



The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 3

July 2003

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 3

In This Issue

The Finnish Jätkä:
Life in a Finnish
Community
By Eddie Sandene

Eddie's Trivia
Contest

Neighborhood
Grocery Stores
By Joe

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
NOW?

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter is a publication of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society, Inc. The Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and September. We are located in Ironwood, Michigan, USA. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 23, Ironwood, MI 49938.

Your Newsletter editor is Joe Carlson
Our website is www.gogebicroots.com

Our website is hosted by



Membership dues are based on a calendar year starting with the date of enrollment. The expiration date of your membership is shown on your membership card. If renewal of the dues is not received by the expiration date a reminder is sent. The reason for this is twofold. First and foremost we value your membership and hope you continue to support us. Secondly, our Bylaws state that a member in arrears 30 days after the anniversary date shall be removed from the rolls. Please keep in mind that one reminder only is required in this same section of the Bylaws and is sent in hopes that your membership continues without a lapse. If any member has a question regarding this please feel free to contact us.

Thanks for your continued support.

Life in a Finnish Community: The Finnish Jätkä¹

By Eddie Sandene

North Bessemer is that area north of Bessemer and across the Black River. It was kind of set apart because it was bordered on the south by the Black River and accessible by only two roads. It was settled primarily by Finnish immigrants and their families. The one exception was a Polish family which settled there. I was born into this Finnish world here in the United States. My parents were both born in Finland and came to this country as young adults. Their language, customs, food, friends, neighbors and everything else was Finnish. My first language was Finnish although I did learn some English from my brother and a sister before going to school. While being "Americanized" in school I went home to the Finnish environment. This left me with a "Finnishness" that remains to this day.

There were some interesting characters living in North Bessemer in those early years. The Finnish people liked to use nicknames, some of which weren't exactly complimentary, but they did describe some trait of the person so named. Some of these character's names were "Puipulli Villi", "Pikku Antti", "Frenchy", "Värä suu Heikki" etc. The meanings in the order they are given are "Nonsense Willy, Little Andrew", "Frenchy", yes, there was one Frenchman out there, and "Crooked Mouth Henry". Another habit of the Finnish people is to use the last name first when they refer to someone, like I would be Santiinin Eti (Sandene's Eddie).

Then there were the itinerant men who appeared from time to time to work. There was one whose nickname I am reluctant to repeat for fear of offending someone. It related to a physical feature or rather, lack of it which was the result of something that happened in Finland. He cut all of the wood we needed for the cook stove, the furnace and our sauna. He never carried a watch but relied on the position of the sun to know when to quit for the day. Of course this was before the days of the power saw. He used only an axe and a one-man crosscut saw to cut the trees which were then cut to the right length with the saw rig.

Another memorable one was "Sotamies", which means soldier. The story is that he went off to fight a war although I never did find out which one. Anyway, he would also show up to do other work on the farm. Often these workers slept in the sauna, coming into the house only for meals. Another common trait was that when they had worked a week or so they wanted to get paid. They would then walk into town and blow their money at a tavern. One time poor "Sotamies" was really desperate to get to town, but the Black River was flooded over. He was able to get over the bridge but the road was washed out on the other side, with water pouring through the washout. Try as he might, he could not get across, so he had to suffer till the water went down.

There were others who came over to test the waters too, but the above two were the ones who pretty much stayed on in North Bessemer. The story about "Sotamies" was that he not only had been a soldier, he also was supposed to have studied for the Ministry in Finland. I know that he had beautiful handwriting which had to have come from some sort of an education. The one who cut our wood was Charlie, who I mentioned had this certain lack of a physical trait. He also had scars on his head which he explained. According to him, the blood was boiling in his head and he took an axe and hit himself so the blood came out. He said this helped. My brother and I had many interesting conversations with him including some in the sauna where he seemed to like to talk.

I will try to discuss the Sauna experiences we had with our smoke sauna in a later issue. This was the original Finnish sauna which had no chimney. I experienced that until the age of 14. The sauna was moved closer to the house and modernized with a wood fired sauna stove. There are many fond memories of those days in the smoky sauna of my childhood.

¹ pronounced yätkä, with the ä as in rat.

THE REMEMBER WHEN? TRIVIA CONTEST: DO YOU REMEMBER BIG LITTLE BOOKS?

Eddie Sandene, like most of us, is a collector. He has BB Guns, old toys, old miniature farm implements, and a whole bunch of Big Little Books. The subjects of the books include Tim McCoy, Tom Mix, Maximo the Amazing Superman, The Green Hornet, Red Ryder, Buck Jones, Hoot Gibson, Tim Tyler, Tailspin Tommy, Mandrake the Magician, Kazan, Sombrero Pete, The Phantom, Chester Gump and many more. How about those action figures in the corner of each page that moved when the pages were flipped.

And now to the question: Do you know the horses' names of the cowboys listed below? We'll start with the easy ones; if you know all of the answers you will be eligible for a free 1 year renewal of your membership. One member will be selected by a random drawing from those submitting correct answers:

Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy, Red Ryder, Ken Maynard, Tim McCoy, Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Tim Tyler, Tim Holt (Tim had 4 horses, give us the name of one).

Email your answers to Eddie at finnsisu@gogebicroots.com.

The answers will be in our next issue which comes out in October.

If **you** have a suggestion for "Remember When", send Joe an email at grampa@thecarlsonclan.com. We'll put it in our next issue!

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY STORES

By Joe Carlson

Many local folks know that I appear on WJMS radio along with local historian Larry Peterson each Wednesday morning at 8:30 for "Pages of the Past". Recently, we have been discussing neighborhood grocery stores and their impact on the many mine locations in the Gogebic Range.

In 1928, the City Directory shows 35 grocery stores in Ironwood, five in Bessemer, nine in Wakefield and 11 in Hurley.

Neighborhood stores in Ironwood were Aili's in Newport Location; Aurora Cash Market in Aurora Location; Basso's and Jelich's in Jessieville. In Norrie Location, there were several: Bostrom's, Kilponen's, Norrie Cash, Setula's, Swanson's, and Wickman's. In Ashland Location, just at the bottom of the Norrie Hill and west of Balsam Street (L.L. Wright Blvd, today) were Perlberg's and Zarimba's. In Monticello, Newport and Reno Locations, a family could shop at Graiewski's, Johnson's, Monticello Grocery, National Co-op, Sarkela's and Tupanen's. On the Northside and Downtown were A&P, Bellore's, Bonino's, Cloverland Grocery, Cramblit's, John Moses, Michigan Pack, People's Store, Sher's, and Sopko's.

Advertising in the Daily Globe was not the norm in 1928. Some grocers ran ads, though. Here were some of the ads that ran in summer 1928

The Store That Quality Built. **REIDS** The Biggest Store With the Smallest Prices.

WE ARE PREPARED

To take care of our customers for their holiday foods. Buy for three days. Our store will be closed all day Monday, Labor Day. Enjoy those free days. Eat good food.

HAMS PLANKINGTON GLOBE SLENNED WHOLE OR HALF	.32	CORN Golden Bantam. The best of the season. Even.	.24
BACON A Real Special By the Piece	.25	PEACHES Xtra Fancy Bushel	\$2.75
VEAL STEW15		BUTTER DHOOGES SWEETS ARMOURS	.49
VEAL STEW22		EGGS BROOKFIELD CARTONS	.39
CHICKENS All size birds. In hot lake or dry.	.38	LARD 2 lb.	.29c
Pork Loins Simulated Leanest	.33	PLUMS Polka Prince. Bellman Log. 10 lbs. each	\$1.39
These are the best lines on the market. Whole, Half, Any Amount		POTATOES NEW PECK	.29
Pork Shoulder lb.	.18	Cucumbers lb.	.05
For your picnic try our deliciousness dips, for veal loaf, sausage, all home made, potato salad, sliced beef, fish and cheese. Imported breads.		Melons—All Kinds—Fancy	
BEEF OUR BEST ROASTS	.27	Sweet Pickles, 20c size 2 bottles	.29
STEAKS .35-.38-.60		LAMB Shoulders27	
ROLLED RIB ROASTS - - .37		Chops, fancy34	
Lamb Legs Canadian Style 1 lb.	.38	FRUITS AND VEGETABLES	
		New Cabbage, Minnesota Meak Melons, New Carrots, extra large, 2 1/2 New Onions, New Beets, Gr. Onions, Plums, Bananas, Celery 1/2, Oranges, Lemons, 1/2, Lettuce, 1/2 Peas, Prunes, Tomatoes extra fancy basket .35, Grapes, sailing basket .25, Green Tomatoes, 10 lbs. .24	

Redeem Your Swift Soap Coupons Here
Kindly let us have your orders early. It will help us to help you.

ERSPAMER'S

The Best of Groceries and Meats
Phone 182-422. Hurley, Wisconsin.

SPRINGERS fresh dressed, lb	34c	HENS , Fresh dressed, lb.	28c
BUTTER Hurley Creamery, lb.	47c	LARD , lb.	16c
HAMBURGER lb.	18c	VEAL STEW lb.	15c

Eggs, strictly fresh, doz. 33c

Tomatoes, No. 2 can, 6 for 63c

Tomatoes, 3 lg. cans for 50c

Milk, 6 tall cans for 68c

Corn, 2 cans for 25c

Peas, 2 cans for 25c

Rice, 3 lbs. for 23c

Soap, Classic Laundry, 10 bars 37c

WE HAVE A COMPLETE LINE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

MEALTIME STORIES

BY THE MAN-ON-THE-MOON



All the stars like rice pudding,
And they think it would be nice
If Cook used as many raisins
As she uses grains of rice!

Pure foods lead enjoyment to life. Our service helps the busy woman.

SPECIALS:

Berries.

All Fruits and Vegetables in season.

Raisins, Sun-kist seedless, 3 lbs. 27c

Rice, very best, lb. 8c

Swansdown Cake Flour, package 35c

Kraft's Malted Milk, lb. can 55c and filled glass shaker FREE.

CALL—WE DELIVER

George's Fruit and Grocery Store

PHONE 3113. IRONWOOD, NICH.

Grocery Specials

PEACHES, Del Monte, sliced, can	27c
PORK AND BEANS, Armour's, med., 3 cans	38c
MILK, Northfield, 3 cans	36c
CLEANSER, 3 cans	12c
MATCHES, 6 boxes	25c
SALT, Reseco, 2 boxes	25c
JAR RINGS, 3 one dozen pkts.	23c
TOILET PAPER, 3 rolls	22c
GRAPES, seedless, 2 lbs.	25c
RICE, 3 lbs.	25c
POTATOES, 1 peck	38c
RAISINS, 3 lbs.	37c
PRUNES, 3 lbs.	37c
PICKLED PIGS FEET, 2 lbs.	25c
TABLE COOKIES, 2 lbs.	47c
FLOUR, Pillsbury, 49 lbs.	\$2.35
CUCUMBERS, 3 for	30c
TOMATOES 2 lbs.	25c
CELERY, bunch	15c

Meat Specials

PICNIC HAMS, 10 lbs.	25c
BACON, 10 pieces	37c
HAMC, 10-12 lbs.	33c
CHICKEN, lb.	35c

PHONE VALKO PHONE
612 CASH & DELIVERY 612

Saturday Specials

Del Monte Gardines, large oval can, regular price 20c, now	14c
Pure Cider Vinegar, qt, bottle	21c
New Potatoes, peck	29c
10 bars Big 4 white laundry soap	37c
Grandma's Soap Chips, 2 pkgs.	38c

Phone your orders—We Deliver.

IRONWOOD CASH FRUIT STORE

ANNA WEINBERG, Prop.
ACROSS FROM EXPRESS OFFICE

The year 1938 saw a rise in the number of neighborhood grocery stores, especially in Bessemer where there were now 15: A&P, Bessemer Food Shop, Brusso and Johnson, Buchkoe's, Honz and Becker, Jesek Food Market, Kallander's, Kelto-Velin, Lampert's, Mautino's, National Co-op, Ochis's, Rosetti's, Swanson's and the Yale Store.

Wakefield showed a similar rise in the number of neighborhood groceries. There were now 11: Clover Farm Store, Delmet's, Federal Cash Store, Krienta's, Kumpula's, People's Store, Red & White, Verona Store, Wakefield Cash and Carry, Wakefield Co-op and Ed Neidhold's Wakefield Store.

The 1938 City Directory for Ironwood showed 34 grocers. There were some new names but most of the grocery stores from 1928 were still there. There were two A&P stores. A large one was at 128-130 E. Aurora and a smaller one at 238 E. Aurora. Aili's was still in Newport Location. Alexander's opened in Norrie Location on Balsam Street. The Aurora Cash Market, Ed Berlin, Benadetto Bonino, Borich, Bracket Food Market, and Erickson's Market on E. Oak Street were there. Others were George's Grocery, Gogebic Fruit Store, Griewski's, Hakala & Maki (Hack and Mack's), Tim Hanley, Holmgren's (later to become Carlson's), Jacquart's, Johnson's, Kacsir's, Michigan Pack, Ray Moncher's, Murra's, National Co-op, Nezworski's, Olson's, Piggley Wiggley, Pollari's, Reid's Cash and Carry, River View Grocery, Setula's, Sher's, Sopko's, Valko Store, Wiita Cash Market and Pete Zarimba still in Ashland Location.

It was the Townships that had a rise in grocery store population. Ironwood Township had Angelo Andrina's on Lake Road, Henry Hautala's on Little Girl's Point Road, the National Co-op (see ad below) at Junet Siding and H.B. Snellman's in North Ironwood.

Bessemer Township now had nine stores. Arvo Wakevainen's Cloverfarm Store in Ramsay, Dave Rizzie's three Ramsay Mercantile Red & White Stores in Puritan, Anvil and Astroid Locations, Orbick's in Puritan, Theberts in Puritan run by Lillian Thebert, Joe Brighenti in Ramsay and the Puritan Store Co.

Wakefield's 11 groceries were the Clover Farm Store on Sunday Lake St., Delmet's, Krienta's, Kumpula's in Wico Location, the People's Store, Red & White, Verona Store, Wakefield Cash & Carry, the Wakefield Co-op and the Wakefield Store.

In Marenisco were the Bonifas Co. Store, Ted Christensen's Clover Farm Store, Benny Goldman's and the Red & White owned by Harold Ormes.

Across the river in Hurley were Braghini's, Corsi's, Erspamer's, Globe Meat Market, Martini Brothers, Archie Moccardini's, Reardon's, Trolla's, and Walter's Meat Market. In Montreal, families bought their groceries from Dominic Calvi's in Gile, Jennie Calvi's in Montreal or from Saari & Mattson's.

There was more advertising in the Daily Globe.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES

You pay less for Quality and Service at the Co-Op Store because it is owned and operated by consumers in their own interest. Shop tomorrow for Sunday and Monday!

CO-OP MEATS!

Ironwood Quality Butter lb. 27c
Charlenger Jimmy Sausage, lb. 23c

Swift's Stamped Steer Beef!
 Chuck Roast, lb. 21c
 Rolled Roast, lb. 20c
 Round Steak, lb. 20c
 Sirloin Steak, lb. 30c
 Ground Beef, lb. 21c

SPAM for your holiday eating sandwiches 33c

Swift's Premium Lamb!
 Shoulder Roast, lb. 22c
 Leg Roast, lb. 20c
 Stew, lb. 12c
 Chops, lb. 31c

Milk-Fed Veal!
 Shoulder Roast, lb. 16c
 Leg Roast, lb. 21c
 Stew, lb. 12c
 Chops, lb. 27c

Pickled Bologna, just the thing for your picnic, lb. 22c

Spiced Luncheon Ham, ideal for lunches, lb. 30c

Pinkie, 4-5-lb. average, lb. 23c
Jell Salmon, lb. 33c
Silakka, 2 lb. 25c

See Our Complete Line of Smoked Luncheon Hams and Sausages!

Laundry Soap Specials!
 Fels Naptha Soap, 18 bars 45c
 P & O Soap, 18 bars 45c
 Swift's Pride, 18 bars 45c
 No-Name Cleaner, pkg. 18c

Kardine, 3 cans 29c
Celery, large bottle 11c
Jell-O, all flavors, 8 pgs. 20c
Matches, 5-box cartons 20c

The Better Flour!
 Try Tasty and Daily Specials at these special prices:
 Unity, 48-lb. sack \$1.89
 56-lb. sack \$3.09
 You cannot buy better flour at any price!

Unity Special Flour
 48-lb. \$1.89
 56-lb. \$3.09
 (Unbleached, Fancy Patent)



FREE 25¢ Pkg. OLD FASHIONED FLOWER SEEDS
 with a 50¢ purchase of vegetable or flower seeds selected from our **FARIBAULT SEED CASE**

— PRODUCE DEPT. —
 Top Cornish Hens, 2 broilers 1.89
 Lettuce, Rom, large head

NATIONAL CO-OP STORE

IRONWOOD 111 S. Suffolk St. Phone 687
JUNET HIDING Phone 79829
BROOKFIELD North & Colby Sts. Phone 155
WE DELIVER

Co-op Service Station Center 1344 and 1346th Sts., Brookfield, Wis.

BUEHLER BROS., Inc.

Tel. 750 225 S. Suffolk St.

Tuesday Specials

Veal Chops
Shoulder Stk., lb. 20c

Pickled Pigs
Feet, qt. jars 39c

Tuesday Only

Spare Ribs Fresh and Meaty,
1 lb. 12½c

PIGGLY WIGGLY

HIGHEST QUALITY AT LOWEST PRICES

PEAS - - - 3 25c
CATSUP - 2 25c
Potted Meat 2 15c
Sugar Wafers 1/2 20c
MILK - - - 4 25c

Sauerkraut - 1/2 5c
PICKLES 1/2 jar 15c
EGGS - - dozen 23c
OLIVES - - 2 10c
SPAM - 12-oz. can 29c

Malted Milk 49 lb. Sack **43c**
Flour 49 lb. Sack **\$1.25**
SALADA TEA 19c 17c

Beverages 3 25c
Tomatoes 3 23c
COFFEE - 2 37c
RINSO 2 42c

Pansy Plants 29c
Oranges 1c each

Luncheon Loaf SPECIAL 12 Slices 25c

BUTTER 26c
Shredded Picnics 19c
Mormel's Pickled Pigs Feet 30c
Pork Sausage 25c
CREAMED COTTAGE CHEESE 18c
CHOICE SPRING LAMB 25c

MURRA CASH STORE

300 BALSAM ST. NORRIS LOCATION Complete Food Shop Phone 1281

BUTTER, Quality or Brookfield, lb. 27c
Lard, 2 lbs. 21c
Eggs, (ge. No. 1, doz. 25c
Oleomargarine, lb. 16c

Swift's Premium Pork!
 Small Premium Loins any amount, lb. 25c
 Lean Boston Style Pork Butts lb. 14c
 Pork Steak, lean, meaty, lb. 20c
 Pork Chops, center cuts only 24c
 Spare ribs from small hogs 18c

Fresh Luncheon Meats Daily! Meyer's Sausage sold here—it's always good!

SANI-SEAL Veal!
 Shoulder Roasts, lb. 16c
 Stew, lb. 12c
 Small Bone Steaks, lb. 18c
 Leg Roast, any amount, lb. 25c

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR 49 lbs. \$1.85
Occident, 49 lbs. \$2.15
 Walnuts, 1/2 lb. 25c
 Dates, 2 lbs. 25c
 Brown Sugar, 5 lbs. 18c
 Powdered Sugar, 5 lbs. 18c
 Sallada, Ketchup, 3 for 25c

ORANGES, medium, 3 doz. 25c
 Oranges, det. 25c - 25c
 Grapefruit, 1/2 doz. 20c
 Celery, lb. 20c
 Lettuce, 1/2 size, head 10c
 Carrots, bunch 6c
 Tomatoes, fancy, 3 lbs. 15c
 New Potatoes, 10 lbs. 15c
 Cooking Apples, 4 lbs. 15c
 New Onions, 5 lbs. 15c
 Bananas, lb. 7c
 Strawberries, original pack qt. 18c

The decade of the 1950s saw not only the beginning of the end for the iron mines of the Range, but also the corner grocery store. With the development of chain stores like National Tea, the neighborhood grocer simply had to close their doors. Some merchants such as Carlson's and Erspamers continued to prosper. Erin Carlson moved to downtown Ironwood in 1962 and later to the "mall" on Cloverland Drive where his son, Gene, took the reigns of Carlson's County Market. The store was recently sold to Super One after more than 100 years as a family-owned business. Erspamers in Hurley was sold to Jamboree after a similar time span.

And there is no longer a familiar name associated with the grocery business anywhere on The Gogebic Range.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

In May, GRGS members met at Hillside Cemetery in Bessemer to continue the cleanup of grave markers and the grounds.



The 2003 FGS/FSGS Conference "Countdown to Discovery: A World of Hidden Treasures" will be held 3-6 September 2003 at the Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. Hosted by the Florida State Genealogical Society, this conference will offer over 175 lectures and an exhibit area for browsing and shopping. For details, visit the FGS web site at www.fgs.org or email them at fgs-office@fgs.org. You can also subscribe to the conference ezine at <http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/conf-ezine.htm>.



- A special tribute will be given by the GRGS to the memory of Bernice Korpi who passed away this past spring. Bernice spent countless hours indexing the obituaries from the Ironwood Daily Globe microfilm records. We will be purchasing a plaque dedicated to this wonderful genealogist and friend. The plaque will be placed in the Ironwood Carnegie Library.
- In case you haven't heard, the new membership director of the GRGS is Carol Schleker. Carol lives in Arlington Heights, IL.

The annual meeting of the GRGS will be on Saturday, September 20. This will be a luncheon meeting with a guest speaker. Put this date on your calendar. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every member could attend?



Our Officers are

**Gary Harrington, President
Diane Egan, Vice President
Pam Bretall, Secretary
Eddie Sandene, Treasurer**

**Our meetings are held at the Bessemer Library on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon
Everyone is invited to attend.**