

## Failed business

You see stories about the Granholms and their involvement and entrepreneurships in starting different businesses. You seldom find much about what failed. Here is however a story about an attempt that failed for a reason which was somewhat difficult to foresee – it involved global political ambitions.

My father Anton and uncle Uno fished a lot in Lapland and in the Petsamo area. Below are some pictures that were taken sometimes before 1936, because there is Erik Ståhl, who was murdered in 1936. In the 1940's this area begun to be developed because of nickel mining and they decided to start a small village store there in the village of Kolosjoki with a local partner. They also had in mind to have fishing and hunting equipment for sale there – so they would not have to carry so much with them when they travelled there.

So they incorporated and were ready for business. Below is one of my father's stock certificates, 10 shares of 1,000 marks each, signed on February 1, 1944 by the two other partners Uno Granholm and Frans Jokinen. He had five of these for a total of 50,000 marks. The text in Finnish and Swedish reads: "Anton Granholm has by paying 10,000 marks become an owner of ten shares in the corporation." Obviously they were optimistic about the possible earnings for the next ten years as the dividend coupon sheets indicate.

However, the timing could not have been more wrong. After the Winter War Finland had been allowed to keep Petsamo so this they anticipated would not change. Negotiations were ongoing with Russia but with no results so Russia attacked Finland by bombing Helsinki on February 6-7, 1944 with 650 airplanes and the war started in earnest and lasted until September. When the Moscow Armistice was signed on September 19, 1944 Finland had to cede Petsamo to Russia and that was the end of that Granholm business. As you can see below that pristine nature has today turned into a Russian pollution pit.

# KOLOSJOEN KAUPPA OY

## Osakekirja - Aktiebrev

KYMMENEN OSAKETTA

TIO AKTIER

à 1,000 mk

N:o 1111 - 1120

*Anton Granholm*

*on suorittamaan kymmenen tuhatta  
markkaa tullut kymmenen osakkeen  
omistajaksi yhtiössä.*

*Kolosjoki, 1 p:nä helmikuuta 1944.*

*har genom inbetalning av tiotusen mark  
blivit ägare till tio aktier i bolaget.*

*Kolosjoki, 1 februari 1944.*

KOLOSJOEN KAUPPA OY

*Uno Granholm Frans Jokinen*

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

# EMÄLIPPU - TALONG

osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

1944-1953

N:o 1111 - 1120

1944-1953

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

MERCATORIN KIRJAPAINO 1944

1953

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1952

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1951

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1950

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1949

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1948

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1947

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1946

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1945

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

1944

OSINKOLIPPU - DIVIDENDKUPONG  
osakekirjoihin - till aktiebreven

N:o 1111 - 1120

K O L O S J O E N   K A U P P A   O Y

*Urs Grahnel Franz Jokinne*

These pictures were taken probably by Uno as he is not in any of them. They show the Kolosjoki village people. In the upper left picture Erik Ståhl is on the left, Anton Granholm is the second from the right, in the right picture he is sitting on the left. Others show a storage shed to keep wolves and other animals out, a reindeer and the surrounding landscape. The next page shows them going to the border to Norway and fishing. Erik Ståhl is in the two pictures on the right. He was murdered in 1936 while bringing a truck from Helsingfors to our firm Ab. Granholm@Kåll.

Compare this scenery to the present situation in Kolosjoki on the last page.







# Nikel (Kolosjoki)

*Pechenga nickel plant at Nikel*



**Nikel** (Finnish: *Kolosjoki*) is an urban-type settlement in Murmansk Oblast, Russia, located on the shores of Lake Kuets-Yarvi some 196 km northwest of Murmansk and 7 km from the Norwegian border. It is the administrative center of Pechengsky District. Population: 15,900 (2005 est.); 18,000 (1973).

The area of Pechenga (Finnish: Petsamo) became part of Finland in 1920 Peace Treaty.

In 1930's huge reserves of nickel were found on fells nearby. The amount was estimated to be five million tons. In 1934 the Finnish Government awarded the mining right to the British Mond Nickel Co, (Inco, that founded the Petsamon Nikkeli Oy mining company. The company began building a railway between the town, known as Kolosjoki, and between Liinahamari harbour, and other infrastructure.



*Location of Kolosjoki*

After the Finnish–Soviet Winter War Petsamo remained part of Finland, although the Government took over the mines from the British company in summer 1940. The first mining operations began in the same year. During the War the ore was mainly sold to Germany. The hydro power plant in Jäniskoski started operations in 1942 and it was possible to smelt the ore on locally.

In Moscow Armistice on September 19, 1944 Finland ceded the Petsamo to the Soviet Union. Retreating German forces destroyed the power plant and partially the smelter.

*The areas ceded by Finland to the Soviet Union after the Continuation War. Porkkala was returned to Finland in 1956.*



## Grave pollution concerns

The town is linked to the Norilsk Nickel plant nearby where many of its citizens are employed and which causes grave environmental and health concerns for the population. The nickel smelter which has been an eyesore in Norway–Russia relations for decades due to its extreme pollution levels, usually deposits its sulfur dioxide fumes to the south of the town where the countryside is a brown moonscape of bald hills, barren of plant life for kilometers around. In the summertime, the toxic fumes which for the rest of the year rarely blow northwards towards the town, occasionally do just that, making breathing difficult and even burning holes in people's umbrellas.

## Recent events

The video of English alternative rock band White Lies, "Farewell to the Fairground" was filmed there in early 2009.