so they operated so efficiently so they just left them alone. It was a good functioning. And even under the Soviets in later years, that was the same way. They functioned so well that they were left to themselves.

A. [00:05:48] Then let's see, other things of interest -- the more up to date -- in what would have been 1905, when the Czar put down the first rebellion and very brutally, they came with their Cossacks, their horses, and everything. And it was really quite an ugly thing. Well, Dad knew when he turned 16 the next year, he would be drafted into the Czar's army. And by that time, he was more of a Fabian socialist who were non-violent.

A. [00:06:41] He didn't want to kill anybody or be killed. So he went out with a load of logs to Cornwall, maybe, or to Liverpool, I think it was. See, Finnish trees grew so slowly at that latitude. And they were very tight, so they were made for the mine shafts in England. They had nine-foot-long logs and will grow to maybe six or eight inches in diameter. And so he went out. They had a barge out to the channel, to where they could load them on a ship. And then he continued on to Liverpool, I think it was, or to Cornwall, in England.

A. [00:07:34] From there he booked passage to New York to Ellis Island. And we had cousins in Wisconsin. So he made his way. It's kind of ironic because, when he got to New York, he went to Boston. And his first job was at the Colt firearm factory. And here, he was, I guess you would call him, a pacifist or someone that didn't want to bear arms. And yet that was his first employment. And he also worked for a screw company. And then he went on to be with cousins in Wisconsin and he logged in Wisconsin. He said that it was so cold, that when they would get up the bullbuck (the boss) would call out at about 3AM, "Daylight in the swamp." And when it was still dark, they went to work logging each day.

A. [00:08:32] And then they had to ride some kind of lorrie, I guess, out to where they logged. And then he went from there to Minnesota and logged out of Duluth. And of

course, to the Finns, they don't make a "TH" sound, so it was pronounced "Dulute" for Duluth. And so we went back there, my brother and I, some years ago to a convention. And there was a restoration of a circa 1890 logging camp at Great Falls, Minnesota. And what they did - they dug made trenches and filled them with water which froze that then created rails. And they froze. And then that made rails. And so then they would take these -- I don't know how many. They were nine feet long, but they were, I don't know, about 10 feet high.

A. [00:09:31] And then oxen would pull the sleds down to where they could float them out to the ships. That was up in northern Minnesota. From there, he went to British Columbia, Vancouver Island, and he logged out of Campbell River where he said the terrain was so steep that they could see mountain goats above. He said the hillside was "steep as a horse's face". And that's about the angle. He said that, one day, he was second-loading and chasing rigging, they called it.

A. [00:10:28] He said, "You either had to be quick or dead," because those cables were flying all around. And so that was a dangerous time. Then they put them there. Then he went down to Washington State, the Olympic National Forest, which is a national park now. But at that time, he worked for Simpson Logging Company. And one of the things that embittered him against the companies was that his buddy and he as teenagers were setting chokers.

A. [00:11:15] And this log -- somebody accidentally slipped on the clutch of the Steam Donkey and it jerked, the cable which pulled the log over, and it crushed his buddy's pelvis. That was about 10:00 in the morning, and they wouldn't stop their logging operations until 5:30 in order to get the train. And so he died. And my dad was very embittered that they would so devalue human life. So he became an organizer for the loggers' union.

A. [00:11:58] Later, when it went real radical, he got out of that union. He said that, when they were logging, the bunkhouses had rodents, and lice, and no inside plumbing. And the food was real bad. So they were going to complain. Dad took off his red felt hat. They called these caps crushers because they could be folded and carried in a pocket. They didn't have metal helmets in those days. And he put \$10 in it. And he came and said, "Here, boys, whoever is going to go to the bosses to complain is going to get 'canned,' (fired)" so they contributed. Anyway, then from there, he went down to Hamlet, and Mayger Villages, south of Seaside, Oregon, and then eventually ended up at Deep River, Washington.

A. [00:13:02] Deep River, because it was so close to the mouth of the Columbia and to the ocean, had a very mild climate. It rarely snowed and never froze over. So, at one time or another, most tramp loggers or itinerant loggers as they were known at one time or another, went to work at the Deep River Logging Company. Now, the interesting thing about the Finnish experience was that they, like other immigrants, were a matriarchal society. The men worked out in the woods so that the women did the kauppa (meaning business). They'd be the women who conducted the business and learned the local language.

A. [00:13:55] Here's another thing that I'm sure you're aware of, but Finland was the first western nation that gave women the right to vote, women's suffrage. Next it was New Zealand who granted women the right to vote. In the meantime, my grandfather, Edward Paju, had emigrated to the Astoria, Oregon area, and then he worked for the next five years to get enough money to get his wife and two daughters over. And one more was born in this country, Celia Paju. He had four daughters. The way he named the children born in Finland was that whatever ship was in port he'd go down to the port. My mother was the oldest. The ship Alexandria from Egypt was in port, so she was named Alexandria. She later didn't like that; she said that sounded too Russian, so she adopted the name Agnes.

A. [00:14:55] And then the M.S. Concordia from Bremerhavn, Germany was in port so my aunt, Pearl (Helmi was her Finnish name and Helmi means "pearl" in English), was named for the Concordia. And then the third one, Bertha, -- I can't remember now which it was, but anyway, that's the way they named them. So they came to this country. Their mother, my grandmother, was a suffragette. She traveled the length and breadth of Finland making fiery speeches for women's right to vote. And I'm sure that the establishment, including the State Lutheran church, and many of the Russian people wanted to see her out of there, so they were only too happy when Ed Paju earned enough money to bring them to the new world.

A. [00:16:02] Let's see. She was Mrs. Paju, (my grandmother)

Q. What was her name?

A. [00:16:05] Her name was Emma Paju. Paju means "the willow" in Finnish. I guess you'd call her a secular mover and shaker. And I remember visiting her in the hospital in Astoria, Oregon in her later years and she had her hands folded, but she wanted it understood that she wasn't praying. She just felt more comfortable that way. But she had a sister who evidently was a diabetic. But she, we surmise, must have been blind or had very

poor eyesight so she had my mother read the Bible to her. And I think it was mainly to bring Christianity to her family because her sister, Emma, had nothing to do with the church.

A. [00:17:13] My mother had a remarkable knowledge of scripture and she used that a lot even though she didn't join the church here. She and my father were members of the church and Carlton and I were both baptized and raised in the Naselle Congregational Church. In high school Carlton joined the Congregational church's youth group, the Epworth League and I joined the Assembly of God youth group. Our Swedish and Swede Finn tradition at Christmas was Julotta: my dad woke us up when it was still dark out, very early in the morning, and we all went to Astoria for Julotta. "Otta" means early morning before dawn. That was the Early Christmas Day morning service that we went to at the Lutheran Church in Astoria. We did that as a family every Christmas. Now, my father was confirmed around 14 years of age in the Lutheran church of Finland together with his classmate Arthur Grankull there at Sideby in Finland. Arthur was a Swede- Finn, too. My father later met up again with Arthur Grankull, in this country. So after many years, they got together as friends for the rest of their lives. So anyway, as kind of an interesting aside in my view, there are at least three kinds of Finns. There were the Sami and now that we're celebrating this Sami culture, -- they're the ones up in the Arctic Circle. And then there were the religious Finns. And then there were those of the Temperance Society. And that was almost a religion. And in fact, there's a funny story in one of my brother's books that he's written about that.

A. [00:18:30] They had the 50th anniversary of the Finnish Temperance Society in Canada. They had a big keg of beer to celebrate. So then that was one of the kind of things. Yeah. So there were dance hall Finns, which perhaps most were, and then the church ones. And so people met in those settings.

A. [00:19:03] And the curious thing about the -- even the unchurched, the secular Finns, were squeamish about beer taverns and all. So they had never taken the Lord's name in vain. They had enough innate Christianity that I never heard them swear. They would use other words like "Satana" (Satan or the Devil) and "Pedcela", which are also code names for the Devil, but never potentially Jesus Christ. So I thought that was interesting. Nor did they have their taverns. They left that to the Irish. And one of them, William, (Bill, O'Connor), was from a pioneer family. And he was Irish. But he even had a nickname to "Norkin Ville", which would be corner. That's close to Connor, and Ville because his name was Bill.

A. [00:20:14] Another curious thing, as I think back -- the Finns -- and I don't know if -- . Well, it might have been true of most people. They use their initials. Like my dad was C.A., Carl Arthur. And it was H.V. Pellervo and O.E. Keranen , and all of these C.J. Wirkkala. And also, I guess Wirkkala is really Ketala in Finnish. But anyway, I grew up starting school at 5 years of age in a two-room schoolhouse there in Deep River.

And my Aunt Pearl and Uncle Andrew had the dance hall and movie theater. Well, when the movies, the "talkies" came in...(about 1932?). Uncle Andrew would play records on a phonograph before the movie started and at the end of the show for people to enjoy. He had a lot of popular songs from the 1920's and 30's and 40's. "Freddy the Football Hero, You've Got to Be a Football Hero to Enjoy the Charms of a Girl" and "Dear Old White-Haired Daddy" were popular songs then. (Note: The interviewer asked and Burton agreed to then sing both songs and he knew all the words). The Deep River Movie House and combo Dance Hall was where, after the movie was over, people pushed the rows of seats under the stage to clear the floor for dancing. The movie started about 7 or 7:30 and then the dance got started after, about 9:30. I was able to see every 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox movie until television replaced the movies, about 1946, as long as I sat on the stairway up to the projection booth, as long as I didn't take up a paying seat. We even had a "Cigarette Girl" who sold cigarettes, candy and gum. Marie Manson was her name. She was a Swede Finn or Finn. Her father John Manson butchered pigs like I was raising in Deep River for my FFA (Future Farmers of America) project. I was elected president of FFA in high school. "Elmer" and "Sadie" were the names of my pigs. I had to collect leftover scraps in town for them to eat. My Dad said, "Burton, you're raising two pigs in a one pig town". After the dances on Saturday nights Alice Matta and I were partners in picking up empty beer bottles to sell: 1 penny for "Stubbies", for the small bottles and we got 3 cents each for the Jumbos's. We had 450 bottles that we sold. I collected bottles and peeled cascara bark to sell in town.

"The Merry Makers" were from Naselle and they were a local band to play at dances. They played saxophone, bass, and other things. Herbert Johnson, he was Okie's younger brother - Okie's Market - and Pearl Paju were the best dancers. Pearl was a "Flapper", a real good Charleston dancer. These dances were held at the Naselle Grange Hall. That was across from the old Naselle High School. Axel Larson, Karl Kruse, and Gunnar Haglund played in "The Merry Makers".

In the 1930's Depression Time, 1936, there was a benefit

dance with a group called "The Oregon Loggers". It was a dance band from Skappoose or Clatskanie that came to the Deep River movie house and dance hall to play a benefit dance for the Deep River school. During the Depression there wasn't money for the school so the (Deep River Post No. 111) American Legion took over paying the salaries for two teachers so Deep River could keep its school going. There were several dance hall benefits, too. Loggers from Toonerville came to the dance by the "crummies", the speeder shuttle car in the camp that the (logging) company provided to bring the crew to the work site from where they lived. Dances were the only cultural activity in Deep River plus the High School Band concerts. It was popular to dance folk dances like schottische, waltz, two-step, and polka for all ages at the dances. There were a lot of big ladies that danced there. They were good dancers. I danced with Bill Wuorinen's mother who was a good dancer and she kept me from falling over.

Q. They weren't the religious types?

A. [00:21:02] No, although they had a Finnish reverence among their earliest immigrant relatives. The religious Finns never went to the dances or movies. And then in order to keep the schools going during the Depression one semester when they were about to close. And so they got this steamer Watco, which was a sternwheeler out of I think it came from Portland and brought all kinds of people down for some of these famous dances that we had there. And then they put in money to support the school so they got through. And so my dad was to marry an immigrant Finn who taught him his national language, Finnish, as he spoke only Swedish when he first came to America. He met her at a dance and then went off to World War I. And he was stationed at Fort Deming, New Mexico in 1917 which is right on the Mexican border. And so he went word to my mother to come up to marry him down there. So here she came, about 2,000 miles, 2,500 miles and she had never traveled by train before except from Ellis Island to Knappton, (Washington) as a 9 year old.

A. [00:22:15] And they had to stay in base housing. So they had metal cots, but there were scorpions, snakes, and everything around there. So Dad got these two-pound coffee cans and put them half full of kerosene, coal oil, we called it. And so the legs were a protective barrier so they couldn't come up onto the bed. So she was just terrified there until Dad would come home after work every day. And he was appointed as the regimental postmaster in the Army down there. It later became Fort Deming, but it was Camp Deming before. And he had to forever after -- even when he joined the American Legion here,

he was the adjutant. If someone was killed or drowned in a logging or fishing accident he had to bring the news to the widows because we had no pastors in town. Deep River during the rip-roaring 1920's was regarded as a kind of "Sin City" because we had only one church a mile and a half up the valley but downtown we had a hotel, a tavern, a pool hall, and a movie theater.

Q. Did he go to Europe during the war? Is that World War I?

A. [00:23:25] No, because he was married June 20, 1918 and the war ended on November 11, 1918. He got as far as to Fort Deming, New Mexico, and before they went overseas, the war was over. But then the flu came in and just killed thousands. I mean it was a terrible global outbreak. And so he had to write letters to the parents, to all those people, and all, so he was kind of like a chaplain. And though he had been a confirmed Lutheran, he didn't practice it in this country. What else about those, about the Finns? And as I say, I rarely ever heard them swear or use the Lord's name in vain.

Q. Well, tell us about Deep River. It was built on pilings, was it?

A. [00:24:22] Yes, it was all on wetland or tide land. Well, Deep River is a slough, actually, a tributary of the Columbia River. In fact, in 1937, Ripley's Believe It or Not - a syndicated column in most of the large newspapers. Ripley said Deep River in the state of Washington was "the deepest river in the world for its length". Well, in those days they had ropes. And evidently, there were real deep pools and it must have been deeper than the coastal geodetic survey to find bottom, so they only went as far as their ropes reached. Deep River was about 3.5 miles in length up to where the tidewater ended. (Carlton and I called that "Point Africa" and we had a rope swing out over the river there). And being a matriarchal society, the hotel-keepers or boarding house buildings like the Shamrock Hotel made all the business decisions and took care of them. The Shamrock Hotel was one of the large housing places for loggers and "boom-men" who rafted the huge logs up to 9 or 10 feet in diameter containing them in large rafts encircled by chains of long logs called "boom sticks".

A. [00:25:24] In fact, the story is told of one young logger who talked to another one and said, "Do you have a mother?" And he said, "Well, no. Mother is dead." "Do you have a sister? Are you married?" None of those things. "Then who tells you what to do?" And there's another one that the editor of the Finnish American Reporter said and I don't like to



use it, but they say that the way you can tell an outgoing Finn is that he will look at his own shoes instead of yours when he talks to you. But it was my experience they were painfully shy, particularly the single ones. And there was a big boarding house in Astoria called the Karhuvaara. I don't know what that means in Finn. But anyway, a big boarding house -- and she (the owner) did the all the "kaupa", the business stuff for the single loggers and fishermen.

Emil Lindgren, Bobbie Lindgren's father, was an early logger and was partners with my Dad after World War I. They were hand loggers. They built dams on Salmon Creek and the Naselle River. They dammed up enough water to push the logs into the Splash Dams; When they got enough water they'd dynamite the dams, sending the logs surging down to the tidewater at Naselle. They synchronized the dynamite. That would send the logs down to Naselle causing quite a bit of erosion to the river bank. But it was effective.

A. [00:26:37] Does the name Herres Mias -- what does that mean? Do you have enough Finn --

Q. We don't have --

A. [00:26:46] Okay. Well, that means the lordly ones and not necessarily the religious, but they were regarded as somewhat like the House of the Lords in England as that seemingly was the way they comported themselves. And as I told Paul, all Germanic, Northern European, and Scandinavian names are heavily accented on the first syllable. So for instance, it isn't the Nokia (pronounced No-keeya with accent on second syllable) It's the Nokia (pronounced No-key-a with the accent on the first syllable) telephone. In fact, now they are taking a big hit back there because Microsoft bought the Nokia Telephone Company for something like \$7 million. And firstly, they saw they were in over their heads, so they fired about 9,000 workers so things will be kind of rough in Finland for awhile. But a number of our family moved to Sweden, which has a broader based economy and we've been back there on trips. From the time we were 10 years old Carlton and I ran the telephone switchboard, PBX long distance, in Deep River. When we started it was a crank operation on the wall. In the early days there was no charge for long distance service to people, it was a community service. All they had to do was to maintain the poles and wires across their property and buy their dry cell battery from us. There were 22 houses on our party line. The Deep River (our home) ring was Long, 2 Shorts, and a Long. Every party line had a different ring. When the housewives would get on the line to listen it would cut the power so it was called

"rubbernecking". One of the workmen used to get on the party line and say, "Ladies, I'm going to talk Stud Horse now" and then "Click, Click, Click, Click" they would all hang up!

Carlton and I carried of a 20 cubic foot chest freezer over a suspended cable bridge over the Upper Naselle River to deliver it to a family who ordered it from the store. Carlton played the clarinet. He was second chair in the high school band and Estelle Pellervo was first clarinet. Later on Carlton was the athletic manager for the (University of Washington) Huskies and he was in the Marching Band there. He organized the Students' Co-operative and set up chapters in UCLA and Berkeley up and down the coast. He was president of the UW Students' Co-operative. Then my older brother Carlton enlisted into the Army and served in Okinawa. I joined the Navy and we were all headed for Okinawa to be ready for the invasion of Japan.

Q:

A: Sweden, we'd go over there. But I have been to St. Petersburg on a trip, but now that is Leningrad. And there was some talk when the Germans joined the Japanese in World War II. Then there was also a German general that ruled Finland, Carl Mannerheim, and he was very well respected. But there was some talk that maybe we Finns would be interned like the Japanese. It wasn't too serious. But because of the Battle of the Bulge (Bastogne in Belgium) when Germany was seemingly turning the tide of the war and we had lost a schoolmate a number of us enlisted in the Navy. But I couldn't go on active duty until the next year when I turned 18.

A. [00:29:16] So I went up to the University of Washington for Fall Semester in November, 1944 and I had Navy Reserve ROTC training. Then I came back and then went on active duty. And I was on a fire and rescue tug, (Bastogne in Begium U.S.S. Apache ATF 67, that went from the Galapagos Islands, Clipperton Island, then up to Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians. And during the same period, my older brother was at Okinawa. And he was captain in the U.S. Army of the port of Naha there, so that we were all combining forces against Japan. President Harry Truman ordered dropping bombs at Nagasaki and Hiroshima on Hokkaido, Japan's largest island later.

A. [00:30:16] It was estimated that we would sustain a million casualties to take Tokyo, but it would be three million Japanese casualties. And Japan's infrastructure is all wood, all their houses. And matter of fact, they're a big purchaser of our wood, our logs, to this day. And so it would have burnt the whole island. It would have just been devastating, taking out most of the infrastructure. So I think the Japanese

realized now that, when they dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and all -- I was serving on an oceangoing fire and rescue tug. And I was going to volunteer to go into Bikini for the first a-bomb test. And I had written to my wife-to-be as we were promised. And she said, "I don't think you should do that." And I'm glad I didn't because we probably wouldn't have had any children because of the radiation within the 20 mile so-called "safety zone". So anyway, then we did some exciting things, like we took a convoy down to decommission a weather station, Clipperton Island, south of the Galapagos Islands in the south Pacific Ocean.

A. [00:31:21] And we had to blow up a couple of ammunition dumps. And there's all kinds of details, so we did some exciting things, and then went up to Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands at the end of the war. I was on the U.S.S. Apache. And we were the prototype, commissioned at Norfolk, Virginia in 1943, of the diesel electric tugs. We once towed the carrier Essex, which was the largest U.S. carrier in World War II, almost 1,000 feet long. We were only 219 feet long, but we had a crew of 90 men at battle strength and, even at the end there, a skeleton crew of 55. And I was the yeoman who kept all the crew records. I was also the radar operator. Radar was just coming on then, later during World War II.

A. [00:32:15] So we had some exciting times. Then, when I came back, I joined the family business here. And we had three general merchandise stores at Grays River, Deep River, and Naselle.

Q. Was that after the war, then?

A. [00:32:29] Yeah. Uh-huh. Well, it was before and during the war that we had them. And I left from that point and my parents ran them until my brother and I got back from the war. But then I went. It's in my notes there. I actually taught urban land economics. I went to work as the assistant to the vice president for finance at the University of Washington. And so one of the perks that I had -- I could take two seminars. So I finished my bachelor's degree and then I got an MBA so that I could teach.

A. [00:33:17] So then I taught at the graduate school of economics and business at the University of Washington and then later at a Christian school, Seattle Pacific University. But when I came home and was married June 19, 1948. And let's see. What did we do? And then we had the three children. Theresa is active in Nordic heritage events. And then next oldest was our son, Steven Michael, who, as our attorney, runs our telephone company that service Western Wahkiakum and eastern Pacific

Counties in the southwestern sector of Washington. Their younger brother, Tim, is a well-known newspaper writer and film critic.

Q. I was going to ask you about the telephone.

A. [00:34:05] Yeah. Well, the post offices, for instance, are not owned by the government. They are investors. And they sign long-term leases. But the telephone industry -- with Alexander Graham Bell, he invented the telephone. And his father-in-law finally prodded him to file his patent. Well, then, in the meantime, 40 minutes later, Thomas Gray, Graybar Electric -- all of the pay phones were Graybar and he had a better patent, but they merged some years later to form AT&T, the huge conglomerate. There are still a little over 1,000 independent telephone companies in Canada and the U.S., mostly in the rural Midwest.

A. [00:35:16] And my brother, Carlton, has been president of OPASTCO, the National Association of Independent Telephone Companies. So he's a real pillar of the telecommunications industry. And Finland, like Minnesota, you know, 10,000 Lakes, you know, they're so flat. Well, that's why they've got good telephone service, because they didn't have any hills or mountainous terrain. And so to this day still, I'm vice president and Carlton, my older brother, is president of our telephone and internet company. We have the telephone exchange in western Wahkiakum and eastern pacific counties. Yes.

A. [00:36:00] One thing that might be of interest -- because my uncle Ralph fought with the White army for the Czar in protecting Helsingfors in those days, now Helsinki. But then, when he came to this country, he lived in dread of the Red Finns because one of them tracked down and killed Trotsky in Mexico, who was one of them now. So that was kind of a tough time, but he came over.

Q. Was your family in contact with family in "the Old Country" (Finland and Sweden) during World War II at all?

A. Yes, yes. We sent all kinds of food, especially coffee, in our care packages. And then we sent them to relatives of my wife, who had grandparents and cousins in Norway.

Q. I was going to ask you about The Hungry Highway.

A. Yes. I believe Don Raistakka knows more about it, although I believe Don told me that his mother and my mother plucked 100 chickens, combining with a group of other ladies, to serve at this big picnic when these people came to help raise money... to serve at this big picnic when these people came to help.

Q. They were raising money. Right?

A. Yes, yes. And to build the link between Upper Salmon

Creek and Deep River and eventually to Naselle. I remember seeing the bulldozer that the fundraiser bought; it looked like a tractor but it had belts like an army tank so it could go. I remember seeing it. Now, that's part of the saga.

Q. What about chicken night? Have you ever heard that, chicken night? It's kind of a cooperative and they would have a monthly event here in Naselle?

A. [00:38:07] I don't know. Of course, it's interesting because I'm a Swede Finn. I used to tell a story about the Norwegian organ grinder or someone. And then the butt of the joke -- but when I tried it as a Finnish one, I found it -- as long as my mother was alive and now in her memory, I couldn't tell it, so it was a defining moment for me. I found out that I'm really a Finn at heart even though I'm more of a Swede because of my father's language. There is a riddle: "Why is the Columbia River like a fish? Because it has so many Finns on both sides."

Q. I hadn't heard that one.

A. [00:39:10] Yes. In fact, when my ship came to a Rose Festival in Portland, Oregon we came up across the Columbia River bar. That was scary because that's a tough bar for even our size ship. And when we came to the interstate bridge at Longview, I ran the radar. And I saw it was like a stoppage. And the captain was real nervous, "You were running into a wall or something." I said, "Well, no, that's a bridge." "Well, how do you know it's a bridge?" "Well, I grew up there." So the bridge at Longview -- I knew that, that was it. Yes. Let's see if there was anything else.

A. [00:40:00] I remember driving up to Longview to get my teeth straightened and I never did get it finished. But here was a German merchant ship flying a swastika right alongside the highway. This was before Pearl Harbor during the War because they never would have had that swastika flag flying there after Pearl Harbor. My first cousin, Floyd, went into the submarine service. He was 6'5.5" and to put him on a submarine, they put him on the top rack of a three-decker bunk. And then his legs stuck out about that far. Everybody had to duck to get under them. Yeah. But he made it through the war. Yeah.

Q. Does your family still operate stores in the area there?

A. [00:40:55] No, we don't. We had a lot of hardware and appliances. I sold appliances from Cannon Beach to Washougal, all along because that's one economic area here, so we were quite active. But we still have the telephone company. Yeah.

Q. And what kind of family traditions did you have at

Christmas and things like that?

A. [00:41:31] Yeah. Well, as I say, we Finns have a better way of making lutefisk than the Norwegians. The Norwegians would put melted butter on it. But the Finns used valkokastika we called it. It was like wallpaper paste. It's just flour and milk. And then they put sweetener in it so it kind of masks the lutefisk. And I have insisted that my kids have one spoonful this year and then two spoonfuls the next year. But the only one it took with was Theresa. And Theresa really knows how to make lutefisk better than the Norwegians, yeah. But yeah. What we would do is have -- well, Carlton was already five years ahead of me, so he was already in the service.

A. [00:42:28] We'd be in on Sunday nights to listen to the Richfield Reporter. And we had grape juice. My dad and mom didn't want to have any liquor around the house, so we drank a hot grape juice. We listened to the radio program, "One Man's Family". It always ended with Longfellow's "Day is Done" and Carlton Morse on the pipe organ.

And that was kind of a little way we -- and then I had two longshore uncles from Astoria. That's another thing about Finnish. It's 100 percent phonetic. Every letter of every word counts. But my cousin was Dorothy Pyythile. And I could barely do it. And I can pronounce most Finnish words and names nearly flawlessly. Then they think I can speak it much better than I can, but P-Y-Y-T-H-I-L-E or something, Pyythile.

A. [00:43:24] And then we had a lot of Americanized Finns, so they would take those. They had, "Yakki, Yakki, Pottu Sakki." Well, pottu is really -- the word is parrunoita. And then some used to say perunas, make that sound. But it always jars me when people put an extra syllable. Like, instead of Virkkala, it's Wiirkala or pronounced workala. That doesn't sound right, but a name like Lampi, for instance, L-A-M-P-I, you usually say Lampu. Well, you know what? It jars. So I know a fair amount of Finn. I went to my grandmother's for a week to learn it, but I did study my Finnish American dictionary, I guess, but my brother went over to spend two weeks with her. And so he speaks Finn better than I do.

Q. So the archive building was originally a store. Is that correct?

A. [00:44:41] Yes, yes. That's right. Yeah. We bravely called them Appelo's shopping centers.

A. [00:45:21] And the third generation is generally the ones that goes back. And see, I guess we would be considered second generation, where our parents were born in Finland, so

first in the new world, but then the third are the ones that usually try to preserve the language if they do pick it up at all. But in our stores we had clerks that could speak both Finnish and English. At one time, we had five clerks in that one store at Deep River. Deep River was really quite a center. Yes, it was a big logging, fishing, and dairying center. Yes.

Q. So when did your father die then?

A. [00:46:16] Well, let's see. He would have died after we had been to Finland, but probably 1977. I think he lived to be 84, something, about my age. I'm 88. Yeah. He was quite active. And he was an insurance man. And as I say, he was kind of like a chaplain and I have followed in his footsteps leading a weekly fellowship group at Panorama City, a retirement Center near my home in Olympia, Washington. This is a poem I wrote for my father's funeral:

*Weep softly for the fallen warrior  
Not cut down in summertime  
Nor in the autumn of his life  
But late in winter, when old and full of years,  
He is gathered now to his people.  
His life bridged the span from Czar Nicholas to Jimmy Carter,  
From the first telephones to orbiting satellites,  
From 16-year-old immigrant lad to landed gentry,  
Yet always upholding the disadvantaged.  
Spokesman for the inarticulate, the helpless—  
From Massachusetts sweat shop to Wisconsin lumber camp  
Always pushing on—ever westward.  
Logging and helping organize the men from Hamlet, Oregon, to the Campbell  
River in British Columbia.  
Sustained by a Mother's prayers in Finnish Russia.  
He came before his native land became the Finnish nation  
And learned his native tongue from his immigrant bride in America.  
He joked about his fountain pen that could write in three languages,  
Swedish, English and Finnish, learned in that order...  
Weep softly then for the fallen warrior,  
With no tears of remorse or regret,  
But simply of remembrance,  
For he fought the good fight  
And by God's grace he's in God's presence.*

*"And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly,  
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"  
Let's learn what we can from the lives and values of the pioneers—  
There are precious few of them left!*

. The Barr-Johnson-Hill Post No. 111, American Legion was organized in 1932 with my father as the first adjutant. And the American Legion was almost his church and he was the service officer, so he helped get government pensions for the men who were in the trenches from World War I. He was active there for the rest of his life.

Q. Well, this is pretty great. We appreciate it.

A. [00:49:11] Yeah. Well, it's been --

Q. Really interesting family history there. Sorry your brother couldn't be here, but I'm glad -- the reports we heard sounded pretty bad.

A. [00:49:25] Yeah. Well, they misdiagnosed him. They said he had a massive heart attack. Well, he didn't. He just had a TIA, a spell that turned out to be actually low blood sugar. I don't think he even had a stroke. So he's doing fine. Yes.

Q. We're going to have to cut it short because we have somebody else waiting and we're running a little over.

(Proceedings concluded.)