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

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WMPL Hall Disaster
Dr. Clarence Andrews

Bob Olson

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INTERVIEW BETWEEN:

INTERVIEWER: Bob Olson

INTERVIEWEE: Clarence Williams

SUBJECT: The Italian Hall Diaster

B: On the Italian Hall Diaster, as we promised, our guest today is Doctor Clarence Andrews---and his phone has been ringing off the hook, I guess----and I guess my phone has been just about as busy since Monday, Tuesday? When was it?

C: Monday night.

B: You delivered your paper there on Monday night., at The Historical Society, and we talked about it the next morning on the air. We just mentioned it briefly, within about fifteen minutes I had about five survivors of the diaster on the phone. One was from Skanee, one was from L'Anse, another out in Painesdale---and we had quite a discussion. But, maybe just to preface this, I know you have been here for about a year. You came from Iowa City?

C: I am ending my second year here at Tech now. I came here from Iowa City, Iowa---that's right.

B: What is your position at Tech?

C: Well---it is a rather long one, and formally it is a Professor of Languages and Literature, and the Director of Technical Writing and Communications. That's the official title.

B: And, you said the other night, that the reason you got into writing this paper on the Italian Hall Diaster was because you are a guy who likes to find out about everything no matter where you are.

C: Yes, I'm just curious about everything that is going on around me. I'm like a Tom cat.

B: Somebody remarked there, with somewhat of a side comment--that you ought to be in Washington. Because everybody was talking about Watergate, I guess.

C: No, I would have to have more hands than I do now if I were to be in Washington.

B: OK, so why did you pick this project for your paper, the Italian Hall Diaster?

C: Well----when I came up here I started to drive around the country,

- and looking at things, and seeing the ruins of the mine shafts, and the ruins of the old rock crushers. And, Calumet---which fascinates me----it is an old world town. It reminds me a great deal of Chicago, as I knew Chicago when I was a boy. And, I just began asking questions---What happened here that is not happening now? Because, obviously, something had happened before,----houses, that big cemetery at Lake View.
- B: It was 50,000 people at one time, huh? At Calumet.
- C: I'm not sure. The population in 1910 was about 110,000 for Houghton County. Now, as I understand it---Calumet was a series of locations. I'm not sure yet what the village limits are. But, there were about 110,000 people in Houghton County in 1910 according to the census figures.
- B: Now we are 35,000. right?
- C: I think that's right for Houghton County.
- B: OK, well---I'm sure everybody is interested in your paper, so why don't we get right into it. Now, you hope to have this published, is that right?
- C: Well----the paper is in print, and will soon appear in the Journal of Michigan History, published by the Michigan State Department of History. And, that's part of the Michigan Secretary of State's office, and that will be out in ten days to two weeks or so.
- B: Now, that's not the Historical Society then?
- C: Not the local Historical Society. No, this is a state office. It is part of the office of the Secretary of State.
- B: Because someone wanted to know how copies----are there copies that are going to be available?
- C: That's the only way I know of that the copies will be available. Unless, some arrangements were made where we would be copying this and distributing. I have no plans for that.
- B: I thought it was The Historical Society, and this fellow said, "Oh, I am a member of that so I will probably get a copy."
- C: No, it isn't that at all. I don't think there is an historical society connected with this, not directly.
- B: OK, so----when did you start on this project?
- C: Oh, I started to work on it almost as soon as I got to the Copper Country. I came here in August of 1971, and in December of 1971, the Milwaukee Journal published an article which I wrote about the Italian Hall Disaster. That focused particularly on The Italian Hall Disaster. Today, of course I am going to talk

about a little broader subject, than that

- B: Someone wanted to know----you are going to talk about the strike also, aren't you?
- C: Yes, but to talk about the strike in any detail you and I would be here for several days. So, I am going to focus on one person, who played an important part in it. And, I like to do that anyway, to sort of humanize the thing.
- B: Ok, why don't you just start wherever you want to start, and however you want to do it----and we will take it from there.
- C: Right-----and, Bob----why don't you sort of act as the voice of the radio audience. If things occur to you as we go on don't hesitate to ask.
- B: OK, should we interrupt as we go along, because I can take calls here too----or, should we go right through it first?
- C: If calls come in and they are relevant to some point----we can stop and talk about them.
- B OK, I want to play ^{Woody} ~~Rudy~~ Guthrey's song about it too. You don't think much of the song either, do you? *Woody Guthrie*
- C: Well---the facts of the song present some problems. Now, as a song----that's another matter, as a work of art. I know, for instance that the Guthrey song had quite an impression on a great many young people. My own children in Iowa, students at Tech---I know they are quite taken by this song. No, it is my attitude toward it that is only has to do with some of the facts that are presented in it.
- B: Well---I talked to a couple survivors of the diaster, and they don't like it. They think, they don't think that the song should have been written----I think that that's the way they feel about it.
- C: Well---it was written back in the 30s at a time when the country was facing a financial, economic depression, and a lot of us were concerned about the establishment. We didn't use that word then. And, there were a great many things like this. A great many creative people, of course, turned to socialist and communist ideologies. We know that, that's a part of our history, through the 30s as perhaps an answer to some of the economic problems that were facing us. And, this song was probably just a little more radical part of that interest in _-----.
- B: Ok, let's take a call, and see what we have here. Ok, go ahead--you're on the air. OK----let's go, I will have them intercept the calls and if there is something relevant---then we can take it, OK?

C: Well---I wanted to start by laying a background here. In the mid part of the 19th century, the Indians who were living up here found their land swarming with men who had "copper fever." Many of these newcomers were doomed to disappointment, and at the first word that there was gold in California---they departed. Others were more fortunate, and soon the mines at Cliff and Phoenix----near the northern tip of the peninsula, were yielding out the pure copper ore. As more mines were opened along the copper ridge that runs from Copper Harbor to White Pine, a hundred odd miles---European immigrants swarmed in; Cornishmen from the copper mines of England's west coast, Finns from the cold regions of northern Europe, Croats and Sulvanians from the Balkan Peninsula, Italians from the sun-kissed Mediterranean, Austrians----some 30 nationalities in all. Some 90,000 of these people flocked into the Keweenaw Peninsula, and began the first large scale mining operation in North America. Like so many gophers, they burrowed into the pits that they found, pushing their drills farther and farther down into the Amgdaloid and conglomerate rock. From shafts which follow the copper lode in it's underground slope under Superior, they dug wherever the red veins took them. From far below the blue water lake, they brought out the chunks of almost pure copper; as Central, Delaware, ~~Aheke~~, Allouez, Kearsarge, Osceola, Boston, Franklin, Pewabic, Atlantic Mine, Painesdale----and other locations. Some of the copper was found in huge masses of dark red metal, masses weighing thousands of pounds, laying where they were found for several millenia. Ore boats, plying the Great Lakes and using the recently opened Sault Sainte Marie Canal, carried the copper to northern cities to help win The Civil War. More of the copper ingots went to build the virgining American industrial empire. The gold which returned in exchange built one of Michigan's largest metropolises. Homes, and libraries, theaters and hospitals, schools and businesses, docks and railroads, electric trollies, drawing their energy from copper rope not too long out of the mines below, rolled through the locations of Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, and Yellow Jacket, or down the side of the ¹ford from Franklin to the twin cities of Hancock and Houghton on Portage Lake. For a moment in history, the Keweenaw was the third most densely populated area in Michigan, with some 110,000 people at it's maximum. The boom reached as far as the east coast. Brokers in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston watched for the daily mine reports, and they cheered when old reliable Quincy, named for a Bostonian---paid it's annual generous dividends. In Boston's back bay, Miss Amy Lowell, the poet---of that familyhood, spoke only to the Cabotts, which spoke only to God, was reported to have paid for her black cigars with Copper Country profits. Millions of dollars in mine dividends, earned by the sweat of these immigrants, helped Harvard University and it's trust funds grow. The gifts of the Louie Agesies', who almost single-handly built The Calumet and Hecala Mine. This most prosperous Copper Country mine, eventually built a capital plant, worth almost 100,000,000 dollars, and returned dividends of over 200,000,000 dollars----all on original investments of about one million dollars. But, in 1913 the bubble of prosperity and good will which hung over the Keweenaw burst. Almost a

Ahmeek
Kearsarge

agogy

past before affairs could be restored. In those months, tragedy shook the Copper Country and it was never the same again. By that time, the Cornishmen---making their way to the top of the mine's labor pools as supervisors, bosses, and captains---were relatively happy with their situations. But, the later immigrants, the non-English speaking people, for the most part---were not. These men, many of them inclined for their liking for socialism in the old country, found much to complain about. The paternalism of the mine owners, if even that paternalism provided them with decent homes at low rent, with medical care, and with many other fringe benefits. The treatment provided them by the mine bosses, low wages, their long hours and arduous working conditions, and the omnipotent possibility of some mine disasters. In 1907, some of these men had turned to agents of the Western Miners Federation, who came to the Keeweenaw to form local unions. And, in 1913, when the mines began to discard the two-man drill, and replace it with a one-man drill---which the miners called The Baby Laner, or The Water Laner---the mine laborers asked the Denver headquarters of the WFM, the Western Federation of Miners--to declare a strike. Because at the moment, the WFM was not strategically ready to take on the copper bearance of the Keeweenaw---the headquarters asked the miners to be patient. Moreover, Charler Moyer---the WFM's President, was in Karlsbad, Bohemia---at that time, attending The International Mining Congress. But, the Finns, Sulvanians, and Croasians and Italians---of Calumet, Houghton, and the other towns, did not want to wait. So, at the end of July---they called a strike on their own valition. Their main objective was actually the group of smaller mines, but in order to win they also had to attack the power structure of the Calumet and Hecla. For the C&H dominated the Keeweenaw, it's public schools, its village and county governments, his security forces, its social life, its elections, even its juries. It was another David against another Golith. The odds in this case, however were symbolized by two economic factors. The miner's average daily wages of 2 dollars and 75 cents to 3 dollars and a quarter, and the annual wages of the mine manager of C&H, James McNaughton---were 85,000 dollars. On that late July day that marked the first day of the strike, the men stayed home from the mines and enjoyed their holiday. The next morning, many of them decided that a one day vacation from work was all that could be afforded. And, they headed back for their jobs. But, at the mines they met pickets, which represented the strikers. And, a number of skuffles and quarrels soon appeared. At once, Sheriff James A. Kruse, appealed to Governor Woodbridge and Ferris for the aid of the state malitia, arguing that violence was rampant in the Keeweenaw. Ferris ordered the empire 256,000 man unit---it included three brass bands, and it had been anxiously preparing for possible service in the Mexican border argument. To Calumet, under the direction of his commander P.L. Abbey(General) ---at the same time, almost overnight, the mines produced several hundred armed guards, most of them recruited from their own loyal forces. In addition, the sherrif had recruited an army of deputies, all of these men were hired

Solomon

Aliath

Waddell

from the Wadel-Maha Agency in New York City, and many of these in the words of James C. McNaughton himself, "Hardly better than thugs and gunmen!" The striker's reaction was to parade every morning from the Miner's Union Hall along the line of shafts---Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, Yellow Jacket. They formed a C&H operations, and thus tried to ~~intimidate~~ intimidate the non-strikers. They hoped that this means would eliminate violence and keep the strike going. The Miners put on their Sunday best for these parades, and they marched in orderly files. At their sides came their wives, carrying or leading the smaller children. The parades were usually lead by a local WFM official astride a sorry, sway-back, white nag. Charles Moyer, the WFM president, after his return from Europe in August----came to Calumet, and he often marched along side this official. From time to time, visiting labor celebrities came to Calumet---to give the miner's morale a little boost, and they marched in the parade too. The young John L. Lewis, Mother Jones at 80 years of age, still as spirited and in defense of labor as ever, officers of other unions. And, always----at the head of the parade, carrying a silk American flag bigger than she was, at the end of a two inch staff, a proud smile on her face because she was allowed to carry her country's flag, marched a Cro~~atian~~ girl in her early 20s. Annie Clements, Big Annie, or Tall Annie---to everyone who knew her, was a tall handsome woman. On 5th Avenue in New York City, or in Marshall Fields in Chicago----dressed in the fashion, she might well have been the object of ~~Irving~~ Berlin's *Irving* "You'll Be The Grandest Lady in the Easter Parade." But, Annie was destined elsewhere, for in 1913 she was the wife of a Cro~~atian~~ copper miner. Herself born and raised in Keeweenaw, and educated in the C&H financed public schools of Calumet. Her husband's labors helped pay for the furs which New York and Boston ladies wore. But, Annie's costume was a plain gingham dress---for her husband, at best, could only make 15 to 18 dollars a week----sweating 6 days a week, 12 hours a day, a mile below the mine-owned house, in which the Clements' lived. On Sundays, the Miner's Union Parade would form at the Miner's Union Hall, and march to the Italian Hall in Red Jacket--or The Polestra in nearby Laurium for meetings, meeting which would be addressed by men speaking in Italian, Cro~~atian~~, Finnish, German, and English. For these parades, Annie would be dressed in a plain white gown, with just a touch of colored ribbon. Bare headed, always---her dark hair would wave in the breeze, sweeping up from Lake Superior. From the top of her flag staff, there ran two colored streamers, the ends held by little girls dressed in white home-made dresses. But, such things as peace and harmony were not to last. There were hot heads among the strikers, and even the cooler heads flamed at the sight of armed New York City slugs and gunmen driving up and down the main streets of their home town, and chasing citizens off of the streets. A local jeweler, on his way home from business, was chased and beaten by some of these men---one evening. Then there was militia, his tents set up on company property, near Red Jacket Road. Some of his men and some of the armed guards as well rode horses. At

once the militia began to enforce an order to halt the parades. And, on one occasion, a militia man rode his horse into a crowd on the sidewalk and severely injured a small child. On another occasion, one of the gunmen fired and hit a small child in the brain----and, miraculously----she survived. On a Saturday morning, on the corner of 8th and Elm in Calumet, the strikers lead by Annie and Frank King---another flag bearer, came face to face with a group of deputies---with pistols and clubs, infantry men with bayoneted guns, and cavalry men with sabers. A cavalry man rode up to Annie and struck the staff of her flag with his blade, knocking it loose from her grasp. Tony Stefanchich, marching behind Annie, reached for the flag, but was knocked down by Captain Blackman, of the infantry. As the flag struck the ground, another cavalry man thrust his saber blade through it, and then trampled the silk into the dirt. And, incidentally, Alex Nelson of the Copper Country Vacationist's League, was a spectator of that event that day, and has talked with me about it. His description of the event is slightly different than the one I have just recorded, but what Alex says is that when the cavalryman drew the saber after the flag had been knocked down----that, everyone, including himself, turned and ran.

- B: We probably have some other people listening who were there too, and maybe we will get some of their viewpoints a little later, OK?
- C: Fine, I would like to hear from anyone who has seen this event, or any other events that I describe here. Well---anyway, to get back to the scene. Reaching under the horse, Annie snatched up the flag and the staff. At the same time, Frank King was faced by an infantry man with a drawn revolver, who ordered King to give up his flag. "I will die first," said King. Annie pulled up her flag against her breast, and faced the angry soldiers. An infantry man struck her in the wrist with his bayonet, and the deputy struck the flag staff with his club. Annie stood her ground. "Kill me," she shouted defiantly. "Run your bayonets and sabers through this flag, and kill me---but, I won't move. If this flag will not protect me, then I will die with it." But, at this moment, several strikers thrust themselves between Annie and her attackers, and the incident ended. My version of that incident comes from a report written by Big Annie herself, and published on that same day in the Miner's Bulletin at Hancock. Once someone asked Annie if the big flag wasn't too heavy. "I get used to it," she said, "I carried it ten miles one morning. The men wouldn't let me carry it any further, I love to carry it." A few mornings later, Annie and President Charles Moyer were standing at a curb side watching some non-striking miners coming towards them with their lunch buckets. "It is hard to keep my hands off of the scabbs," said Annie. She confronted one of the men, "Where are you going, partner?" He answered, "To work." "Not in the mine, are

you?" she asked. "You bet I am." At that moment, that miner's wife came between the two. Then two men that Annie knew because they were all so Croasian, came along. "Oh, George," said Annie, "You aren't going into the mines, are you?" "Come, stay with us." The deputies came over and caught George by the shoulder and pushed him along saying, "You coward, are you stopping because a woman told you not to go to work?" General Abbey came up to Annie and said, "Annie, you have got to get away from here." Annie glared at him, "No, I will not go. I have a right to stand here quietly, and ask the scabbs not to go to work." An automobile pulled up beside Abbey and Annie. "You will have to get into the auto," the general said. Annie starred at him, "I won't go until you tell me the reason." Abbey pushed her into the car and Annie began pounding her feet on the floor. "Why are you taking me to jail?" Annie demanded. An officer said, "Annie, why don't you stay at home?" "I won't stay at home," said Annie. "My work is here, and nobody can stop me." "I am going to keep at it until this strike is won!" And, so Annie's first automobile ride took her to, in her own words, "the dirty little Calumet jail"----where she was charged with assault and battery and kept until noon when she was released ~~when-she-~~ on bond. Later that day, Annie wrote her own account of this affair----for the Miner's Bulletin. The strike, which all hoped would only be a temporary affair, began to drag on until the fall because all the mine operators refused to have anything to do with WFM officers, or with anyone carrying a union card. Some of the strikers went back into the mines, and other men were imported from New York City and Chicago---as strike breakers. The good will of the strikers disappeared as it became obvious that theirs was a desperate cause. Most of all they were angered by the present of the armed gunmen and thugs, and strike breakers----and by the refusal of the C&H President, Quincy A. Shaw of Boston---to come to Calumet to talk with them. At one point Shaw came as far as Marquette, to talk with McNaughton, but he did not come all the way. In retaliation, the gunmen became terrorizing the locations. One later affirmed that the men were told to stir up business, so that the mines would keep them on. One night five of the gunmen surrounded a house in the Seberville Location, and fired indiscriminately at the home. Two men died, and a child held in his mother's arms was graised by a bullet. The gunmen were later convicted of mine slaughter. James Pollock, a deputy sherrif--Joseph Maneray, a striker---shot it out one dark night in Hurontown Location, and both died. On a night in early December, several men fired their guns into a Painesdale house where three newly arrived Canadian strikers breakers were staying. The three men died. The first snows of winter came, and the homes of the strikers became dim, cold and desolate. Some of the strikers were threatened with eviction by their mine owner landlords. Early in December, Annie and other women faced with the weakest Christmas of their lives, formed a woman's alliance to the WFM, and began planning for Christmas Eve. Around then the children of families of merchants and mine bosses were planning Christmas -

Seberville

at schools and churches. The store windows were laid with gifts, and the advertisements in the Pro-Mine----Hancock, Houghton, and Calumet newspapers, convinced the local citizens to plan Christmas as usual. But, Christmas as usual was not the case, it was not to be. The Houghton and Calumet merchants, faced with the loss of trade, and inflamed by the Painesdale shootings, formed a Citizen's Alliance. The strikers termed it The Klu Klux Klan. And, they began holding mass meetings objecting to the strike. The strikers now found themselves facing not only the mine owners, the militia, and the armed gunmen----but, their own neighbors as well. Many of the strikers continued buying supplies, and the merchants threatened to cut off this privilege. Meanwhile, Annie had had to go to the court house in Houghton, 12 miles away. And, she had to stand trial on assault and battery as a result of her arrest. She was found guilty. None of the jurors, incidentally---bore names of Finnish, Croasian, Sulvanian, Italian, or other foreign origin. The sentencing was delayed until after Christmas. The Woman's Alliance sent pleas to union of far off cities, and these unions responded with clothing, candy, and other gifts for the striker's children. At the same time, the women arranged for the use of the Italian Hall in Red Jacket. Three Christmas trees were set up, Evergreens grew plentiful around the locations, and a local Santa was hired. And, incidentally, there is a further report that the Calumet and Hecala Company contributed to this party. I have no verification of that, but I have heard this report. The word of the party was circulated by word of the mouth, and through the pages of the Miner's Bulletin. And, local newspapers published in Italian, Croasian, and Finnish. The Calumet, Hancock, and Houghton newspapers carried detailed stories about other Christmas affairs, but the Pro-Mine, Anti-Strike editors wrote nothing about the Italian Hall plans. The Italian Hall in 1913, about 5 years old---stands on 7th Street in Calumet, a block from the Town Hall and Fire Station. A saloon, frequented by strikers, and an A&P Grocery were on the ground floor. On one side of the building there was a long narrow stairway that led upstairs to a long corridor, or cloakroom---and, I think at this moment, I might describe that entrance way in more detail. As one faces the building, there is a pair of doors on the left hand side. These open outward and permit entrance into a floor which is perhaps 8 to 10 foot square. At that opposite side of that____, from the entrance of the building itself, are two sets of doors. One set of doors opens toward the street. The other set of doors opens inward toward the stairway. Off this floor is another door which led into the saloon that I mentioned earlier. Beyond the two sets of doors the stairway led up to the second floor. At the top of the stairs was a landing, perhaps 8 foot square. Straight ahead, as one went up the stairs--was a doorway which apparently served as a means for selling tickets when there were dances and affairs of that sort in the hall. Beyond that doorway was a small room which ~~that~~ was used as a ticket office, and beyond that was a corridor which led towards the end of the building where there was a room called a bar room. To get back to the

stair landing, at the top of the stairs, one turned right. One entered a door which went directly into the hall. And, at this point if one looked up above his head and back over his shoulder one would see a balcony which ran all the way across that side of the building---over that long corridor that I described.

B: Now, that building is still standing?

C: The building is still standing, I have never seen the inside of it. My description of it at the time comes from photographs what were published. Many Copper Country people have seen these because they are in a set of stereoptican slides.

B: By the way, there is a fellow who called today and he said that he is bringing down a set of 25 of those slides. Now, you have seen some of them, but you haven't seen 25?

C: I haven't seen 25. My description of this also comes from The Congressional Investigation Report which was published by The Congress in 1914. A congressman stood in the building, and he described, very accurately, what he saw from where he stood.

B: By the way, our guest today is Mr. Clarence Andrews of Michigan Tech who has written a paper on The Strike of 1913 and The Italian Hall Diaster. And, he is delivering that paper right now. By the way---NBC News on the Hour will be delayed about 20 minutes. How much do you have left in the paper, now?

Not too much

B: OK, as soon as he finishes, we will get to the news. And, then we will take comments following the news, on some of the things that we have heard this afternoon.

(End of side #1 of tape #1)

side #2 of tape #1

B: Dr. Clarence Andrews of Michigan Tech who has written a paper on The Strike of 1913 and The Italian Hall Diaster, and he is delivering that paper right now.

The hall itself was divided roughly into three parts. On the street side of the hall there was a large open area which was used for dances. The second part of the hall was equipped with theater type seats which faced toward a stage, and that occupied the third part of the hall. Under the stage, and set down into the first floor, was a large kitchen. For the party, the part of the hall used as a dance floor had been furnished with tables and chairs where a lunch was served on Christmas afternoon on 1913. On Christmas afternoon of 1913, from all over the mining

community---the three Jackets, the Water Location, the Waterworks Road, Tamarack, Kearsarge, and elsewhere. The children came, some of them tramping two or three miles through the snow. Rose Stukkel came with her brother 15, a sister 11, her mother, and Franklin Shalls, a neighbor boy. Caterina, Christina, and Maria Carlick came from Waterworks Road. Some of the children came with their parents, some by themselves. Several hundred people, children and adults---filled the hall for the party. Mrs. Thearesa Caesar played Christmas songs on the piano on the stage. And, Big Annie was on the stage directing the activities, and leading the songs. After a lunch at the tables, and in the rear of the hall the Christmas party began. One of the features of the program was a small girl in a pink ballet skirt and leotards. As she danced around the stage, the hall became a fairy land for the children. Rose Stukkel's eyes opened in wonder, never had she dreamed of magic such as this. When the dance was finished, the children applauded---and the little girl took her place with the other children in the seats. Now, the wonder of wonders----Santa Claus appeared on the stage. An adult might have noticed that his costume was a little bit seedy, but the children saw only more magic. They pressed forward to get closer to the old saint, and one little girl fainted in the crush. Annie told the children to be patient. There would be plenty of gifts for all. To the rhythms of more Christmas music, the children in the hall moved up the steps on that side, and in single file walked across the stage. And, as you might expect, it was the bigger kids that went across the stage first. As each came to Santa Claus he was each greeted and then given gifts. Annie was Santa's helper. Roe Stukkel's brother and Franklin Shalls were two of the first through the line. They took their group, their gifts, and left the hall. Soon they were joined by other who were the first through. And, then a totally inexplicable event happened. As Johnn Bercar and his sister Victoria were leaving the hall, a man wearing a Christy hat with a fur collar turned up around his face, rushed into the hall and began shouting, "Fire!" He was a big bushy man, Roe Stukkel recalls. Mrs. Caesar jumped down from the stage, and said that there was no fire,---and, as a matter of fact, there was none. Annie Clements, noticing the children, began trying to calm them. Mrs. Caesar, in an effort to help, went back to playing the piano. The man who was still shouting, "Fire, fire!" still ran past. A wave of children and adults swept after him. They were carrying the Bercar children with them. Some of them ran through the hall entrance unto the stair landing itself, and some of them went through another door near the stage into that narrow corridor. And, then they raced down that corridor to the ticket office---through the ticket office, to the landing. Those who came to the hall entrance found a man appointed as a door keeper, to insure that only children of strikers came to the party. This man held out his arms and tried to stop the first children, to calm them. For a moment he succeeded, and then the pressure from the hall forced he and the children down the stairs. Someone stumbled and fell, and his body became a

stumbling block. In a matter of seconds from the shouting of "Fire!"---the narrow stairway was jammed with bodies, stacking up like loose cordwood. Meanwhile, in the hall Annie and Mrs. Caesar were trying to calm those trying to get through the two doors and into the clock room. Around and around the room the children swept like frightened animals. Some tried to get on a narrow fire escape, and one or two crawled out the back windows, only to fall three stories, to the ground below. Apparently, simultaneously with the cry of "fire" in the halls, the fire alarm sounded in the Calumet station just a block away. The fire chief raised some foot through the hall and pulled open the doors to the stairway, he reeled, unbelieving----at the spectacle of faces and bodies. A child at the bottom of the heap seeing him cried, "Help me." And, then shut his eyes forever. Another cried, "Mother, help me." By now other members of the fire department were at the hall and they began putting up ladders to the front upstairs windows. The manager of the A&P store raced into the hallway and tried to pull bodies free from the bottom, but he was unable to do so. Through the windows the firemen swarmed, and there they were confronted by the fear-crazy children and adults. The firemen had to literally claw their way to the hallway. Later, many of these men were accused of deliberate cruelty. Meanwhile while those at the bottom of the heap of bodies were slowly dying of suffocation and pressure, near the top of the stairs other were undergoing other forms of torture. Johnny Bercar had watched his sister slowly sink from sight under the press of bodies. Blaze Mitztelvich had watched his four year old sister Agnes and five year old brother Paul disappear from view. Frank Leeser had tried vainly to hold onto his five year old son Ralph, while he called vainly for his eleven year old Mamy----but, there was no answer from Mamy, and Paul was pulled from his arms. A Finnish couple managed to hold their infant child above the press of bodies, but they themselves died. Near all of these Rose Stukkel and her sister Klunka, their mother will she tried to hold her daughters above the press. She succeeded---Rose, and her sister, and her mother all survived. Around them bodies were gamed up to their waist. At the top of the stairs, the firemen, aided by some of the militia, began pulling children off of the top of the piles. Rose Stukkel whimpered in fear, she was sure that the militia had come after her, because they intended to throw her and the other children under the hoofs of their horses. Even though she was 13, the immensity of what was happening around her was not plain. In a few moments the bodies of over 70 children and adults had been carried back into the hall. Many of them were laid out on the tables where shortly before the Christmas Eve lunch had served. Parents from nearby, attracted by the town's fire siren and the comotion began coming to the hall, seeking their children. One little girl, still alive had been placed in a sitting position. When she saw her mother she asked for a drink of water. Then, even before her mother could move, the girl slumped forward---dead. As Rose Stukkel was being lead toward the fire escape, she stopped in horror. There on a table, still in her pink costume, just like -

doll, was the lifeless body of the little dancer, who moments before had filled her eyes with wonder. Who was the man who had triggered this catastrophe? No one ever knew, but Johnny Bercar and Annie Clements, and others--claimed that he wore a Citizen's Alliance button on his coat. Others affirmed this. In nearby-Hancock, the editors of the Finnish language Tyomies, put out an extra edition, making this assertion, and also claiming that deputies had blocked rescue efforts while Citizen's Alliance members stood by and cheered. For these falsehoods, which were apparently deliberate falsehoods, or based upon misconceptions----the editors were arrested on the charge of sedition. Christmas morning, a shocked nation--from San Francisco to New York City, read the story of the Italian Hall Diaster on the front pages of its Christmas newspapers. At once, offers of aid began to blow into the Keeweenaw, and The Citizen's Alliance did an abrupt about face. In a few hours, led by a five thousand dollar check from the C&H, residents of Houghton, Hancock, Calumet, and other areas raised the sum of 25,000 dollars and offered it to the strikers, who had lost members of their families. But, the strikers would have none of this blood money, saying that they could and they would take care of their own. And, that Christmas Day, when persons of good will approached the homes of ___ persons, they were told to leave. At one door, a couple found themselves face to face with an outraged Annie Clements, and she chased them out into the street. Now, the citizens of the mining towns, angered by the refusal of their offers of help, did another about face. That night, several representatives of the Citizen's Alliance, including one college professor from Michigan Tech, called upon Charles Moyer in his room in The Scott Hotel in Hancock, and asked him to change his mind about the alliance offer. When Moyer proved adamant, the representatives left. Soon Moyer was visited by Sherrif James Kruse, and warned that if he didn't recount some of his charges, that the sherrif would no longer be responsible for Moyer's safety. Within moments after the sherrif had left, Moyer was visited by a third group. These men grappled with Moyer and attempted to drag him and an associate from the room. In the melia shots were fired and Moyer suffered a flesh wound in the back. Beaten and bloody, he was dragged from the hotel and across the Portage Lake Bridge which separated Hancock from Houghton. Along this rode, a mob had responded to the town's fire alarm, and there were loud cries of, "Hang him!--Throw him in the lake,"--and so on. But, Cooler has prevailed, and soon Moyer, accompanied by his associate and two armed guards--found himself on the night train bound for Chicago. For that act of brutality and kidnapping----nobody was ever charged, or was there ever any local investigation. With Moyer gone, plans went ahead for a mass funeral for the victims of The Italian Hall tragedy. Clearence Darrel, the noted criminal lawyer, who had successfully defended Moyer against Idaho judges charges. They had blown the Governor of Idaho to bits, and was asked to address the mourners at the cemetery, but he could not accept. On the Sunday after Christmas, mass services for the deceased were

conducted in the Calumet churches. At the end of these services there was a convergence of mourners at a road junction that was adjacent. There the bodies of the adult dead were placed in several hearses and funeral wagons. With snow slowly falling, the uniform white coffins of the children were taken up by the fathers and brothers of the children, and the procession to the Lake View Cemetery, two miles distant, over snow covered roads began. Some estimated placed 50,000 people in the procession. As the long files of black coated mourners past, a newsreel camera, apparently brought to the country by WFM, recorded the event. At the head of the long procession, carrying the long silk flag she had carried so many times before, walked Annie Clements---tears streaming from her eyes. In the days since the tragedy she had cooled somewhat, and she was no longer certain that the man who had called "fire" had worn a Citizen's Alliance button. At the cemetery, most of the victims were placed in mass graves, in two mass graves----one Catholic and one Protestant, which the strikers themselves had dug. In later years many of the bodies were reburied in family plots. Although the Keeweenaw strike was not settled until finally in April of 1914, for all intents and purposes---it ended with The Italian Hall's Tragedy. In mid January, Big Annie entered the county jail to serve her term, and she is not afterward reported. Charles Moyer recovered from his wounds and returned back to the Keeweenaw---only to be charged and sentenced to jail. The Western Federation of Miners ceased to be active in the Keeweenaw after that time, and it was to be some 30 years before the matter of unionism was raised again in the peninsula. In the Christmas seasons of six decades later, the snows lie deep on Lake View Cemetery. They cover the three iron crosses standing side by side--where Catarina, Christina, Maria Carlick lie. They pile up around the house in nearby Laurium, where Rose Stukkel Seaberts celebrates Christmas with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. And, they blow carried by the chill wind of Lake Superior--along Red Jacket 7th Street, past the dark empty windows of the Italian Hall, and piled up past the pair of faded, stained, wooden doors. And, somewhere---unless she is a very old lady---the snow flakes must fall on the grave of Big Annie Clements.

B: Thank you, Dr. Andrews----for, would you call that a paper?

C: Well---it is a journal article that was published as such.

B: Do you have a name on it?

C: I call it, Big Annie and the 1913 Mine Strike.

B: Anna Rabas is the owner of these 25 slides here. She is from South Range, and she survived the diaster too. Let's continue our discussion with Dr. Andrews now, and we have some questions that have been called in. We are going to be talking to some of the survivors too, that we talked to the other day. We are getting some on the line right now. Are there any markers on the graves now?

- C: Are there any markers on the grave? I haven't found any that specifically indicate that the children were victims of the diaster. For instance, I described the iron crosses--the Carlick children's graves---these are over on the right side, the Catholic side of the Lake View Cemetery. They are three iron crosses, side by side and the inscriptions on them are in a non-English script----they are not the English alphabet script.
- B: And, did you mention that other day that they were originally buried in mass graves.
- C: Two mass graves. One on the Catholic side, on the right as you enter the cemetery---and one on the Protestant side, to the left as you enter the cemttery.
- B: And, then they were reburied?
- C: This is what the superintendent of the cemetery told me about a year ago----that most of those had been exhumed and buried in family plots. So, one would have to know the names, in order to find the individual plots.
- B: Alright, you have a question?#####No, Audience: No, I have an answer. There was some discrepancy in hall there. This is the new hall that they have there now, that has been built after. The other one caught on fire later on. Well---what I wanted to tell you was that the outside doors of that first hall, where the diaster was, opened inside. After you come in from the outside, there is two swinging doors on the inside. But, when they came down from there they wouldn't open that outside door because they couldn't get the kids back. So, that's why they were all in the stairway there, and they couldn't get out the door because the door opened inside, instead of opening outside like it is today.
- C: I would like to respond to that. ##### Audience: I know, I worked there! ##### Well---alright, but let me respond to that. The fire chief of the Calumet Fire Department, was quoted in The Calumet Newspaper, on the evening of Christmas Eve 1913--as saying that he opened those doors and found the children's bodies and faces on the other side. ##### Audience: Well---if he opened them, he didn't push those doors open. He must have pushed the children that were dead to open it, because the doors open to the inside. I know that! I worked in there when I was a youngster. ##### Yes, I'm not arguing with you, sir. I am just interested in getting at the truth of the matter, just as you are. I am looking at a picture here that was taken the next day, and it shows the stairs coming down. And, you would agree that there were two sets of interior doors? ##### Aud: There are five doors altogether. One leading into the saloon, two swinging doors at the foot of the stairs (you could swing them either way), and then the outside doors that opened inside. ##### Right, well---I'm looking at the picture of the inside doors, and they are shown open in this particular picture. #####Aud: I`

have some pictures here too that I am pretty sure you would like to have. #### Yes, mark a note of this gentleman's name, I would appreciate hearing from him.

- B: What's your name? Aud: Charles Struzel. 725 Maple Street, Lake Linden. #### Why don't you give me your telephone number, that would be easier. What is it now? ### Aud: 296-2331. #### Now, you said something about the present building, that the present building is not the Italian Hall? #### Aud: That is a new building. The other building burnt down.
- C: The building in which the diaster took place? #### Aud: That's right. #### Well---sir, I'm looking at a picture here, of the Italian Hall taken in 1913, and it looks identically like the building that is standing there now. ### Aud: It was rebuilt almost identically the same as the first one. But, there was a big fire in the first Italian Hall---and, I remember it because my dad was the last one out of there. Oh, there was a dance and supper, and that have you. #### And, that was about 1908 wasn't it? ### Aud: Somewhere about that time.#### Yes, about 5 years before the diaster. Well---you are saying that after the fire they rebuilt the building. Now, are you saying that the building that stood there in 1913, is not the building that is there today? #### Aud: That's right!--####That building caught on fire afterwards, and then they built a new one. In fact, they had what they called The Italian Christopher Columbus Lodge----they had their headquarters there. I have some pictures here, and I can prove it to you.#### Well, I'm not arguing and I appreciate this information. I am a newcomer to the area, and I wasn't aware that that building had had another fire. ##### I will just mention this-----are you in a hurry? #### Go ahead! #### I have some pictures here where these children, after they were found dead. They had them all in a room there, and I have some pictures of them laying. #### Yes, we have a set of 25 pictures here , and I am looking at the same one. #####Aud: Do you have a picture of Big Annie carrying the flag there? ##### I can't tell, but I have a picture at home of Big Annie carrying the flag, yes. #### Aud: It says here that it was the parade of The Citizen's Alliance at Calumet, Michigan. #### Well, she wasn't leading that parade, I know! #### That's for sure, I know them well. I have another picture here, of those pup tents that the sold~~ers~~ers have here on the Phoenix property. ####R ight, I am looking at that picture too. #### Have you got the one where the children are in the parade? And, the town hall, and the mass graves. They buried the children in two trenches like. #### That's right, sir---you and I are looking at the same set of pictures. And, the two year old child of Mr. and Mrs. Niemala, who was saved? ### Aud: I don't have that. #### Well, that is here and also a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Niemala. #### And, it it shows here how the public were carrying the children, you know.
- R. Alright, I have your number now, and Dr. Andrews will probably be contacting you. Thank you, Charles----thank you for calling.

Let's move over now, to Laurie Wadie---who is a survivor who was in the Italian Hall the night of the diaster. Is that right, Laurie? Where do you live now? ### L: That's right and I live in the Lake View Manor. ### Now, Dr. Andrews, do you want to ask him some questions?

C: Well----you say that you were in the hall?

L: Yes, I was

C: Did you escape from the hall, or did you get out after?

L: I was right on the stairway

C: Right on the stairway, when the bodies were piles up?

L: I was there before the bodies were piled up. When they hollered "fire"----I rushed down there with the rest of them.

C: Did you know Franklin Shalls? Or the Stuk~~el~~ boy?

L: No I didn't. I was just about 7 years old

C: Did you know any of the names that I mentioned? B^urcar, or Paul Menchalchetz, or the Carlick?

lo, the only ones that I----when I got home, I got home without a hat and a coat---I walked home from there.

B: Laurie, did you hear Dr. Andrew's papa_r that he read?

L: Yes.

B: What are some of yo_ur comments?

L: Well---I think he has a pretty good story there.

C: Thank you , sir

B: Does it sound pretty acurate?

L: Yes, it really does

C: What location were you living at, sir?

L: Centennial Heights.

C: Right, and you had walked over that day for the party? And, the snow wasn't too deep that day, was it?

L: Well----it seemed like there was quite a bit of snow, but when you are a kid you don't remember too much.

G: Do you remember Big Annie?

L: No, I don't remember her.

C: Do you remember any of the program on the stage?

L: I remember the soldiers, anyway.

C: You mean out in the streets? (yes) Yes, a lot of people seem to remember them, sir.

L: Yes, and I remember----well, when I got my candy I remember walking up the hall on a little stage there, and I sat down there and somebody hollered "fire" over my shoulder.

But, it was a man's voice? (yes) Did you see the person?

L: I probably saw him, but I don't remember him.

C: You don't happen to remember from what direction the voice happened to come?

L: It came from right over my shoulder.

C: Well---would that have been from toward the street----from the entrance of the hall? (yes) You see, I have a theory that there were two men up in that hall. One in the doorway, and one over in the center, and they both called "fire."

L: Well----the one that was over my shoulder called "fire", because I remember it distinctly. And, then I rushed down with the rest of the kids, with the rest of the people.

C: Yes, and you managed to get out?

L: Well----my brother pulled me out of the stairway there, and we went down the fire escape.

C: Oh, in other words----you started down the stairs, but then went back up and went down the fire escape? (yes) Was my description of the hall pretty accurate? (yes, pretty accurate) Thank you, sir. We had a call here from a man who said that that building burned afterwards? (no, it is still there)

B: It is the same building?

L: Yes, the fire escape is there.

B: Someone wanted to know what is in the building now?

L: Oh, I can't remember.

B: Do you know, Dr.?

E: Well---the Eagle's Hall had it, and apparently the downstairs has

apparently been converted to a bar room, or a saloon room----is that right, sir?

L: Yes, I think that it is.

C: The windows downstairs were boarded up

L: Yes, the stairway is still there

C: Yes, I have never been able to get into the building. It is Owned by Mr. Masser,----is that his name?

L: I don't know his name---but, the fire escape is still there

C: Yes, the fire escape and the one on the back is still there too The one that goes all the way up, right? (yes) Well----I have gone around the back and looked at that.

L: Yes, and when I came down from the fire escape, I would remember that fire engine out there, you know.

C: Right, but you came down that----not that narrow ladder, but the regular fire escape on the side of the building.

L: Yes, on the side of the building.

C: Yes, and was there another building at the time, right next to it?

I can't remember that.

C: Yes, well---there is a parking lot there now.

L: Yes, it was so cold, and I was almost frozen when I got home. I didn't have a coat, or a hat, or anything. And, I remember my mother----she really rejoiced that I got there. She was glad that I got home. And, then they were talking about some people that lived in Centennial Heights and they had twins, and the men rushed downstairs with the twins---and, the three of them died down there.

C: Yes, there were instances of that kind of a thing happening. One man stood there, and his child was just pulled out of his arms by the press of the bodies. He himself survived, but his but he couldn't pull the child back up.

L: Yes, even when they were piling on me I was wondering why the people didn't empty that hallway.

C: Down below, yes. And, what do you think about it now? What's your theory?

L: Oh, I couldn't understand at the time. My brother came there and

he pulled me out, you know. From above----so, I was wondering to myself why they didn't pull them out.

C: Well----why didn't they?

L: Well---the doors were shut, you see.

L: You think too that the children were piled up against the bodies.

L: Yes, the doors opened inside, so.

C: But, that wouldn't have made any difference really, would it?

L: Well--½I think it did

C: You think it did make a difference. You don't think that the children's bodies would have just piled up in the hallway by falling over each other?

L: No, they couldn't get the doors open, so that was it.

C: OK, thank you, sir. I appreciated that.

B: Alright, thank you Laurie. You're at Lake View Manor, and what's your phone number there?

L: 482-6563.

B: Laurie Wadie, he was one of the survivors. Let's move over to Mrs. Gerald Nordstrom now, who also was there at the hall, right Mrs. Nordstrom?

N: Yes, that's right.

B: Have you heard any of the things that we have been talking about so far?

N: Yes, I have.

B: Well---is there anything that you could add to it?

N: No, it was only that I was upstairs then. I was quite young then I was only about 11 years old. And, we were sitting there when they hollered "fire"----and, everybody started screaming and running. And, my mother took us three and she tried to get down the stairs, but they pushed us back and said, "No, don't go down there. It is full of dead people!" So, mother took us in a corner and we sat there. Well---then the fire engines came and they put the ladder up, and we came down the ladder. But, there was awful screaming.

C: What was your name then?

N: Hietala. Well---we were living in Swede Town at the time.

C: In Swede Town-----how far was that from the hall?

N: Oh, that was quite a ways

C: And, did you walk or did you come by the streetcar?

N: No, we walked because we lost our cap and mittens. After we got down there were some men on horses, and they pretty near ran us over. And, then there was a store there--with display windows on each side, and mother took us way in, so that those men wouldn't run us down. They would run back and forth on the sidewalk with these horses.

C: Right, now I talked about a little girl dancing. Do you recall having seen her dance? (yes) Do you happen to know her name?

N: No, I don't. I was too young then, you know.

C: What was your impression when you saw her dance?

N: Well----I thought she was really cute

C: I hoped somebody would know her name, I would like to know her name. Apparently she was a local girl.

B: Where are you living now, Mrs. Nordstrom.

N: I live in Huron Town. Yes, that was something. We were nearly froze when we got home. We didn't have any hat or mittens.

(End of side #2 of tape #1)

side #1 of tape #2

I wish I knew her name so I could learn who she was

N: I don't know her name. Some of us lost our jackets there even.

C: Has that event affected your life in the years since in any way?

N: Oh, when they talk about it I can just picture everything, you know.

C: Have you ever gone since to a place where there are a lot of people attending a party, or a show or anything?

N:

C: You haven't cared for crowds? I don't want to put words in your mouth here.

N: No. I never went to any of those places. That is one experience

- that one will never forget, I guess.
- B: Alright, should we move on. We have another gal. I appreciate this for talking to us today, Mrs. Nordstrom
- N: Thank you.
- B: Have you enjoyed the program so far?
- N: Yes, I have.
- B: OK, thank you. Now, this is Mrs. John Meranich. {that's right} Oh, it's John Meranich. How do you spell that, now?
- M: May-nar-ich.
- B: And, where do you live now?
- M: I live in Gay right now.
- B: OK, and you were there?
- M: I was in that place that time. I was 7 years old
- B: Is there anything that you can add to what we have said so far?
- M: Yes, that guy Struzel----he must have been misled because the original building is still there. I know because I live up here, and I have lived up here all my life. And, that's the same place, and I was in there when that happened. I could tell you stories about it. How I got out----it was through the back entrance, that fire escape.
- C: That narrow ladder, or that fire escape on the side?
- M: And, somebody picked me up. My two sisters were with me. He picked me up and put me under his arm, and he took my two sisters----one in each hand. And, he led us down there. That's how we came out.
- B: He said the fire escape now?
- M: That's right. From the fire escape. From that same building there was a little bar in there.
- C: That's right, sir.
- M: That's right.
- C: Along side of the stage at the back of the building. Do you remember anything about the program, Mr. Maynarich?
- M: Yes, we were all welcome to get you Christmas gifts, you know. We did get a stocking full of candy, and whatever that was in *what they gave us.*

- C: Now, did you get that from Santa Claus, or from someone else?
- M: Santa Claus.
- C: Did you see Big Annie or Mrs. Caesar on the stage?
- M: Well---whoever Santa Claus was at that time.
- C But, did you see a couple of women besides Santa Claus?
- M: I know---they were passing them out and we had to go up on the stage, and pick up our stocking with candy in it.
- B: Do you remember Big Annie?
- M; Yes.
- B: The big woman?
- M: Yes, she was there.
- C: Do you know what happened to her, sir? Do you have any idea what happened to her?
- M: No, I don't know what happened to her. And, after it was all over with, we got out safely----me and my two sisters. That one man took me out. He put me under his arm, I was seven years old, that's all.
- C: Do you remember when anybody cried "fire"----do you remember anything about that?
- M: Yes, there was no fire. And, on top of that there was a balcony upstairs, around the hall up there. (that's right) I was up on that balcony, and when we got off of the balcony---me and my two sisters. We were going to go through the hall and go out, but we couldn't. But, that one man, whoever he was,, I would like to thank him a million times.
- C: The man who saved you!
- M; Yes, that's right. He put me under his arm and he took my two sisters---one in each hand, and he said, "No, no---we're going out this way. Then we went out through the fire escape, on the side of the building.
- B: OK, John---thanks a lot for your comments. That was John Maynard-nich from Gay. Now, this time, Dr. ----we have a gentleman on here by the name of Ed Rossberg, who was 13 at the time---a little older than some of the others we have talked to. Right Ed?
- E: That's right

B: Where are you living now?

E: Pelkie

B: Alright, and where were you living then?

E: In Centennial Heights.

B: And, this is a bad phone line and there's not much that I can do about it.

C: Alright, do you know, or did you know any of the people whose names we have talked about today?

E: No, I didn't know any of them. But, I know some of the people who died in there and that. But, I didn't recognize any of the names you mentioned. I was carrying a newspaper at that time. There was a Finnish newspaper called ~~Divelekie~~ published at that time.

Päiväälehti

C: And, that was published where, sir?

E: Yes, that was a daily paper. And, that was published just about where that public garage is over there on 5th Street.

C: In Calumet---where the Public Chevrolet is. Well---did you see or hear anything at the Christmas party that you would like to mention that may be different than what we have talked about so far---or maybe different than something I have said? Or anything that might reinforce anything that I have said?

E: Well---I think it is all about the same. But, there was no fire there though. And, I climbed up the stairway along a railing there, and when I got up why I found my brother up in the upper hall---my older brother.

C: What do you mean by the upper hall, sir?

E: Up in the hall. (oh, the hall itself) Behind the stairs where all these dead people were down there. I had to deliver the newspapers that night. The way we got out, was we went on a platform with whatever they gave us, oranges and apples---so, then we went over to the stage, and went through the window. We jumped---there was a leanto roof back there, you know.

C: It's the back of the building, that's right---there was some sort of a leanto there at one time.

E: So, we jumped on the roof of this leanto, and then it was quite a ways to the ground yet from up there.

C: Oh, yes-----that's a long ways down on that side of the building

- E: So, that's how we went. But, there was a big ash pile there at the bottom---so, we jumped into that ash pile. I suppose that the neighbors must have piled their ashes there. So, the ash pile held back the bumps and that's the way that we got down.
- C: Did you hear the cry of fire?
- E: No, no----and my dad was one of the watchmen up there at that time too.
- C: What was his name?
- E: Brucebaka. *Ruusbacha*
- C: I see. Did he ever say anything about seeing it or hearing it? Anything about seeing the man who cried "fire"?
- E: He didn't hear it, but he tried to stop the crowd from going in the halls. But, what are you going to do when a whole bunch is coming in?
- C: Yes, he was probably the man that I was talking about then
- E: Yes, I suppose. So, anyway---we went to the newspaper office, and when we got there we had to go to work folding these newspapers, because they were putting all that stuff into the newspaper----like for the next day's edition.
- C: Now that was a Finnish paper? (that's right) You don't happen to have a copy of that do you, sir?
- E: I wish I did. I thought some of those people might have a copy of it.
- C: Well---perhaps someone who was listening does have a copy. I would certainly like to see that. I haven't seen that Finnish paper.
- E: Yes, that would be nice to have.
- C: Yes it would.
- E: Well---that was so long time ago. Why, I am 72 years old now.
- C: Well----I was 1 year old the year that it happened. It was a long time ago.
- E: Yes, it is. Well---that's about all I have to say about it. The building it there yet.
- B: The same building?
- E: Yes, the same building.

- B: OK, Ed. That was Ed Rossberg from Pelkie. Let's move along now. Who do we have here?
- A: ^{chapt} Arthur Sheppie Sr. from Hubbell.
- B: Alright, you weren't in the hall, were you?
- A: Oh, no. I am quoting from the Michigan History Magazine in the winter of 1907---70. Do you want me to read this? (go ahead)
 ↘ The double doors at the bottom of the stairwell opened outward. The crush, coming down the stairs, that wedged itself tight before ever reaching those doors." Well----there is more to it, but I just wanted to clarify this point.
- C: Well---the gentleman who wrote that article has access to the same information that I have. I agree with him, although I don't think that it was a serious matter. The children, after all, are dead. I think that the crush took place on the stairs, myself.
- A: Yes, it was the width of the crowd and the density of the crowd, and---naturally it was easy to block it up, regardless of if they were opening out or in. (that's right) This is just to clarify it, that's all. OK.
- C: OK, thank you, sir.
- B: Alright, and on this line we have Mrs. ^{Batina} Batina? (yes) What was your maiden name? (represented by a small b)
- b: Mary Grentz.
- C: What was your nationality?
- b: Croasⁱan. Yugoslavian.
- C: Were you there, madam?
- b: Yes, I was there,- Me, my mother, and my sisters, and my brother/
- C: How old were you at the time?
- b: Well---I now am going to be 69.
- C: So, you were 9 at the occassion. So, what do you remember about the occasion?
- b: Well----we went there and I remember that they had a program
- C: Do you remember seeing this little girl dancing that I described?
- b: Yes, I do.
- C: Did you know her?

- b: No, I didn't know here because there were so many kids at that time. You didn't know everybody.
- C: How many were there in the hall?
- b: I couldn't tell you, but I know---my mother. We were all sitting down singing songs--the trees and everything. And, we were singing Christmas songs.
- C: What language were you singing the Christmas songs in?
- b: English! And, then after they gave us stockings with toys and candy---we got a doll---and, I don't know exactly what the boys got. We were sitting down, and all of a sudden a man comes and he has a yellow can, a little yellow can. (a little yellow what) A can, and he was spreading---and he said "fire"--"fire". And, then everybody started running for the door. And, somehow my mother got us down. She went through there, and somehow she got past them---I don't know how. But, we went down through the fire escape. And, my mother was pregnant at that time, with my other sister.
- C: Do you remember anything else about this man. Did he have a beard or anything, or a big cap over his head?
- b: No, he was just an ordinary man. He was shaved and everything.
- C: Where did you see him? Near the door, or near the hall?
- b: No, he was in the aisle, going up the aisle. He was on the sides, going up the aisle.
- C: Away from the door?
- b: Yes, he was going in the aisles and throwing that stuff, you know.
- C: Oh, he was throwing something out of the pan? Out of a can?
- b: Yes, that's true for sure. I remember that because we all talked so much about that after, you know. And, then my sister, Annie, she somehow got lost from there, and she was going to come in but they wouldn't let her come in. And, there was a priest there called Father Klopitch---and he said, "No, you mustn't go in there!" She said, "Well---I am going in there. My mother, my sisters, and my brother is in there." He still said "no", but she pushed him aside and she went in there. And, she said that you could just see them laying down. To tell you the truth, we even saw some of them when they were taking them out. Some of them were even kicking them just to throw them on the wagon. They were just kicking them and piling them on top of each other. I don't know where they were carrying them, that I can't tell you.

- C: Yes, they took them over to the City Hall, to a room over there.
- b: Yes, there sure were a lot of them.
- C: Well---some of them were taken to the hospital of course. I know people who were taken to the hospital.
- b: Well---I don't know that.
- C: Yes, well---at first I think that they were just trying to get people out of the house, the hall---and get them some place where they could help them.
- b: Yes, they didn't stop those people from going out. It would have been better if they had shut those doors, if they didn't shut those doors! They got panicked when they closed those doors, and nobody could get out. So, it was just God's luck that my mother took us out, and that she took us through the fire escape. Quite a few escaped through the fire escape. Yes, and I used to live in a place called Tecomse. *TehComseh*
- C: No, I don't know where that is. Where was that?
- b: Well---do you know where the Electric Park was?
- C: Yes, near Boston
- b: Yes, well I was about three miles from there
- C: Did you go to the Christmas party from Tecomse?
- b: Yes, we went with the streetcar, and we came home with a streetcar too, you know.
- C: Do you remember seeing Big Annie at all, that woman I talked about. Or, how about Mrs. Caesar?
- b: Yes, I used to see them at the parade. I used to go with my auntie.
- C: Oh, over to Calumet---to watch the parade.
- b: Yes, and when we used to live there in Tecomse---there was another place called Opegie.
- C: Was that near by?
- b: Well---that was about two miles away from us. That's by Osceola down there, if you know where that is.
- C: Right, I know where Osceola is.
- b: Well---the next stop would be Opegie, and where I lived would

be Tecomse^{eh}. And, these company's policemen---they had these billy clubs and they wouldn't let us through. Well---my sister was a dare-devil and she said that we were going through. He said, "How do you expect us to go home?" He said, "You can't go!" She said, "Well---I going through!" And, she went right through! She was only 16 years old, mind you! She went right through and she took us right home. They wouldn't even let you go home, then.

- C: Right. Did you know any of the people that I named today? Any of the people that were at the Christmas party that I named? Did you know any of these people?
- B: Well---I knew quite a few of them, but I wouldn't know any of them anymore. I know Popet Popich, and Steincherhart---she was my cousin and she died in there. And, I think that three or four of Popich's children died there. So, I would know all of them. Like I told you, we lived way out from town.
- B: Right, well---thank you Mary. That was Mray Grentez, her maiden name. Her name is Mary Batina now, and she is now living in Range Towns. And, someone suggested, Dr. Andrews, that you do some research at the Suomi College Finnish Archives. You have probably been there, right?
- C: Well---I know that they are collecting material. No I haven't been there.
- B: Well---that's where you might find the paper that he refered to, the Finnish paper. And, Dr. Hdmio over there is the fellow who takes charge of those archives. It is in the basement, I believe of Old Main. Yes, and on the line now we have Mary Webb, who is living now in Skanee, right?

Yes I am

- B: And, have you been listening?
- M: I sure have, and I have been shaking from top to bottom!
- B: You ave been shaking?
- M: Yes, because I am going back to when it really happened
- B: Is there anything that you could add to what we have already said?
- Well---the only thing he didn't mention was the ladder that went out of the back window.
- C: It was a ladder that leaned against the building, or a ladder that was fastened to the wall of the building?

The firemen came.

bad that I have never ever slept in the dark since then. And, I started to stutter and I have stuttered for 20 years. I couldn't talk, and you could say that I am very nervous.

C: But, you weren't watching the program then, were you. You were in the kitchen then, when the program was going on, is that right?

M: _____. And, I do know about the door opening in----it did not open out!

It opened in?

It opened in, and there was a very wide stairway, people were piled and piled there. And, I do remember the funeral when they were carrying these little white coffins on their shoulders.

C: Do you remember seeing Big Annie at the head of the parade?

M: No, that I don't know. I think that I was just a little bit too young.

C: Do you know a man named Charles Johnson?

M: My mother would.

C: Yes, Charles Johnson told me about seeing Big Annie leading the parade with the tears coming down her eyes.

M Oh----my goodness sakes----that was most terrifying! (yes it was Especially the little ones!

B: Well---Mary, thanks very much for taking part

M: Thank you too

B: Alright, that was Mary Webb. She's living in Skanee right now And, we have a fellow on the line, Dr. Andrews, whose name is Peacock----and he is talking about a book called The Strike Investigation, do you know the publication?

C Do you want to give me a little more information about that, sir?

B: Are you on there now?

P: Yes, I am here. I didn't intend to get on the air about it, but it is a book, and the strike was to have been investigated by prominent businessmen of the town. The names mentioned are Mr. Bear, Mr. Olsette, and Mr. Gook----and I think that there is about 7 or 8 altogether. And, they wanted to find out the reason for the strike. And, in that book also, is a comparative price list of ~~commodities~~ used in the home, such as flour and meat.

comodities

- C: It was a ladder put up by the firemen?
- M: The firemen came and they put up this ladder at the back of the building.
- C: Yes, I didn't know about that, madam. That's right.
- M: And, that's how we got out.
- C: That way, boy----that's a long ways down!
- M: Oh, MY GOD----I was only 6 years old at the time. And, I was in the kitchen and someone was opening one of those big big wooden barrels of candy---and we were just standing there. You know how little kids are---just waiting for them to open it. Well---
- C: You were picking out all the black jelly beans, I bet
- M: I don't know what they were. I think they were some kind of maple candy, chocolates, or what. But, anyway----somebody yelled "fire".
- C: Now, let me ask. The kitchen was under the stage, wasn't it?
- M: Yes, now I will tell you why I was in the kitchen; because we were not allowed to accept any gifts. My father, Mr. Martineck, my maiden name was Martineck. We lived on 6th Street, and that was close to the Town Hall. He owned a _____ there. And, we only came to the party because 'kids are kids'. We were told not to accept anything. Well---I was in the kitchen at the time, and I remember this fellow yelling "fire"----"fire"----"fire".
- C: Did you see him?
- M: I still think that I remember this guy with a long black overcoat, and a hat pulled over his eyes.
- C: Yes, now that's the man that Johnny Barcar described
- M: And, do you know-----there wasn't any fire, but there was poison gas. My mother is 89 today, and she will tell you all about it. It wasn't the fire that killed the people, it was the gas. People dropped dead all over, even people who sat against the wall. There were families that were wiped out. And, I remember that someone picked me up, put me on this ladder and pushed me down, and it was so terrifying because there were people below me and people above me, and finally someone got me at the bottom of the steps----and, I ran down that alley without any coat or hat, and I ran home and told my dad. Then he came, and he got the people off of the fire escape.
- C: He helped there?
- M: Yes, he helped. And, you know----that has affected my life so

- B: Have you seen the book, Dr.
- C: Yes, I have.
- P: I thought that I might have something that nobody else had, but apparently not.
- C: No, the Michigan Tech Library has about 20 copies of that book
- P: I wanted to send it to Mr. Olson there the other day. I called, and then I also have the article that you wrote.
- C: That was in the Milwaukee Journal?
- P: Yes, and that's what prompted me to call you. I heard you ask that woman for a description of the person that was in there, and you have a description. It is vague, but it is a description of a man with a bushy beard and a long coat.
- C: But, I think that there were two men there, sir.
- P: I see.
- C: I have some later evidence that I didn't have when I wrote that article. Well---you mentioned this thing---
- B: Mr. Peacock, what was your first name? (Erving) And where do you live now? (Calumet) And, do you know what is in the Italian Hall building now?
- P: No, I wouldn't know
- B: We haven't found that out yet, someone must know that.
- C: I want to comment. You mentioned the living conditions at the time.
- P: Yes, comparing the prices, say of meat by the pound, and flour by the hundred weight, in order to convince the people. Now, I can remember, I don't have the book here, but I can remember that there was a 75 cent price discrepancy between the price of flour in ~~Butte~~, Montana----and the price of flour here.
- C: Well----there seems to be a general agreement that in terms of prices of food and rent, and in terms of living conditions, that the people in the Copper Country were better off than the people in ~~Butte~~, Montana.
Butte
- P: Yes, that's right. And, the rents for instance---there is a comparative price listing of the rents, and the company houses, this isn't only C&H, this pertained to all the local mines here. You see, Tamarack wasn't consolidated yet with C&H. They were a dollar a room a month.

What was the connection between ^{Butte} Butte, Montana and Calumet?

P: Well----~~Butte~~ ^{Butte} was a big mining town, I suppose

B: Same company?

P: And, I suppose they thought that they would compare then, because the men from ~~Butte~~ ^{Butte} were getting a little bit more than the men from C&H.

B: Well---someone called me the other day, and they said that there was some shenanigans out at ~~Butte~~ ^{Butte}, where they burnt tents and so forth?

C: Oh, they had a lot of trouble out there.

B: Was it the same union

C: The same union was involved, plus The InternationallWorkers of the World----the IWW's. They were also down there.

B: We didn't have those here though?

C: No, they were never here to the best of my knowledge.

P: And, then the C&H also claimed about the schools. That they had built the schools---they had a picture of the Washington, and the other schools that they built.

B: Someone just called by the way---this is on a different subject. They said that there were about 400-500 people there at the hall. Does that coincide with what you have read, Dr.? That was from Red Metal, I guess. OK, anything else----I have another fellow waiting.

P: Mo, that's all, sir.

B: OK, thank you very much. This is Abe Materal^o on here now. Hello, you said that you have a picture that Dr. Andrews might be interested in?

A: Yes, I have.

B: What is it, could you describe it?

A: Yes, it plainly shows two sets of doors. One going inside, one closing inside, and one closing outside. And, there are Finnish inscriptions on these pictures.

Yes, we have that same picture here

A: You have the same picture, well---then forget it.

Yes, it is labeled The Disastrous Stairway of the Italian Hall, and it is in Finnish.

OK, thank you just the same, sir. Alright, we are going to get another call through here. now. there anything that comes to mind, Dr.?

C: No, I am very much interested in the calls that we have had, and the comments that were made. I hadn't realized that there were so many people.

Oh, the archives are at the Student Center, in the basement of the Student Center. Dr. Holmio is the fellow to see there.

I simply hadn't realized that there were so many survivors of the Italian Hall Tragedy in the area.

Well---as I say. It was just 15 minutes, and within 15 minutes we have had at least 5 calls. And, we have another fellow down in L'Anse that I think I mentioned to you the other day. He mentioned something about that bit about poison. Maybe we will get into that yet. And, we also want to play this song, the Guthrey song, and we want to critique that. And, we have someone on the line here now, Miss Anna Merretich----and we talked to you the other day. And, do you want to add anything now to what we have said.

Well---I'm with that Mrs. Martineck, Mrs. Webber. I was in the kitchen and she was right with me. We were opening up this pail of candy, they were chocolate drops, when somebody yelled "fire" And, we went from the kitchen and we went to the hall, and my mother's lady friend said, "Come back here!" So, we went back to the kitchen. So, I guess we were there for quite a time in that kitchen until everybody was going here and there. As we looked in the Italian Hall there, all the tables were turned over and what not. And, then my mother said that we better get out of here. So, we started out to go to the stairway down, and as I was going down my mother told me to take my sister with me, and I was walking between these dead people. But, I went foot by foot, and I wondered why there were women dead there also. And, they had big brown marks on their cheeks and their throats. And, I went right to the bottom, which I thought that I could get out.

Is that a sign of suffocation then?

A They must have put something on those steps because those people were all piled up on the steps. and I couldn't, I tried to open the door from inwards, but you couldn't very well open the door inwards with those people piling up there. So, my mother and my mother's lady friend said, "Come on back up the stairway." So, I did ---and my sister and I got to the top of the stairs when the firemen came. He said, "Come on, little girl---you better get out of here." And, then there was a little baby on the landing part there, and he was in a little cutter, and he was crying.

We wanted to take him, but the fireman said, "No, get out!" So, he took us out through the side fire escape. And, we didn't have anything, we didn't have any candy or anything---so, we were all crying and whatnot. So, the fireman said that we better go down the stairway. So, we went down there, and to tell you the truth---there was no snow on the ground.

C: Let me ask you, how did you get from the kitchen to the hall

A: Well----there is a stairway. You go from The Italian hall, where all the music was and everything---it is in the back.

C: The kitchen was under the stage, right?

Yes, but you had to take a couple of steps or so to get into it

Right, down into the kitchen.

A: Right, and this man was opening up this wooden pail. We thought that would be kind of nice that we were going to get something. But, they hollered "fire" and that's how it was, everybody was gone already, and everybody was dead, on the steps. By the time we went down there and tried to get out of the door, the fireman came along and said that we had better go down the fire escape.

C: Do you have any idea where that candy came from?

A: I really don't know. It was just a big wooden box, that I remember. I think that it was from the union maybe, I really don't know, because this woman that took us there was my mother and that. I guess her husband was a union man or something. And, they were supposed to give candy for the kids. But, we never got anything.

C: What was your maiden name?

~~She~~ never married.

C: Oh, I am sorry----I didn't understand. And, where were you living at the time?

A: Right in Swede Town here, right in the same house that I am living in now. And, I remember this other lady that was talking, she lived in Swede Town, her name was _____, and she lived on the next street to me. She is Mrs. Nordstrom now. And, from Swede Town here to downtown, it is about three ~~miles~~ quarters of a mile.

(End of side #1 of tape #2)

side #2 of tape #2

- B: OK, thank you, Anna. And, we have Francis Steke on the line here. And, he has some material that can be read, and he can also add a discussion. And, we also have another survivor on the line. And, his name is Pekkette. And, you are living in L'Anse, Mr. Pekkette? (No, I live in Eagle Harbor) Oh, can you hold on a while longer yet? Alright, hang on. Francis Steke is on the line, what can you add Francis?
- F: Well----I am not the librarian, I am the assistant librarian. We have a lot of material that can be used in our library. We have that Strike Investigation, and we also have the document that I am sure the Dr. was talking about. It has the names of all the people that were in the fire at the time, and the discussion after, and the trial.
- C: Is that the report of the Congressional Investigation?
- F: It is a public document of 1911.
- C: Is it a very thick book, several hundred pages?
- F: Oh, it is more than that
- C: Yes, I know that one. That's the one that was published by the Congress. You don't happen to have a copy of the one published by the State of Michigan? The one by the governor?---Governor Ferris?
- F: No
- C: Well---that was a separate report and we are still trying to find a copy of that report.
- F: We have that little paper one----The Strike Investigation
- C: That one I have seen---the Michigan Tech Library has about 20 copies of that one.
- F: It is probably the same one. We have also a few clipping materials. There is also a very good story of this in Boom Copper.
- C: Right, that is the first thing that I think I ever read about it.
- F: And, then there is a new book published called 1913. Are you familiar with it? (no, sir---I am not) Now, that has a story of it in there.
- C: The only title is 1913? (yes)
- B: Where is that at?
- F: We have it at our library.

- C: Would you mind if I came over and took a look at it?
- F: No, we would be glad to have you.
- C: That's in the high school building isn't it? (yes) Yes, I know where you are, and I will be over.
- F: Every day from 2 o'clock on until 9 at night. So, there are some things there that I am sure you will be interested in. And, we have some clipping materials. And, we have a lot of newspaper clippings from way back. I worked in the other library.
- C: You mean the C&H?
- F: Yes, that's right. I worked there for 18 years
- C: And, now all those books are gone, are they not?
- F: Yes, and I
- C: I mean that they have been given to other organizations?
- F: Right, I was in the army when this happened so I don't know where all of them are, but we have a lot of materials there.
- I will come over and see you, sir,-----at the library.
- B: Right, well-----thank you, Francis. Now, I guess we have lost Ed Pekette, and I guess we will try to call him back. He is up in Eagle Harbor and he is another survivor. ‡
- C: I see you have a note there, Bob, that Rose Stukel is now Rose Sever.
- B: Have you talked to her?
- C: Yes, I have talked to her in Laurium and she is a very pleasant person to talk to. She has a very vivid memory of what happened, and some of my incidents in my story came from Mrs. Sever.
- B: Oh, should we play that song? Maybe we should now. Tell me when to stop, let's critique it when we go along.
- C: I think it is in four stanzas
- B: Alright, just tell me when to stop. And then we can critique it.

SONG:

(33)
Don't know
 Take a trip with me in 1913
 To Calumet, Michigan in the Copper Country
 I will take you to a place called The Italian Hall
 And, the miners are having their big Christmas ball.

C: Yes, this was not a Christmas ball. This was a Christmas party for the children of the miners.

B: OK, and he makes it seem that the miners were actually having the party! (right)

SONG:

24)
Interview

I will take you in a door, and up a high stairs
Singing and dancing is heard everywhere
I will let you shake hands with the people that you see
And, watch the kids dance around the big Christmas tree.

C: Yes, the Christmas tree was on the stage, and the children were not able to dance around it, not from any description that I have heard, anyway.

SONG:

25)
Parade

There's talking and laughing, and songs in the air
And, the spirit of Christmas is there everywhere
Before you know it, you're friends with us all
And, you're dancing around and around in the hall.

26)
Woman's
Mood

You ask about work and you ask about pay
They will tell you that they make less than a dollar a day

C: Well----this statement that the miners will tell you that they make less than a dollar a day. There has been quite a bit of discussion about that. The figures that I find in various sources---the average pay in the mines outside of Calumet at that time was about 2 dollars and 75 cents. The C&H mines seemed to be paying about 3 and a quarter, on the average. Bear in mind that I am talking about the average here. Undoubtedly, people made more money than that, and people made less money than that.

SONG:

Working their copper claims, risking their lives
So, it's fun to spend Christmas with children and wives.

27)
Interview

A little girl sits down by the Christmas tree lights
To play the piano, so you have got to keep quiet
If you heard all this fun, you would not realize
That the copper ~~fall stud~~ men were milling outside.

~~boss thug~~
The copper boss thugs stuck their heads in the door
One of them yelled and he screamed that there was a fire

C: Yes, there was an ^{ASSIDAVIT} ~~aphadavit~~ published in February of 1914 in the mining journal published by the Western Federation of Miners,

(Feb 14 mining journal WFM:)

to the effect that three of these thugs, these men which were brought in from New York City as deputees. They were drinking, and they decided to, in their own words, to "raise a little hell" And, these three men had gone up to the hall, and shouted "fire" And, according to three different affidavits that I have seen copies of---I have not seen the original affidavits, but I 'ave seen copies of them. These three men were shipped out of the Copper Country that night, and they disappeared from the scene.

B These were company men?

Not company men these were the Wadel-Mahan men.

They were brought in by the company?

No, I don't want to say that, because I am not sure. But, they were Wadel-Mahan men that were brought into the country as deputies. And, just who employed them, I don't know. I don't want to stick my neck out here, on that subject.

SONG:

A lady, she hollered, there is no such a man
Keep on with your party, there is no such a thing

*(FD)
Borden
of Victoria*
A few people rusting, there's only a few
It is just the thugs and the scabs fooling you
A man grabbed his daughter, and he carried her down
But, the thugs held the door, and they could not get

C: Ah---this statement that the door to the hall was held by people so that the people inside couldn't get out. The newspapers at the time, the Calumet, Hancock, Houghton papers--quoted some witnesses to that effect. My own opinion is that it was a matter of excitement and nervousness, and fear, and everything else--and it would naturally come out as something as horrible as this tragedy was. But, no testimony was ever introduced to the effect that the door had been held by anyone. In the coroner's hearing and the Congressional one---no testimony of this sort was ever reported.

SONG

And, then others followed---a hundred or more
But, most everybody remained on the floor
The thugs they laughed at their murderous job

well---again--- if they did, haven't seen a
they did. If the writer of the song acc to
that I didn't see that

did not write this, did

C: This I think is in the 1930s. I'm not sure of the exact date, but around 1933, or something like that.

B: He traveled through this country, is that the idea?

C: I don't know. I don't know the whole story.

SONG:

While the was smothered on the stairs by the floor.

29)
The terrible sight I never did see
We carried our children back up to their tree
The scabs outside still laughed at their spree
And, the children that died there were 73.

30)
The piano played a slow funeral tune
And the town was lit up by a cold Christmas moon
The parents, they cried; and the miners, they moaned
See what your greed for money has done. #####

B: OK, that's the song by Woody Guthrey. There are a lot of inaccuracies there, but what about the song as a work of art? Is there value to it?

C: Well----I think the song was created to create an impression, and it certainly does that. I know the song has quite an impression on young people who have heard it. Whether or not they believe in the facts, is the total affect on them.

B: Well---Rose Stukel is on the line now, and Rose Sever is your name now, right?

R: Yes, sir.

C: Good morning, Mrs. Severs. This is Clarence Andrews, do you remember me?

R: Yes, I remember you.

B: What do you think of what you have heard so

R: Well---I just turned the radio on, so I didn't hear the whole thing.

B: So, you haven't been listening to the whole program?

R: No, I haven't.

B: Is there anything that you would like to ask her?

C: Well---you and I have talked about this before, and today earlier,

the part you didn't hear. I was essentially talking about the things that I talked about in that Milwaukee Journal article, and the things you and I talked about in the fall of '71, when I was over in your house. Did you know that today we talked to half a dozen people who were in the hall that afternoon?

R: No I didn't know that.

C: Yes, we have talked to woman from kanee, a woman from Swede Town, somebody from Painesdale.

le talked to Anna Merenich?----do you know her?

No, don't think I do.

And, there was someone from down near th Boston location.

Then there was a Mary Martineck

No, I wouldn't know her.

Alright, thank you, Rose. (you're welcome We have one waiting there, now who do we have here?

rs. intala.

Yes, this s another survivor. What is your first name?

Arellia. Yes, there were five of us there.

What was your maiden name, madam?

R: Goodreau.

B: G-o-o-d-r-e-a-u. That' Cornish, right?

renc

C: And, where did you come from? Where were you living at the time?

We were living in Wolverine at the time. And, five of us went, two brothers, and two sisters, and myself.

C: All of the same family then? (yes) Did your parents go with you? (no, they didn't) Have you been listening to the broadcast? (yes, I have) Do you have anything that you would like to add to it? Do you agree, or disagree? Do you have any information that we haven't talked about?

R: Well----it is quite the same as I remember it. But, we went out through the fire escape.

B: Do you agree with what we have said so far?

Yes, I do. It is correct

C: Are you related to anyone named Steve Goodreau? (no Well-- he is one of my students at Tech.

B: Where are you living?

R: I am at Rice Lake right now, in a cottage.

OK, anything else?

R: Well---I have some relatives in Houghton b; the name of Goodreau, maybe they could be related to the boy.

OK, thank you, Arelia. We have a Walter Lahti on the line now
And, Walter----you live where now?

W: I live out in Otter Lake----Houghton County

B: Otter Lake, and where did you live?

W: We lived in Rambaultown.

And, you were there at the Italian Hall party----how old were you at the time?

W: I was 13.

C: Did you know any of these people that I have named today?

W: Well---I knew quite a few of them. You mentioned all about that strike, and it was a very good report. I remember Big Annie.

B: Do you remember Big Annie at the party?

W: Yes, yes.

C: Do you remember anything about her that I have^{nt} said?

W: I would follow them around once in a while when I was a kid.

C: Were you ever in the parades?

W: No, no----my dad was a----my dad had a big family at that time, and he went to Canada and worked in the mines up there. Then he came back at Christmas time, and he couldn't take it. He was a striker, and he just couldn't support his family on the amount that he got at the union at that time.

C: What was your impression of the party? What do you remember about it?

V: Well----I remember that my mother took five of us to the hall at

that time. I was the oldest, I was 13----and my kid brother who was 14 months younger than I was --- he wanted to get his nose into everything. He kept on opening doors, and when he opened this one it was a fire escape----and, my mother told him that there was a fire escape in case of a fire. So, I told mother that she better take the girls home, and that Burt and I would take care of the candy, we would bring home the prizes and everything that we would get. So, we got as far as the stage, and I didn't hear the call of "fire", but my brother must have heard because by the time that I had turned around he had disappeared. So, I took after him thinking that he went to the stairway, and I wanted to take him to the fire escape---but, I got stuck there for an hour and a half.

C: So, you were caught in the press of bodies!

W: Yes, I was stuck right there, but I was very fortunate that my arms were in front of me---and the kid next to me was the same way.

C: Let's see----you said you were 13 at the time. What kind of memories do you have about that hour and a half you were stuck on the stairway?

W: There was hollering, and there were even babies that were thrown over our heads toward the door. A couple of men got killed right there. And, I think they threw their babies right over our heads. As I understand it, the doors opened inward instead of outward. And, then I stayed in Calumet until 1919.

B: Do you have any idea what happened to Big Annie?

W: I never did know. I think that she lived in Keeweenaw County when we lived in Rambaultown there. And, I know I will never forget what happened. I lived in Detroit for 50 years after that. And, I tell my wife or anybody who is with me---when we went to a theater, or anything with a Big crowd---I say that in case of a fire--don't move, just sit right where you are. I learned that much.

C: Yes, I can see that alright.

So, that was quite an experience. And, I remember quite a few of the names that were mentioned like----.

~~Franklin~~ Shallts----or the Stukel boy.

Well---I don't know, but I would like to meet that boy that was next to me because every once in a while I would say something and he would tell me not to holler like the other people were.

B You don't know who that was?

No, I don't. I wish that I could meet him.

C: Was he about your age?

V: Well----he was a little younger. I imagine he was in the neighborhood of about 11 or 12. But, he kept his mouth shut too, and that practically kept us alive by not hollering.

Q: Do you remember seeing any adults around there----any men or women? Bigger than you, in the crowd, I mean?

Well---when they took that crowd off of us, I thought that the floor had broke or something. We were about a foot and a half off the floor. And, when we got back up in the hall, I saw all those people with their eyes open and I didn't know if they were dead or alive. And, I finally made my way to the kitchen. I thought I smelled gas, but I don't think it was gas. I looked out of the kitchen window and I jumped out of that window. I thought that I broke my legs, but I didn't. I sat there for four or five minutes before I knew that I was alright.

C: You jumped out of the kitchen window?

W: Yes, and I ran all the way home to Rambaultown. My dad and mother were already home, but I think Burt was gone. My dad went back, and what my brother did was to go through that stairway---that fire escape---right off the bat. He got out, and he was out front waiting for me!

B: Were there any adults there on the stairway?

W: Yes, there were adults there too. I don't know how many, I think it was sprinkled. Actually about 4 or 5% of them were adults. And, there were quite a few grown up ladies.

R: OK, Walter----and thank you for your contribution.

C: Thank you very much (thank you

B: And, we have a couple of other people to contact yet. There is a Steve Verbanick in L'Anse, and we are trying to get through to him. And, we will get to him in just a moment. Someone called today about the Wadell man, and he said that at the time there were white crosses on the telephone poles----and that signified where Wadel men had shot people. And, he said that he lives in Houghton, and that they were afraid to go out at night because the Wade men would shoot them. And, do you know much about that?

C: Well----all I know is what the records say about the shootings. The day-to-day accounts in the Hancock and Houghton papers, that all I know. There is no doubt that on occasion men were drunk, and if they were armed they may have been firing---perhaps at people, or perhaps in the air. But, I don't know anything about these white crosses.

B: He said that they were on the telephone poles. And, I lost my call to Steve Verbanick, and we will have to try once more. Here is a Marian Mosack, and she was one of the survivors, who just called in, and she is a person that we didn't know about.

C: Are you Mrs. Mosack---or Miss?

M: Mrs.----I was a Kentala.

C: And, where did you live at the time?

Centennial Heights.

C: Now, you were at the hall the afternoon of the party? (yes) What sort of things do you remember about the party itself, before the cry of "fire"?

I remember sitting near the door with my dad, and there was four of us with my dad. We were singing Christmas songs, and I can't remember what they were. But, I have often said that I wonder who that woman was who was directing the singing, because she would say, "sing boy, sing"--or "sing girl, sing" ----and that is one of the things that I do remember.

C: Well---this should have been Annie Clements

Yes, that's what I said to my usband, but before I said that just couldn't remember. And, I don't remember her at all.

C: And, then someone was playing the piano.

Yes, someone was playing the piano.

that should have been ~~hex~~resa Caesar

I remember being in the hospital. There were only three from all that crowd that were in the hospital, and I was one of them. We were sitting near the door when someone hollered "fire", my brother and I were sitting there, we had gone up for our candy and everything and we were supposed to go home. And, then my dad said to us-----my brother had died two weeks before that and my mother was alone----and, then he said, "We should go." And, then my brother said that he wanted his candy, so he said to my sister, and brother, and me---"Now, you kids go along ahead, and I will hold my brother Bill and I will meet you outside." Well---it was just about that time when somebody hollered "fire" I don't remember that either, I remember it from people talking about it probably.

Yes but---you saw no one.

M: Yes, and my brother was the first one out of the building when they hollered "fire". Then my sister had a hold of me by the

hand, and I started to look around and she let my hand go. And, that was it. I was right at the head of the stairway, there was only one entrance and one exit. And, I was right at the head of the stairway----and, that's all I remember. When my dad finally found me, he was in the stairway with my brother, and he was suffocating---and he remembers seeing a good friend of his from Centennial Heights, a Mr. Westala. He died right in front of him, there was nothing wrong. He was sitting there right next to the doorway. Of course like he said, the door opened inward.

C: Yes, Mr. Westala was the secretary of The Finnish Mutual Insurance Company at the time, wasn't he?

That's right. He died right in front of dad. And, he said that he was trying to get his shoulders loose because the crowd was right on top of him. And, he had my youngest brother right in front of him and he was suffocating. And, his eyes were turning upside down and everything else.

C: But, he survived?

Yes, finally he----said that he had been hollering "help"--"help" And, he said that then the fellows came from the saloon, and they went on over the dead bodies, and over people, over the crowd,----and then they started to unload the crowd from on top. And, this is how he got out. Then---when he found me, I had been pushed right into the crowd. That's probably the only thing that saved my life, because I was right there. And, when he found me he saw me lying on the floor, and he started to work on me. And, some other fellows saw him----so, then he helped my dad, and he said that I sat up for a minute, and that the blood gushed out of my mouth, and my ears, and my eyes, and everything. And, he said that there wasn't a mark on my body---but, my head was covered with heel marks and everything. Then they took me to the hospital.

C: You don't remember that Mrs. Stukel was a patient in the hospital at the time?

No, there was an Alla girl. Her name was Irene Alla. Her mother and father were killed there.

C: But, she survived?

M: Yes, she survived. There was another boy that my mother remembers, and she says that of all the people that there were only three in the hospital.

C: Now, I described a little girl dancing on the stage. Do you happen to remember that?

No, I don't happen to remember her.

OK, thank you, Marian. Now Steve Verbanick is on the line in L'Anse. Steve, are you there now? (I'm here) Steve, we were talking to you the other day, and is there anything that we you could add to what we have said?

S: Well---not too much.

You said that you saw something on the floor, was he the gentleman who said that?

Yes. You talked a lot about what you said was poison.

Q Do you want me to tell the story all over again? (go ahead)
Well---me and three of my sisters--we went to the Italian Hall

C: Where were you living at the time?

S: We weren't living too far from there, because I think it took us about ten minutes to get home.

B: Listen, before you get into that story a relative of Big Annes called, and said that she married again, lived in Chicago, came to her dad's funeral in 1928----a Mr. Clobachure. Does that ring any bells? And, then went to the C&H office and visited with the management there, had a good visit. They said that she had one child that was in an accident in Chicago---a street car hit her---and she lost an arm. And, this child should be about 88 now. That's what someone called in, and you can think about that. OK, go ahead---Steve.

S: Well----we must have got to the hall a little late that night, because when we sat down, we hadn't had our candy yet--we were sitting about four seats back of the stage. The children were singing there, and when this man walked towards us--.

Now this the part when he is getting to the poison

This fellow hollered "fire", and me and my older sister, she was with me and she was holding my hand--and, we started for the stairway in the street there. And, while we were going down the stairway we got separated, and some guy picked me up and took me outside. Well---when I got outside I ran home, and somebody did step on my hand because I was crying when I got into the house.

Did you see the man who called "fire"- who yelled "fire"
(yes) What did he look like?

S: Well---he was about 5' 8", or something like that. He was of average height. But, he wore a mask across his eyes.

C: I see, and where was he when you saw him?

(End of side #2 of tape)

Side #1 of tape #3

- S: He walked right between the stage and the seats where we were sitting.
- C: Right along the front of the stage?
- S: Right in front of the stage. Well--to continue my story, when I got home my dad was trimming the Christmas tree, and he asked me what was the matter. And, I told him that there was a fire at the hall. Of course I was just six years old at the time. So, my dad dropped everything, and as he was going out, the fire whistle blew. Well--that's all what I can remember, but if you want to hear about what my dad said when come back home.
- C: Go ahead, what did he say?
- S. Well, when he left the house, he went to the hall, he wanted to go in and there was a policeman at the door. They wouldn't let him pass. And my dad told them, he said, "I got three girls in there," he said. So, that policeman said regardless he can't go in. My dad took the club away from him and walked in and walked through the dead people that were laying there on the floor and on the steps and there were people, the way he stated, still sitting in their seats that were dying, they weren't dead yet, but they were dying, and there was whole snobs (?), just like there was bubbles coming out of their nose, and we went up-stairs and my two sisters were up there and a woman was holding them, they were alright, so when my dad came back, he went down to the saloon and my oldest sister way laying on a kind-of couch or something, and she was unconscious, not from being stepped on or anything, but she was unconscious for two days and everybody said there was poison on the floor, and that's what my dad told us.
- B: Thank you sir, thank you. Okay, is there anything else? That's it. Fine. Okay, thanks Steve. Appreciate it. Alright, Jim Stukel^{er} is on the line now, and he has some information for us, Jim, are you still there?
- J:
- B: Okay, go ahead.
- J: I just wanted to, ah...
- B: Are you the brother of Rose?
- J: I am the youngest brother of the Stukel^{er} family, (uh huh) and I was only three years old at the time, but I just thought that Steve would be interested in some of the information that I have on Anthony(?) Lucas, who was the Prosecuting Attorney at the time of the strike, and which the company had hired somebody else to take over some of his cases which they didn't want him to handle because he was more or less with the working class of people, so he wrote an article,...I happen to be the Secretary and Treasurer of the Croatia Fraternal Union up there in Calumet Lodge, and

I get their paper, which is called the Enlightenment Chart (?) and I have a copy of his own write-up in 1956 he gives a full account. He was living in Philadelphia, ah, in Pittsburg, at the time, and he gives a full account of the court hearings on the Sieburgyle shootings, and how it was handled, and how he was taken off the case because they thought he'd side in with the working class of people; and I thought maybe the Doctor would be interested in this. I have the original copy of the paper.

C: I would very much like to see it sir, I would very much like to see it.

B: Have you talked to Jim before?

C: No, I haven't talked to him before, Rose suggested, I don't know whether she suggested I talk to you or have you another brother?

J: I have another brother called Nat who just came back from Florida. (I see) He was there at the fire.

C: Yes... I think she... Rose, told me I should talk to him sometime But I have never had the chance to talk to him. But I would very much like to see his article you're talking about.

J: I have, well, I also have articles of 1962 this paper has all about his death and practically his whole life. And I also have copies during the last strike I got involved with the editor from the Chicago office that was in connection with the Union, as I myself was in.

C: Now, what Union was this, sir?

J: Last 1968 strike, there

C: Oh yeah, CIO.

J: CIO, right.

B: CIO, right.

J: And this fellow come up, he was an editor, he wanted the Union papers and that, so, with all the information that I had, I gave him, which was quite a bundle, and then in appreciation, he sent it all back to me, but in appreciation of that, his partner was up in New York and went through all the libraries up there and he sent back copies of what he found in a book called "The Surveyor".

C: Would you repeat that book title please

B: "The Surveyor"

C: "The Surveyor", okay.

- J: This was in November the first of 1919 and I have copies he had sent me written by Graham Romney (?) Taylor.
- C: Yes, that's right, yes. "The Surveyor" was a church magazine.
- J: I don't know if you had ever run across that or not.
- C: Ah, I've seen some articles by Graham Romney(?) Taylor that were published in "The Surveyor", I'm not sure I've seen the same ones.
- J: This is back in November the first, 1913, there is about (yes twenty pages.
- C: Right, it's called, uh, oh, what is it? "The Strike in the Copper Country," or something like that, isn't it?
- J: The heading is "The Clash in the Copper Country."
- C: "The Clash in the Copper Country," that's right
- B: What's your phone number Jim?
- J: Well, at my home it's 337-3083.
- B: Okay, I'm getting all these phone numbers back so in case Andrews wants to contact some of these people.
- J: Uh, huh.
- C: Yes, actually, uh, Taylor wrote, he wrote another article called "A Catholic View of the Copper Mines Strike in Upper Michigan."
- J: And I also have a copy of a couple pages here that he sent me called, out of a book called "We Are Many: The Massacre of the Innocents."
- C: "We Are Many"?
- J: "We Are Many"
- B: "Massacre of the Innocents"
- J: That's what, uh
- C: You don't know who published that?
- J: No, I don't. There's just, he just copied the pages from the inside of the book. I couldn't tell you just, uh, you know, what the company published it or who wrote it, or anything of that sort.
- C: Well that
- J: I got a certain number of pages that refer to the strike and the, uh, Italian Hall Disaster.

C: Well, I could take that quite a ways from there, I could probably find other references of that book. I am glad to have the title. Very much, I appreciate that very much.

B: Jim, have you heard the program?

J: Yes, I did and I, infact, am taping it. (chuckle).

B: Okay.

C: What do you think of it, sir?

J: Good! And I also have in front of me the picture of, uh, (sounds like Lulladay Cooths), there's about 11 pictures and it's all in one picture. The doorway, the bodies layed out, the graves, the funeral, the caskets, the inside of the hall, the chairs knocked over, and all of that, the Christmas tree's up on the stage....

B: Yes, we, ah, someone brought us a copy of all 25 of I don't know how many there were, but we have 25 of them here, and they belong to, uh, a gal out in South Range, who was also a

J: ----- (indistinct)

B: Uh

J: I have also seen those, uh, they use in steroscope(? , but *stereoptican*)

B: Yes, right

J: This is all in one picture, made=down into small pictures, and there is 11 pictures on the one picture.

B: Okay.

J: I just thought if he was interested in this...

B: Who's that now, Kathy?

J: I have a lot of stuff on, uh,...

B: OH, okay

J: ...the history of the 1913.

B: Okay, anything else you want to ask Jim?

C: Where do you live, sir?

J: I live in Laurium, 135 S. Pewabic Street

C: Oh, uh, I can find you, ah

B: I've got--his number here so you can call.

C: Right, okay, right.

B: Okay, anything else you'd want to ask him, Dr.?

C: No, that's why I want to get in touch with him

B: Okay, thank you Jim.

J: Okay, thank

B: You're on the air with Dr. Andrews. (caller gives name later in the tape. She is Mrs. Tony Stemick. S is her title)

S: Uh, I just wondered if you would be interested, I'm a direct descendant of two of the, uh, gentlemen that were killed in Painsdale when the strike was on, I didn't know if you would be interested in it or not.

C: Now, this was the December shooting where the men fired into the house and the three men were inside...

S: Right, yes

C: ... and you were a descendant of two of these people?

S: Uncles, my two uncles.

C: Uh...

S: My Uncle William Jane. J-A-N-E. That's the last name

C: Yes, I remember that name, Jane. And it was the..., I remember that name very much, and they had come down from Canada, right?

S: That's right. My dad had, uh, sent for them to come from England and they came to Toronto, and he sent a telegram for them to stay in Toronto because of the strike. But he had just, uh, he had just come back, uh, you know, the strike was over, so he sent and told them to come on down, that he could get them a job I guess. And...

C: Uh, huh.

S: They had just arrived a few, you know, just within a few days, and, evidently, they were, they were mistaken for somebody else because they weren't even employed, you know, By the Copper Range Company at the time.

B: What's your name now?

S: My name is Mrs. Stemick, Mrs. Tony Stemick from Houghton.

C: M'am, m'am

S: Yes?

B: What's your phone number? Let me get this then

S: 482-4510

B Okay

C: M'am (yes). Uh, later on some men were arrested and charged with the murder of those men. You remember this?

S:

C: Uh, and they were put on trial over at Marquette I believe, right?

S:

C: Now, how did that trial come out? I have never been able to find the results of that trial, how did that come out? Do you know?

S: There was one man that was sent to prison, his name was Huhta
H-U-H-T-A

S: Yes, that is right

C:

S: I don't know, according to what my father told us, that really he was more or less like the scapegoat, that there were more men involved than that, but he was the one they, uh...

C: And he was sent to prison?

S: He was sent to prison.

C: Right

S: Uh...

C: Well, I was never able to find out how that trial came out,

S: jumbled, both talked at same time

C: I appreciate hearing that.

B: Hold it, now, you're, ah, okay, go ahead now, ah, Mrs., ah go ahead Mrs. Stemick. What were you saying?

S: Pardon.

B: What did you say now?

S: Oh, I said why my dad always did claim that he, uh, wasn't the only one involved in that, but that he was more or less like the scapegoat, you know, I mean that they, uh, he had been drunk or something and he said that he did it, and they just put

him on trial because they couldn't find anybody else, you know, so, ah, but my dad always said that they didn't get the right man that they, there was somebody else involved in it. You know.

C: Well, there seemed to have been several men involved in the shooting, that's right.

S: Well, there is another story that these LaBelle(?) men were responsible, but I don't really know, all I know is that there was a Mr. Dalley(?), he was the, he was the proprietor of this Cornish boarding house.

C: Where these men were?

S: Where they were.

C: Right.

S: And, uh, he, I don't know, uh, my dad always said that they, the um, the men, had gone to some kind of celebration or party, and some of them had gotten drunk and they got into the wrong room and they, my uncles had gone into the rooms that the other fellows were assigned to and that is why they were shot.

C: I see, because the fact that they were shot from outside and were killed indicates that somebody knew where they were in that house.

S: Right, and uh, uh, they, that was my mothers two brothers, the only two she had, and

C: Um, huh

S: One was 19 and one was 20, and that was.

C: And they were young men, that's right.

S: They're both buried in Forest Hill Cemetary in Houghton here now.

C: They are?

S: Yes. My mother's living, she's in Detroit, but, um, I got this information from my mother and father both. See, my dad was working at the mine at the time. He was a foreman underground at the time, and...

C: And that was in the Champkon Mine?

S: Yea, his name was Samuel Roe.

C: Samuel Rose

S: He was killed in 1942 in the same mine, so

C: Oh, uh, huh

S: But, uh, that's where I got my, uh, I didn't know if you'd be interested in this or not. . .

C: I certainly appreciate this information, m'am.

S: Okay then

B: That was R-O-W-E, wasn't it, Rowe?

S: W-E, Samuel Rowe.

B: Right

C: Rowe.

B: Rowe

C: Rowe, I mispronounced it, I'm sorry.

B: Okay, alright.

S: Uh, um

B: Okay, thank you Mrs. Stemick. Okay, yes, you're on the air with, uh. . . (caller didn't give name, represented by c)

c: With WMPL.

B: Yes.

c: Now, I would like to know why was the object, of, uh, well, I don't know who you are, or how old you are, what does the object that search light that one time, that was the 1930 strike. That, uh. . .

B: What about it? What's your question?

c: Why, why did they have that?

C: Why did they have the strike?

c: What? No,,no, why did they have that big search light?

B: The search light, he's talking about the search light that was on the, that they talked about on the Quincy Mine. Did you know anything about that?

C:

c: No, no, that was up in Calumet. That, that search light was on in, uh, I think it was up in around Agassiz Park.

C: Agassiz Park?

c: Yes.

B: He doesn't know anything about that
C: I know nothing about that.
c: Huh?
B: He doesn't know nothing about that
c: He don't know nothing? (no)
C: No sir. I'm sorry I don't know nothing about that. You're the, uh, I'll look into it now that you've told me about it. I will
B: Well, somebody said there was a big search light on the Quincy also.
C: Well, they had search lights, but.
c: . . . in Quincy, but this one here was up there in S-----(?), around Agassiz Park. And that time of the strike in 1913, yes, because (okay) I been around.
C: Well, I'll look that up, sir, and see what I can find out, but at the moment I know nothing about it.
c: Well, thank you. ? (It sounds like this is what he said) ^{in the tape}
B: Okay, thank you for your call, sir.
c: You're welcome.(?) (same here, I just think) ←
B: Well, uh, Doctor, I guess we are gonna break for the news here and then, uh, maybe we'll come back in about five minutes and just kind of sum up. Okay?
C: Alright, fine.
B: And, uh, let's do that right now

News

C: Uh, Mr. Newton?
B: Wait ~~awhile~~, now, what line is he on, do you know?
C: 05, I believe.
B: Um, that one's not lit.
C: What was he on? (uh), I thought he was. . No, it wasn't 05
B: Alright, well, let's take them right down the line here. Okay who do we have here now?
C: Mr. Newton. (a lady's voice in the background, indistinct
B: Who do we have here on the phone? (a lady's voice, indistinct)

B: Who do we have on the phone now? Is this Mr. Newton (yes)
Go ahead now.

C: Ah, Mr. Newton, (yes), You said you were a member of Company C
of the Michigan National Guard.

N: Michigan, right.

C: And you were from Port Huron at the time?

N: Right.

C: Alright now, do you want to go ahead. You were talking to me
about where you, ah, you were a member of the, of an entry,
of an infantry unit (right) and you want to tell again where
your tents were, please. You are on the air now, sir, do you
mind?

N: Well, it's that road leading in from, from Calumet going, ah,
into Kearsarge where it turns to the west, where it goes toward
Copper City, there's a, there's a, there's a house still
standing there on that corner. And then right before that house
was where our tents were, and then across the road from that
was where these, this. . . Wadell gang was, uh, quartered.

C: Right.

N: Now, let me tell you something about this Wadell gang.

C: Please.

N: They called themselves detectives, but they were just a bunch
of slugs(?) and gunmen, They would stick up, uh, round New
York City, and I suppose they were brought up by the C & H CO.

C: Well, there seems to be some argument about that part, that's
allright.

N: Well, I talked to these men (right), I, we were across the street
to talk to them. And they got into a fight there by themselves
there overnight, the gang of them, and the didn't have to take
the, pull the guns and shoot it out rather than argue it out.

C: So, there was shooting. Someone a while ago mentioned shooting
that these men did.

N: Yes, I remember those very well, (right) I was just across the
street from them. (right) Uh, what I would, what is that was
on the C & H building, wasn't it across the street on that
corner? That road leading. . .

C: I think so. I think that is right sir.

N: It's just before a wall standing there now, with trees growing
up in the -----(?).

B: Where are you living now, sir?

N: I am living in Port Huron?

B: What's your, what's your, you up here visiting?

N: My daughter is the wife of Captain Russell Berg, he's retired and he lives in Jacobsville, and I'm up here visiting them for about 10 days.

B: What's your first name?

N: A. B

B: Do you want to get his address ther in Port Huron?

C: Will that reach you, A. B., ah, Newton, at Port Huron?

N: Right

B: What's your address there?

N: I was just west of Port Huron. We say Port Huron because nobody knows where Good los is. G-O-O-D-E-L-O-S.

C: Isn't Port Huron over on Lake Michigan?

N: No, that's on St. Claire River

B: It's in

N: Right there by the Blue Water Bridge.

C: Oh, that's right. I have a good friend who works on the newspaper ther in Port Huron. That is why, I was trying to think, I guess . . .

B: What's your address there?

N: What's your sons name, you say your son?

C: No, he's asking you what you address is at Port Huron.

B: What's your address?

N: I'm at, uh, Goodelos, Michigan.

B: Uh, isn't it actually Port Huron though?