

*Lukijalle läheisin.*

# LUOTEIS-LAPPI

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## In Memory of My Mom

**Vilma Pudas 26.12.1930–26.6.2013**

My mom was born in the former Finnish Karelia village Kakku, some tens of kilometers east of Värtsilä. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to Kemie in Tohmajärvi. Their home was located in the highest point, about a mile from the city center. The family consisted of mother Selma and father Tauno, my mom and five other children: Viki (Viktor), Veijo, Erkki, Vieno and Martti. Only Vieno of them is still alive, living as a long-time patient in Joensuu Central Hospital.

Martti, the youngest of the children, once told that mom was a sweet child, loved by everybody. She attended elementary school in Tohmajärvi, and was a kind and conscientious pupil. To her loved childhood memories belonged skirt fabric as

a gift from her father and his surprising visit to Mikkeli, where she was working at that time.

Mom concentrated carefully in whatever she started. She loved learning and adopted new things easily. She was the only student scoring maximum points in a certified housekeeping examination. Her fellow students and teachers of that time still remember and admire her achievement.

Mom retired in 1995, after working a quarter century in Kolari Forest Research Station (1971-1995). President Mauno Koivisto granted on 06/12/1985 a First Class Medal of the order of the White Rose of Finland

One of mom's first jobs here in the north were Korpikoti and the Mannerheim League for



Child Welfare - Kolari children's home, where she found me when I was two years old. I got home from them the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1957, one day before my four-year old's birthday! She worked the first half of the 1950s in Mikkeli, Helsinki and Stockholm, where she met, on Midsummer's Eve 1953, her future husband Heikki Pudas. My father returned back to Kolari and mom followed him there a little later, on Midsummer's Eve 1955.

Mom remembered often, how she was greeted at the bus by a handsome, suntanned and flaxen-haired father. They got married one year later, and they were married more than 57 years.

Mom looked the world openly and without prejudice. She studied carefully her planned tourist destinations in order to know and enjoy the events in advance. We used to make joint family trips to various parts of Finland, which gave us great moments. I

traveled with mom in Scandinavia, Europe, Africa, Asia, the United States, Central America and Hawaii. She was a pleasant traveling companion and a partner, and when needed, also sensible mother. She made great albums telling about our trips.

She was modest and talented: managed languages, sporty, skilled in handwork and a good writer. At computer she learned easily. She was also a gardener, resulting a neat and tidy home yard. She was well aware of her own Tupanen Family and the Pudas Family histories.

Mom always was happy of small things. She had a very good sense of humor and her cheerful laugh captured frequently audience! She was also a feminine and elegant woman, often indicated by her sun hats.

She was a caring, loving, guiding, encouraging

and also a beautiful mother, both internally and externally. She never said a bad word about anyone, which is a rare fine feature! Friends and acquaintances characterize her with the following words: cheerful, hospitable, social, educated, trustworthy, adjustable, compassionate and helpful.

Serious illness brought her to the hospital for more than five years. Her sweetness made us visit her repeatedly. My father took care of mom on a daily basis over a period of five years, which was the actual act! Thanks to my dad!

Let mom's tender smile give us at home and our friends strength to continue forward!

My Beloved Mom: thank you for your Greatness!

Your daughter  
*Margit Pudas-Timonen*