

Turna Sari

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 6912.

Application 14991.

WHEREAS, There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Duluth, Minnesota, _____ whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of _____ HERMAN MAKELA _____ has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the south half of the southeast quarter of Section three in Township fifty-six north of Range sixteen west of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Minnesota, containing one hundred twenty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Herman Makela _____ the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Herman Makela _____

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the _____ twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third

By the President: *Theodore Roosevelt*

By *M. W. Young*, Secretary.

H. W. [Signature]
Recorder of the General Land Office.

Index Number

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MAKINEN: The Early Years

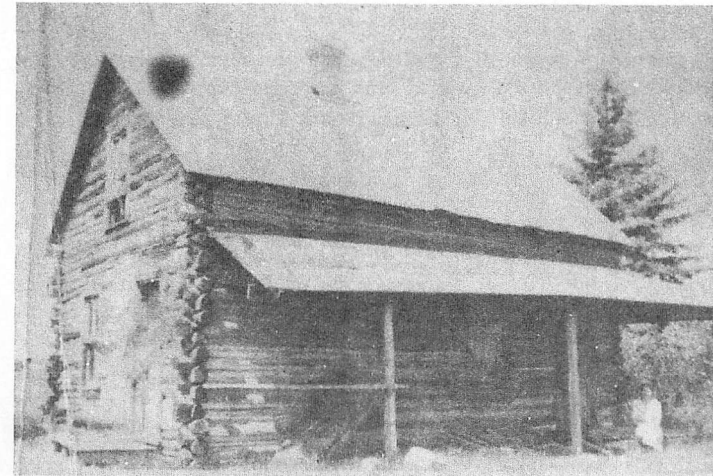
BEGINNINGS

Although the American wilderness had all but disappeared by the turn of the century, to the new immigrants, northern Minnesota was still a frontier.

The hardy northern Europeans came to this area of Minnesota in hopes of finding employment in surroundings much like their homelands. The vast resources of timber and the promise of homesteads lured the newcomers away from the small mining towns where employment was readily available, and out into the unsettled, rural areas.

In 1900, the Corbin area, then known as "Homestead Country", was opened up. Under the Homestead Law, an individual could file claim to 160 acres of land with the stipulation that he live upon or cultivate it for five years. If he lived up to these specifications, the land was his. Seeking the independent life for themselves and their families, and in hopes of getting some of this land, the pioneers of the area walked into the roadless virgin forests to stake their claims.

First homesteads in Township 56N, Range 16W were filed in 1900 by Herman Holm, Peter Frisk and Charles Morrison. Charles Morrison thenceforth acted as a "locator" for others, and the road later built into the settlement was named Morrison Road (later Wilson Road, and today St. Louis County Road 16).



MORRISON homestead house.

About this time, Bertha Johnson (Mrs. Andrew) arrived, as the first woman to view the homesteads which the men had claimed. At the Johnson claim, she prepared the first so-called "woman-cooked" meal. Meat was not readily available, so dinner consisted of the only thing which could be found on short notice — porcupine meat. Reportedly, it was quite good — much like pork.

In 1900 or 1901, Peter Frisk, a single man, settled on his claim, located on what later became the Isaac Wolfe property. Mr. Frisk, a colorful character in the community, resided there for many years. At one point, he had what he thought was a good idea. By hard hand labor; he dug a ditch between Holm's Lake and the Mud

Hen Creek, hoping thereby to bring fish into the lake. His engineering was wrong, however, as the lake was higher than the river, and water began roaring out of the lake. Arnold Holm saved the lake by rolling rocks to dam off the canal.

The first family to settle in the area was the Andrew Moilanen family. They arrived on March 18, 1902, with their three children and located their home near what is the present-day cemetery. On April 17 that same year, a son, Antti Arvidi, was born to Andrew and Greeta Moilanen, the first child to be born in this "Homestead Country." However, the little baby died a week later.

In 1901, John Mallula walked in from Highway 53 to the Section 14 Lake area, where he had claimed a homestead. On his back he carried an airtight stove and two windows, the stove being full of hardtack. Following him on the narrow trail were his wife, Sarafia, and her sister, Miss Hannah Jussila. Mallula left the women at the homestead site (later Andrew Niemi property) while he went for water at Section 14 Lake. While he was gone, the women heard an owl hoot, which they thought must be a wolf. When Mallula returned, he found the two frightened ladies perched high in the rafters of the partially finished cabin. On an earlier excursion to the lake, he found a birch bark canoe left by previous inhabitants. He used the canoe for fishing on the lake.

In 1905, the aforementioned Hannah Jussila claimed a homestead at Section Fourteen Lake. After her marriage to Edward Hietala in 1909, they settled on her homestead and resided there for 11 years in a roadless area. Mrs. Hietala is now a sprightly 90 years of age and still maintains her own household at Mt. Iron.

In 1904, Erikki and Fiina Latvala and two children came to their homestead (currently Hermanson property) and lived in a dugout for several years until their house was built. Others also found this to be satisfactory temporary housing.

Other settlers began arriving in 1903 and 1904, the larger portion settling along the Morrison Road. This area became known among locals as "The Settlement" or "The Clearing".

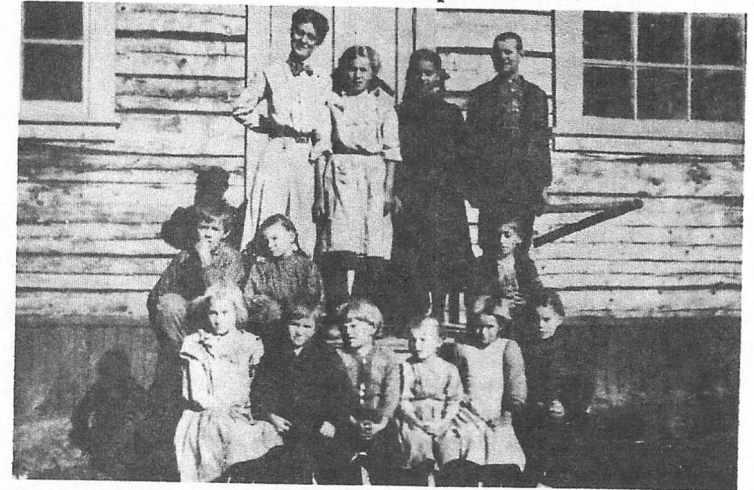


Wm. Hietalahti homestead, 1909. (L to R) Johannes Mallula and Bill Korby. This house is still part of the present Ronald Holte residence.

In July of 1907, 18-year-old Amanda Gustafson arrived from Sweden after a five-and-one-half week journey. By horse and buggy she came to Makinen from the train station in Sparta and settled with her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Oscar Pudas. A romance developed between Amanda and a neighboring homesteader, Matt Hendrickson; and in February, 1908, they were married. As far as can be ascertained, this was the first couple to marry and settle in this new community. Mrs. Hendrickson is one of the few surviving original settlers, and she still is active on her farm in Makinen.

SCHOOLS

About 1905 or 1906, the community's first school began. A one-room log cabin, painted red, (called the little red schoolhouse) served as the school. The building was located about one-half mile west of the present school.



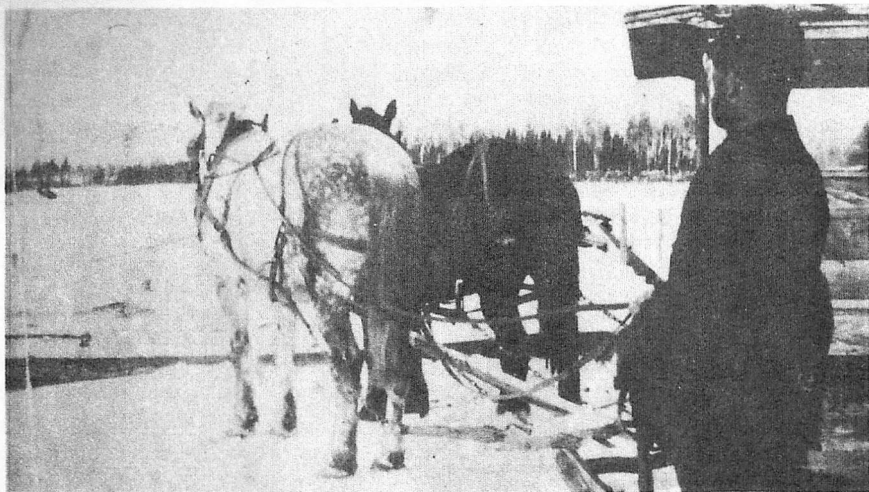
The original "little red schoolhouse", built 1905. Back row, (L to R): teacher, Edith Corbin, Ida Latvala, Anna Kobe, Walter Holm; center row: Francis Sundquist, Celia Hobrle, George Kobe; front row: Hilma Kero, Oscar Johnson, John Kangas, Lizzie Moilanen, Mary Kero, Fanny Kangas.

The first teacher was Miss Edith Corbin (she later became Mrs. Francis R. Sullivan and moved to Chisholm) and the superintendent was Mr. Young. Miss Corbin had twenty pupils at first, but later had more students, as at least four adults came to school. Teaching was not an easy job. Miss Corbin, as well as other early teachers, boarded at the Morrison home (present-day Gouldin home) and walked the half-mile or so to school, carrying a rifle. In winter, roads were not plowed, and it was necessary to walk over and through the snow. Teachers had to build fires and carry water. Sometimes lunches and ink wells would freeze. When the weather was too cold, everyone was sent home. "Hot lunch" was jars of soup brought from home and warmed in a pan of hot water on top of the heating stove.

Because of distance and lack of transportation, several other schools were also located in the area. A school was located on the Strand homestead (now Wymer Makela property); another, the Ekquist School across from the present Pofs farm; the Keinonen School on the current Ganzhorn place; a school near Long Lake; and

the aforementioned "little red schoolhouse," or as it was also known, the Lund School. However, before the so-called Keinonen School was built, classes were held for one winter at the Tero residence, with Miss Stanhow as the teacher.

In the early years, the majority of students walked, whatever the season. Some students came in horse-drawn wagons, or sleighs, depending on the season. Turna Mallula probably had the furthest distance to walk — five miles by road — a bit shorter by her usual route through the woods.



One of the early school bus drivers, Jacob Luoma, with his wintertime bus on runners.

Transportation by horse-drawn bus began in 1916. Some early bus drivers were Andrew Kero, John Mallula, Jacob Luoma, Sam Johnson, Matt Hendrickson, and Herman Köykkä. Pay was \$20 per month. Buses were usually convertible, with wheels used in the fall and spring and sleigh runners in the winter. For warmth, wood-fired heaters were used. Buses were not available for everyone. If one lived less than two miles from school, he walked — winter, fall, or spring.

The first school, No. 79, was built on the present site in 1915. This school was later destroyed by fire.



School #79, at the height of the fire, 1949.

Besides Miss Corbin, several other early teachers were Dola Sawyer in 1915, Anna Siemer in 1917, and Lillie Kero in 1920.

Daily cleaning in the schools was up to the teacher, but a janitor was hired to clean each Saturday. One former janitor reported she had been paid \$3.00 a month, and she carried the hot water from home — a distance of one mile. She lost this income when someone else agreed to do the job for \$2.00 per month.



One of the first local school boards. (L to R) Andrew Kero, Herman Holm, August Lund, and teacher, Dola Sawyer.

POST OFFICE AND MAIL DELIVERY

The Axel and Charlie Johnson homestead, back of the present-day Bud Hermanson property, was the location of the first post office in Twp. 56-16. With Charlie Johnson as the first postmaster, service began in 1905-06. The post office and the community were given the name of Corbin, after the first teacher. After the death of Mr. Johnson, the post office was closed and not reopened because not enough people patronized it.

Then for several years, mail for community residents came to Wiitamaki's Jewelry store in Eveleth. John Kovaniemi picked it up there and brought it to the local store owned by Kovaniemi and John Makinen. Mail was placed in a peach crate and people came to pick up their own mail, shuffling through the pile to find what was addressed to them.



JOHN MAKINEN, and standing (L to R) his stepdaughter, **Julia**; his wife, **Sophie**, and his stepdaughter, **Viena**.

In 1921, John Makinen started the post office in his store. His name was given to the new post office because the name Corbin had previously been used, and once lost, could not be used again.

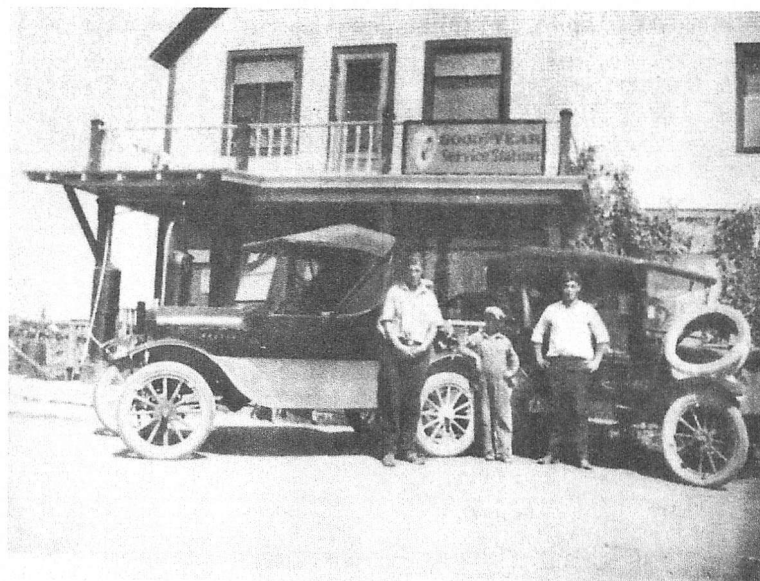
Subsequently, the community began to be called Makinen; however, many old-timers still preferred the name of Corbin, making for some confusion for strangers.

Julia Makinen (Mrs. Henry Perala), a stepdaughter to John Makinen, became the postal clerk. In her absence, Hilda Moilanen Makinen (Mrs. Sakri) served as clerk. In May of 1930, Julia became postmistress, and served in this capacity until her retirement in 1970. At that time the post office was moved to its present location at the local Co-op Store.

For several years, the postal patrons had to pick up their mail at the post office, but in 1922-23, Emil Kiltinen circulated a petition to get a rural delivery route started.

On April 16, 1924, William Kangas became the first mail carrier in Makinen. To begin with, mail was delivered only three days a week. It was delivered by horse, car, skis, or whatever was necessary to get the mail through. In the winter, a

horse-drawn, canvas-covered sleigh was used, with Bill oftentimes walking behind to keep warm. (The horse had a sign on his forehead with the words "U.S. Mail" imprinted on it.) On one particular delivery day the horse took off at a gallop, almost leaving the mail carrier far behind. During one of the spring floods, when roads into the community were impassable, Bill picked up the mail at the St. Louis river, where it was brought across in a rowboat manned by Louis Prosen. Thus, the mail was delivered, in the best tradition of the U.S. Postal Service — "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night . . .".



MAKINEN'S store and post office, with **Bill Kangas** and his mail delivery car on the right, **Lauri Holm** on the left.

The mail carrier was often called upon to deliver things other than mail. Most commonly requested items were Peerless tobacco and yeast, which were brought to many households along the route.

Bill continued to serve as mail carrier for many years until his retirement on December 30, 1965.

EARLY ENTERPRISES

Virtually every settler in the area had to do some farming and hunting for survival, but logging remained the main enterprise for many years.

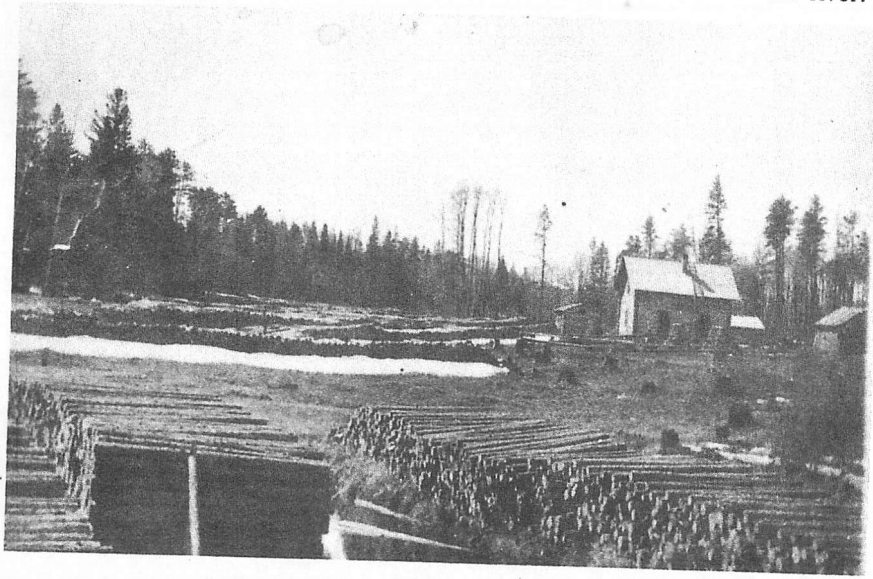
Most farmers and loggers used horses to do their work, but at least one early farmer, Oscar Pudas, used a team of oxen for his heavy work, such as plowing and hauling wood.

Lumberjacks were hardy souls. What they couldn't find in the community, they

looked for elsewhere. Some were known to walk as far as Cook or Orr, even into their eighties, to look for work or entertainment.

But it was not necessary to look that far all the time. Several logging camps were started in the area, ranging in size from ten to one hundred men. Jack Saari, Vechi, Harvey, Gleason, Matt Hendrickson, Andrew Moilanen, Esko Leppanen, and later Westerlund and Merila were names associated with these camps, and many an early settler went to their businesses for work.

For logging purposes, a dam was built on the lower end of Long Lake. In the spring, a river drive was held to float the logs downstream to the St. Louis. "Dead-heads" from these drives can still be pulled up from the lake and the river.



"PAHKALA'S LANDING" on Mudhen River, 1908. Original house and barn are still there (Frank Salitte place.)

This dam caused flooding of nearby farms in the spring. Farmers had to use boats to get to their barns, pastures were inundated, etc. So, one dark night, angry farmers took matters into their own hands and blew up the dam. It is not known if any reprisals followed.

Besides logging, the forest provided another business — cordwood. Among those who made a business out of selling firewood were August Lund, Andrew Johnson, and Andrew Isaacson. These men, who had several others working for them, delivered wood once daily, six days a week, to Eveleth. The large cordwood piles along the roadside, waiting to be hauled, made good hiding places for the Copenhagen "snoose" of the young boys who were chewing on the sly.

One major problem of logging was the ever-present danger of forest fire. About 1912, a large forest fire swept through the area. A considerable amount of cordwood and timber was destroyed (stumps are still visible from this fire). Several families were evacuated for safety, but the Latvalas were the only family to lose their home.

Another well-remembered fire was the 1936 Palo, Markham, Makinen, Skibo fire. This fire, which burned acres and acres, made national headlines. Makinen people fought the fire, and families were ready to flee; but the main portion of damage avoided this community, and no lives or property were lost. Other communities, however, were not so fortunate, and they suffered heavy property loss and some persons perished.

Both logging and fire had some side benefits. Logging created lush raspberry growth, and after fires, blueberries were plentiful for many years. These natural treats served as an important dietary supplement for families.

Businesses other than those dealing with the forest also grew in Makinen. Several general trading stores were begun. Iver Niemi located his store at the corner where Norman Kilpela's residence now stands. This store was later owned by Oiva Latvala, followed by others. John Makinen and John Kovaniemi's general store was located at the current Henry Perala place. A branch of the Eveleth Co-op was run by John Mallula in his home (currently the Ray Mannelin home). The Mallula store was one room of a two-room cabin; the other room served as living quarters for the family of five. This store operated around 1916-17.



Road No. 632, looking east from the store corner, showing original homesteads and log buildings.

In 1936, the Markham Co-op Association took over the Niemi store, later building across the road in the store's present location. Ernest Kaisalahti was the original manager of the branch store.

Traveling peddlers also sold supplies to residents. Going from house to house, they many times brought things to the community that the stores did not provide. One well-remembered character was "Pöppö Piiti". Many landscape trees still on local farms were purchased from him. He stayed overnight at farms along the way, leaving a package of needles, or some such item, as a "thank you".

An important business in the area was, and still is, Traven's shop. Frank Traven I homesteaded in 1903 and in 1909 began a blacksmith shop. As the blacksmith, he shod horses, repaired plowshares, and fixed other equipment, and generally, kept the farmers and loggers going. The present shop is the third one, and was built in 1940. Frank Traven II has continued the business by repairing vehicles and equipment and selling gasoline, parts, and related items.



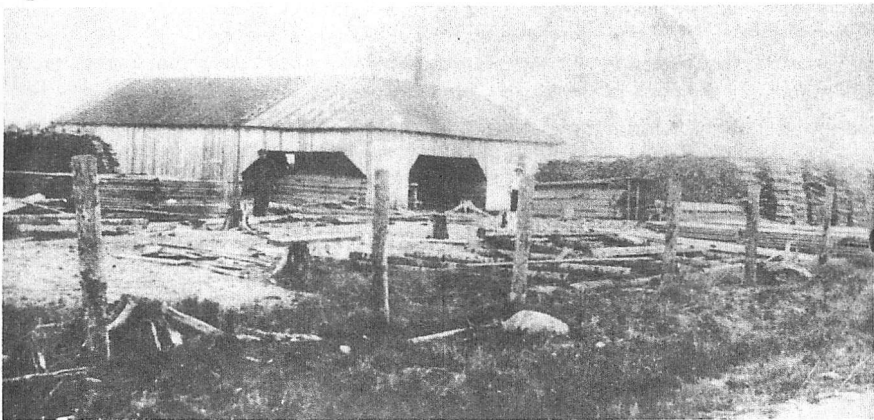
TRAVEN'S blacksmith shop.

In the early 1900's Axel Johnson, a shoemaker, repaired shoes and made shoepacks (handmade moccasin type boots). His shop was located south of the Andrew Johnson homestead (presently the Bob Allen property) on the old Long Lake road which cut through the woods.

Several sawmills were also in the area. The Tekautz sawmill, at the junction of Highway 53 and Road 16, sawed the lumber for the first lumber constructed house in Makinen, which was built by Frank Garvas in 1904.

Another sawmill was owned and operated by Andrew Ekquist. Logs to be sawed were pulled out of Long Lake, then sawed at this operation. Many early homes were built with Ekquist lumber.

In the early 1900's, the Pahkala sawmill was also in operation. It was located across from the current Wayne Walkama property. After several years, this operation was taken over by Victor Saini and Albert Flaada, who ran it as a sawmill and a flour mill. They ground whole grain flour and brought some to Eveleth for bleaching.



AUGUST PAHKALA sawmill.

After automobiles became more prevalent, a gas station was set up on the August Lund property (the current Steve Mashuga home). This business was open for several years, and was a favorite gathering place for the young boys of the area.

In this same area, the county garage was first located. It was later relocated in Markham, and the local building used as a W.P.A. blacksmith shop, with Mr. Gustafson and Emil Laurila in charge.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

In the year 1910, a dance platform was built at the site of the current fire hall. The platform consisted of a floor and railings, with no walls or roof. Due to the lack of lighting, dances were held on Sunday afternoons.



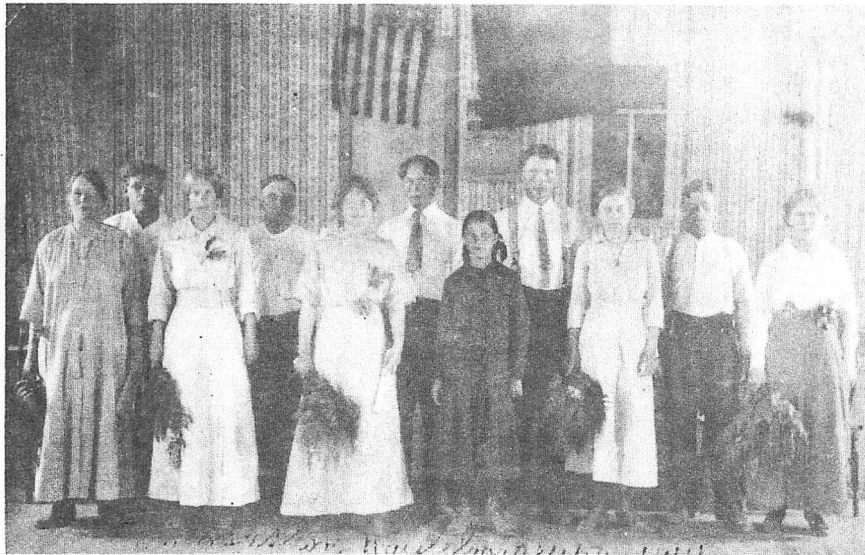
An early day gathering at the dance platform. (Names are not listed because not all have been identified.)

In 1912, a Finnish social club, "Sovinto Seura", was begun, with the main purpose being maintenance of the dance platform. Later, with the help of local lumberjacks, walls and a roof were added. The basic structure still stands as the firehall and community center, but it has been improved and remodeled in recent years.

This "Sovinto Seura" (Arbitration, or Mediation, Club) was active with the hall, and set up a Finnish lending library there at one time.

Several other clubs have revolved around the hall and the school — the Co-op Club, Athletic Union, Peptomists (a teen social club), Community Club (known as Civilian Defense during World War II) which has been reorganized several times, the 4-H Club, Scouts, and the Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary.

Around 1914, the "Näyttely Seura", a little theater group that presented plays in Finnish, was organized. Their performances were enjoyed at the hall for many years.



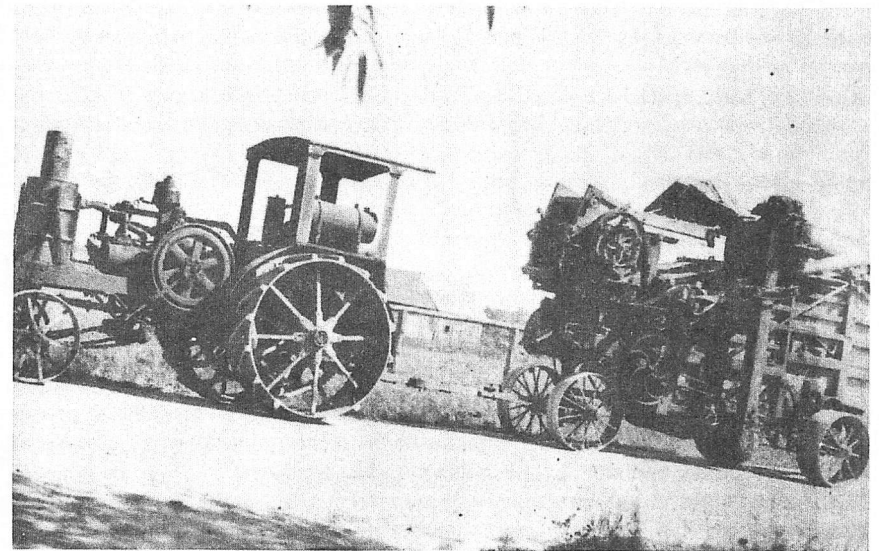
Early Finnish NÄYTTELY SEURA (Little Theater group.)

Also in 1914, another type of organization was set up. In this year, the Lepo (Rest) Cemetery Association was incorporated, with its purpose being finding a burial ground for the community. Land purchased had originally been used as a burial ground by the Moilanen family, beginning with the burial of their daughter, eighteen-month-old Linda, in the spring of 1902 and their newborn son, Antti, in the same month. These are the first recorded deaths and burials in Makinen.

The first officers of the cemetery association were Andrew Kero, Jacob Kangas, and Andrew Moilanen.

The Forest Telephone Association began in January of 1915, with the purpose of getting a phone line for use in case of fires. Corporation members were August Lund, Herman Holm, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Isaacson, John Kovaniemi, Peter Frisk, George Maletich, Frank Traven, Andrew Ekquist, Jacob Forsman, Daniel Berg, and August Perry. The phone system was reorganized in 1937 with more members and added service. Northwestern Bell took over the phone system in 1956.

To help each other on their farms during threshing time, community members purchased a threshing machine, forming the Threshing Association. Members went with the machine to one another's farms at threshing time; this was a big community event. Children were given permission to take time off from school to help out, following the machine from farm to farm. The organization disbanded as combines were available, and as farming declined. The threshing machine and tractor were later sold to a collector.



The threshing machine and tractor.

Electricity came into the area by way of REA (Rural Electrification Association) in 1940. This service is continued today through NECA (Northern Electric Cooperative Association).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Although the people of the community worked hard, they also played hard, and, it might be said, "with gusto".

A major social function was the Saturday night dance. The festivities were "spirited", to say the least. Most local residents participated, but people came from St. Louis River, Markham, Palo, Eveleth, and other neighboring communities also. Although the main purpose of the gatherings was dancing, the high spirits of the young men often resulted in "free-for-alls". Rival groups or individuals tried to solve their disagreements physically, using whatever was handy, be it a chairleg, or a chunk of firewood, or in a few cases, even knives.

One report was of two young men who picked up slabs from the wood pile back of the hall, while a fight was going on in the dark. They jumped into the fracas, swinging indiscriminately at everyone and anyone, making good contact, and enjoying themselves immensely. The next day at work, a bandaged co-worker told the men about the fight, complaining that some wild men had hit him with a pole. The two men knew enough to keep their mouths shut!

In an attempt to "keep the peace", constables were appointed from among community residents. Although the job normally fell to the men, an early "women's libber", Lydia Flaada, took on the job as peace officer from 1922-24, and is to date the only known woman constable who served in the community.

During World War II, a farewell dance and a homecoming dance were held for each service person from the community. Over fifty men and women from the area served in that war.

In the early years, going to the Range cities for supplies or on business was somewhat of a social event, the trip taking several hours, depending on the age and condition of one's horses. Many a smart horse was known to have found his way home, after a long day in town, with his driver fast asleep in the back of the wagon.

All social gatherings were not merely frivolous. The clubs and organizations previously mentioned were social organizations as well as being practically oriented. To help one another, and to find time for socializing, wool-carding, quilting and rag-cutting bees were held in individual homes. Athletically, several softball teams were organized and games were played in Holm's field and the present-day Kuopus field, competing against teams from neighboring communities.

Because of the diverse nationality and religious heritage in such a tiny community, no formal church was established, but religious services were held in private homes, at the school, at the hall, and in the old Niemi store building. Charlie Make-la, an old time lay minister, held regular monthly services at the hall in the early 1920's and taught the children basic Finnish from the old "Aapinen" (ABC's). People have since joined churches in neighboring communities as transportation is no longer a problem.

HEALTH CARE

Doctors were far away and so early health care was mostly a do-it-yourself project. Home remedies used were camphor bags around the neck to ward off colds; sulfur and molasses taken internally and also used externally for sores; and sulfur and tar sprinkled on the top of stoves, as breathing the fumes was supposed to cure almost anything. Saunas were an important health item for the Finns, as important as a modern-day clinic. Babies were born there, aches and pains were administered to by massage, and as a cure for various ailments, blood-letting, or "cupping", was administered here by the "kuppari". This was the practice of removing "bad" blood from aching areas by the use of suction formed in a cow's horn. The fee for this service was ten cents a horn.

Within the community, several women served as health administrators, serving as mid-wives, masseuses, "kuppari", and also veterinarians when necessary. Among them were Fiia Mallula, Eliina Makela, Maria Kangas Laakso, Greeta Moilanen and her daughter Lizzie Miettinen.

Later, patent medicines such as Watkin's and Sodergren's brands, were available and widely used to treat both human and animal disorders.

CONCLUSION

The community of Makinen has never been large in numbers, and has never even reached the status of "town", yet, its history is not insignificant to those who live here now or to those having lived here in the past.

The little incidents which this history has tried to bring forth do not cover every aspect of Makinen's past, but attempt to cover that which should be remembered.

The size of the community may not be outstanding, but it is not size, but the people who determine a community's worth. The people who made this community, and those who continue, make Makinen's history worth retaining.

The information contained in this book has been derived from old records, and reminiscences gathered in interviews with original settlers and their descendants. They are as true and factual as can be ascertained.

Appreciation and thanks go to everyone who has been so helpful in the compiling of this booklet, with the lending of old family photographs, records, and anecdotes.

"Thank you" also to the advertisers who have made this publication possible.

Ruth E. Johnson
Aune E. Flaada
Noreen A. Flaada

EARLY SETTLERS

First names are used where known.

If a spouse died and a remarriage took place in the early 1900's, name of spouse is shown in parentheses.

Joseph and Rose Blatnik	John and Hanna Keinonen
Albert and John Filiatrault	Andrew and Selma Kero
Albert and Lydia Flaada	Emil Kiltinen
Thomas and Selma Flom	George and Mary Kobe
Karl and Lydia Gustavson	William and Eliina Korpi
Elmer and Aili Hakala	Alexander and Liissa Koski
Matt and Amanda Hendrickson	Herman and Justiina Koykka
Edward and Hannah Hietala	Sakri and Mari Anna Lappi
William and Hilma Hietalahti	Erik and Adolffina Latvala
John and Hulda Hietanen	Esko and Henna Leppanen
John and Celia Hobrle	John and Henna Long
Herman Holm	August and Liisa Lund
Fred and Hilda Hongo	John Lund
Toby Hujanen	Jacob and Susan Luoma
Peter and Marie Huttunen	Herman and Eliina Makela
Andrew and Sophie Isaacson	Charles Makela
Andrew and Bertha Johnson	John Makela, Mr. and Mrs.
Axel and Hilda Johnson	Andrew and Hilma Maki
Charles Johnson	Emil and Hanna Maki
Erick and Selma Johnson	Isaac and Hilda Maki
Sam and Fiina (Mary) Johnson	John and Mary (Sophie) Makinen
Peter and Sanna Jussila	Sakri and Hilda Makinen
Henry Kallio	George Maletich
Jack and Ida Kangas	John and Saraffia Mallula
Kristo and Maria Kangas	Amasee and Ida Mannelin

Cotton School History

The Cotton School was built in the early 1900's and it was a two room school. It was located where the Cotton Community Center is now standing. In 1918 it was made into a teacherage. The school served students from a large geographical area.

The first Makinen School was built in 1905 or 1906 in a little red log cabin house. In 1933, the first juniors and seniors were sent to Cotton. The Randall School was built in 1905 and was located west of Cotton. The school was closed in 1928 and students were sent to Cotton. In the Melrude area, the first school was the Lake Dinham School and was established about 1911. There were four one-room schools in Canyon and they closed in 1928 and sent their students to Cotton. In 1938, the Kelsey students came to Cotton.

The original Cotton High School was built in 1928. The principal's office was on the second floor center, where the present LD room is now. The high school occupied the second floor and the elementary was on the main floor. The auditorium was on the main floor where the present kindergarten is located. There was no library at this time. The shop was located in the basement in the room that is now used as an art room.

In 1935, the home ec. department and what is now the old gymnasium and showers were built. The principal's office was then moved downstairs to what is now the counselor's office. The original office upstairs was then made into a library which was a great improvement to our school. The old auditorium was then converted to a science lab.

In the late 30's, a group of local people formed a rifle club and began excavating the area under the gymnasium and made it into an inside rifle range which they used for several years. They also used that area to build boats as a winter project.

During the early 40's, the Work Project Administration was founded and one of their projects was to start a hot lunch program for the school. They then converted the rifle range into a lunchroom which is still used for this purpose. Of course there have been many improvements over the years (tile floor, new ceiling and an updated modern kitchen).

The first hot lunch was just that. The students brought cocoa or spaghetti -- something that could be left in the jar. It was put into a tub or boiler of hot water to warm the food to go with the sandwiches

brought from home. As the years went by, they added cooks and started preparing the food here at school. It was all made from scratch, not like today's lunches with all the fast foods and variety as we have today.

Another program was the laundry department. The high school boys took turns washing the towels used for the Phy. Ed. department. They used an old Maytag washer and hung the towels to dry in the basement. There was an active Phy. Ed. program at that time with hockey teams, boys' and girls' baseball teams and basketball for the boys only.

In 1958, the present Ag. room and shop were added to the school. At that time, the library was moved downstairs to the main floor and the old library was then used as a Special Ed. room as it still is at this time.

On August 20, 1981, ground was broken for the latest addition to our school which added a new gymnasium, showers, seven new classrooms, library and new heating boiler to complete our school as we now know it.

The Cotton School has always taken great pride in their academics and athletics. In 1946, the largest basketball crowd ever attended a game. There were 500 people jamming the gym. The basketball teams continue to have a large following and do well.

In 1948, Cotton had their first football team. They rented suits from Meadowlands and although they started late in the season, they played three games. In 1972, they were the state runner-up in nine-man football. During the 50's, 60's and 70's, they were conference champions nine times.

In 1986 and 1987, Cotton student Amy Matara was the State Spelling Bee champion. Cotton students have always done well academically and have had success in their careers.

COTTON H.S. 31-61 CLASS REUNION STATISTICS

Approximately 640 classmates were contacted - 54 could not be located - 123 are deceased. Total from this era - 817.

57 teachers were contacted - 13 could not be located - 37 are deceased.

760 letters were mailed.

470 "Reminder" post cards were mailed.

232 classmates, 15 teachers, 1 cook, 119 spouses and guests are registered to attend the Reunion - Total 367.

Submitted by;

Evonne "Bunny" Lanthier Kangas
Reunion Address Coordinator

John and Elizabeth Miettinen
Andrew and Greeta Moilanen
Charles Morrison, Mr. and Mrs.
Alex and Eliina Niemi
Andrew and Lempi Niemi
Anna Olson
John Olson, Mr. and Mrs.
August Pahkala
Otto and Aino Parkkinen
Klaus and Elizabeth Pelto
August Perry
Oscar and Mary Pudas
Matt and Elvira Puolivali
Daniel and Sophie Ruuska
Peter Ruuska
Peter and Lydia Saari

Victor and Jenny Saini
Anton Salmi
Arthur Salmi, Mr. and Mrs.
Joseph and Angeline Sampson
Albin Strand
Oscar and Hilma Sundquist
Charles and Eliina Tero
Erik and Lovissa Toikkanen
John and Tara Tomas
Frank and Theressa Traven
John and Impi Walimaa
Henry and Ida Walkama
Paul and Ida Westerlund
Edward and Mary Williams
Isaac Wolfe

JACK & MARY MAKI

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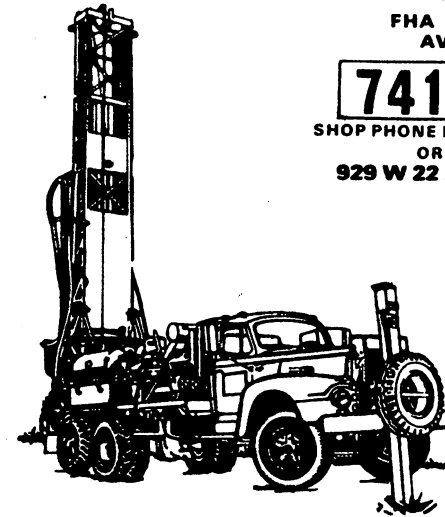
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