

Interview with Alma Hanson, Interviewer Gregg Getta.

I: Alan how old are you?

AH: 81

I: 81. And you were born in Covington?

AH: No I was born in ?, Michigan. Copper Country

I: Copper Country near Calumet?

AH: Yea, Between Hancock and Calumet.

I: When did you come to Covington?

AH: We first moved to Pelkie then when I got married I came to Covington. 1947

I: 1947. Ok you and I were talking about this procedure in the Sauna called Kuppa. And you told me that your husband had it done once. Can you tell me what you know about the procedure?

AH: I don't really know

I: Was it a bloodletting procedure?

AH: All I know like you said that they make little cuts and they put cups on the cuts.

I: What do they put on the cuts?

AH: That cup that they put on glass

I: Was it glass?

AH: yea

I: And what do they do with the glass?

AH: Well they put them on???? and that is what those things are.

I: Did ever see it done here?

AH: No.

I: You told me that people came into your home.

AH: Oh yeah in the summer.

I: Do you know what year that might have been.

AH: In 1930s.

I: Your grandmother had it done? Where did she had it done?

AH: Mostly on the farms.

I: Did see her after she had it done? was she all cut up?

AH: Oh yeah there was not much there were these tiny little ?

I: Do you know why she had it done here?

AH: I don't know because it was a cure.

I: Did she have any health problems that is why she had it done for?

AH: Blood pressure in those days they did not know how to take blood pressure.

I: Now Alma back to you , you said your husband he had it done do you know when he had it done?

AH: In early 40s

I: And this was done by a woman who lived in Covington?

AH: Yeah.

I: Do you know how he had done ????

AH: These people that were done they had it done because they had so much blood.

I: Was it a common thing that you know about that people had it done?

AH: Yeah. Because of the blood you know.

I: Did you know if any children had it done?

AH: No. mostly older people had it done.
I know my cousin had a bad infection when she was ? and she had it done

I: Did it help and that was also back in the 40s or earlier than that?

AH: I don't remember but it was back in the 20s.

I: When did your husband had the Kuppa done?

AH: I guess it was rheumatism now they call it arthritis. I think what he had was sciatic nerve it came down to his leg and he tried to..

I: You were pretty familiar with????

AH: I went to see it but I know what they were doing.

I: how about the massage I have heard about it was that done in sauna too?

AH: no.

I: I heard from a woman that masseuse used to travel around stay with the family and treat everybody in exchange for???

AH: he used to go around, i don't know.

I: And Vera you, you are from Covington?

B: Wharton. I live in the house where I was born.

I: You are Finnish? Your father and your mother come over from Finland?

V: Yeah.

I: and your parents

AH: My mother was born in America but my dad was born in finland.

I: Thank you ladies I really appreciate it.

I: I am talking to Vera Maki again and Vera is telling me about the Kuppa. Vera you have been talking to people from Covington and Wharton area?

VM: There is a lot of people that have it done.

I: Did they say what they had it done for?

VM: some had ? shoulders and back sore.

I: the kuppa for the sore shoulders?

VM: Yeah. all over the body but certain parts you could not do.'

I: so this was a lot of people that had it done.

VM: Denver ? his mother used to done.

I: this was the man who had the horns and his mother was one those people who used to do that.

VM: Yeah. My sister-in-law she had it done under her arms her one arm. she had it done for eczema.

I: how long ago was that she had it done?

VM: that was in 1942-43.

I: did it help the eczema?

VM: Oh yeah.

I: had she had any other medical treatment done before that?

VM: oh yeah she had gone through Wisconsin and different places.

I: and this treatment with the cow horn helped her. Now people who you talked to recently who had it done did they have good results with the technique? did they say what they had it done for?

VM: No they say bad luck. this lady who told me where to go she said that her husband had it done too his shoulders she is 84 years old she knows all about it. And that is in relation to Denver's mother.

I: Vera thank you for sharing this information.

I: Today's date is July 23rd and I am talking to ruth Solomaki and she agreed to talk about the Kuppa technique and she has given this information to let us use this information. Ruth can you just to start off can you tell us where you were born?

RS: I was born out on the country in the small town of ? just five miles west of ? crossing in MI. I was born in 1923.

I: And how old are you now?

RS: I am 75 years old now.

I: we were talking the other day about this technique the blood letting technique just go ahead and tell us about this technique.

RS: What I know that had taken place in Finland my parents have talked about well the technique was done in the sauna but as far as I recall it was not done in sauna here in America a least not in my home. And

I: Have you ever seen it done in your home Ruth?

RS: I have never seen it done in my home but the neighbor lady that had black horns and sharp knives I had seen it at her house. She lives about mile from my house and her kids are the same age as mine.

I: So you have actually seen it done. Can you describe when it was being done this Kuppa?

RS: Somebody might have a pain or headache or some sort of pain in

some area then they think that well I must have high blood pressure so they take that if remember take a straight razor and razor which had a handle on it which has a hinge and that handle bends on the hinge and you set on top of the blade when it is not in use. but they would just make a little sharp gash and the blood flow and then they put horn on it but I don't what the technique that they got the suction maybe the horn being around the could press it against the persons skin, it would create a suction on its own I really don't know and I don't know how they determined when they had enough from that area but then put the horn maybe on the temple or near arm or maybe on your leg or back . I do remember there was one lady living east Bruce crossing here and of course in those days people did not use rubbing alcohol to clean the skin off that woman got infection in all those slits and passed away Then

I: From the infection

RS: When the infection set in yea. And so then yea like I say I don't know when they determined that they had wether it was an hour or a half hour of blood but then they removed it then I don't know about the

I: So they took blood into the horn itself

RS: Yes

I: Right up into the horn. Do you know what kind of horn it was?

RS: Oh from any animal you know everybody farmed and they had their own meat and they would keep the horns.

I: From cows you mean.

RS: Well from cows or steers or whatever. So

I: You were telling me Ruth the other day about a woman, the doctor Hogue here telling about the technique.

RS: Yes there was a lady for a fact that's the household way where I saw the black bag of horns. When they carried around this rattling bag like gold I guess. And she was, we had a doctor in Ewen that had been there for over 40 years, but anyhow he was telling me that the lady actually died a slow death because when she had pain she would put one of those horns on and draw blood and she was so anemic and so weak she had to stay right in bed and he would make housecalls and check on her. He told me that's whats happening to her but what can you do.

I: About what year was this going on? That this was still going on with someone having the Kuppa done?

RS: Well that would have to be possible in the 30's sometime. She was so weak she couldn't even be up.

I: Did any of your family have this technique done Ruth? That you remember

RS: I don't remember I can't really recall. It wouldn't surprise me if my mother had sometime but still I couldn't say anything definatley on that. But it was a practice that was done and the lady went down the road. The country road you know with her bag of horns and but it was done in the Sauna. In those years in Finland orginally.

I: Was it very common around here in the Bruce Crossing, Ewen area.

RS: It was very common yes.

I: In the 30's.

RS: Well I would say so. And even probally late 20's as far as you know it wouldn't supprise me.

I: Was it still getting done.