

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born 1896 in Pirkkala, Finland.

PARENTS Father - John Rinne employed as bricklayer. Mother - Hilma Lehtinen.

GRANDPARENTS Father's parents died in famine of 1866. Father had to work hard at age 5. Brother and sister separated, met accidentally much later and realized that they related.

Father spent some time in the Army.

CHILDHOOD worked on a farm.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS 1 brother, 8 sisters.

Father came to U.S. in 1902 when Sulo was 6.

SCHOOL DAYS attended until age 16, father sent him a ticket to America then.

Father immigrated to Michigan - employed in the mines. Later father and brother moved to Astoria, Oregon and worked in logging camps.

TRIP OVER felt lonely in America. Was put off train in US because he had only Finnish money.

Arrived Svensen, Oregon which is 15 miles east of Astoria. Father had land and had built a log cabin there.

Mother sent him with a suitcase of hardtack. Man on the train shared his pork and beans. Very hungry when he arrived.

DESCRIBES LOG CABIN No floor, wood stove, rats came in at night.

EMPLOYED AT LOGGING CAMP Built Columbia Highway 1913 for a few months.

ENGLISH DIFFICULTIES Didn't speak any English - caused many difficulties. Learned English in a one-room schoolhouse.

GILL-NET FISHING Describes experience. 2 men, 1 captain and 1 putter. 28ft. long boat. Lunch was a 5 gallon can. Stayed out about 3 days or until lunch was gone. Fish 6 cent a pound. Fished mostly in summer and worked at saw mills during the winter.

MOVED TO GEARHART, ORE. Built a home. Worked in saw mill. Met wife in a restaurant. Worked in logging camp and went home on Sundays.

CITIZENSHIP Received it in 1939.

FIRST IMPRESSION OF U.S. didn't like it here felt like home after a while.

CHURCH LIFE Belongs to church in Astoria.

FINNISH BROTHERHOOD Meetings once a month. Helped the immigrants. Had sick benefits. At one time 1600 members, now 500.

TRIPS BACK TO FINLAND 3 times. 1948 - same was when he left. 15 years later everything was different. Two sisters still in Finland and still correspond.

FINNISH HERITAGE Doesn't feel any difference. No Special feeling.

CHRISTMAS Similar to US. Here they have a tree a month before, in Finland the day before and homemade decorations.

Father returned to Finland for 1 visit. Later died in Astoria. Farmed until his death.