

OJANPERA

[Oiva Svensk remembers. 4 August, 1975. R.S.]

August Ojanpera bought from Bushey [Boucher]. He lived in Whitefish. The land to the north of the lane at Ojanpera's had been cleared already, and there was a sort of hay barn on the place. We made hay there a couple summers before Ojanperas came.

August cleared the land on the other side of the lane, toward the creek, and extended the first clearing back into that "bay".

The Ojanperas bought a house in Whitefish that first summer they were here. It was on High Street, a street that ran parallel to the railway tracks, on the south side of the tracks. No, there is no street there at all anymore. The house was behind the old Windsor Hotel; it stood just about where the Sunoco Station is now.

August and his wife pulled it all apart by themselves and hauled the lumber out to the farm. They had a wagon and one horse then. Mrs. Ojanpera did a lot of work when they were putting that house up.

It was late summer when they put the house up. Ojanpera had two men to help. He was paying four dollars a day - a good rate of pay - because he wanted the job done fast. One of the neighbours stopped in to see how they were getting along, and he reported that Kustava Ojanpera "was driving nails like a four-dollar carpenter."