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**FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT
LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978**

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SUBJECT

SOURCE: A. Aldrich

COMMENTS:

Interviewer: B. Berry

I: What was your maiden name?

R: Annie Broan

I: Where were you born?

R: Atlantic Mine

I: Who were your parents?

R: Well, my father was John Broan and his wife Phillipa who me married in Caramel, England.

I: Why did he come and settle here?

R: Well, because this is mining and he had brothers that were associated ...who sent for him and he came here. His other brothers went to Colorado, but he remained in the Copper Country.

I: Did he bring your mother when he came?

R: He did...well, not when he first came...he came here when he was a young man of eighteen and he left and went back to England six years later and married my mother and brought her here from a lovely home in England to a very rough little mining town in Atlantic at that time. But she became very homesick and the doctor said that she would die if he didn't send her home, so he sent her home. Meanwhile he went to Colorado thinking he would find out for himself whether he preferred this or Colorado; but he didn't like Colorado because the altitude was against him. So, he came back to Michigan and she came back two years later and was never homesick again.

I: Was she received by the women of Atlantic Mine?

R: No, she certainly wasn't. They thought she was kind of putting on airs because she had a pair of lace curtains at her living room window and they didn't have anyother curtains in the whole village. So they thought that that was somebody they'd leave alone and that's why she was so homesick...nobody bothered with her; and so she went

back home. And when she returned two years later every home had lace curtains. So, she did her best at improving the conditions.

I: She set the style for Atlantic Mine.

R:

I: How many children were in your family?

R: Well, nine; but six were raised to men and women and three died in infancy.

I: Did your mother usually have a midwife or was there a company doctor to take care of her?

R: Oh she had a doctor to take care of her

I: Were the infant deaths due to an epidemic that came through then?

R: No, one died of diphtheria...very bad diphtheria; one died of convulsions...cutting too many teeth at one time the doctor said; and the other one died when she was five years old of a kidney infection...so they were all different.

I: Do you remember any disasters at Atlantic Mine?

R: Well, I remember when they closed the mine they had what they called air blasts...but they were explosions due to the mine not being properly timbered and that's the reason why it became a dangerous mine and they had to close it. It was necessary because it was not timbered properly for work; and my father says that it was a very rich mine and that there is a lot of good copper in Atlantic Mine.

I: Was it the Atlantic Mine Mining Company?

R:

I: And then where did your family go?

R: Painsdale...to the Copper Range.

I: Your father had been a (???) miner.

R: To begin with, yes.

I: And then he became a captain (??)?

R:

I: And what does that term mean?

R: Well, it isn't used anymore

I: That's why I don't understand.

R: No, they don't use it anymore because at that time the man who ran the shifts and took care of the men and all was the mining captain and he got the name of captain and my father was always Captain Broan. Ever since I can remember he was always Captain Broan. They use the title.

I: I know, I've heard others refer to him..."I remember Captain Broan" when I've talked about what a very fine person he was.

R: He was, yes.

I: What did he do with you children for fun when you were growing up?

R: Well, usually in the evening we'd play some simple game before bed time and eat an apple and then off we went to bed. That was a simple life but it was very pleasant. He was a very fine father.. a wonderful father.

Was he a strict disciplinarian for you?

R: Yes...yes he was...we had to toe the line. I think too often that isn't true today and parents seem to be afraid of their children; but my father was never afraid of us.

What other activities...like the Fourth of July? Did you ever go (???) Park?

R: Not on the Fourth of July...that was the Sunday School picnic that went to (???) Park. Fourth of July was a celebration right in our little town of Atlantic Mine...and they certainly had a celebration; a band and a parade and a dance in the evening and everything that went...it was a real celebration. They called it the Great (???) Parade...Now I don't know if you know that word. (???) was the parade of the Fourth of July.

I: I have heard of the (???) Society in the East...perhaps this was their purpose for the parade.

R: I don't know...that was probably copying from them

I: What did you do for Christmas? Was it a special

R: Well, Christmas was always very special in our home and I think in most homes; of course it was always tied up with our church celebration too and I think perhaps more than today Christmas was celebrated as the birth of Christ. So, we always had a very fine Christmas. I remember one Christmas that my mother dressed a doll for me...did a lot of work on it which I didn't know anything about beforehand...and on Christmas morning I dropped the doll - it had a china head - and broke it against the leg of the stove and my mother was more brokenhearted than I was because I didn't like dolls. I had too many babies to ever like dolls...there were too

many babies in my family that it didn't bother me one bit to lose that doll.

I: You took care of the children then as your way of helping your mother.

R: Well, that was my job. My mother was busy enough with all of us and I think I sort of raised my younger brothers and sisters. I was the oldest girl in the family and that's always a tough job in any home. We were a big family and always had something to do.

I: Did you have special foods and presents for Christmas?

R: Oh yes...plum pudding and all the other nice things that you didn't have at anyother time. We had Christmas dinner that was just wonderful...Turkey and plum pudding...and too much to eat always.

I: When you went to Painsdale did your place in society change as your father became captain?

R: Yes, un huh, definitely so.

I: What was the class system in the mining town?

R: Well, I think that the president of the mine, of course, was the head and the clerk was next...then the captains of the mines were next and they all had their own place in the community which was very nice in that community. We had a very nice home and our home was tied up with the...was heated from the mining I don't know what, but anyway when they had to clean the boilers we were cold because there was no heat...none whatever. So, we didn't like those days and it was usually a Sunday and we would gather around the kitchen stove for a little heat. But that was very very pleasant and very comfortable. We had a very nice home there.

I: In no way did you have any trouble with anyother of the mining children in the community.

R: Oh no...no never. I can't remember anything disagreeable about school children with us...no never any trouble of any kind.

I: Did you go to the Painsdale School?

R: For awhile and then the high school was in Atlantic Mine and we used to have to get up at seven o'clock in the morning and go on a bus with two old (???) horses that took us the six miles to Atlantic and to get there by nine o'clock we had to leave about seven. But I took that bus for a short time but I wasn't very strong...very well, and my father insisted on my going down on Monday morning on the bus and then staying there with friends there in Atlantic and I stayed until Friday night and then went home. But that was a hard trip...that bus trip from Painsdale to Atlantic every day.

I: In the winter did they use a sled for the bus?

R: Oh yes, absolutely.

I: Leave before daylight?

R: Absolutely

I: And home after dark.

R: A good many times we were home after dark. That six miles took about two hours.

I: How many children did this?

R: Oh, I'd say there were twenty to thirty children that went that long ways. See, there was Painsdale, Tri-Mountain, Baltic, South Range...(unable to transcribe)...high school.

I: Do you remember anything special that happened in school?

R: Nothing pleasant.

I: You didn't enjoy school?

R: I enjoyed school and I enjoyed the work; of course I hadn't been in school for four years and I went back to school and I did three years of work in two, so I didn't have any time to myself...I studied through every noon hour, I studied every night...I had classes all day long in between, so my schooling was hard work.

I: What did you take?

R: In grade school...high school...

I: English...?

R: Oh English, mathematics...I didn't like algebra and I loved geometry and had a mark of a hundred on my final examination and I always made sure that my children knew that.

I: Did you study any languages?

R: German for three years.

I: Well, then when you finished high school did you then find yourself with a home?

R: I finished high school and two years later married in Painsdale

I: That was in 1900?

R:

I: You were married...

R: In 1907...un hum

I: To Doctor Addison Aldrich?

R: Un hum

I: He was from Milwaukee...why had he come up here?

R: Well, he had a brother that was a minister in L'Anse and he persuaded him to come up here to the Upper Peninsula because he thought there was more of an opportunity and he was associated in the first place with a Doctor Grunman (?) here in Painsdale; and then when the mine opened he was given charge of the medical facility up there and he was there for about four years before we moved to Houghton in 1911.

What was the medical facility like? Was it just an office...or a hospital?

R: No, no hospital...but an office. He did many things right on our dining room table...much of his operating because there were no facilities. He did some in his office, but he did more at home.

I: What anesthetics did he use?

R: Mostly ether at that time

I: Unable to transcribe...I wondered if he used whiskey when it was necessary.

R: No...no, ether.

I: The supplies were sufficient right then?

R: Un hum

I: You stayed at the Winona Mines for four years?

R: Four years

I: As a young bride?

R:

I: And set up your home there.

R:

I: What kind of a social life did you have as a doctor's wife?

R: Well, very pleasant...but then of course I was busy because I had three children at once...one right after the other...so I had plenty to do and social life was not very important to me anyway. And when we moved to Houghton we had three children...Alice who was three, Anson who was two, and John who was three months. He was born the first of March and we moved the first of June and so we moved to Houghton in 1911.

- I: Were your parents living here then?
- R: Yes
- I: Did your husband organize his practice in Houghton?
- R: In Houghton and he practiced there for the rest of his life and then our son also is a doctor.
- I: And Doctor John is a dentist
- R: Dentist and David is a dentist in Racine, Wisconsin. So that's about it, I guess, as far as my family is concerned.
- I: Well, what did you do when you came to Houghton as a member of the church? Which group did you join?
- R: The Methodist Church of Houghton...we still always had our membership there...the Methodist Church of Houghton.
- I: Your parents had been members of the Chapel.
- R: Yes, my father especially. My mother was really Episcopalian but there was not...nothing at that time in Painsdale that would interest her and she never did become interested in the Methodist Church. She remained an Episcopalian and that was it.
- I: Did she go to the Episcopal Church there when she came back home?
- R: Occasionally...not often though.
- I: What are some of the things you remember about the Methodist Church here?
- R: Well, its ups and downs. It had a fire, it had a...
When did it have a fire?
- R: Oh, I can't remember the date of that fire but our church had a very serious fire. But the old stone walls still stood and so it was rebuilt in the same place and we've had our ups and downs. And of course the Methodist send their ministers out and you take what you can get...I don't know if it's still so, but in years gone by ...and we had all kinds and some of them were good and some of them weren't. You know how that goes. But we had all kinds of ministers that came to the Houghton church; and my husband was usually on the Church Board and usually fell to our lot to entertain new ministers and we had many kinds in our home that came and stayed for maybe a week at a time until their things arrived in Houghton. So, I've had many experiences with Methodist ministers and their wives and families.
- I: Do you remember any in particular that you'd like to tell without any names?

R: Well, the only one that particularly comes to my mind is the man who married a second wife and brought her as a bride and never told us and we didn't know all that. He brought her to our house as a bride but he brought children who came later by a former marriage. But we felt that he sort of put one over on us.

you take an active part in the women's work of the church?

R: Yes, I was president of the women's society for a couple of years. I went through all the different phases I think, so I've graduated. I don't do any church work anymore.

I: What about the social life in Houghton

R: Well, in the early years they had a very active social life in Houghton and of course we used to get plays at the Carriage Theatre that were marvelous plays...wonderful things came to Houghton.

I: What were some of them? Can you remember?

R: Oh, I'm just trying to think. But I know that some of the singers that came were the finest...the very finest. We had some wonderful programs that came to the Carriage Theatre in years gone by... wonderful.

I: Did you make these socially a dress affair with fancy gowns?

R: Oh yes...oh yes and we did ??? the theater (??? wonderful...just wonderful.

I: How did you dress for these parties? Did you have dinners and then go?

R: Well, sometimes and sometimes it was just evenings; but we had wonderful parties...wonderful people...and they're all gone, most of them. I said I'm living a little too long...that's the way it seems sometimes; but my family don't feel that way and they're all good to me which is fine.

I: All these parties...were they usually formal affairs as far as the men's clothes were concerned?

R: No, not particularly, no. They wouldn't be unless it was a special party. Once in awhile there would be a special formal party and you got a formal invitation, and then we dressed up formally; but there was a little (???) more informal and we'd have a party of maybe sixteen or twenty or something like that.

I: Sixteen to twenty sounds like a large party to go to the theatre together.

R: Well, we sometimes went to the theatre together and sometimes met after the theatre. And then, of course, we had our hockey games which were wonderful.

I: Where were they?

Down at the old amphadrome and in the early hockey days everybody

was hockey conscious and we were at Painsdale at that time and the Copper Range brought a special train in and brought all the hockey fans down and we went to the hockey game bundled up for fair and then we came back afterwards; but they gave us a little time after the hockey game to go in the Board of Trade and have a nice hot bowl of oyster stew.

I: Oyster stew?

R: Oyster stew was our favorite at that time and we never missed a hockey game.

I: You would come in from Painsdale..

R: Yeah, on the train and then back again on the train. We went to all the hockey games...they were the most important things in our lives at that time.

I: Did this continue when you moved?

R: To Houghton? Yes

I: Did you know Don Getzen ?) then?

Oh, indeed I did. He was one of the early players, you know, in the hockey games here. Yes indeed! And (???) was the referee.. oh he was a great hockey fan.

I: Most of the games were held in Houghton.

R: Yes, at the Amphadrome

I: Were they on the weekends?

R: Well, could be the weekends but anytime, it didn't matter, we always made it.

I: Whether it was afternoon or evening.

Evening...I remember going to a hockey game on a Saturday afternoon and it was a little later when they were more like a college teams that would come. If they didn't get everything worked out for the three evenings, we'd have an afternoon game on Saturday. I never missed one. With our families and all...we all went.

I: Children?

R: Oh sure...they all loved hockey

I: When your husband first came to practice in Houghton, how did he get around? By sleigh?

R: Horse and buggy...horse and sleigh...very difficult. And he was the first one in Houghton that ran his car in the wintertime; and

you know how he ran it?

I: No

R: On the streetcar track from home to the hospital and back. But, of course the streetcar only came every half hour, so he'd watch his time and he'd follow the streetcar home...made his own way in getting off...and then he'd watch the time and follow it back. But he was the first man...first person who ever drove his car in the wintertime in Houghton.

I: What kind did he have?

R: A Reo

I: With the ??? curtains and the...

R: Oh yes...those old curtains. Weren't they terrible and you consider what we drive right now...that wasn't any comfort, I'll tell you.

I: How much faster was it than when he used the horse?

R: Oh, much faster, of course. He felt that it was, anyway. Used to get stuck sometimes which wasn't fun.

I: Did he ever get stuck on a streetcar track?

R: No...no...not that I know of. No, he watched that time pretty carefully. It only ran every half hour.

I: Is it true that only the streetcar tracks were shoveled or

R: That's right at that time.

I: ...or the snow removed?

R: Yes, at that time it was just the streetcar tracks that were open.

I: And how far did they go into Houghton?

R: Well, they were almost the end of the line...almost the end of the line. The end of the line was the bottom of Cemetery Hill.

I: Oh, just about two more streets

R: About two more blocks, un huh...and so of course we were in a position to watch the time and he followed the streetcar. And he did watch to make sure of the time; but not as hard as going on the horse and sleigh into the country. Sometimes those were terrible trips for the doctors with the horse and sleigh.

I: Did he usually go alone?

- R: Yes he usually went alone. Sometimes he took a driver.
- I: Did he go for a long period of time? Compared to today the doctor will come into the house for thirty minutes.
- R: -Oh, he'd go out and he'd stay all night sometimes if a patient was very ill; and then sometimes there were baby patients that they had to wait for and sometimes he'd come home with more (???) than I had. I'll tell you, it wasn't any fun. He got so he learned to take one straight chair into the middle of the room and put his coat on it so he wouldn't get anything on it. Isn't that awful... but that often was true.
- I: Why he could have gotten his children getting things like that.
- R: Oh my yes...plenty of them. I had to be watching all the time for that.
- I: Did he go to all groups? The Finnish, Swedish, Germans, Scotch?
- R: No, I didn't dare to try to do that. I stayed with my English speaking people.
- I: Did these groups ever show any opposition to you in any way?
- R: No, none whatever. I never had any trouble that way
- I: (Cannot understand)
- R: Yes, it was the men, especially in Calumet. The English and the Irish fought every Saturday night...every Saturday night there was a fight. But no, in this end of the county we didn't have any of that.
- I: Did your husband treat all of the groups?
- R: Oh yes...oh yes he did...everybody. He never turned anybody down, ever.
- I: Did he/in World War I as an army doctor?
serve
- R: No...no...no
- I: But he had a lot of patients to take care of up here
- R: No, he never served any military time.
- I: Was there a bad epidemic of flu or influenza up here?
- R: Yes, un huh...very bad.
- I: Did you or any of the other women help with the nursing?
- R: Well, I took care of a big family...I didn't do much nursing out

of my home because my family were...I had my mother and my father and brothers and I had my own family. I was pretty much a family person.

I: I understood that there were some of the women who did go out and nursesometimes.

R: Yes, some of them that didn't have big families or had time to spare. Some people did, but I didn't anyway; and fortunately, we never had a flu patient in our home.

I: You were very fortunate.

R: Very fortunate...but there were a lot of them that did. A very very bad epidemic. And at one time my husband who was a health officer out in the mining region had an epidemic of thyphoid fever which was very bad...very bad. He said at that time, thyphoid fever is a very strange disease; you either get better fast, or you die. And that's exactly the way it is too, even to this day. Thyphoid fever you either die or you get better fast.

I: About how lon doe thyphoid epidemic last?

R: Well, it was several weeks. They had special places...special houses that they used for sort of...well hospitals sort of to keep them in...very serious.

I: Did they find the source? Was it a carrier?

Oh yes...it was a carrier; but it was also a water deposit...or supply that was contaminated and that had to be found and traced. They had quite a time out there.

This was also when he was the mine doctor?

R: Yes

Were there any situations like this in Houghton with all of the wells?

R: No, I never heard of it. I don't think so...was out there in the country more.

This is interesting because so many of the mining communities came down almost on top of each other until they came into Houghton here.

R: Yeah...I don't know of any epidemic of that kind in Houghton

I: During the years when your children went to school here, do you remember any particularly interesting thing among the teachers?

lo

I: Did one of them stand out as exceptional?

R: They were all very fine

...fine teachers and the school was a very fine school when my children were growing up...very fine. They were really prepared for college.

I: They went to the Hubbell School first?

R: Yes

And then onto the

High School

I: The new high school?

Yes...and they walked. There were no buses. They had legs and they walked everywhere. Now they don't walk at all. They haven't got any legs; but our children walked to school in the morning, they came home for lunch...they went back.

End of Side

This is the last little stand of Hemlock trees in this area and so it's quite valuable because of that. The people next door had the same thing and they cut every tree down and I think that they did it for lumber. I think this ought to be saved.

I: Was this built by one of the local carpenters...one of the local builders?

R: Yes, see we built it about the time of the Depression and my children...my boys were in college and they had to be kept busy. There was no such things as a doctor's sons looking for a job. The jobs were all wanted by family men and so my husband said "No, we can't ask for a job for our children, so we have to make a job." So, that's why we built this so they'd have something to do. And they worked at it like little beavers with (???), of course; but they did most of the building because well we had a very fine carpenter at that time that kept them busy.

I: You had a fine stone mason to make your fireplace.

Oh, he was wonderful. They went down seven feet...if you'd hear my sons talking about the making of that fireplace, you'd be amazed because they said they built it and he stood by and watched them.

I: All the (???)

R: No, and they went down six feet and when they got down six feet he gave them each two pails and told them to go down to the shore and bring a pail of stones and dump them in the hole which they did... worked like beavers. And then he'd mix the mortar to mix with the stones. Has a wonderful foundation and then, of course, they said they had all the bricks to carry, all the mortar to carry, everything to do; and he just sat. Well, of course, we know better than that. He was a very fine mason and he did a wonderful job. The fireplace is the one thing that's never been changed. It's just as it was when we first built it. He was a very fine mason; but the

rest of it was just a shack. Just two-by-fours...the place was all open...it was just a shack...one room with a bed in this corner, a table in that corner, a tiny kitchen behind the fireplace and we came down here and picniced all the time. We used this place all the time. The whole family was raised here and then we decided to build this porch on and then we built this porch on. And I said, "Now that's it. We don't want anymore additions." And then when Jane was ill, when she was getting better, she wanted to come down here for a summer with her sister Alice and Dad said, "Well, if you're gonna do that, we'll put on a couple of bedrooms and a little bathroom." Which we did and she came down here and spent the summer with her sister...that was the summer of the war and her husband was over in the Phillipines; and then after Dad went, I just felt that this was my place, so I had the whole place done over...I spent ten thousand dollars rebuilding the place and putting on a kitchen addition. And you think when you see it now that it must have been planned, but it wasn't. It was just like Topsy, it grew...it just grew. And so it grew little by little and that's the way it's been. So now, I suppose it'll never be any different.

- I: And your great-grandchildren are learning to swim where their.
- R: Oh yes...Ellen...Addison's youngest daughter came yesterday. She lived down in Iowa but his people like in West Houghton...so she came down yesterday morning...I was just finishing the washing... with five children, two of her own, two of her brothers and one of her sisters...their aunt...well there were five of them anyway. And did they have a wonderful time down on the beach. So, like you say, they'll get acquainted with it too, I suppose, in time.
- I: Did your husband during the Depression receive goods instead of money for his...?
- R: Well, sometimes it was potatoes...I remember so well one fall, somebody came with twenty-five bushels of potatoes to pay his bill. And so we had to build a bin in the basement for twenty-five bushel of potatoes. We ate them too.
- I: and enjoyed everyone, I'm sure
- R: So, that's the way it was. We had quite a few things were paid for in that way. As a rule, we managed to get along fine. Everybody...my husband always said that people were honest and in the course of time they paid their bills no matter what. I remember once we were down in Ishpeming and walking on the street...I don't know why, but we were there...but this man stopped my husband and said, "You're Dr. Aldrich." He said "Fine...I owe you a bill." He pulled out his wallet and paid thirty-five dollars. He said that he'd had that bill for about forty years. And he paid the bill. And that's when Dad said, "There you are. People are honest and if they have a bill, they intend to pay it." I don't know if it's that way now, but it was in those days.
- T: I don't think people have changed that much.

- R: I don't think so either. I think people want to pay their bills, now to be honest. I don't think they want to be anything but honest and honorable.
- I: The newspapers here have been different from when you first arrived. You had a weekly magazine when you arrived?
- R: No, as far...as long as I can remember we've had a daily. The Gazette...that's pretty old. I don't know just how old that is, do you?
- I: No I don't.
- R: I don't know what the date is but I see...
- I: Was it the (???) Gazette before?
- R: I think it's always been the Mining Gazette and it's been many years...ever since I can remember, anyway that we had a daily paper. Since we were in Houghton, anyway.
- I: Did you know Mr. Rice ?) who founded the paper?
- R: Yes, un huh, very well. He was one of our best friends.
- I: And then his son was the editor of the (???)
- R: Un hum...you knew what his nickname was didn't you?
- I: Which one...Jack?
- R: Jack...Puff Rice
- I: Why?
- R: Well, he was quite big, you know...did you know Jack?
- I:
- R: So, well his nickname was Puff Rice.
- I: Wasn't he an athlete of some...?
- R: No, I don't think so...no he was too big to be an athlete. He was always that way, even as a young fellow he was roly-poly.
- I: He enjoyed working with the paper, I remember that.
- R: I think so.
- I: And enjoyed public writing.
- R: Oh, yes I think so.

I He always seemed so very fair. Was there ever a time when the newspaper took sides?

R: Well, I guess so; but I don't think he intended to be that way. I was thinking about the strike days...I think they did at that time take the side of the companies rather than the strikers...I'm sure they did.

I: Was thi the Houghton paper...there were papers in Calumet...

R: Calumet too.

I: ...especially for the strikers.

R: Yes there were, but not the Gazette.

Did you see many of the results of the strike in Houghton

Oh yes...we had some pretty rough times with that during the strike days.

I: How?

R: Well, they had what they called the Citizen's Alliance which got together to try to break up that strike and they interfered with them a lot. Oh yes, it wasn't very funny and very serious at times; but they finally came out of it. But, of course, in the early days of mining the companies certainly did take advantage of the workers and the strikers they certainly had a good reason to complain especially when they saw all the profits of their labor sent out of their own community. That I think they objected to very strenuously. But the labor unions had their place and they certainly were needed and were necessary in our economy; but they over stepped.

Don't you think it took a generation to realize that the money was leaving the area?

R: Oh, absolutely...yes it took that.

I: What was the difference in attitude? For example, with your father's group...they were happy to be here?

Yes, and they never objected to whatever officials said. There was never any objection on their part. But the time came when they really felt that they were being imposed on.

I: Do you think there were a number of people from outside that brought this in?

Yes...aggitators that really came in to aggitate labor troubles and I think this was necessary. I think so. They needed to do something about it.

I: (unable to understand) Were you ever aware of Copper Country trains bringing in carloads of scabs...of workers to take the place of the strikers?

R: I think they did during that time, but I was never aware of it, of

course, but I was never aware of it at that time. But that was done. They said they brought them in from outside. That wasn't a very happy arrangement.

I: Did you know any of the actives?

R: No, they all moved out as they moved in. No, I didn't know any of them. We didn't get into direct contact with the laboring people much anyway. No, we didn't except in the schools. In the schools we did.

I: Did your boys have any problems there?

R: No, never.

I: Everyone was (???)

R: Everybody was...every student was equal...on an equal basis and they were accepted as that. I don't think they ever had any trouble in school with children from the different...Germans and Swedes and Finns. I think they all got along fine. As far as I know, there was never any difficulty. Sometimes...you know how kids they'll say "Dirty German" or "Dirty Finn"...they soon got over that because that wasn't permitted. We didn't continue anything like that. That was especially true during the war days because you know a lot of the German people of German background...German origin...they had to take quite a bit. They really did and it wasn't fair because they were young Americans too. And some of them took quite a lot.

I: Do you know of any of them changing their names?

R: Oh yes...oh yes I do know that some changed their names...wanted to get away from their German names. Oh yes, I knew of two or three different ones that changed their names. Just as the Jewish people have changed their names to get away from that background. That's true.

I: During the days of the Depression, how did your younger children enjoy themselves?

R: Well, they didn't know any difference. They weren't aware of any difference and I don't know that we were terribly aware even... my husband has told me in years gone by was that the reason he became a doctor was because as a young fellow growing up that he realized that doctors never got into labor arguments or any kind of arguments of any kind. They went ahead on their own and minded their own business and never were involved in labor difficulties. And that really was true. We never were either. We were never involved in labor difficulties that went on at the mines.

I: Do you remember any political problems in Houghton that you observed?

R: No, not anything special.

- I: Did you know Congressman Hubbell?
- R: No...he was before my days here. His day was gone before we moved to Houghton.
- T: Well he died about 1900...did you know his daughters...Florence...no Florence died...and then there was Blanche?
- R: No, I didn't know any of that family. They were all gone before we moved to Houghton. See, we didn't move to Houghton until 1911.
- I: Did you know Congressman Sheldon and his wife?
- R: No...they were all before our day too
- I: Do you remember the (???) Party? President Theodore Roosevelt?
- R: Well, we were living in Houghton at that time, but I don't remember...well, I don't. I guess we had nothing to do with them if they did because they were Democrats and we were Republicans and that was it.
- I: Did you ever work with the Temperance Movement?
- R:
- I: What did you do?
- R: Well, I was just a girl...do you know Julia Adams
- I:
- R: Well, Julia and I were next door neighbors to each other in Painsdale and she was (???)...but I was five years older than Julia but we always were pretty good friends and have remained so all our lives in spite of some things. Well, anyway, we were involved in a Temperance Drive that was taken up by our church people, I think, out at Painsdale; and we went...at that time they had many people that gave lectures and well, I was given one to deliver and Julia was given one to deliver and we had the same school teacher coaching us and I beat Julia. I got the prize and she never got over it. Yes, I was given the first prize. I think she thought because her father was president of the company that she would get the first prize; but she didn't get it. I had it then. That really floored her because she was younger than I was, you know, I had every advantage. Oh dear, it was funny though.
- I: Do you remember the WCTU?
- R: No, I think that program was under WCTU...I think so but I'm not sure about that.
- I: Did they have other temperance meetings in Houghton after you came here?

- R: I don't remember...what I remember is that Painsdale experience more than anything else; but maybe they did but I was too busy to be interested, I guess. I don't remember.
- I: Do you remember anything about trying to get the vote for women?
- R: Oh yes, we were all right there for that...and got it too.
- I: How did you get it with your black skirts and white blouses and wide-brimmed black hats?
- R: Yes...(???)...we were all excited about that.
- I: Did you have regular meetings here in Houghton?
- R: Oh yes...I think they gathered everywhere. They were really determined to get the vote...the women of this country.
- I: Did outsiders come in?
- R: No, not that I know of.
- I: Who was your leader here?
- R: Oh, Mrs. Rice, for instance was a very devoted leader and...oh... I'm just trying to think who all...I remember the teachers were very interested and very active; but I know Mrs. Rice was definitely... and (???) too, now her husband was all for women voters, was fine. Oh yes, that was a very interesting time.
- I: Then who was the first President for whom you voted?
- R: I don't remember...I really don't know. I just don't remember what President the women vote came out. I can't remember that; but it was before Roosevelt's time.
- I: President Harding...President Hoover?
- R: Probably through that area of time.
- I: Did any of the people in the Copper Country change their politics because of President Roosevelt?
- R: Either they were very much for or against. That was true all the country, wasn't it?
- I: I think so
- R: Yes, very much for or very much against.
- I: Did the WPA become active here?
- R: Oh yes. Do you know some of the things that were WPA projects?
- I: No

- R: The Keweenaw Club was a WPA project...every bit of wood in that building was taken out of the woods right there in Keweenaw County...those chandaliers are made of copper all by local men...all the material in that building...those lovely stone fireplaces...were all taken out of the ground right there...and every bit of material in that building was taken out of Keweenaw in a WPA project. O. Potter who was the president of the Ahmeek mine was the instigator and they called it Potter's folly. It certainly wasn't, was it?
- I: No...it's beautiful.
- R: It's a beautiful building. And when you go down again look at it carefully. Every bit of lumber is perfect...every log is placed perfectly. It's a beautiful building...a wonderful building; and to begin with, every bit of furniture in that building was made right there in Keweenaw and all out of the Keweenaw woods.
- I: I had noticed the copper...
- R: Chandaliers?
- I: Chandaliers and those were hand made out of copper?
- R: Hand made...yes.
- I: But the copper as I remember all being hammered.
- R: Yes, very nicely made they are...very nicely made. In fact, that whole building is beautifully made...beautifully built.
- I: Yes, each of the logs is straight.
- R: Yes, wonderful.
- I: I was aware of the surroundings, but I didn't realize where.
- R: That was a WPA project and also the Mountain Drive was another WPA project and they had all kinds of foolish things. Do you recall a ship...that was a WPA...there were lots of that kind of stuff; but that's the only one that I know of that's left. It's out there... (??) it still stands there...that ship...un huh; and there were lots of things like that that were just foolish. But they had to make jobs and they made them...but this one thing I think was marvelous foresight of the project. He was a marvelous man...wonderful man.
- I: Was Houghton County changed much by any of the political figures... any of the sheriffs?
- R: Oh, I don't think so...there'd be one good and then one bad. They're pretty much political...I don't think you can judge if they did much one way or the other for Houghton County.
- I: Do you remember an outstanding personality?

- R: No, I don't. One sheriff, Sheriff Roe I remember real well, knew him personally, but (???). No, I don't remember that there were any outstanding people.
- I: Do you remember any murders or any scandals that these men were involved in?
- R: No, I don't...not politically...no I don't...maybe I was too dumb to know it.
- I: I imagine the paper would have pointed a finger if there had been.
- R: I think so. They'd either take the side, one way or the other, and point at the other. No, I don't remember anything terribly scandalous about our history.
- I: Was there a club at the Community Building?
- R: I don't think so.
- I: Where people would go on Sunday night?
- R: I don't think so, no.
- I: Did the days of Prohibition prove to be as lucrative here as people believe...whiskey from Canada.
- R: There was some traffic of that kind and of course there was bootlegging we knew was going on, but on most part I don't think it was worse here than any place else...maybe not as bad a lots of places. I don't think it was either...we weren't a bad community. I think we were quite tame in fact.
- I: This was quite a change from the early days of Houghton...saloons were so thick.
- R: That was before my day...a good many years before my day because Houghton had always been I think a very nice home.
- I: Well, Atlantic Mine and Painsdale neither one had many saloons.
- R: No, they were a mining town.
- I: And there were no saloons in a mining town?
- R: No, not in the town proper. If they had one, it was on the outskirts. They didn't have anything right in the mining location proper...no.
- I: Well, was Tri-Mountain a mine location?
- R: Un hum
- I: There was a mine there?
- R: Uh hum
- I: Which one was that?

R: Tri-Mountain

I: Well, where was the King Phillips Mine?

R: That was out by Winona

I: There was both the Winona.

R: Winona and the King Phillips Mines. My father opened the Phillips Mine.

I: When was that?

R: When? Oh about 1910, I'd say.

I: Is that to the West, towards the Lake from Winona?

R: It's about a mile from the Winona Mine...just about a mile from...and I don't know what...I think it was part of Winona property, I think so. They tell me that there is a project at the College right now that has to do with the King Phillip Mine. I don't know what it's all about but there's something doing there right now. The reason I know that is Tom Bennett was here and Tom was a very interested mining person and he heard about it that they were doing some work at the King Phillip; but you see that was all closed when we moved to Houghton or very soon after that was all closed.

I: Did they have a lot of logging or only mining up in that area?

R: Pretty much mining...some logging but not very much.

I: Do you know of any miners who just came in for the winter or just for the season?

R: No

I: Most of them were the...

R: Most of them stayed...most of them were here to live as far as I know. No, I don't think there were seasonal workers in our mine at all.

I: Did you ever see or know of the Italian who made the stone facings to the mine in Baltic?

R: No, I didn't know anything about that.

I: There are pictures there which you would enjoy.

R: Oh, is that so.

I: They had these pictures (???) which show the (???) facings of cut (???)

R: In the Baltic Mine?

I There's a community of Italians near Baltic

R: My father never had anything to do with the Baltic Mine. Just Atlantic and Painsdale...not Baltic or Tri-Mountain.

I: Do you know of any special hardships or anything during the second World War in Houghton...your family connections, I know?

R: Well, there were some families who lost people during that war; but as a family, we didn't. But I suppose all wars bring that to a certain group, you know. You never know. My two brothers served in that war, but they returned.

I: Was your personal life affected by rationing?

R: Oh yes...oh yes...certainly...very much so. We struggled through that era and that was quite something. You had to have your tickets for everything. I remember especially my husband was very fond of sugar and I gave him all mine because I didn't hardly miss the sugar. He had all my share because we had a certain amount for each person, see. He had the sugar and I didn't have mine.

I: Did you use a lot of the natural berries then?

R: Un hum

I: Were there big fruit gardens here?

R: Oh yes, many of them. Oh yes.

I: Did the deer and other wild animals help to supplement?

R: Oh sure, they all did. That made a big difference in the fall when meat was scarce; but of course, as you know, there was only one season for it. You couldn't kill them other...but they did.

I: Did they have to use the bear meat?

R: Some, but not as much so. That's very strong meat; but they did use it some, un huh.

I: What about the ???) or ground hog?

R: I don't know so much about that; but I know my husband brought home a rabbit one time.