

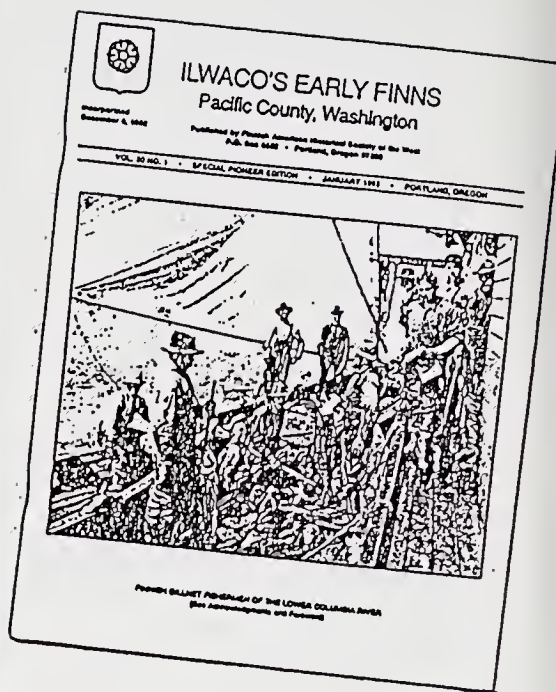
CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

CUMTUX





Merle A. Reinikka



"**COLUMBIA RIVER HERITAGE**" is the theme of **FinnFest, USA '95** which is coming to Portland, Oregon, on July 13-16, 1995. This national celebration of Finnish culture is being hosted by local representatives with **Merle A. Reinikka** in charge. It will take place on the campus of Lewis and Clark College in Portland. For four days, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about Finnish folkdancing, arts and crafts, literature and language, fashion and design, modern and traditional music, and be able to taste authentic Finnish foods. Programs will be given by people from all over the U.S.A. and Finland, and will include a number from Clatsop County. Brochures will be available at the Heritage Museum in Astoria or by writing to FinnFest, USA '95, P.O. Box 6795, Portland, OR 97228-6795.

Host Merle Reinikka, now a resident of Portland, grew up in Chinook and Ilwaco, and is related to the Reinikka and Seeborg families of Astoria. Reinikka has had a longtime interest in the history of Finnish residents of the Lower Columbia area and has made some valuable contributions. For the past couple years, he copied out the names and other data on every Finn who appeared in the 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses in the states of Oregon and Washington. A copy of the census material that he abstracted on Clatsop County Finns will be placed in the Astoria Public Library. Reinikka has also written books for the Finnish American Historical Society of the West series. They are: *Ilwaco's Early Finns*, and *Finnish Settlers of Long Valley, Idaho*. Presently he is working on the book, *Deep River and Salmon Creek Finns of Wahkiakum County*. ❖

Finns have made up the largest ethnic group in Clatsop County since the turn of the century. This issue of Cumtux contains the stories of some of these residents.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Inc.**

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CUMTUX

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Contents:

- i MERLE REINIKKA, FinnFest Host**
- 2 KOTIMAANI OMPI SUOMI:
My Homeland is Finland**
- 7 EARLY FINNS TO ASTORIA:
S. Ilmonen's List
By Merle Reinikka**
- 10 THE FINNISH BROTHERHOOD
LODGE: History & Leadership**
- 12 THE KANKKONEN BROTHERS
By J. Marlene Eskola Taylor**
- 32 THE ANDERSON FAMILY
By Cynthia Anderson Marconeri**
- 35 THE REST OF THE STORY:
Jalmar Wilson's Big Fish
By J. Marlene Eskola Taylor**
- 36 THE LINDGREN HOUSES**
- 37 THE REUNION: A Dream Come True
By Liisa Penner**
- 40 & 44 OLD-TIMERS' TEST
By D. W. Van Osdol**
- 41 REINO MACKIE, ARTIST**
- 43 GLITCHES, GUESTS & GOSSIP**
- Cover: Aili Kankkonen christening the
Owatama on December 18, 1918 for
the Wilson Shipbuilding Company.
Photo courtesy of J. Marlene Taylor**

The Astorian Printing Co.

*CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:
"To know...acknowledge...to inform"*

Kotimaani Ompi Suomi

(My Homeland Is Finland)

Finnish immigrants, like all other immigrants, came to America because they hoped to make a better life here. In the 1860s in Finland, a series of disastrous growing seasons brought the threat of starvation to many, resulting in a massive emigration to the West. Political and social unrest were also responsible for this emigration, along with inheritance customs which gave the bulk of an estate to one child, leaving the rest with few resources. In 1873, the first large party of Finns arrived in Astoria. They were led by B.A. Seaborg, later well known as the Ilwaco pioneer cannery man. By 1880, the census lists large numbers of Finns in Clatsop County, the majority of whom were working in the canneries and living in boarding houses. Many Clatsop County residents today can trace their ancestry back to those early immigrants.

It is often heard from those researching their Finnish ancestry that their parents or grandparents never spoke of their life in the old world. It may have been that thoughts of their family, friends, and homeland were too painful to remember. Then, too, children of these immigrants may not have been an appreciative audience as they sought to lose all ethnic tags and blend into the community of their peers at school and in the neighborhood. Immigrants who longed to return to their homeland and succeeded in saving enough to return usually discovered that nothing was the same; the friends and relatives whose memories they cherished had died or moved away and their homes

were occupied by strangers. Responsibilities and lack of funds, however, kept many from ever returning.

The Riippa/Rinell family

Joseph Riippa, who once lived in Astoria, is well known throughout Finland as the author of a poem that beautifully expresses the love of his Finnish birth-place. Riippa was the fourteenth of fifteen children born to Gustaf Matti Riippa (born on February 22, 1823 at Kalvia, Finland) and his wife, Fredricka Herronen (born May 13, 1825 in Finland). Six of their children died at an early age. In a search for a better existence, Gustaf Matti came to the U.S. in 1880 and his wife followed two years later bringing Joseph, who was fourteen years of age, and a couple of their other children. They and at least seven of their children lived in the Lower Columbia area, at Salmon Creek, near Deep River, Washington, and at Astoria. Numerous descendants reside today on both shores of the Columbia. After arriving in the U.S., most of the family changed their name from Riippa to Rinell. (The practice of changing their surnames was common among Finns and Scandinavians when they came to the U.S.)

The notes that Gustaf Matti Riippa wrote about his life in Finland help us to understand why this family and others emigrated:

“Year of 1867, there was so much snow (about two feet)..Hard freeze.. Poverty.... spring and summer still frozen. With the



Joseph Riippa (1868-1896)

fall came the first thaw. After that came another bad year...frost. Many died for lack of food. In Kalvia 500 people died that year...Cow had to be butchered, milk wasn't good and no calf. Father and Mother haven't a single cent."

After the family arrived in the U.S., it was a long time before the relatives in Finland heard any news of them. It was Joseph who finally wrote to his aunt on September 20, 1887 when he was nineteen years old.

Joseph Riippa's letters

"Dear Aunt: I'm sorry I haven't written sooner, although I have wanted to. We promised to write but Mother and Father have been so busy getting settled in their new home, that I doubt very much if they have written. I wish to thank Auntie for those many kindnesses that you have shown me and for all those goodies that you showered upon me, they will always remain a precious memory to me, dear Aunt.

"I guess, my dear Aunt, you would like to know how we are getting along in America. We are all well. I lived with Mother and Father on the farm for two years, after which I started school in Rock Island at Augustana College, where I have now been for three years, going on the fourth year. This place is as far from Astoria, Oregon as Kokkola is from Athens, Greece. It took me a whole week and 3 hours to come here by train and all alone at that. The school which I attend is a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church school, where ministers are ordained. If God wills it, I shall too, become a minister, but I have 3 more years of schooling ahead of me. I have spent my summer vacations in Michigan, amongst the Finnish people teaching a children's school, also other jobs pertaining to the ministry for which

I have received \$100. In American money, that is for the 2 ½ months of work, which is 500 Finnish Marks. Next summer I plan to go home and see my parents whom I haven't seen for 4 years, then on my next summer vacation I shall make a trip to Finland."

In another letter dated 1889 and written in Astoria, he wrote:

"Dear Aunt, Please don't worry about us. Everything is in God's hands and we have already been more than blessed. We have a much better home now, better than the one in Finland. Killing frosts do not destroy our crops and this is such a beautiful place, that I hope I can live here the rest of my days. Two rivers meet near our orchard and the banks have large trees on them. The river is full of fish, including salmon and the orchard flourishes with pears, peaches, apples, plums and even grapes and all sorts of berries which we were never able to grow at Riippa. I believe it was God's will that we should come to this land of plenty. I shall always love Finland, my native land and some day I shall return for a visit, but I want to live and work in America. I am living in Astoria, Oregon now, but our home is across the Columbia river 12 miles from Astoria, in a place called Deep River, Washington."

The following years saw Joseph married to Hilma Lantto in Astoria (November 26, 1892) and the birth of their son. The letters he continued to write were lighthearted and fun, but the last letter to his aunt was different in tone.

"...Maybe I shall never see you again in this life, but we shall surely meet in Heaven. My folks are so slow about writing, Father doesn't even write to me but they send their best wishes to all of you over there. I wrote and told you that

I would come to Finland and study there but since I am poor and schooling costs so much in Finland, I shall remain here, maybe later if God wills it, I will be able to make a trip and I hope to find you dear Aunt well and alive like all the rest of the relatives. I received word from Hancock, Michigan that I should come there and teach children and also be their minister there....I haven't seen my folks now for five years. May God be with us all and may we never stray from his fold until he gathers us all to his heavenly home up above. Good-bye my dearest Aunt, please don't forget me. Sincerely, Joseph Riippa."

The *Daily Astorian* on August 30, 1896 reported that Joseph Riippa was dead, struck by lightning in the church at Hancock, Michigan. It had happened shortly after dismissing a class of summer students when he was alone in the room. Hilma Riippa brought her husband's body across the country by train to Astoria. Funeral service was held in the Scow Bay Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 6, 1896, with many members of the Finnish Brotherhood in attendance. A steamer carried the body from the dock in Astoria to Greenwood Cemetery where it was buried. Thus ended a promising life.

The author of an article in the January 20, 1968 Finnish newspaper, *Keskipohjanmaa*, wrote that, "Before his death, he [Joseph Riippa] was able to deliver many a beautiful sermon, and to write a lovely poem which has been set to music and which pictures his childhood home in his beloved Finland, about the choke-cherry trees, the birds in the trees and his mother rocking him to sleep. In it he also mentions his first love, a maiden with long braids in her hair. [These memories] seem to have been something deep and precious to him his whole life through."

"Kotimaani Ompi Suomi" ("My homeland is Finland") is the title of this song which is familiar to Finns today all over the world.

.....
Carol Ross Haskell, a descendant of Gustaf Matti Riippa, Joseph's father, provided information on the Riippa-Rinell family. Helena Perttu, who teaches Finnish language classes at Clatsop Community College, also helped. The photograph of Joseph Riippa is from Suomi-Opiston Albumi 1896-1906, published at Hancock, Michigan in 1906 by the Finnish-Lutheran Book Publishers. See Carleton E. Appelo's book, *Deep River*, which contains a photograph from 1921 of the Riippa-Rinell family.

For Further Research


Those who have Finnish ancestors who lived in the Lower Columbia area can learn more about them by consulting the following:

1. The index to the Astoria newspapers at the Astoria Public Library, 450-10th St.
2. S. Ilmonen's books, same location.
3. Carleton E. Appelo's books on Wahkiakum and Pacific counties. Many Clatsop County families lived at one time in communities on the north shore of the Columbia River.
4. The books of the Finnish-American Historical Society of the West, available from them at P.O. Box 5522, Portland, OR 97208. An index to these books has been compiled by Merle Reinikka.
5. Mae Johnson in Rosburg, Washington, has gathered a large collection of materials on the genealogy of Finns of the Lower Columbia.
6. Jack Fosmark, Salem, has a large collection of material on the Seaside Finns.

\$1.50

The Sou'wester

Published Quarterly by the
Pacific County Historical Society
Seaside, Oregon



Emigrants Leaving Finland in 1908 For America


SUMMER
1982

Volume XXV
Number 2



**FINNISH
AMERICANA**

A Pioneer Scrapbook
of the
Columbia River North-Shore Communities
Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties
Washington
1900 - 1985



Carlton E. Appelo
Deep River, Washington


**TOVERI
KYMMENTUOTIAS**
1907-1917

MUISTOJULKAISU



S. ILMONEN

AMERIKAN SUOMALAISTEN
SIVISTYSHISTORIA
EDELINEN OSA



**Y. S. K. V. JA S. LIITON
50-VUOTISHISTORIA**

Muistojulkaisu

YHDEKSÄN KÄSIVÄN
KÄSIVÄN VALKEAN JA HILJÄISYTTÖN
PÄÄMÄJÄ

1927

The Boarding House Finns
Published by Finnish American Historical Society of the Coast
P.O. Box 1212, Portland, Oregon 97208

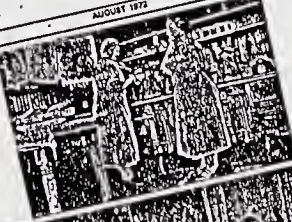

Walter Mattila

PORTLAND, OREGON

AUGUST 1972

September 1, 1962

VOL. 7 NO. 3

Over the years, early Finnish boarding houses have brought out the social and cultural life of these many immigrants and their descendants in the American West. From busy saloons to quiet lodges in the boarding houses, in those places, men, women, children, and the families of those who came to America, lived and worked. In the boarding houses, men, women, and children, and the families of those who came to America, lived and worked. In the boarding houses, men, women, and children, and the families of those who came to America, lived and worked.

**SIIRTOKANSAN
KALENTERI**
1959



PRINTED IN U.S.A.

HINTA \$1.25

EARLY FINNS TO ASTORIA

The first Finn to settle in Clatsop County was Charles Newman from the town of Liminka, Finland, who came here in 1859. His story is told in the Winter 1991-92 issue of *Cumtux*. B. A. Seaborg led the first large immigration of Finns which arrived in the county in 1873. The names below from Rev. S. Ilmonen's book, *Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia II*, printed in 1923, were provided by Merle Reinikka. A copy of this book is in the Astoria Public Library and contains names of many people who lived in other towns in the county. On the page at left are publications about Finnish immigrants.

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth in Finland	Date Arr. in U.S.	Date Came to Astoria	Died
Antti Anderson (Kerttula)	1850	Siikajoki	1876		1890
Matti Anderson (Kerttula)	1852	Siikajoki	1873		1911
Viktor Anderson	1850	Vehmaa	1859	1869	
Peter Annunti	1821	Kukkola	1873	1880	1887
Johan A. Annunti	1848	Kukkola	1873	1880	
Peter Annunti	1854	Kukkola	1873		
Albert Bjorkman	1848	Raahe	1874	1880	
Matti Berry (Pirila)	1843	Siikajoki	1873	1880	1909
Carl Carlson (Makitalo)	1849	Matarenki	1872	1877	1917
Mikael Erickson	1849	Russian Karelia on Great lake	1874	1878	1920
Antti Eskola	1850	Siikajoki	1873	1877	
August Eskola	1855	Siikajoki	1873	1877	
Henrik Eskola	1852	Siikajoki	1876		
Isak Eskola		Siikajoki			
Erik L. Erickson (Klapuri)	1838	Kalvia	1873		1888
Johan Gustafson (Maunumaki)	1854	Kalvia	1872	1873	
Kustaa Gustafson	1836	Isokyro	1873	1880	
Fredrick Hannila	1854	Kalajoki	1874		1916
Aleksander Haquist (Tuomaala)	1860	Kalvia	1879		
Erik Haquist (Tuomaala)	1832	Kalvia	1879		1900 abt
Louis Haquist (Tuomaala)		Kalvia			1893

Herman Hedman (Purtilo)	1837	Isokyro	1872	1873	
Herman Helander	1838	Kalajoki			1900
Kustaa Helstrom	1847	Raahe	1866	1877	
August Hendrickson (Mursu)	1852	Kuusamo	1871	1883	
Johan Hendrickson	1850	Pattijoki	1872		1915 abt
Olli Hendrickson (Suopankki)					
Antti Holm (Holmberg)	1851	Taivassalo	1874		1910
Jakob Hossa	1850	Suomussalmi	1878		
Jakob Jacobson (Heikkila)	1856	Simo	1870		1913
Johan Jacobson (Niemela)	1847	Salois	1875	1877 abt	
Martin Johnson	1848	Suomussalmi	1872	1879	
Abram Juntti	1858	Matarenki	1877		
Lars Freed Kaitila	1856	Hailuoto	1879		
Isakki Kallio	1846	Karunki	1871		1892
Johan A. Kallunki	1849	Kuusamo	1873	1879?	1890
Antti Kari	1852	Kalajoki	1873	1877	
Fredrik Karinen	1861	Kaavuono	1871		
Gabriel Karvonen	1846	Salois	1871		1920
Heikki Kastell	1857	Oulujoki	1870 after		1883
Jakob Kaski	1836	Isokyro-Vuotila	1871	1873	
Jakob Kaukonen	1852	Ylistaro	1873	1877	1916
Joosef Kippo	1855	Kalvia	1872	1873	1899
Isakki Korvelin	1848	Raahe	1869		1885
Abram Kettunen	1835	Jurva	1876		
Johan Koski	1854	Kalvia	1872	1873	
Kalle Larson	1851	Oulu	1874	1880	
William Lindberg	1854	Merimasku	1878		
Heikki Lumpus	1841	Tervola	1872		1917
Johan August Luukas	1847	Tornio	1872		1905
Antti Malmstrom (Maunula)	1840	Kalvia			1898
Emanuel Maunula	1845	Kalvia	1872	1873	
Erkki Maunula	1851	Kalvia	1871	1873	1915
Mikko Mattlin (Mattila)		Sodankyla	1873		1916
Erik Melin	1841	Kalvia	1872	1873	1885
Kalle Melin	1851	Kalvia	1877		1920
Isak Melin	1852	Rymattyla	1872	1882	
Jakob Moore (Muuri)	1852	Vehkalahti	1874		
Johan Orjala		Lohtaja	1873		

Johan Pekkala		Alatornio	1871		
Peter Pekkala		Alatornio	1873	1880	
Janne Penttila (Riipa)			1871	1873	1880
Frans Penttila			1871	returned to Finland	
Johan Peterson	1837	Karunki	1879		1911
Peter Peterson (Jampsa)	1845	Haukipudas	1873		1910
Herman Planting	1847	Kemijarvi	1873	1877 after	
Johan Riikonen	1849	Pattijoki	1878		
Leander Ruohoja		Kalvia	1871	1873	
Leander Rusko			1873	1877	
Mikael Salvon (Salonen)	1852	Oulu	1875	1877	1917
Aksel Seaborg (Sjoberg)	1841	Vaasa	1869	1873	
Henrik Simonson (Simontaival)	1845	Pudasjarvi	1871		
Joseph Simonson	1854	Pudasjarvi	1878		
Edward Sjostedt (Lundwald)	1844	Oulu	1869	1877	1881
Stefan Stephanson (Kangasto)	1854	Rovaniemi	1879	1882	
Johan Evert Sundstrom	1849	Uusikaupunki		1877	
Kustaa Saikaa	1853	Raahe	1874		1886
August Thompson		Pyhajoki	1870		1920
Erik Thompson (Vuotila)	1845	Pyhajoki	1870	1882	
Tuomas Thompson (Tuhkala)	1856	Pyhajoki	1871	1873	
Johan Tolva	1858	Kuusamo	1873	1880	
Matti Toppila	1853	Pudasjarvi	1875		1888
Johan Tuomaala	1841	Kalvia	1872	1873	1898
Johan A. Wallin	1832	Raahe	1868	1880 after	1916
Johan Wallin		Pattijoki			
Johan Wiik	1848	Raahe	1875	1877	
Johan Vilmi			1872		
Johan Wilson (Eskola)	1850	Vihanni	1872		
Joseph Astrom (Uusitalo)	1851	Kalvia	1872	1873	
Kalle Astrom (Uusitalo)		Kalvia	1873		

American equivalents of some of the names are: Kalle-Charles, Johan-John, Matti-Matthew, Kusti-August, Tuomas-Thomas, Erik, Erick, Antti-Andrew and Heikki-Henry. Dates do not always agree with other sources, but may still be useful.

The Finnish Brotherhood Lodge

The Astoria Lodge of the United Finnish Kaleva Brothers and Sisters was established on December 6, 1886, the first officers being Charles Larson, president; Jacob Moore, vice-president; Walter Helmstrom, secretary; Gust Makela, financial secretary, and Emanuel Maunula, treasurer. Fifty members joined at this meeting. A month later, a proposed constitution was approved and the incorporation papers were recorded on January 13, 1887 at Salem, Oregon. Article 2 of the constitution states:

“The object of this corporation and its business pursuits shall be to unite in a Brotherhood, to aid assist and relieve the members of this organization, to watch over the destitute and sick, to bury the dead, and to do other benevolent acts. To enlist their sympathies and combine their strength in helping one another, to sustain a library for the benefit of its members. To hold, purchase and acquire property, real and personal, to bargain, sell, mortgage, or convey it at pleasure, to lease or buy all kinds of real or personal property, to borrow, or loan money, and to give or receive all manner of notes and mortgages or other securities thereof.”

The first benefit paid out was in August of 1887. Claims for help grew at a rapid pace until the treasury was in danger of becoming depleted. Fund-raising events were initiated and continue today.

In 1900, our local Finnish Brotherhood urged other Finnish societies along the West Coast, who operated under similar by-laws, to consolidate, and after years of negotiating, many lodges joined together, becoming the United Finnish Brotherhood of the World.

In May of 1894, a group of women formed a sisterhood lodge. Twenty-three years later the local all-male Finnish Brotherhood lodge persuaded the women's organization to join with the men. A committee promised the woman's organization that they would have all the same rights and privileges as the men. In 1923, the sewing club was formed to arrange bazaars and make money for the lodge.

In 1931, the Finnish Temperance Society which owned the Suomi Hall offered to sell it to the lodge for \$1.00 if the lodge would assume the mortgage. The lodge turned down the offer, but three years later accepted it. They paid off the \$4,500 mortgage in four years.

Members of the Finnish Brotherhood Lodge have been involved in many activities that have benefitted the whole community. Among these activities are: They saved lives during the influenza epidemic in 1918-1919 by hiring nurses to care for the sick. They persuaded local residents of the need for a new hospital, then loaned money for its construction in 1927. (This was the old Columbia Hospital.) During World War II, members allowed Suomi hall to be used rent-free for groups involved in war-time benefit activities. They were primarily responsible for the initial development of Tapiola Park. They helped build Fort Clatsop, and moved and restored the Lindgren House. Today, members visit the sick and entertain the elderly.

From the translation by Jennie E. Niemi of the book, History of the Astoria U.F.K.B. & S. Lodge No. 2, a Finnish 50-year history originally printed in 1937.

Presidents of the U.F.K.B. & S. Lodge No. 2 1886-1995

1886-1887	Charles Larson	1935	Ed Ek
1888	Jacob Kaski	1936	Frank W. Jaakkola
1889-1890	Andrew Perry	1937-1941	Nick Warila
1891-1894	Fred Wickham	1942	Richard Wirkkunen
1895	Martin Jackson	1943-1947	Nick Warila
1896-1897	J.W. Panttaja	1948-1952	Walter Anderson
1898-1899	Fred Wickman	1953-1958	Alvin Salo
1900	Jacob Kaski	1959-1960	Gusti Saxberg
1901	Sam Peterson	1961	Matt Kujala
1902-1903	Charles Larson	1962-1963	Walter Anderson
1904-1905	Sam Peterson	1964-1966	Nancy Mattila
1906-1909	Eric Gustafson	1967-1968	Edwin Niska
1910-1911	August Jacobson	1969	Thomas Mattson
1912-	Henry Niemi	1970-1971	Anni Salo
1913-1914	Victor Hendrickson	1972-1973	John Prepula
1915-1919	Arvid Moisio	1974-1975	Edwin Niska
1920-1921	Richard Wirkkunen	1976-1979	Anni Salo
1922-1923	Henry Kauppi	1980-1981	Viola Abrahamson
1924	Frank Jaakkola	1982-1983	Ed Niska
1925-1926	Matt Pietarila	1984-1985	Trygve Duoos
1927	Richard Wirkkunen	1986-1987	Anni Salo
1928-1929	Paul Thompson	1988-1989	Viola Abrahamson
1930	Henry Niemi	1990-1992	Bob Peterson
1931-1934	Frank W. Jaakkola	1993-1995	Gertrude Kinnunen

The U.F.K.B. & S. is the United Finnish Kaleva Brothers and Sisters, commonly called the Finnish Brotherhood. Note that the president in 1984 and 1985 was Trygve Duoos, a Norwegian, and one of the esteemed members of this society.

The Seaside Finns

Reminiscences of Inez Stafford Hanson:

Most of the Finns congregated in one area of Seaside where they built their houses and saunas. They were very hard workers. They patronized the Selness and Wheatley grocery and dry goods store that was located on Broadway between Roosevelt and Holladay streets. During the Depression when there was no money to be had and each day was a struggle to try to get by, John Selness was very generous and kept them going. As soon as times got better, they paid him back everything they owed, establishing a reputation for integrity in Seaside.

The Kankkonen Brothers

A Family History Written For Their Descendants

by

J. Marlene Eskola Taylor

Among the thousands of Finnish immigrants who came to Astoria in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries were many who rose to prominence and who contributed much to the Uniontown community, as well as Astoria. Included in any listing of prominent Finns would be the Kankkonen brothers: Carl Wilhelm (who changed his name upon arrival in America to Charles Wilhelm Wilson), Frans Oskar Kankkonen, and Matts Frithiof Kankkonen.

Charles (1861-1918) emigrated from Finland in 1879, Frans (1864-1919) in 1893, and Frithiof (1879-1948) in 1902.

Not average immigrants, they were very

intelligent, well educated, and very religious men who were hard-working, industrious, and endowed with executive as well as mechanical abilities.

Separately and together the Kankkonen brothers would propel Wilson Bros. Boat Builders and Construction into Wilson Shipbuilding, Incorporated, build Taylor School, and construct the interiors of the 1905 St. Mary's Hospital addition. Over a period of forty-eight years, each of the three brothers would be at the helm of the Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing Company. But their story began in Finland . . .

Finland, with its forests and 700 miles of seacoast, would remind one of Oregon. It had been colonized by Sweden in the 12th century and became a Grand Duchy of Sweden in 1556. For centuries Finland had been a buffer zone between Sweden and Russia, with control see-sawing many times. Eventually, the Russian bear overpowered and Finland was the prize, becoming a Grand Duchy of Russia in 1809.

Even under Russian rule, Finland maintained a Swedish flavor and for many decades was the only self-governing country in the Russian Empire. The Czar eventually tried to change that, which led the Finns to fight for inde-



Charles Wilson

pendence, which they gained in 1917.

Between 1870 and 1910, large numbers of Finns emigrated to America: some to avoid conscription, some because times had been hard (there had been famine as late as 1868), and some just because they saw a life in America filled with promise and hope.

Kankkonen ancestors

The Kankkonen brothers' great-great grandfather, Zachris Thomasson Hilli (1725-1808) and great-grandfather Isac Zachrisson Hilli (1761-1832) were both peasant farmers in Gamlakarleby, which was located on the western coast of Finland on the Gulf of Bothnia, an arm of the Baltic Sea. It is now called Kokkola.

At that time much of the land had been awarded to Swedish nobles who were for the most part absentee landlords. The Hilli's were probably "tenant farmers." At that time, a person's middle name was that of his or her father with either "(s)son" or "(s)dotter" added. Their surnames generally indicated the town or area where they lived or was even the name of their landlord. That is why many Finns have names like Jarvi (lake), Niemi (headland), Joki (river) or Maki (hill).

This system changed late in the 18th century.

A Finnish hero

The brothers' grandfather was Gustaf Adolf Isacsson Kankkonen (1792-1845). He was a farmer and shipbuilder in Gamlakarleby who built and became master of his own sailing vessel. On his birthday in 1845, he drowned in a shipwreck in the North Sea. His oldest son Mathias (1815-1899) became a Finnish hero during the Crimean war. The Kankkonen brothers always took great pride in telling the story of their illustrious uncle.

During the Crimean war (1854-1856), in which France and England allied with Turkey to fight the Russians, Finland, as part of the Russian empire, was vulnerable, and many Finnish ports were burned and plundered. In May 1854, English sailors from the frigates *Leopard* and *Valorous*, and the corvettes *Odin* and *Vulture* rowed cannonboats off Raahe on the Finnish coast and set fire to 15,000 barrels of tar, as well as docks and buildings. Nearby Gamlakarleby was warned of an impending attack, and since they had had lookouts since the beginning of the war, they were able to observe the



Frans Kankkonen



Frithiof Kankkonen

English as they made their way up the coast. The townspeople, led by trade counselor Anders Donner, decided to put up a fight against the English intruders. As the English cannonboats entered the waters off Gamlakarleby, the townspeople attacked. Matti Kankkonen was a local farmer and seal hunter who was known as a master shot. Family legend says he shouted, "I'll get the pretty one," and killed the gold-braid bedecked commander of the attacking boat with one shot. His name was Nathaniel J. Morphy. There were nine Englishmen killed, ten wounded, and thirty prisoners taken in the subsequent skirmish, but the English were repelled. Only four townspeople were wounded.

For this bravery Matti Kankkonen, along with Anders Donner, was decorated with a silver medal by Czar Alexander. Their portraits hang in the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. There is also a monument in Kokkola commemorating the attack, where a captured cannonboat is displayed, and Kokkola native son, Matti Kankkonen, is honored. All of Finland, not just the Kankkonens, reveres Matti as a national hero. To this day there are several gunowners around Kokkola who claim their prize gun was fired by master shot Kankkonen. As with much of history, this story has been told by others with various adaptations and accreditations, but this is confirmed by both a 1975 brochure from the Kokkola memorial and in a Vaasa newspaper retrospective published in 1968, as well as Finnish history books.

Wilhelm Kankkonen

Gustaf Adolf Isaacson Kankkonen had nine children, the oldest being our hero Matti and the youngest Wilhelm, who was the father of Charles, Frans and Frithiof.



Matti Kankkonen, Finnish hero, 1854

Wilhelm (1833-1924) married Brita Mattsdotter Riippa (1837-1920) of Kalvia. In addition to the brothers there were sisters Hilda, Milga, and Fanny. Milga (1871-1943) also emigrated to Astoria and married Leander Lebeck, another Finn immigrant who became a well-known contractor in Astoria, building roads, wharves, piers and canneries. Hilda (1862-1930) married Anders Uunila and settled in Himanka, Finland. Fanny (1876-1932) never married.

Wilhelm Kankkonen learned carpentry and shipbuilding from boyhood and at only 18 years of age built a full-rigged ship. He then trained in the miller's trade. Between 1865 to 1881 he and his family left Gamlakarleby and moved up the coast to build a flour mill at Pyhajokki. He finally gave it up after a time of great financial depression and moved back to

Gamlakarleby. From then on, he once again worked as a carpenter and contractor, as well as a shipbuilder. It was these skills he taught his sons. They all learned well, and with these skills and a Finnish work ethic, they would all come to a new land and a new home.

The first son emigrates

Charles Wilson left Finland in 1879 at the age of 18, when Frans was 14 and before Frithiof was born. It was a time of financial difficulty so there probably were no funds available for further schooling. Though only a boy, he had been building boats with his father and uncle since he was 12. Upon arrival in America he lived a short time in Muskegon, Michigan and then went to Whitecloud, Michigan where he was employed in logging and construction. He didn't like Michigan and had heard about Astoria from others since his uncle's whole family had emigrated to farms in Hockinson, Washington in 1877 and 1880.

He migrated to Oregon in 1881, working on the construction of the Willamette Valley and Corvallis Railroad, which ran between Corvallis and Newport. He was on this project from start to finish, May 1881 until March 1885. Upon completion of the railroad, he came to Astoria.

His first job was helping to build the Washington Cannery which was later owned by Tallant and Grant. He then built a boat, acquired nets, and became a fisherman. He fished for a good many years, getting the highest tonnage on two occasions. By 1887, he had also established his off-season trade as a boat builder. One winter, he built thirty-five fishing boats and two gasoline launches. Obviously, he employed others in this endeavor. He improved the design of the sailing gillnet boat, making it more

seaworthy for treacherous bar-fishing. He was also one of the first persons to install an engine in a gillnet fishing boat. Others told him it would never work because the nets would get tangled in the propeller, but he solved that problem by installing a steel basket around the propeller. It worked and is still in use today.

On December 29, 1888, Charles Wilson married Susanna Beata Niemela (1872-1943) who, in 1880, had emigrated from Oulu, Finland to Clatskanie with her parents and siblings.

In 1893, they, with a toddler and an infant, returned to Kokkola for a nine-month visit with Charles' family. The visit was partly to assist his father with a major project. Both Charles and Susan noted the differences in lifestyle from Astoria. Susan especially disliked it there after thirteen years in America and was probably afraid they might not return. But they did and they brought brother Frans and his new wife, Emilia Margareta Haggren (1863-1920), with them. One can almost picture 13-year old Frithiof being left behind.

Frans Kankkonen had been educated as an architect in the Finnish Industrial Schools in Helsinki. This was three years of twelve-hour days. Higher education at that time was taught in Swedish. The Kankkonen brothers all spoke Swedish as well as Finnish. After finishing school, Frans served in the Finnish army for three years and then was the mechanical engineer in the construction of the government railway through Finland.

Wilson Bros.

Charles' boatbuilding business became Wilson Bros. though Frans did not change his name. The first boatshop was at 242 Columbia, just up hill from the Doughboy statue. Boats were hauled by



*Charles and Susanna Wilson
December 1888*

teams to the river, which was closer than now since much fill was done later. When they moved to a second shop near the west end fire station, the shop on Columbia was converted to a private dwelling. The third boatshop was a structure just north of the railroad tracks on the Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing premises at what is now 320 West Marine Drive. It was torn down in 1965, "a drab and weathered monument to pioneer enterprise." (*Columbia Press* July 1, 1965) A fourth shop had also been located near the cannery.

Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing Company was founded in October of 1896 by two hundred fishermen, to insure themselves a fair return for their fish as well as assure the consumer a quality product. Forced into this action by fish prices they considered too low, they risked their savings and labors in this co-operative enterprise.

On January 8, 1897, Charles W. Wilson was elected to the first board of directors and shortly thereafter was named President. Frans Kankkonen was named architect and builder of the cannery as well as cannery superintendent. A site was purchased on January 16, 1897 and the initial plant erected. It was approximately 50 x 200 feet and was built by the stockholders. They received \$1.50 a day working on the cannery. They built the net-racks without pay. Charles served as president until ill health forced him to retire in 1915. After serving as superintendent, Frans Kankkonen became manager in 1902. He was superintendent again in 1903 and became the first general manager when that position was established in 1907. He



*The Charles Wilson house in 1900,
corner of Lincoln and West Exchange*



Union Fishermen's Cannery in the early 1900s

remained in that capacity until 1913 when he retired to pursue other interests.

In 1904 Frans had made a trip to Europe to create interest in Union Fish's mild cure salmon pack, opening up new markets in Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Finland where he also visited his parents. Upon his return, he called upon buyers in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Sioux City. It seems quite an accomplishment for an immigrant who had learned English during the previous eleven years.

Charles and Frans served Union Fish while simultaneously running their own boat building and construction business. They also built their own homes: Frans' at 271 Alameda at Melbourne and then Charles and Susan's new home at 145 Lincoln. Charles had much admired the

Flavel House while it was under construction so one can see elements of it in his exterior design. It was torn down in 1959. Frans' home also no longer stands.

On November 21, 1901, Wilson Bros. contracted to build the Sanborn-Cutting Company cannery in Uniontown. It was located approximately where the Astoria Warehousing, Inc. is now. Then on May 17, 1902, Wilson Bros. was awarded the contract to build Taylor School in Uniontown for \$4300. At the present location of Crestview, it was to be two stories, the second floor to be completed the next year. The job was finished October 12, 1902 in time for the start of school. Taylor School was remodeled by others several times. Pictures seen of the school are after a major remodel in 1907-1909. Taylor School served many Uniontown children for twenty-eight years, including

a few dozen Wilsons and Kankkonens. It closed in 1930.

Youngest brother Frithiof emigrated from Finland and arrived in Astoria just in time to work on Taylor School. He, too, having learned carpentry and boatbuilding skills from his father and uncle, had attended the three-year Architectural Industrial School in Helsinki.

Frithiof left Finland in early July 1902, arriving in New York on July 13 on the vessel *Campania*. Upon arrival in Astoria on July 19, he worked for his brothers on the school and almost immediately sent for his intended bride, Hilma Johanna Silander (1884-1925) of Helsinki. Charles met her train in Portland and on October 16, 1902, Frithiof and Hilma were married.

Twenty-two year old Frithiof worked for

and with his older brothers as well as running his own contracting business. He also fished for a few years. In September 1903, Frithiof supervised building of a 1200-ton capacity cold storage for Union Fish. Later he also supervised construction of their cannery and cold storage at Wheeler.

In 1905, Frithiof built a new home at 252 Cambridge on Church Hill, almost across from where the Finnish Congregational Church stood. The house still stands at the corner of Lincoln and Cambridge. By 1916, the Frithiof Kankkonen home was probably bursting at the seams and the family moved to a new house at 671 Florence, overlooking Youngs Bay and Wilson Bros. shipyard. Frithiof's grandson, Charles W. (Buddy) Hoell now owns this house, which had been converted to apartments while out of the family. Great-granddaughter Chris Lynn

*The Petrel, Alaska cannery tender built in 1907,
one of hundreds built by Wilson Bros.*



Taylor lives on the main floor.

In 1905, Wilson Bros. was awarded the sub-contract for the interiors of the four-story frame structure of the St. Mary's Hospital addition. Their contract covered the woodwork, plastering and painting as well as the front entrances with cement floors. The new building was 124 x 45 feet with a 70 x 35 foot wing and was erected on 16th Street between Duane and Exchange at a total cost of \$50,000. This building became a nursing home in 1950 and continued in operation until 1967. Now, it's the parking lot across from the Heritage Museum. Wilson Bros. continued to build hundreds of boats even while busy with contracting jobs. In 1907, they built the steamers *General Washington* and *Julia B.*, both of which carried passengers and freight between Astoria and Lower Columbia ports. They also built the launch *Independence II* for Union Fish in 1910, *Independence I* having been built in 1897. Many Alaska and Astoria gillnet boats and cannery tenders were built during those years. A Wilson Bros. boat had become a standard of high quality.

While general manager of Union Fish, Frans had spent much time in urging the building and stocking of fish hatcheries. The Klaskanine Fish Hatchery in Olney was the end result of his and others efforts. In April 1911, Frithiof Kankkonen supervised the construction of its main building and cottages. The lumber was hauled up Youngs River by boat. In those days river travel was common. The families often visited Greenwood Cemetery, all piling into a Union Fish launch for a Sunday afternoon outing.

Frithiof joins Wilson Bros.

In 1911, Frithiof finally joined his brothers as a full-fledged member of the Wilson Bros. firm. In December 1911,

they acquired the property of the Universal Sash and Door company at Smith's Point and a considerable strip of land adjacent to it from F. J. Taylor, altogether 500 x 2000 feet in area. It was located where the west end Sentry Market and the old service station stand at Smith's Point, bearing in mind the present highway didn't exist and the shipyard property extended over to where the old road runs alongside the highway. Four boatyards had successively become too small; now they needed space big enough to handle new demands in the future, bigger boats than the fishing boats, cannery tenders and small steamers they'd built up to that time. Plans were to remodel and expand the facility and to re-build the old Astoria Iron Works ways (slanted timberwork on which ships are built) on the property to become an up-to-date shipbuilding plant capable of handling any size coasting craft such as gasoline, steam, and sailing schooners. And before long, they did.

About this time, although the date isn't known, Frithiof Kankkonen spent a six-month period working for one of the large shipyards in San Francisco. It is obvious that the brothers decided it was prudent and necessary to see how the "big boys" did it and Frithiof was sent to observe and learn. He was, even with his growing family, the logical choice since both Charles and Frans were involved with Union Fish. Such was the price of partnership, even with brothers.

Business prospered in the new location. One prized contract was for an all-mahogany launch for the U.S. Corps of Engineers. It was the 86-foot survey cruiser *Suisun*, equipped with a 6-cylinder Corliss gasoline engine. The workmen had to wear tennis shoes to protect the planking while it was being built. *Suisun* was launched June 8, 1914.



Below: the Suisun under construction. Charles Wilson in suit and derby hat; Frithiof in vest and cap. Above: the Suisun ready to sail.



By 1914 Frans Kankkonen had retired from Union Fish. In addition to all his other special qualifications, Frans was an inventor. He invented and held a patent on a rubber sealant compound that allowed the sealing of a can by machine. Prior to that time, the process required hand labor and the use of acid and solder. His factory was adjacent to the shipyard, as was the Astoria Tannery which he also operated. Soon his invention was well-known throughout the canning industry, including Australia and Japan. For some time he was the sole manufacturer but eventually others produced it also, regardless of his patent rights. After his death, his daughters continued to operate the plant for a few years but eventually gave up to stronger competition and sold the business to a Seattle industrialist.

A man of diverse interests, Frans was also involved in building the elaborate dike at Kelso, Washington, by which large amounts of inundated land was expected to be reclaimed.

Just before the United States got into World War I, Wilson Bros. won a contract to build two wooden, 221-foot long, steam schooners for the McCormick Steamship Company, which was engaged in coastwise lumber trade. They were the largest ships they had built up to that time. The *Wahkeena* was launched on December 10, 1916, and christened by Charles Wilson's daughter Martha. The second was the *Ernest H. Meyer*, launched January 20, 1917, and christened by young Gertrude Cochran, daughter of the McCormick representative. Each ship cost \$150,000.

At the same time the two steamers were under construction, Wilson Bros. had eleven other smaller projects underway. Business was jumping!

Wilson Shipbuilding

On April 12, 1917, Wilson Bros. shipyard was no more. It became a part of a new corporation called Wilson Shipbuilding, its members being P.J. Brix (grandfather of P.J. Brix of present day Brix Maritime Company), E.H. Collins, J.A. Byerly, Charles Wilson and Frithiof Kankkonen. New ways would be built and the plant equipped with new machinery to engage in the building of vessels on a large scale. The company had already bid on new submarine chasers for the government.

Peter J. Brix came to the new corporation as head of the Knappton mill and Brix Logging; Collins with huge lumber interests including holdings in Ostrander, Washington; Byerly as manager of the Ostrander mill and owner of timber interests near there; Charles Wilson and Frithiof Kankkonen had the Wilson Bros. shipyard and the expertise. For a while they would be among the largest wooden shipbuilding plants in the Northwest and would employ nearly a thousand men. They had four large ways.

Wilson Shipbuilding received a contract from the Emergency Fleet Corporation of the U.S. Shipping Board to turn out ten Ferris-type wooden ships. Ferris-type steamers were 325 feet long, powered by triple expansion steam engines. They were built entirely of fir, strengthened by steel bracing inside the hull, fastened with huge iron bolts and 12 x 1/2 inch square galvanized iron spikes, pounded in with air hammers. The *Owatama*, for example, was completed in 173 working days.

The shipbuilding boom doubled Astoria's population. Wilson Shipbuilding, the McEachern yard at the foot of 7th Street and the Rodgers Shipyard at Pier 2 all had government contracts.

Wilson Bros. with two McCormick Steamship lumber carriers under construction in 1916. The building at right is the Union Fish bunkhouse. This is the present site of the West End Bayside Sentry and the old service station property on the east side of the "new" Youngs Bay Bridge.







First Ferris-type ship built by Wilson Shipbuilding, the Quoque, launched May 18, 1918

Of the ten ships contracted by Wilson Shipbuilding, five were completed before the war ended and one soon after. The seventh hull was made into a barge and the eighth and ninth left unfinished when the government ordered all work done above the deck lines stopped on March 11, 1919. The tenth had not been begun. One unfinished hull became a dock in Williamsport and the other remained at the shipyard for years. The ships that were completed and launched were:

<i>Bonifay</i>	7/4/18	Mrs. J. A. Byerly
<i>Wakiki</i>	9/2/18	Mrs. Fred Wilson (daughter-in-law of Charles)
<i>Owatama</i>	12/18/18	Aili Kankkonen (daughter of Frithiof)
<i>Onteora</i>	4/1919	Mrs. Viggers
<i>Egeria</i>	8/21/19	Mrs. Eyers
(a barge)		

The Indian names were selected by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the President of the United States.

	Launched On	Christened By
<i>Quoque</i>	5/18/18	Irene Brix
<i>Lonoke</i>	6/10/18	Ellen Wilson (daughter of Charles)

By March 19, 1919, only sixteen Wilson Shipbuilding employees remained. It had been great while it lasted, but Astoria's shipbuilding boom was over, and so was

Wilson Shipbuilding's.

In 1921, when the automobile became more than something to scare the horses, Captain S.F. "Fritz" Elfving decided that people wanted to get across the Columbia River in their cars, so he decided to begin regular ferry service. Wilson Shipbuilding was called upon to build the first ferry. It was a 64-foot long boat called *Tourist* and was built for \$17,000. It carried 15 cars and made its first crossing from Astoria to McGowan on May 1, 1921.

Tourist No. 2 was built in 1924 and had a 22-car capacity, being 110 feet long. It was launched June 17, 1924, costing approximately \$40,000. *Tourist No. 2* went to war in World War II, pressed into service laying buoyant mines in the Columbia River. She was re-named *Octopus*. She was sold back to Elfving after the war. *Tourist No. 2* is currently owned by Pierce County, Washington, and has been renamed the *Islander* and is for sale (seventy years old and going strong).

During those post-war years, the shipyard also built diesel tugboats for both Arrow Tug and Knappton, a harbor patrol boat, the *Fred W. Mulkey* for the Port of Portland, and numerous fishing boats and trollers.

In 1926, the uncompleted ship's hull left at war's end was used by Cecil B. DeMille to make the movie *Yankee Clipper*, starring William Boyd.

In 1927, the shipyard was leased to Jalmar Wilson who continued to build fishing boats, trollers, and tugs until the Depression caused a lack of orders and he ceased operation. In June 1929, part of the shipyard land and buildings were sold to Edward Kankkonen and Carl

(Kankkonen) Wilson for a service station. Thus, Wilson Shipbuilding passed out of existence. Apparently all of the principals just walked away. Nothing remains except pilings and remnants of the ways under the water.

First Wilson Bros. and then Wilson Shipbuilding had provided work for hundreds of men, mostly Finns and other Scandinavians. The brothers were firm believers in nepotism: the payroll always showed a number of their children and other relatives. Nearly all of the older children worked at the shipyard: Jalmar, Fred, Ellen, Adolph, and Arthur Wilson and Carl and Ed Kankkonen. Many of the children and later, even grandchildren, worked at Union Fish.

Union Fish

In February 1921, Frithiof Kankkonen had been named general manager of Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing Company, the third of the brothers to be at the helm of the company. Charles had passed away on November 22, 1918 at age 57, followed by Frans on July 15, 1919 at age 54.

Frithiof guided Union Fish during the recession following World War I; the disastrous time of the stock market crash; the Depression years, and later, World War II. He steered the course, and Union Fish maintained its eminent position in the packing industry. It couldn't have been very easy. Many old-timers who were stockholders tell how they ate a lot of fish in the darker days, but Frithiof had the trust and confidence of both packers and fishermen. Frithiof retired due to ill health in 1945, and passed away April 9, 1948 at age sixty-eight, with the Astorian-Budget eulogizing his accomplishments in an editorial. See page 31.



Wilson Family at Charles' grave, November 1918. From left. Susan holding Virgima, Ellen, Martha, Matt, Adolph, Amta, Fred, Einard, Fred's wife, Beatrice, Arthur; children are Grandson Benny, Dorothy, and John. Jalmar was in the army, still in France.

Frans Kankkonen's daughters: Brigitta, Elsa and Eva in the early 1930s.





Frithiof Kankkonen Family, October 1922. Clockwise from top: Esther, Carl, Aili, Edward, Gertrude, Ruth, Hans. Frithiof with Evert, and Hilma holding Ann Marie.

Union Fish would ultimately be sold, first to Seattle fishing magnate Nick Bez and then becoming Barbey Packing in the 1970s. Before the decade was over the cannery would close forever. It was finally torn down and no longer exists on the Uniontown waterfront, although a few warehouses and the office building still stand.

The Brothers

All three brothers, in addition to being hard-working, capable men, were very religious. All were members of and also served as officers of the very strict Apostolic Lutheran Church. Only Charles held a membership in the Finnish Brotherhood. All were strong prohibitionists.

Charles Wilson served as an Astoria city councilman in 1903, 1908, and 1912. All three were proud to be naturalized American citizens.

Charles W. Wilson (1861- 1918)

Charles was eulogized as a man of genial disposition who made friends wherever he came into contact with men, and as a good father.

He and Susan had fifteen children, twelve surviving at his death. Susan was left a widow with eight young children. The four older children, especially Jalmar and Ellen, supported Susan and their siblings with help from family. As each child grew up, he or she, too, helped: very admirable in that time before Social Security. Jalmar was also a surrogate father to the younger children.

Susan Wilson was a wonderful cook and well-known for her fantastic angel food cakes. She passed away in 1943. Only surviving children are John Wilson in Portland and Virginia Becken in Tucson.

The Wilson Children

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Arthur Edward | born, died 1889 |
| 2. Fred Wilhelm | 1891-1919 |
| 3. Ingeborg Fannie | 1892-1896 |
| 4. Jalmar | 1894-1985 |
| 5. Fannie Susan | 1896-1917 |
| 6. Ellen Ingeborg | 1898-1976 |
| 7. Martha Esther | 1900-1978 |
| 8. Adolph Wilhelm | 1902-1983 |
| 9. Arthur Edward (Chuck) | 1904-1940 |
| 10. Matt Walter | 1906-1956 |
| 11. Olga Anita | 1908-1934 |
| 12. Josef Einard | 1910-1980 |
| 13. Dorothy Mildred Viola | 1912-1976 |
| 14. John Mervyn | 1914- |
| 15. Eva Virginia Alice | 1917- |

At this time there have been sixteen grandchildren, thirty-three great grandchildren, and nine great great grandchildren.

Frans Oskar Kankkonen (1864-1919)

Frans was eulogized as a well-respected and honored man of integrity. His wife, Emilia, had been the sister of a friend and he fell in love with her picture before they met. She was a 29-year-old post-mistress when they married. Emilia followed him in death in 1920.

Frans' daughters ran the family business after his death. Liberated women before it was fashionable, they all married in their middle twenties and are no longer living.

Frans' Children

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Walentin Michael | 1894-1897 |
| 2. Frans Vaino | 1896-1911 |
| 3. Eva Maria | 1898-1978 |
| 4. Brigitta Emilia | 1901-1963 |
| 5. Georg Wilhelm | 1903-1906 |
| 6. Elsa Euphemia | 1905-1964 |

At this time there have been eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren.



Dorothy, Frithiof, Saima, and Robert Kankkonen in 1943.

M. Frithiof Kankkonen (1879-1948)

A much respected man, Frithiof was called "Fritz" by his business associates, "Uncle Fritz" by his many friends, and "Uncle Fish" by the children. He was very personable with a playful wit.

He and Hilma had thirteen children. She died in 1925 after childbirth. He then married Saima Pietarila Ruonelin (1897-1974), a widow with two young sons. Frithiof and Saima had a daughter in 1928.

A very devout Lutheran, he ran a strict but loving home. They didn't even have a radio until World War II when he had four sons and a stepson in the service and felt a need to know the news.

The Astoria grandchildren have favorite memories of Grandpa: picking us up for Sunday School every week, sometimes in the Aspfors' Model T Ford grocery van with side benches in the back; waving to us if we passed his Union Fish office

window, sometimes providing a nickel for a smoked salmon tip; and best of all, watching him fall asleep while balancing backward on two legs of a kitchen chair, waiting...waiting, but he never fell!



"Fritz" Kankkonen, c. 1945

Surviving children are Ruth Howton in Portland, Ann Marie Freeman and Dorothy Freeman (who married brothers) in Mississippi, and Robert Kankkonen in Astoria.

Frithiof's Children

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Aili Johanna | 1903-1962 |
| 2. Carl Matthew | 1905-1950 |
| 3. Esther Margareta | 1906-1981 |
| 4. Toivo Edward | 1907-1959 |
| 5. Sylvia Gertrude | 1909-1981 |
| 6. Hannes Wilhelm | 1910-1972 |
| 7. Eino Frans Oskar | 1912-1921 |
| 8. Ruth Edith | 1915- |
| 9. Evert Walfred | 1916-1979 |
| 10. Martti Lennart | 1917-1920 |
| 11. Axel Frithiof | born, died 1920 |
| 12. Anna Marie | 1921- |
| 13. Robert Allen | 1925- |
| 14. Dorothy Louise | 1928- |

At this time there have been fifteen grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren, and twenty-four great great grandchildren.

Sources:

Microfilm files of the Astoria newspapers at the Astoria Public Library.

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The 50th Anniversary Commemorative publication of the Union Fishermen's

Co-operative Packing Company

Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon. Chapman Pub. Co., Chicago, 1904

Pictures are from:

John Wilson, Marlene Taylor, Robert Kankkonen, Mrs. Hans Kankkonen, Edith Uunila Taylor, Joyce Wilson Cameron, Theresa Wilson.

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By Helena Uunila St. Dennis

Additional information from:

Aune Lager and Judith Rinell Westersund.

The author of this article, J. Marlene Eskola Taylor, resides in Astoria. She is the youngest daughter of Aili Kankkonen and the granddaughter of Frithiof.

Marlene was born and raised in Astoria, graduating from Astoria High School in 1952. Her husband was a career Navy Senior Chief. After his retirement in 1973, they owned a television repair shop in Sparks, Nevada. He passed away in 1977 and she returned to Astoria in 1980. Daughter Chris Lynn Taylor teaches at Star of the Sea and daughter Joni Lawrence lives in Reno with her husband and two daughters. In addition to this family history, Marlene has recently compiled a Kankkonen-Wilson family tree.



J. Marlene Eskola Taylor

Astorian Budget

4

Astoria, Oregon, Monday, April 12, 1948

Frithiof Kankkonen

In the passing of Frithiof Kankkonen, Astoria has lost one of the most distinguished of those numerous fine citizens of this cosmopolitan city who have come to us from countries overseas.

He has contributed much to our community during the nearly half century of his life here. He steered the course of one of our major industrial concerns, the Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing Company, through many vicissitudes and maintained its eminent position in the packing industry. He was known throughout that industry as well as his home community as a man of spotless integrity, high standards of business and personal conduct, and much friendliness.

It is no secret that in the early days of this century, when Mr. Kankkonen came here to make his home, there was the tendency among the residents of this community to look somewhat askance at the immigrants from Finland and the Scandinavian lands who had become such a substantial element in our population.

Mr. Kankkonen, an intelligent, educated and cultured man from a family of much distinction in the old country, was a major factor in dispelling that silly prejudice and in bringing people here to realization and appreciation of the qualities of good citizenship, industry, thrift and good character that the newcomers were able to contribute to Astoria.

Mr. Kankkonen gave much more to Astoria than it gave to him. His life here was long, fruitful, and valuable to his home community. He will be long remembered by the many who knew him and were proud of his friendship.

The Anderson Family

by

Cynthia Anderson Marconeri

Anders Kerttula and Anna Sophia Harpet Haapakangas were thought to have married in Finland in 1882 and emigrated that same year to Astoria, Oregon. Since their first child was born in July of 1883, it is presumed they came directly to Astoria, probably by train as far as Portland and then by boat to Astoria. As was common at that time, my great-grandfather changed his name to what he thought was more pronounceable and American, that of Alfred Andrew Anderson....I will refer to my great-grandfather as Anders to avoid confusion in this narrative....

Anders' and Sophia's first child was born in 1883 and named Alfred Andrew Anderson (not too original, if you ask me and at times highly confusing). Two more children were born: Linda in 1885, and Ella in 1889. My father's cousin, Irving (son of Ella), sent his mother's original baptismal certificate to me to assist in my research. From examining this certificate I question why Anders, who had supposedly changed his name by that time to Alfred Andrew, had signed the certificate with his Finnish name. This remains a mystery. Anders, who had been a carpenter in Finland, and Sophia built a Finnish boarding house in the Uppertown district of Astoria. He also fished for salmon on the Columbia River and they lived in a house directly behind the boarding house. The boarding house itself is now known as the "Desdemona

Club," a local tavern. My uncle, Fred, tells me the Anderson family also owned a neighboring building now known as "Charlie's Place," another local tavern that has since closed (Anderson, F., interview). At some time between 1889 and 1891, Anders became very ill and went to the doctor. He was sent to San Francisco to consult a specialist and subsequently died. As far as we know, he is still there. Anna Sophia then married Anders' brother, Matt K. which was not an unusual thing to do when widowed and left with small children.

Matt, a fisherman, and Sophia produced six more children. James died before his 6th birthday, Harold before his 4th, and Esther as an infant. The surviving three girls, Fannie, Ida and Eva doted on the only surviving male in the family, my grandfather, Alfred.

Alfred graduated from Astoria High School and went on to attend the University of Oregon. I am told he was quite proficient in Greek and was asked to stay after graduation to teach that language (Anderson, J., interview). He refused, having set his sights on attending law school. While attending college, Alfred received many letters from his sisters, Linda and Ella, and half-sisters Fannie and Ida. We were fortunate to find these letters and they tell an amusing story of life in Astoria between 1903 and 1905. The following are excerpts from these letters.

March 19, 1906 (from Linda, age 21): *The Russian Finns had a social and dance at Suomi Hall last night, and I took George Olson. Fannie has to write three essays. One she will have to read when she graduates from the eighth grade. I told her to write about greediness and the pretty Astoria scenery. Will you suggest something for the third one and tell us about at least two greedy things to write about. Ella has stopped work at the laundry.* (Gault, No. 3, p. 6).

Sept. 19, 1902 (From Ella, age 13): *Dear Alfred, Our school does not start till next week. Mr. Jones and wife got drunk last week and they burnt two of their baby's toes off. Police are watching our street. The health officer told the police to arrest any parents of the kids that run on the street. Olga Anderson, your friend, is a maid at young Flavel's house. Mrs. McCormick has taken the job to clean the courthouse. She will get \$20 a month.* (Gault, Oct. 20, p. 6)

May 16, 1905 (From Fannie, age 13): *Papa is fishing and has caught fish sometimes. There was a circus in Alderbrook yesterday. I had to pay 25 cents, but everybody else had to pay 50 cents. Papa didn't go. Ida had to get glasses and she looks so funny. She'd be good to scare the crows away. Ella goes to high school, and she hates it.* (Gault, Oct. 27, p. 6).

Dec. 8, 1905 (From Linda, age 20): *Mr. Matti Haapaganas has been drinking very heavily all this fall and this last week especially he was to the forts after whiskey this first part of the week and then he started Wed. for more whiskey and he got it alright and where he started for home along the railroad tract Wednesday night he fell off the*

track into the "guldge" or swamp or whatever you would call it and was found there and a demijohn with him Thursday morning and then he was brought here to the hospital and he died about 2 hours after and he will be buried Sunday. I mean Mr. M. Haapaganas your uncle. (Anderson L., letter, 12/8/05).

Poor Linda must have been in quite a state to have written such a long run-on sentence. At this time, we have no idea who Mr. Matti Haapaganas was. We suspect Linda didn't know how to spell Haapakangas which we believe was Anna Sophia's maiden name. Nothing could more graphically describe the lives of these children of Finnish immigrants as these letters.

To continue with the Anderson family saga... After graduating from the University of Oregon Law School in 1909 and passing the bar examination, Alfred married Lillie Sophia Lassila in March of that year. Lillie was the daughter of Finnish immigrants who had settled in the Battleground, Washington area and operated a large farm. She was the eldest of nine children and was just two days short of her 94th birthday when she died. Alfred and Lillie moved to Portland and lived there for 1 1/2 years. He returned to Astoria in 1911 to establish the law firm of Anderson and Erickson. Mr. Erickson eventually became the district attorney in Astoria, so Alfred continued to practice by himself until joined by his son, Robert, in 1937. They were later joined in 1948 by Gordon Sloan. Alfred served in the state legislature during the 1913 and 1915 sessions. He was a longtime member of Zion Lutheran church, the Temple Lodge No. 7, A.F. & A.M., the Finnish Brotherhood (he was the first Treasurer), the Knights of Kaleva, and past president

of Clatsop County Bar Association.

Alfred and Lillie had two sons, Alfred Andrew (you would think they would forget this confusion!) and Robert Charles. Robert, my father, followed in the footsteps of his father by attending the University of Oregon Law School. Returning to Astoria to join his father's law firm, he practiced law for fifty years and retired in 1987. Both Bob and his father, Alfred, were known to be "Finn" lawyers. That is, they could speak Finnish and attracted a lot of clients who felt more comfortable discussing legal matters in their native tongue. My father had also learned sign language and as far as I know was the only attorney in this area who could communicate directly with deaf clients. I don't suppose he had too many clients in this category, but it was certainly an asset when needed. During his legal career, Robert served as Astoria police judge and city attorney. He was appointed to the Board of Governors for the Oregon State Bar Association and accepted the position of U.S. magistrate at Tongue Point when the U.S. Navy was stationed there. More than anything else, his work was his hobby. He was one person who enjoyed courtroom drama and the daily challenges of practicing law. His only other passion was playing golf, and he did that with the

same degree of "sisu" as he conducted his law practice. As young boys, Robert and his brother Fred worked on the "seining" grounds of Sand Island and Peacock Spit in the Columbia River. Using barges to transport horses, equipment and crew, these young Finns hauled in many a salmon.

Robert married Jean Wallace McFadden on June 16, 1945 in Rushville, New York. They had two daughters, Cynthia Jean and Deborah Elaine. After many years in school and a brief stay in Europe, I have returned to Astoria to make my home. My sister, Deborah, lives with her husband and family in Eugene.

.....
Cynthia Anderson Marconeri also wrote the article, "Chinese-Americans in Astoria, Oregon: 1880-1930" in the Summer 1993 issue of Cumtux. Her mother, Jean Anderson, is an active worker on historical society projects.

Editor's notes: According to S. Ilmonen's book (see page 7), Anders (Antti) Anderson was from Siikajoki in Finland. Henry Jones, referred to in one of the letters, was probably also a Finn, who had used the name, Nikander, in Finland and operated a saloon near Uppertown.

T.T. Geer's Observations on Astoria's "Russian" Finns

Printed in the Morning Astorian of August 17, 1907:

...There are those among the older citizens who do not hesitate to declare that fully one-half the population of Astoria is composed of Russian Finns. But it can be said for the Finns that they are as law-abiding as are the native born Americans and their children attend the public schools, speaking fluently both the Russian and English tongues.

There are many hundreds of these Russian families owning their homes and in scores of instances have erected dwellings costing from one to two thousand dollars each, surrounded with beautiful flowers and thrifty gardens. The women care for the homes while the men are absent during the fishing season drifting either in or out with the tide in search of the world renowned chinook salmon."

The Rest of the Story....

by J. Marlene Eskola Taylor

This picture of Jalmar Wilson with a big Chinook salmon is seen regularly in the newspapers as well as being on display at both the Columbia River Maritime and Heritage museums.

Caught on May 26, 1936, the giant Chinook salmon weighed 82 1/2 pounds and was a male fish, 56 inches long and 15 1/2 inches wide. It was caught in the Columbia River ship channel at Astoria, opposite Flavel dock. The picture postcard, made by photographer Frank Woodfield, has been spotted in postcard racks up and down the West Coast, even in recent times. Unbelievably, it was seen in a store in Paris, France, during World War II by John Wilson, Jalmar's youngest brother.

Jalmar's fish was not the biggest Chinook caught in the Columbia River. The largest Chinook salmon ever recorded was 95 pounds, caught by Chief Tostum, a Clatsop Indian, in the 1860s. Other bigger catches were 87 pounds in 1914 and 1931, 85 pounds in 1907 and 1925, and 83 pounds just a month after Jalmar's.

But Jalmar Wilson's fish had yet another distinction. Frithiof Kankkonen, general manager of Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company, from whose boat the fish was caught, decided this fish was worthy of a greater end, so it was packed in ice and shipped to the White House in Washington, D.C. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, wrote Union Fish that "it was the best meal he ever had in the White House."

This "fish story" has been confirmed by Mrs. Victor Urell, whose late husband helped to pack the fish for shipment. A few weeks later, on June 4, 1936, a 65-pound Chinook salmon was sent to the liner "Queen Mary" on her maiden voyage.

And that's the rest of the story!



Jalmar Wilson, May 26, 1936



Zera Arnold

The Lindgren Houses

It must have been living on Alameda Street with so many Finnish neighbors that induced Zera Arnold to combine her interest in the Finnish Lindgren cabin with building models. She painstakingly hand split planks from two cedar bolts to build a miniature replica of the cabin. Every detail was carefully measured to conform to the original. The work is still in progress and Zera makes trips now and then to the cabin to check out certain items. As a result, she has probably learned more about the Lindgren cabin than anyone except those who took the building apart in the remote Soapstone Valley, hauled it to Cullaby Lake, and put all the pieces back together.

That was accomplished by Finns. Among them was Wilho Perttu who was familiar with construction of log houses in Finland. The house (the full-sized one at Cullaby Lake) is operated by the Finnish American Historical Society of the West and is open on weekends during the summer for visitors. There is no charge to look through the house, but donations are welcome. This house was built originally, using only primitive tools, by two Finns, 68 year old Erik Lindgren, and William Merila, a youth who had lost one hand in an accident with a blasting cap. The beams that make up the walls of the house are truly immense; the house is a monument to the resourcefulness of its builders.

The Reunion: A Dream Come True

By Liisa Penner

Every time Helen Angberg sees me, she gives me a hug and says, "I want to thank you so much, and Daraleen Wade and all the others who helped me find my sister's family in Russia. I finally feel at peace." Readers may remember the story of the separation of the girls more than seventy years ago that was told in the Spring 1993 issue of *Cumtux*.

The separation

To recap: sometime after the death of their mother in 1918, the orphaned Helen Elomaa and her sister, Sylvia Elomaa (born 1911 and 1913) and their half-sister, Esther Davis (born 1918) whose father had abandoned them, had been placed with different families. Sylvia had been taken in by George Gratchov and his wife, active socialists. One day in June 1922, Helen had heard that her sister would be boarding the train, to begin a journey to Russia with the Gratchov's along with a party of Finns who were going to a fishing community on the White Sea. Helen feared that she might never see her sister again, but could do nothing to stop the Gratchov's from taking her sister with them. As the years went by, Helen tried to locate her sister, but every attempt failed. Then in 1931, a letter arrived from Sylvia, telling about her marriage and the birth of her daughter, but no letters followed. Helen was unable to reestablish contact. Seventy-two years passed since the sisters were separated, but Sylvia was never far from her sister's thoughts.

Baby Esther, eighteen years later

Helen had also lost contact with her baby sister, Esther, and had been unable to find her. One day, about 1936, a young woman came to the door of the house where Helen and her husband lived. Helen recalls being a bit annoyed and not in the mood to talk to a stranger. When she identified herself as Helen's baby sister, Esther, Helen ran into the bedroom and broke into tears. She was overwhelmed with emotion at finding her. The two kept in close contact from then on and Esther married a good friend of Helen's husband.

A letter from Russia

Helen made a trip to Finland in 1970, hoping to be allowed to enter Russia to search for her sister, Sylvia, but she was refused entry. In January 1993, it was Helen and Esther who were the objects of a search. A letter written by Erna Yoshina from Russia was given to Daraleen Wade of Salem to answer. Erna, Sylvia's daughter, wrote that she wanted to find out the fate of her mother's sister as that had been her mother's last wish. The few names mentioned in the letter were sufficient clues for Daraleen to locate the girls on the 1920 federal census when they were living with their uncle. Daraleen contacted me, asking if the names of the uncle and other family members (Renvalls and Raihalas) might lead to someone who would know what had happened to Sylvia's sister. Remembering that Wilma Aarnio in



From left to right: Esther Nordlund, Erna Yoshina, Sylvia Rital, and Helen Angberg, looking at old photographs.

Brownsmead had been a Raihala, I called her to ask if she knew what happened to the Elomaa girl. She answered, "Yes, I just saw her a week ago." She gave me her name and immediately, I called Helen Angberg who could not believe the news after almost seventy-two years.

The plans for a visit

So much has happened since that day--many letters, phone calls and finally a visit. Helen and Esther learned that their sister, Sylvia, had died in 1976, leaving two daughters, Erna Yoshina and Sylvia Rital, who live now in Petrozovodsk in the western part of Russia. Helen and Sylvia would not be satisfied until their nieces made the trip here. It took many months of effort on both continents to make all the arrangements. On the 21st of August 1994, the sisters arrived at the Seattle airport and were warmly welcomed by their aunts, Helen and

Esther, cousins and other relatives. Helen later said that they talked and laughed and shed buckets of tears.

Sylvia's life in Russia

Helen and Esther always suspected that life for Sylvia in Russia had been hard. They learned from Erna just how hard it had been. Plans for the fishing community had fallen through and George Gratchov, who led the group of Finnish socialists to Russia, took on a teaching position. He became infatuated with one of his students and abruptly abandoned his wife and Sylvia who did not have the resources to sustain themselves adequately. Gratchov's wife died. Sylvia survived, barely. Some years later, Sylvia married and had children. During World War II, German soldiers ravaged areas in western Russia. Sylvia's husband was taken away and killed. She had no place to stay. Two of her



From left to right: Daraleen Wade, Sylvia Rital, Helen Angberg, Erna Yoshina, and Liisa Penner.

children died of starvation and cold. Later the Germans came and took all the smaller children, including Sylvia's youngest daughter, and put them into orphanages; no one knew where. Erna and her mother wandered from place to place together during the war looking for a safe haven. Afterward, they tried to find baby Sylvia, but she was in the orphanage for seven years before they located her. The three were happy to be together again. Sylvia found work as a secretary and their lives improved. Then she developed heart problems and in 1976, at the age of sixty-two, she died in the arms of her daughter, Erna.

The nieces

Sylvia's oldest daughter, Erna Yoshina, was born September 6, 1931. She has one son and one grandchild. Erna is retired now after working forty years in a factory making wool felt for lining boots. After working all that time, she receives a pension of only \$45 a month. She has a car, but had to work an extra job for eight years to pay for it. Erna speaks both Finnish and Russian and

Helen and Erna were able to converse directly in Finnish.

Sylvia Rital was born Dec. 25, 1940 and is also married and has a son and daughter and two grandchildren. She had a brain tumor a few years ago. As a result, she lost her ability to speak and was blind for two years. An operation restored her sight. She had to be taught how to speak again and the language she learned was Russian, not Finnish. When she spoke to Helen, Erna acted as interpreter. During her visit here, Sylvia worked at learning English phrases like "No problem," which always made everyone smile. She lives in an apartment near her sister's place in Petrozovodsk.

The visit

Before the sisters were to leave on their trip west, they stopped at the cemetery where their mother was buried. They took a small scoop of dirt from her grave and packed it away in their suitcase. One day after their arrival here they visited the graves of their grandparents, Frank

Elomaa and Hilda Laurila Elomaa Davis, buried at Greenwood Cemetery. They placed the soil from their mother's grave on their grandparents' graves and then took a small amount from their grandparents' graves to carry back to Russia to put on Sylvia's grave, a symbolic gesture linking the graves of parents and daughter separated by thousands of miles.

On September 10th, family and friends all gathered at Helen's house in Svenson for a big party. Daraleen Wade and I

were invited and enjoyed ourselves immensely. We both agreed that no research we could ever do would give us more satisfaction.

The trip that Helen and Esther and their families had dreamed of was finally near an end, and on September 18th, 1994, their nieces boarded the plane and returned to Russia where they were welcomed home by another happy crowd of relatives and friends. ♦

ASTORIA OLD-TIMERS' TEST

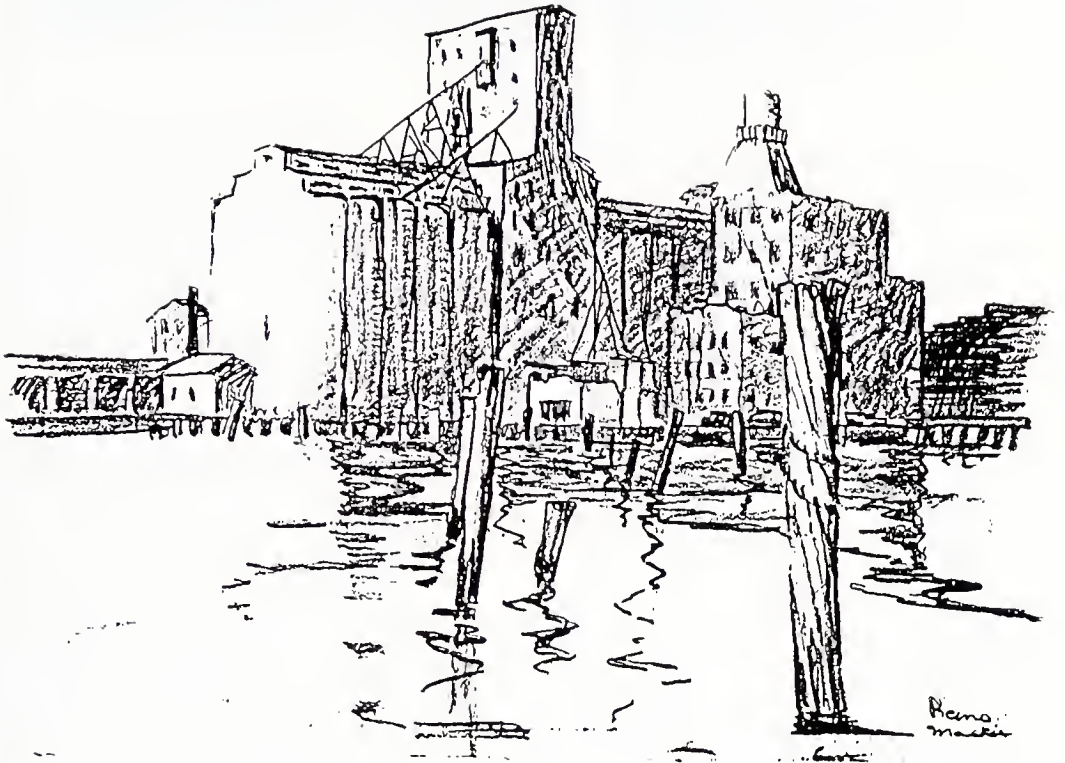
by **D. W. Van Osdol**

So you think you know Astoria? Times change, businesses begin and move on, and a fire may pass through occasionally. Below are listed ten places and/or businesses that once existed in Astoria. Your job is to determine what is there now. See how many you can get correct.

GOOD LUCK!

1. Altoona Packing Company
2. Scow Bay Iron and Brass Works
3. Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence Hospital
4. Fisher's Opera House
5. North Pacific Brewing Company and Ice House
6. Piggly Wiggly Market
7. Sloop & Jeffers Company, Milk and Light Groceries
8. Utzinger & Son, Cigars and Tobacco
9. Astoria Electric Company Power Plant and Car Barn
10. Astoria Public Library and Free Reading Room

For answers, see page 44.



"The Flour Mill" by Reino Mackie

Reino Mackie, Artist

In 1991, Bonnie Oathes' column in the *Daily Astorian*, "Water Under the Bridge: Astoria 50 and 75 Years Ago," told the story of 23-year-old Reino Mackie, who, earlier in 1937 was attending art school in Columbus, Ohio, when he suffered a crippling attack of arthritis. His condition worsened and he was confined to a hospital. In 1941, the Junior Service Club in Astoria, chaired by Robert Thompson, put on a benefit dance for Mackie at the Suomi Hall to raise money to help pay his medical

expenses and buy books, a radio, and other items for him.

The article reminded Esther Jensen Palmberg that in her collection was a drawing that Mackie did about 1933 for an art class taught by her husband, Reuben L. Jensen. Esther Palmberg decided to donate this drawing, now more than sixty years old, to the Clatsop County Historical Society. Such a promising artist should be remembered, she said.

Clatsop County's Finnish Carrie Nation

The March 5, 1898 issue of the *Astorian Budget* tells the story of an angry woman: "The Last Chance saloon, of Uniontown owned and operated by Ole Hendrickson was wrecked this morning by a woman and the act was so popular that it would not have been safe for a policeman to have attempted to arrest her nor can the proprietor procure a warrant for her arrest. The woman was Mrs. Junga, the wife of Abram Junga, a man who has a milk ranch on the Lewis and Clark. His ranch is a good one, and with the assistance of his wife who has several small children, he has a comfortable home and a milk route in the city that brings in a considerable income. Junga has an inordinate passion for whiskey and nearly every month goes on a spree and spends all the money he can get his hands on. Two years ago, on a complaint sworn out by his wife, he was taken before the court and pronounced an habitual drunkard and his wife appointed guardian of his property and person. This fact is known to all the saloons in the city as well as by Hendrickson. On the first of the present month, Junga started on a drunk and failed to return to his Lewis and Clarke home. This morning Mrs. Junga came over to the city and soon located her husband in the Last Chance saloon. She sent word inside for her husband to come out and go home but no attention was paid to her so she went inside and was persuading him to come with her when Hendrickson interfered and ordered her out of the place. Upon her demanding her husband, he struck and choked her and then threw her bodily out into the street. This aroused the

Finnish blood of Mrs. Junga and procuring a club, she started to demolish the place. She started in on the front windows and by the time she had demolished these, out came Hendrickson and she rapped him over the head a couple times and drove him back again. She then completed breaking every window in the place and was about to go inside to treat it likewise when a policeman arrived. The crowd that had collected were cheering the woman on and they warned the officer not to arrest her as she was doing right. The officer then went inside, brought the husband out, and turned him over to his wife who took him to their boat and started for home. The saloon is closed for repairs and the proprietor receives no sympathy from anyone familiar with the circumstances and it is understood that action will be taken to have his license revoked."

A few days later, John Hendrickson refuted the charges made against him in the newspaper. He accused the crowd of malice and being irresponsibly sanctimonious. He claimed that she, Mrs. Junga, without cause or provocation, began to demolish his property and that when he "gently" asked her to desist, telling her to leave the house peaceably and taking gently hold of her arm to assist her out, she refused to go, not having yet finished the "fiendish deed" she had undertaken. Mrs. Junga didn't put him out of business, though, since the Olaf and John Hendrickson Uniontown saloon was still listed in the city directory two years later. ♦

Glitches, Guests, and Gossip

The Finnish Sauna

Elmer Koskelo and his wife, Nami, had operated the Union Steam Baths in Uniontown for many years. And before them was Kaarlo Koskelo, who had won an Olympic gold medal for wrestling. In the 1950s there was another sauna, the Neptune, on Bond Street close to the Lobby Tavern, near 7th Street, operated by Sven Lonberg. It was almost a hundred years ago that saunas became popular in Astoria. At that time they were called Russian baths, since Finns were commonly called Russians as can be seen in Cindy Marconeri's article in this issue. A writer for the *Astoria Daily Budget* noted the following in the March 14th, 1895 newspaper: "*Joe Gardina, the tonsorial artist [barber], took a Russian bath yesterday, and today feels like a boiled ham in a cold storage. Joe says the atmosphere was all right but the top roost was all-fired hot. These baths are getting to be all the rage and a popular barber is going to attach one to his shop...Lee Herring is par-boiled and his face has become so hard that his whiskers can't grow through it. Frank Rogers is cooked to a finish and Fred Saiz has spent so much time in the Uppertown sweat house that his eyes are fading.*"

The Wreck of the Titanic

The *Finnish American Reporter*, published in Superior, Wisconsin, ran stories in the August and September issues about the 1912 sinking of the S.S. *Titanic* after it hit an iceberg and the resulting loss of 1,503 people out of the

2,207 aboard. Marko Kuparinen of Helsinki is making a documentary film for television on the Finns who went down with the ship. The Finns have a special interest in the sinking because the ship carried 63 Finnish passengers. All but eight were in steerage. Many of them did not survive. When the steerage passengers tried to escape, they found that the crew had locked the gates on the lower deck to keep them from going up the stairs or ladders. When they finally broke down the gates and reached topside, they found that most of the lifeboats had pulled away from the ship, carrying only about 25 per cent of the number of people they were designed to carry. Among the Finns who perished were four people who were on their way to Astoria. Mrs. Victor Rosblom and her two children were returning from a visit to Finland. Ilmari (Elmer) Rudolf Ahomaki, who was only 19 years old, was on his way to Astoria to go to work with his brother. Art Tilander, who was the proprietor of the Finnish Home Bakery. Helen Utti, daughter of Art Tilander, remembers her father telling about the tragedy many years later.

Hannah Marie Peltö Wilson

Does anyone remember Hannah Marie Peltö? She is now ninety years old and in a nursing home in California. Her relatives are searching for any information they can find about her family in Finland or Astoria. All they know about her early life is that she was born February 3, 1905, and at the age of four or five, an orphan, she came in a

ship to Astoria in the company of her uncle who placed her with a family in the county. She is unable now to tell them either the name of her uncle or the family. She attended one of the schools in the area, but is not listed in the Astoria High School year books. Hannah married a Fort Stevens soldier, Elmer Ray Wilson, at Ilwaco, Washington on July 7, 1923, and they lived for a time at Fort Columbia. Hannah's family always assumed that she was Russian, and never considered the possibility that she was Finnish.

Mae Johnson's genealogy tree

Mae Saari Johnson's genealogy display at the Naselle Finnish Festival is a graphic reminder that many of the families in the Lower Columbia area are related. At the last Finn-Fest, Bruce Berney, director of

the Astoria Public Library, was studying the names she had posted on the wall, and was surprised to find among them his wife's name. He didn't realize that Mae and his wife were related. When Marlene Taylor, who wrote the story of the Kankkonens, learned that another story in this issue would be about the Riippas and Rinells, she said, "Well, you knew they're related to us, too, didn't you?" I didn't, but perhaps I should have.

Clark Gable=Kalle Kapilainen?

We've not been able to confirm the story that Clark Gable once lived in Clatsop County, but rumor has it that his real name was Kalle Kapilainen and that he was a Finn, as was also Wilho Koti, more popularly known as Buffalo Bill (according to friend and master story-teller, Owen Oja.)

SOLUTIONS TO THE ASTORIA OLD-TIMERS' TEST:

By Don W. Van Osdol

1. Sad to say, nothing remains, not even noticeable pilings. But in 1904, this packing company existed to the east of the Port Docks off Port and Taylor Avenues. 2. Now the site of the Social Security Administration building at the corner of 18th Street and Franklin Avenue. 3. Now the site of the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority in the old St. Mary's Hospital. 4. Now the site of Sunset Optical building at the corner of 12th Street and Exchange, across from the old Y.M.C.A. 5. Now the Uppertown Firehouse Museum covers a portion of the area once filled by the Brewery. 6. Building now houses the Vacuum Sales and Service at 1193 Bond Street, across from Andrew & Steve's. 7. This company actually had two spots: (1) in the Van Dusen Building on the corner of 10th Street across from the present Astoria Library, and (2), on Bond Street in the building that was on the site of the old Lum & Utti Toyota sales showroom. 8. Now occupied by Old Town Framing Company at 1287 Commercial Street. 9. Site now occupied by Wild Willy's Astoria Car Wash at 75 W. Marine Drive. 10. In 1893 it was in what is now the site of the M.T.C. parking lot across from present City Hall.

Scoring: **0-3 right** - Good guessing, just moved here from out of state.

4-6 right - Better, family moved here after 1922 Astoria fire.

7-9 right - Area old-timer, not necessarily from Astoria.

All 10 right - True Astoria old-timer, family arrived with Lewis & Clark.

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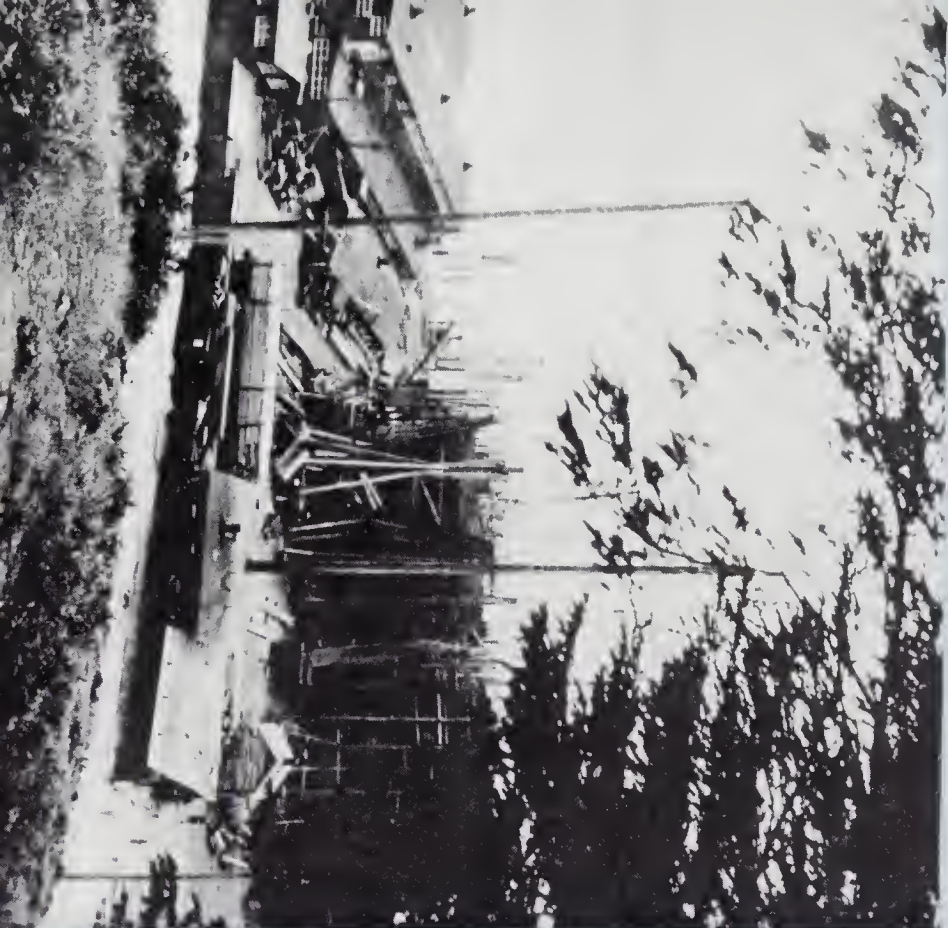
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Wilson Shipyards at Smith Point in Astoria in 1918



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