

Temperance Halls.

The following was taken from History of Finns by Holmio.

Our area had the Finnish National Temperance Brotherhood of North America. In Finnish the abbreviation letters of the words are SKRV. It was also known as Brotherhood.

Oskar Temperance Hall was #189 Rannan Ruusu formed 10/2/1904

Onnela was #200 Elon Toivo formed 10/15/05

Toivola #206 Toivolan Valo formed 1/28/1907

Toivola #217 Toivolan Soihtu formed

Redridge #192 Nuorison Kaunistus formed

Decline reasons:

- Prohibition law of Jan 2, 1919. Michigan was 16th state to approve the law.
- membership said "job done" and quit.. so members fell as did activities.
 - In 1903 there were 95 societies with 5,675 people.
 - In 1926 there were 35 societies with 817 members.
- Socialists took over halls and land
- Older generation kept younger generation from governing boards.
- Conducted business meeting in Finn.
- Younger generation not following in parents' footsteps as Temperance Workers.
- Increase of death rate of older persons.

Temperance.

Jacob/Jack Ruuhonen's history document shares: The temperance society named The Rose of the Shore in 1890 something (.. the type is not there). It belonged to the SKRV Fraternal organization, formed in 1904 by J. Lukkarilla of Hancock. Finnish Language groups {Calumet, Bessmer, Atlantic Mine, Hancock etc} decided to form a central governing body. They named this body the Finnish National Temperance Brotherhood or Suomalainen Kansallis Raittius Veljeys. SKRV. It was socially very conservative.

The last meeting was held on Sept 7, 1920.

Many joined the society initially but this did not last long because there also came people whose ideas were Red (Socialist). They intended to put their ideals to use and take the building and its contents for their own use. However the constitution of the society prevented this, so these people left the organization and the membership went down. Finally ending the activities.

The first officers were: J. N. Pelto, secretary; Andrew Riekki Chair; Alex Garnell Vice Chair; John Olson recording secretary; Alex Olson treasurer/bookkeeper; Hjalmer Dorvinen. Elina Dorvinen, cleaner; Jacob Ruuhonen, disciplinarian.

The Un-authored memorial to Oskar Document states: Among the perils faced by the settlers of the community within was the presence of the demon rum and its variously named allies. To combat the influence of alcohol, a group of citizens organized one of the earliest temperance societies in the nation on or about the start of the 20th century. Of the number of such societies in the US the community of Oskar was 189 of those organized at that time. By February 10th 1904, it was strong enough to erect a Temperance Hall. Rose of the Shore Temperance Society. Used at first as a meeting place and social hall. Its initial function was terminated by the 18th amendment in 1919. After that date the building was used for various less lofty purposes, storage space and at time a temporary summer residence. In 1931 it was finally sold and demolished.

Ted Ruohonen shares: that the Temperance Hall was called .. spelling might not be correct.. Raitious Hall. Ted shares that the Hall was East of his today's home past Marino's.

He had a ribbon saying: Rannan Ruuso #189 Oskar Michigan

Perustettii

2 p. Lokak, 1904

At the top of ribbon is SKR WSA with flags.

A circle with these words around it... Raitis Mieli

Raittiissa Ruumiissa

The ribbon words deal with the Temperance Hall. Rose of the Shore. Doesn't drink a drop. Sober Mind.

In a Temperance Hall journal that Ted Ruohonen has from his mother -- as Edna was the Secretary in 1932 has this money coming in.. dues?.. from: John Koski, Oskar Marshall, Carl Kelli, John Kelli, Jack Knuuttila, Emelia Knuuttila, Felix Hietala, Sigrid Heitala, Mrs. F. Rintala, Adolph Bohjonen, Mrs. Hanna Kitti, Eli Kitti, Jack Ruohonen, Mrs. H Uusitalo, Hilda Koski, Esaias Dorvinen. It appears that Hilda Koski was the Treasurer. (translation by Libby Koski). Wine and bread cost \$2.35 Pastor Heideman paid \$40.

Translation seems to say: Organization School - leaders maybe?

These names are listed as

Mr. Mrs.:

John Kelli, Jacob Ruohonen, Felix Heitala, John Knuuttila, Jacob Ruohonen Adolph Bojanen (North), Oscar Marshall, Frank Hietala.

as Mrs:

Violet Usitalo, Vivian Salmonson, Tilda Ojala, L Riutta

and:

Hilda Koski, ? Rintala, Hilda Lantto, Karl Kelly, John Koski,

The last entry in the journal was in 1953.

Son to Alekski Garnell, Henry, shares on his 1977 WMPL Heritage line interview: The temperance Hall. Jack Ruohonen was the enforcer of the rules... no drinking. No smoking. It was organized in about 1905 from a sauna. Speakers came to encourage no drinking.

The hall had no dancing. It was against the rules. We did have basket socials though... this is when a gal makes a picnic lunch in a box with her name inside. Baskets are bid off by gentlemen. Highest bidder gets the lunch and gets to have the lunch with gal's name inside.



Temperance Halls.

This once was one of the Toivola



Kevin Ruohonen and Lee Burkman put their minds together and came up with this version of who is where in the Temperance Hall Photo. Circa 1904.

Front row on ground: left to right: Arman Lampsa, Matti Knuuttila, Erik Karialainen, Gabriel Kangas, Hilma Lantto, Mary Lantto.

Row behind those on ground, left to right: ?, Jack Ruohonen, Alex Garnell, ?male, ? female, Hyalmer Dorvinen, Ida, Miriam Koller, A Marshall, Jacob Allen, ?male.

Row behind on left to right: John Marshall, Emma Koski, ?female, Hilda Koski, Alfred Riutta, Wally Lahnala, John Koski in front of mid left post, in front of right post is Ellen Niemi.

Same Row on right: Elina Dorvinen in front of right mid post, Hilda, Hilda Knuuttila, Alinna Wayrynen, ?male, Billy

Next row back on left to right: ?male, Eino, Hyalmer Lantto, ?male .. to right of left post is ?male. above him is Henry, Norm Saatio, way in back is John Wok, Rudolph Saatio, ?male, ?male.



Circa 1920? People are not identified. Assistance is needed. Contact Web Master.

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