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

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Russell Bergh
Minnie Marsi
Walter Holmlund
July 31, 1973

Art Puotinen

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SUBJECT:

SOURCES: Russell H. Bergh [Sea Captain]
 Mrs. Minnie Marsi (Jacobsville Senior Citizen)
 Walter Holmlund [Retired teacher - Friend of Suomi College]

COMMENTS:

LEGEND: R - Marsi
 R1 Bergh
 R2 Holmlund

Interviewer: Art Puotinen

- I: This is a tape in the home of Walter Holmlund in Jacobsville on July 31, 1973, and gathered here are Mrs. Minnie Marsi, Russell Bergh, Walter Holmlund and myself. We're going to begin tonight by getting a little family background on each of the participants in the discussion and I think we'll begin with ladies first, if that's okay with you, Minnie. Could you tell us a little about your own family and how they came here to Jacobsville...what were the circumstances, who were they, etc.
- R: Well, my father...I was born up there in Hurontown up near Dodgeville somewhere and my father...that's when the quarry started. My father was out here working in the quarry and was boarding at John Marsi's house and my mother wasn't here. They were building the company houses and all the families didn't get here so soon. So when my mother came here I was five months old when my mother moved here and my father went and got them and they moved here and I've been here ever since.
- I: About what year was that when you came here?
- R: Well, I was born in 1888, in January the first month of the year and I was five months old...do you put down the months?
- I: No, that's all right...five months, that would be in the summer time
- R: And then our house was finished and they moved in there and then the Finnish people always wherever they go and moved, they built a church first. So, they built that church and my father was the first Sexton in the church.
- I: What was your father's full name?
- R: My father's name was Jerimiah *Breadbank* and he was a great Temperance worker...he was a Temperance man. Then they built a Temperance hall.
- I: The Temperance Hall came after the church or before the church?
- R: After...and then he was always...he associated a lot with the ministers. We used to have a minister come here every third Sunday of the month.

And he'd come rain or shine, if he had to walk from Chassell...he hadda come from Hancock to Chassell by train and if he couldn't get him anyway, he'd walk. He was determined to come here on that Sunday and his name was Rev. John Neikha^{nder}. We always called him Uncle John. He always signed his articles (?-Finnish)...that means, Uncle John. And he was a wonderful minister. He used to stay at our house and at different places. He came on Saturday night and had evening services Saturday and Sunday we had morning services. In the afternoon he'd go back to Hancock and he's the one that started the Suomi College. ~~home~~. You know that, don't you?

- I: Un hum. Right, so the historic church here was really started by the founder of the Suomi Synod and the Suomi College.
- R: Yes, that's the oldest Finnish Lutheran Church in...one of the oldest Finnish Lutheran Churches in the country. Well, you can say it was a branch from the Hancock Church. Well, then when they built that church they hadda get a bell for it...and the church was ordained or...in let's see, it's four years older than my brother...my brother was four months old when the church was ordained and he's four years younger than I am, so that church is around eighty-five years old...somewheres around there. It's in the eighties anyway.
- I: Mrs. Outinnen writes...I've got just a little article here...there was a man by the name of Leoander Sinco...
S^{inko}?
- R: Leoander Sin~~co~~, he built the church.
- I: He did.
- R: Well, he had help, they donated their help. He started to build one.. he was a...well, he was...he supervised the work and they built it and they donated their work, they didn't get paid for it.
- I: What kind of background did he have? Was he a carpenter himself?
- R: He was a carpenter...
- I: By trade
- R: Was a very good carpenter
His boys are all carpenters now too
- R: At the time he built that church he lived over there by ? That's Mrs. Silberg's summer home now.
That the same Sinco that lived up the river later on?
- R: What?
Did they live up on the river by...
- R: Well, they moved from there then. He bought the farm, you know, and

he didn't work in the quarry anymore. He quit working in the quarry and they bought a farm and they farmed there until they went to California. Then they started that carpenter work again then in California.

R1: The boys worked as.

R: Then the boys grew up, you know, and then he had his own help.

R1: They worked as (?) on the West coast and one of them now has...the youngest boy I think has got a summer home outside of Skanee or someplace there.

R: Well, there's a couple of those boys still living at Toivo.

R1: Yeah, he's got a summer home there not too far there by the woods.

R: Well I heard, but I didn't know the exact place where he had his summer camp.

I: Russell, when did your parents come to the area?

R1: My grandfather lived up in Hancock...he come there about the time of the Civil War...that's on my mother's side. He had a...at one time he had a curtain factory in Hancock and then he worked as a pattern maker...that was his trade...pattern maker in the foundry there, (?) Foundry, and (?) Foundry cast one of the turrets or both of them for the Monitor during the Civil War...was made up here at (?) Foundry

R2: Was that at Ripley, Russell?

R1: Yeah...then my mother was born in Hancock and then later on when the quarry opened up here, why they moved down here and he worked as a carpenter down here. My father, he came over to this country about the same time...about 1880 or '85, something like that. He was just a young fellow and this country here probably reminded him of the "Old" country. He was born in Norway, so that's probably why he stayed here and being a sea-faring man, he stayed with the water. And many of these boats that's referred to in articles about the Portage here, well he used to sail them...the Sailor Boy and, oh what were some of those other boats.

I: What kind of vessels were they? Were they fishing vessels or cargo carrying vessels?

R1: No, these were small...

R: Regular cargo carriers.

R1: Passenger and cargo.

R: They had sails on them...they didn't have no machines

Well, the first ones, yeah.

R: Yeah

My dad was with a schooner that took the last load of copper out of Keweenaw Bay and they started down the lake with it and they got wrecked off of Marquette. That was the last schooner that loaded copper up in this place.

When would that be, Russell, roughly what year would that be?

Oh, I don't know, around '85 maybe, somewhere around there... '85 or '90, because after that the steamboats started to come into existence and they took the place of the sailing vessels because when they got ship wrecked...I'll tell you what year it was because the hospital in Marquette was in operation at that time. Why they got ship wrecked in the fall of the year and they just about...there were five or six of them on this schooner and due to the cold weather and lake and that, they almost passed out from exposure. In fact, I think most of them did because my dad later on told me about it and you know he said when he woke up he opened his eyes and he said everything was all white and there was a nurse...a Sister standing over him talking to him, you know and he looked at her and she had that white outfit on her head and he said the first thing he thought of was, "Well, I died and this is heaven". Well, that's a fact. That's what really said to me.

I: He evidently passed on his love of the water to you too...I mean, you've been active in...

R1: I think there was a little of it passed all over.

I: So your childhood was spent a good deal of it then on the lakes?

R1: Yeah, quite a bit of it right here...as growing up as a kid. I and my cousins we lived up...as I said that house that was torn down right in the location where we live now...and my cousins used to live right down on the shore here and I was always down there because there were three boys there, one was my age, and then there were two younger than I and there was one was older; but the oldest one was out sailing as going back as I can remember, but the other three were home and we were out here in the boats all the time out here...everytime it got rough that when we went out. Was a lot of fun then. So, I don't know. (???). Well, I'll tell you, any kid that's been around a boat all his life and rowing, when he's grown up because his fingers have been pulling on that oar til it turns your fingers that way. They grow like that. That just fits the handle of an oar.

That's before the days of the outboard motor

It wasn't even inboard then. No, that's right. It might sound kind of funny, but that's a fact. That's what made my fingers like that.

T: Well, I think we'll turn as ask Walter about his own father now.

R2: Yeah, well I'd like to say...I was just reading this diary that Russell gave you to look at and there's an entry here, May of 1902...

R: She's got everything marked.

Yeah, May 24th, it says "Midsummer Day"...what do they call that in Finnish?

R: St. John Day

"The Finns made an ice cream social down at the bay" on that day.

R: Yes, they used to have those parties on St. John's Day. They had a big bonfire, then they'd serve coffee and cake and sandwiches over there by the lighthouse, you know, between the lighthouse...that part of the woods is all gone into the lake now.

Washed away

R: Great big trees there...boy we used to think that was wonderful

R2: Well, they still celebrate Midsummer's Day

R: Yes, that is midsummer. That's when the Spring ends and Summer starts on St. John's Day.

That was in 1902...my dad actually came to the Copper Country, I think it was 1896 when the Suomi College here was started. He was on the faculty of this college with four or five other men as I remember, with Pastor Neikander was the President and that four or five men made up the faculty of the Suomi College at that time. And he was instructor in music and he did some teaching in bookkeeping. Yes, there's a book back there Russell, if you'll notice, that has his name on it. That's what he used when he was an organist in the church. This was the book that he brought over from Finland when he came.

R: I remember your father

So he got his musical training over there in Finland and went first to the East Coast at Wooster, Massachusetts.

I: Which is a good center of Finns too.

R2: Which is a good center of Finnish and then he came to Suomi in '86 and that's where he met my mother. In fact, she was a student

I: '86 or '96?

'96...1896, yeah

R: I was twelve years old then.

And that's where the college got started and as you know how the thing has developed until the present time. We never went to the college although some of my relatives did. I think...Sigred Silbern was my cousin...and her father was a druggist in Hancock by the name of Neikander...no relation to the President of Suomi; but she went to Suomi and her husband went to Suomi. But my dad while he was there, had choirs in Calumet, I remember, and Negaunee and Ishpeming and they

did a lot of traveling by train and by horse and buggy. And we lived over in Atlantic Mine, actually, afterwards.

R: Well, my brother belonged to that.

Did he belong to that?

R: Yeah, and he traveled.

And he traveled around and that's how he happened to come and a good many others of course came later from Finland and other places too to work at the college. And at the same time he also worked with a group of people to start the America (?) which was one of the first Finnish newspapers in the United States. That America (?), he was the business manager of that paper, they (?) either in Hancock or Calumet and then there was the Volvoya and others, but America (?) lasted quite awhile.

R: Yes, it isn't many years...I thought it was still there. Aren't they publishing it anymore?

No

R: It isn't so many years ago when they quit then.

Not too many, no

R: I know my mother always used to get that paper

I: That's very interesting. Your dad was a very rounded individual, not only a musician but he was interested in cultural life of the Finns. The paper, that was one of the first aims of the (?) was to further Finnish language and culture and the work of the church.

Yes, it had an interesting history and they had a lot of struggles to maintain it and to keep it going, as you know. And then they had other papers that came along like the (?) that had a different orientation. Of course the American (?) was really related to the Finnish church here, the Synod...the Suomi Synod...as I recall, tried to promote that and the interest of that particular organization. Then there was a man came later, you probably know him Minnie, Bill Holburien, was on the (?) like father...he was Victor Bourban...and he was the editor of the...Oobass...that was printed in Calumet. Of course, I don't know if he ever taught at Suomi, but he was active in newspaper work. His daughter taught at Suomi.

I: She was one of my teachers

Is that right?

I: Yeah...1959. Now, you'd think then that your father did then come here to the Jacobsville church on occasion to...

Oh yes, I'm sure.

R Yes, they used to come here. Mr. Neikhander was very much interested in the Jacobsville church. They were members of it.

R2: Of course my dad and President Neikhander worked together at the college and over here at this shoreline where Russell showed you the picture of the Mack Hotel, was where we used to come every summer and we'd get off the boat here at (?)^{White} City and then walk through these woods to spend weekends or the summer or what have you, we would go up to the community where Minnie lived and we would get a pail of milk up there and get our eggs. That's where we used to live and spend our summers. Of course, this church was in existence at that time.

the entire Holmlund family came then.

R2: Right

I: Which consisted of your mother, father, you...any brothers or sisters

R2: Yes, I had an older sister...two older sisters and one younger brother. There were four of us and we always came with the family. Mother would usually stay here and then Dad would be working in town and he'd usually come out weekends. Sometimes they would come to Portage Entry and take a boat across, row boat across...and then walk over...

as the only way you could travel those days

R2: That was the only way to travel in those days, right. But we always spent our summers...I remember playing with Russell. And he told me an interesting story the other day. He cut my hair, wasn't it Russell?

R1: Yeah...I put a bowl on his head.

R2: And you got bawled out for it.

R1: (?) around my neck. Boy was he ever mad

R: They did that to my brother too.

I: Well, it sounds as if summers were very exciting. What sort of activities did you get into as children?

Well, there were a lot of people here, especially in the summertime.

R1: You mean besides mischief?

I: Well, what kind of mischief too?

R: Well, Jacobsville didn't die yet...there's/^{new}people coming here right along and building new homes.

I: Was most of the activity on the seashore...I mean, on the lake shore?

R:

R2: How many saloons were here at one time?

R: What?

R2: Saloons

R: Three in a row.

R1: Three in a row, yeah.

R: Blue Goose, Harry Mergen and Matt Hulmblad.

R2: That was the adult entertainment you're talking about. I think the children, as I recall mostly, used to play along the beach and we used to have rafts and row boats and swimming all hours of the day.

R: Was a nice sandy beach.

R1: At White City too.

R2: At White City too, the water was a little warmer there and you had a dock there for diving where Keweenaw Bay water was pretty cold all the time; but it had a nice sandy beach.

R: I never swam in White City. I didn't dare to jump in that deep water. I never was a swimmer and I lived by the lake all my life. I was always afraid of getting water in my nose.

R1: During the most pleasant time of the year in July and August, there was hardly a night went by that there wasn't a ...

R2: Bonfire

R1: Bonfire down on the beach.

R2: Then there would be singing and entertainment and somebody remarked the other day they seemed to think those days are gone. People don't do those things anymore. They go for other kinds of entertainment; but we made our own entertainment.

R: We had to.

R2: In the afternoon we'd get the wood ready and at night we'd roast marshmallows and sing.

R: Now, they have different entertainment and they can go to...well they had theatres in those days but no movies or television or anything like that.

R1: Water had a sister that could sit down on the piano and play for hours

R2: Yeah, she was a very accomplished pianist.

R1: Without music or anything...just play some of the nicest music you could have listened to.

Remember Russell, there was a piano down at...was it your brother's house here or was it...

Yeah, cousin

Cousin...there was a piano in there and she used to go over there and play that and there was one at your mother's house.

Marie had a piano at the Mack Hotel

Yeah

R: Yes, Marie had a piano.

R2: And your mother had one at her house

R1: Ellen and Marie used to sit in the evenings, most every evening for an hour or two and Marie would play the piano and Ellen was an accomplished violinist.

R2: That's Marie Mack you're talking about

R1: Yeah, they had some nice music. That was the entertainment we had.

I: Well, it made a nice change of pace from school days. Walter and his family came during the summer, but I gather that the two of you were year around residents. Did you go to school here in...

R: I went as high as eighth grade...that's all the education I got.

I: Now, where did you go to school?

R: Vienna School House...the big school house on the hill here. That burned down and now there's a new one there. That was built in '32.

Right where the community building is now there was a big...

R: They even taught high school there.

I see...it says here, "The school was built in 1889, a two story structure; the elementary grades on the first floor and the higher grades up to twelfth on the second floor. There were as many as two hundred students during the boom years".

R: Now that's true...lot of children.

I: Now when did you...

R: Lot of children and grown ups and young people.

I: When did you start school? About 1895?

R: When I was six years old I started school and I was born in 1888.

I: Do you remember any of the early teachers?

- R: Oh yes, there was one...Mr. Tanner, he was a high school teacher and Mr. Kershman, he came after him. Oh, there was...Mr. White. White was first and then was Tanner and then was Kershman. Kershman was... there was Harris.
- R1: Harris, I remember Harris
- R: Harris was in 1912, that's the last one. And then that ended our high school; but they still had the elementary school down below.
- I: Now, were the teachers permanent residents, or did they just stay...?
- R: Oh yes, they had their own home...well, not all of the teachers. Kershmans had their own home but the others they boarded with Pfiefers.
- I: Oh, I see.
- Mr. White, he boarded...didn't he board at...no you don't remember because you wasn't born yet.
- R1: No...I think he boarded at a boarding house there
- R: Mr. Kershman and his wife, they both taught in this school. She taught the elementary and he taught the high school. And they had rented one of the houses over here. But then the other teachers that come after her, they were single women so they boarded at Pfiefers.
- I: Where did the teachers come from? Do you know?
- R: Lake Linden, most of them.
- R1: Various places
- R: Well, Mr. Kershman came from further on. I think he was from down Lower Michigan or something.
- R1: My first teacher was Mabel Prentiss and she was from Grand Rapids.
- R: Yes, there was some.
- R1: And Marie Tephie, she was from Dollar Bay.
- R: And then there was Miss Mallery, she was from White City...I mean Lake Linden and Miss Padette was from Lake Linden and who was that other teacher...Fitzpatricks...sisters, they were both from Lake Linden.
- R2: They probably went to Normal School.
- R: Edna Fitzpatrick and Ruth Fitzpatrick.
- R2: They went to Marquette, I suppose, for their training.
- R: Yes, they went to the Marquette school...it was called the Normal then, teachers' college.

- I: How many teachers did you have here at one time?
- R: Three
- I: Three at a time?
- R: I think there was three...one upstairs...no,
- RI: Three, because was two rooms downstairs, see...and when sister and I started they were just...
- R: At first they had three, but then they...
- RI: They abandoned the high school part and there was just the first eight grades. From that time on there was just one teacher. One teacher for eight grades, phew!
- R: And then that one teacher after the...then they finally got the bus. The bus to Lake Linden.
- RI: The bus started oh around 1930 or something like that
- R: It's still running, the bus is.
- I: I gather all the children walked to school?
- RI: Oh yeah. We didn't have to take exercises because we got enough exercise walking or skiing or everything else, see.
- R: We didn't have so far to walk
- I: How was it in the school in the winter time? Was it pretty cold and chilly or was it well heated.
- R: Well, it all depended on how they fired it up. They had a coal stove, one of those...
- RI: Great big round ones with hot air. Boy that thing was as big around as that there and stood about sixfeet high. Originally it was designed to put down in the basement of a house, you know, and had a register in the floor; but instead they put it right on the first floor and piped it out. That's when I was janitor, anyway.
- I: So it was about six by four stove?
- R: Yes, they had stove heat.
- RI: Yes, and it fired up with two - three buckets of coal and bank that fire, it would last all night and it would be nice and warm in the morning.
- R: Well, they had to hire a janitor when they had the money, but then when they'd run short of money they couldn't hire a janitor so the teachers had to fire that.

- I: Was Sunday School held in that school as well or was it held in the various churches?
- R: Yes, they did. They had it in the school house...the English people had it there. We had the Finnish church where we went to the Finnish church for Sunday School. The English people had the school house.
- I: B y English are you referring to Methodist or Congregationalist?
- R: I think it was the Congregationalists. Your mother was a Congregation, well she played the organ, you know, so it was a Congregationalist.
- I: What other churches were represented here in Jacobsville?
- R: Well, years after then..after the store discontinued, well that store was vacant for so many years then they Apostolic religion, they had it. They still have it.
- R2: They still have services there.
- R: Yeah, they have services once in a great while. They don't have them every Sunday or every month.
- R1: See, at that time it was easier for the one preacher to come down here than it was for the whole congregation to go to the town. But now with the advent of the automobile or so, why people who can go into town to go to church.
- I: Did Jacobsville ever have a resident minister from any of the different churches?
- R: Yes, we had a Rev. Helm...he used to come every third Sunday
- I: No, but did they live here?
- R: No...no
- R1: Wasn't there a preacher that lived with (?) for awhile, for one year or two...a Methodist or Congregationalist minister; because I've got some cards home there.
- R: There was one minister but then he didn't live here too long...in that corner there. That was a minister's home there in the first place; but I can't recall his name...I don't know who he was.
- I: How did you folks manage when someone...a woman had a baby or someone was sick?
- R: Well, we had...what you call...a nurses aid, Mrs. Perrila. She was as good as a doctor.
- R2: Midwife I guess they called them.
- R: Then we did have a doctor's office here and a Doctor Fitch was here for many years and after him, Doctor Nelson came. And they had a home there

they thought they had taken all the shells out and there had been one shell left in there and he got it. He was sitting next to his brother that was cleaning the gun and the gun went off and tore his leg up in here. He bled to death because they couldn't get the doctor quick enough. It takes some time to come from Chassell.

Why sure

Winchester lever action shot gun...it's a model that they quit building long time ago and it had just a little bit of a hammer on it and he was pumping the shells out like that, see, and it slipped and it went right through his legs. A hole about that big in his leg. Because they came over and one of them went to the store and the other brother come to the house to get my dad because my dad at this time he was home and they knew that he knew something about, you know, patching up a fellow because sea faring people had a certain amount of know how.

R: Well, he had some experience.

R1: So, he went out there to see what happened and well he was already dead you know, he bled to death.

R: Well, they had to come four miles to call up a doctor

R1: Was the hole there, see and the other brother there had tried to stop the blood with flour, you know, plug it up with...they didn't think about putting a tourniquet on there; but anyway my dad stayed there until Wilson come...but then he had unable to help because the man already was gone, he was dead. He didn't have an ounce of blood left in him.

Minnie speaks about crossing the channel at...I heard about the story about Rev. Elm you mentioned who called (?).

R: He was from Lake Shore parish.

Yes and he started over here one night for his services and he fell in crossing the channel over here. He was with some people and they pulled him out and they took him back to the entry side. Well he took his clothes off and he dried them out in the house of a friend, put them back on and then they brought him back over here on a boat and he kept his appointment over here in the church that night. People wouldn't do something like that today, huh!

R: Well, they were pretty rugged days, those days.

I: Say Russell, where did they bury this fellow that was shot?

R: Well, in the cemetery over here.

I: Were there funeral services held in the church then?

R: Oh yes.

T: And where is this cemetery located?

- R: It's right...you pass it when you come here from Lake Linden...it's just a couple of miles from here towards Lake Linden on that road. And there's a sign up there, "Jacobsville Cemetery".
- You'll see it when you go out on the lefthand side just a mile or so out there.
- I: And the cemetery has been in existance since, I suppose, the community started then.
- Rl: Well, yes...
- Has it always been there in that location?
- As far as I know.
- R: Yes, always.
- I know there are some very old graves way back...that you can hardly read the inscriptions on them.
- R: Well, my father is buried there, he was one of the first ones being buried there...my father and another man. That's the time my father got injured in Bethlehem that time loading that boat, you know, I was only six and a half years old.
- I: Did your father...that was his occupation then, working on the boats.
- R: No, he worked in the quarry, but you see he worked at the dock there and they were loading. He was a signal man on the shore and there was a lot of times he had to go into the boat to signal to tellthem where to put the rocks up in. You know, there was great big rocks...well those big dirricks, you know, they had great big heavy iron hooks. Well, one of those iron hooks slipped off that stone and that stone fell on top of a hatch cover and the hatch cover hit my father in the head and fractured his skull. He lived twenty-four hours after that.
- I: Was there any kind of workmen compensation or death benefit for your mother.
- R: No, my mother didn't get anything from that and she was left with six children...the youngest one was four months old; and she only got eight dollars a month for support of her family.
- I: From the state?
- R: No, from the county. The county wasn't so rich those days. They couldn't give more. Well, anyway we got along. She had cows, a couple of cows and she had chickens and she sold milk; so that's the way we got along then. She struggled along as long as she could and then she got married again the second time. I had a stepfather.
- See, loading these big hunks of stone, see they were about four by four by eight and they probably weighed two or three ton and this hook that she's talking about was a big iron hook and it comes down this

way and then it's flat on the bottom, see and they used to...

R: Well there was four hooks in it.

Four, yeah...

R: One on each corner.

One on each corner on the edge where it'd hook underneath this stone, see and that's they way...his job was to signal to the hoist man because he couldn't see over the dock to where this was going and he'd have to motion to him, you know, to lower it or move it over or something like that. And that's the way this stone was loaded on the boats through the scow.

Was this an unusual accident or were there a lot of accidents taking place?

R: Well, there wasn't too many accidents in the quarry. I know about another man that got a fractured skull, but I don't remember how he got his; but he lived.

Well, Survella...Survella fell in the boat.

R: Oh, he fell down the bank, broke his back.

Well, he wasn't hurt in the quarry.

R: Well I guess he injured some of the...well he was crippled, he had to walk with crutches the rest of his life.

What did you do for other kinds of ailments? Did you have home remedies? Did Mother have home medicines?

R: Oh yes

What were some of them?

R: Oh, I can't even remember. My mother used to make some cough medicine and stuff like that. She didn't really make home remedies, she just bought those patent medicines...mostly patent medicines.

R1: Well, camphor...camphor in an old sock around the neck.

R: Camphor whiskey...they'd put camphor in it and then they'd use that for massaging.

I: Was there anybody in the community who knew how to do cupping?

R: Oh yes, there was an old man, Old Man Verco.

Did his wife too?

R: I don't know what that cupping does to you, but he did do that. I never was cupped.

My mother was bothered with what the doctor in town called "blook boils" on her face, you know, would be an eruption like...swelling and instead of like puss, was nothing but blood come out of it; and the doctors in town couldn't do anything...I remember he had some kind of electrolis treatment or something and that was of no avail...and it was just a very embarrassing and inconvenient condition and I guess nobody knew what caused it. But Old Verco started this cupping business...he had two or three knife blades or blades like that on a block of wood and they were just stuck out oh maybe a thirty-second of an inch or something like that...just barely out enough to cut you and I know he cut my mother in the face right here.

I: On the right cheek.

With this block, see, cut right through into so it'd start to bleed and then he took a cows horn that had been smoothed off on the large end and the tip was cut off and he put that up to her face and he'd suck on that and pull the blood out of that. And he even cupped her on both cheeks and on the back of her neck here...couple of times and then no more trouble. It all cleared up.

Was a horn similar to that but he would cut that tip off.

It would be about that long.

Would be about that long.

R: They were that long, those horns.

I: Would you say six inches?

No, about four.

R: Well, do they...what's that for?

Well, that came...I got that in Africa. That's a cows horn...that's what they make out of these cows horns. It's supposed to be the bird...the cow bird that follows the...

R: Yeah, it looks like a bird.

The natives make those.

R: And sell 'em, hey

Yeah, but the cuppers here, you know, took the regular cow's horn and sharpened the point and took the end of it off and then they would draw the blood out...like Russell said. And that went on for quite a while, I think.

R: Oh yes, and long after I was married even they used to cup people; but I never went to any, I wouldn't have them cup me up.

I still remember Mrs. Verrique, she was quite a character. She smoked a pipe and she had a Pearless.

R: Yes, she'd come along the road smoking a pipe and you could see the smoke flying...walking on the road...and she used to walk on the

and knit on stockings...they'd knit even on the road when they were walking. She'd knit on that stocking. But she didn't smoke...she didn't really.

Mrs. Verrique, I remember, she used to wear shoe packs, you know, with the turned up toes.

R: She thought they were all the style.

R1: Well, most everybody did at that time.

R: Yes, I wore them.

I remember when I was a kid they most everybody had them, in fact I had a pair myself.

This diary tells about her getting a pair of shoes made and was trying them out here.

R: Well, I had an Uncle come from Finland and he was a good shoemaker and he made us each a pair packs and oh, we didn't want to go to school with those shoe packs and we cried and cried because we had to wear them and they had heavy woölen stockings; so we had to wear them whether we wanted to or not. Well, now those people wear those...very much like them...they're not home made but they're factory made... but they're like shoe packs.

I: Where did you get your groceries years ago.

R: We had a big store there...General Merchandise...they had everything there...shoes, clothing, underware, dishes.

I: Whose store was that?

R: At first it was Oars' Store...that old first one was Oars' Store, that was way over there near them steps. That old building was up there for many years after. Then it got too small and they had to make a bigger store and then they bought that...Narravono's bought Oars' out and then they made this new building and made it bigger. And they had an ice house in there and everything. They had barrels of pickles on the side of the counter...they didn't have pickles in bottles, you know...sweet pickles and dill pickles.

R1: When Oars' Store run before Narravano's bought them, Hennis had a store...

R: Well, Hennis had a store across the quarry.

...over on the other side of the quarry.

R2: You know, when we were talking the other night, I was reading some of these old lighthouse logs that they kept back in the 1860's and '70's and I read these in the Bureau of Archives in Washington. You mentioned the food that it tells insome of those entries about them bringing flour over from L'Anse.

- R: By boat, yes. Yes by boat they brought flour.
- R2: Barrels of flour were brought over...
- R: They had to get all their freight by boat. They'd hire some boat to bring the groceries.
- R2: Over the ice in the wintertime.
- R: There was one boat called the Fryant...but I don't know the initials of it. It used to come here every so often.
- R1: What was the name of it?
- R: Fryant...F R E A N T.
- R2: Brought groceries here.
- R: That was a big day for Jacobsville when the Fryant used to come in. We'd all run down to the dock and we'd watch them unload. They'd bring all kinds of food...anything you wanted. Cost quite a bit to get the food out here. They had to pay a good price for that boat for renting it.
- R1: Many of the homes here burned coal in the wintertime and in order to get coal down here they'd go around and take an order from everybody how much did they want and what kind of coal. Well, so many...couple tons of soft coal and somebody else wanted a ton or two and it finally got enough so it paid them to dump this coal in that such amounts onto a scow and scow it down here to the dock and everybody turned in with a shovel and bagged the stuff and sorted out their coal and if anybody had a team or horses or something like that, well they hauled the coal up to each person's house, dumped it in the basement and that was it. It was the whole community.
- R: Was like they say, "Where there's a will, there's a way"
- R2: Didn't they burn a lot of wood here too...they must have.
- R: Yes, my mother never burned coal...they always had hardwood.
- R2: I was wondering, somebody asked me the other day and I couldn't tell them...say, what was the maximum population of this town at one given point?
- R: That I don't know.
- R1: It was eight hundred at one time.
- R: There was five hundred men in the quarry working, at one time...oh, when I was about ten years old...that's when the quarry was in its best.
- R1: The census of around 1890 or something like that counted eight hundred

Now I don't know whether that was...

Well, there could have been.

Was something like that.

R: Well, my Gramma died in 1894...but we always had wood.

There was another store out there by our place, Minnie, before the quarry, see.

R: I know that place.

Now that makes about four stores.

R: That was a clothing store but it didn't last long.

And there was a butcher shop there.

R: Was a butcher shop and a barber shop.

And then there was a...

R: Oh, this was quite a place.

...another butcher shop down there right at the turn before you go into the quarry there...there was a butcher shop there too.

I: Well, was all the meat raised locally then? They didn't bring any of the meat from the outside.

R: Oh, yes they did.

I: They did?

R1: And for refrigeration, everybody who were able to went down and helped them cut ice...ice was cut right in the bay or in the river here and loaded onto a sleigh and brought up to the ice houses.

R: Well, they had a regular ice house connected to the store

You could buy ice right up there to the store

R: They could keep meat for awhile. But people had cattle of their own. They'd have a calf or they'd slaughter a pig or they had their own meat. They didn't have to order too much meat. But Mr. Pfeifer, he had a ice house and they did have meat in there.

Stop in tape.

R: Well, they built a sauna first...I think it was sauna first

R2: What percentage of the population were Finnish then that you spoke about...Methodists and English and other nationalities were here,

weren't there, besides the Finnish? Or were they mostly Finns?

R: Well, there were more Finns than anyother nationalities. There was a few Belgians...was there one Belgian family lived down the hill here that Flossie's store...Old Man Shears.

Shears

Paul Shears...that hill in Finnish is called (?). The Finnish used to call it (?). That Charlie's Store right there on the hill.

DeBrent was a Belgian.

That sounds like a Belgian name.

R: She was..

R1: She was French

R: She was Belgian.

R1: No..no..no..no...she was French and Pete was Belgian

R: Pete was Belgian.

R1: Pete was the Belgian...DeBrent.

They were mostly Finnish people there then.

R Yes, the biggest majority were Finnspeople but then there were others there too. There were some Swedish people.

Well, during my time and your time, Hasketts community that used to be over by Lansos has all disappeared, see, but over there there was a dozen people lived over there...

R: Yes, there was and those girls walked to school and they took their lunch every day...they hadda take their lunch because they couldn't go back and forth.

There was a whole settlement over there. Was that the one...who was it that went to school and she brought some tea in one of those Kero Syrup cans where the cover fits down pretty tight. Her mother put the cover on tight and she wanted to heat up the tea and put it on that stove. Did it blow up and make a mark on the ceiling. Who was that. It was my mother was telling me about it...I wasn't there when it happened; but that's what happened anyway, but the can of tea blowed up.

Would tea blow up in a can?

Well, it made steam, you know.

Pause during taping for coffee

I: Did the various groups and churches get together for pot lucks and suppers often?

R: Oh yes, we had church picnics and well mostly always just the Hancock church people came out here. We still have services during the summertime for two months every Sunday. There's different ministers come here even...there was one here last...

Rev. Simon

R: Rev. Simon, you knew that, he's a nice man

And you were there the week before, and you were away before then.

R: This was the first chance I had to go to church because I had to go to Duluth. My son came there from California and I had to go there to meet him. We had a kind of a get together, so I missed church but from now on if I'm home I always go to church there.

R1: I offer to take her to church, but she won't go.

R2: Has this church always been affiliated with the Hancock church?

R1: I wanted Minnie to come to the Baptist church, but she says, "Nothing doing...I'm Lutheran".

R: No...no, I'm not against Baptist church. Do you know that I listen to Baptist church if I can't get to church, all Sunday forenoon. I listen to four different ministers. Rex Hombard and Jerry Caldwell and Rev. Cox.

I: How long were the services in the Finnish language here? I suppose for quite a few years.

More pausing for coffee chatter.

You know, speaking about Finnish services, I remember going over here to the Apostolic Church and they had a English service and then they had a Finnish service.

R: Well, that's what they used to do in Hancock church too. Now they have.

X: They do yet, don't they.

R: Not in Finnish. They...once...I don't know. I thought they don't have any Finnish services anymore in the Hancock church.

I: They do...every other week.

R: I'm not familiar with their schedule.

At Ed Houfta's funeral there it was in Finn

R: Here it only in English

He was one of the old timers here too

R1: That was over two hours.

R2: You know/^{how}they figured, in order to be good it had to be long.

R1: You know that Apostolic church there in Calumet or Laurium, the first service was in Finn and I...after all me being Finn in there that's what the majority of the people were there and I don't recall the minister's name. I think he's retired but he came back for that service.

R2: Harlanen...does that name sound like it?

R1: It could have been...does he talk real slow. And then they had a new preacher there, Rodney Johnson...

R2: In Hancock?

R1: Houghton...no, Laurium at that Apostolic church; so he took over the service and in English. So it was a kind of a lengthy service, you know, for a funeral and we finally got out here to the cemetery and we started in church at one o'clock and we got out here at five. That was kind of a lengthy...

R2: I recall the church in Atlantic when I went to church and my dad was an organist there

End of Tape 1

R: Our ministers used to come from Hancock and then always after that the students used to come here by turns. They came Saturday evening and have evening services in the church building.

R1: Seminary students probably from Suomi.

More pausing for coffee chatter.

I: What was...in the summer time or wintertime, what was the big social event of the year? Was it the Fourth of July celebration or...?

R: Christmas

I: Christmas was a big event

R: We always had a Christmas tree. I don't know how we ever got it over that snow, but we got to church and had a nice Christmas program, every Christmas. We had one for the school first and then one in the church. And you know they'd give all the young scholars there a bag of candy and an orange and an apple. That was our treat from the school.

You know one thing I've often wondered about, how long have they had that chandelier in the church?

R: Well, I can't tell you...

Well, you remember when the bell was brought in here.

- R: That's from the Hancock church, you know, when the lightening hit the church and killed that one man, that ~~Veipa~~ ^{Riippa}...then they brought that chandelier over here to this church, (that big one and I was always afraid to go under it.
- I: ~~Veipa~~ ^{Riippa} was just hired to teach at Suomi College, wasn't that, and before he had a chance to really get started...
- R: But I can't remember the year.
- I: Well, it says here that the bell in the belfry was installed in 1894; but then the chandelier would have come later because Suomi didn't start up until 1896.
- R: Well didn't lightening hit that church that time when that chandelier fell? It just...it didn't fall right on him, it hit him partly; and he died of the wounds.
- X: Where did they get that chandelier, it's beautiful.
- R: It is a beautiful chandelier but I'm scared to go underneath it
They brought the bell in here under a...with a sleigh, didn't they?
- R: No, it was in the summertime. My father's horse and wagon brought it. All the kids was following that because I remember that because we followed to the church and we rang the bell all the way from the dock. Anniar Hennis...from Houghton brought the bell.
- I: What was the man's name again? I mean, who was the person who brought the bell?
- R: Well, my father brought it.
- I: Oh, your father brought it.
- R: He didn't...he only brought it from the dock. Anniar Hennis...that's a passenger boat that came...he had a passenger boat every day made a trip back and forth to Houghton. And that's where they shipped it from Houghton.
- I: Oh, I see. That's the name of the boat...was the Anniar Hennis.
- R: That was a passenger boat...Anniar Hennis. That belonged to the Hennis' family.
- R1: My father used to sail it.
- R: It left here eight o'clock in the morning and returned at six o'clock in the evening. That's the way the people got to town to do their shopping.
- X: What time in the morning?

- R: Eight o'clock
- X: And it came home at six.
- R: They had all day to do whatever they had to do.
- X: Made a long shopping day
- R1: Do you remember them days?
- R: Well, people had to get out once in awhile.
- R1: Minnie, was my dad the captain of that boat?
- R: He might of been for all I know. I was only a little kid then. My father was killed when I was only about six years old.
- I: You wouldn't have happened to have been in the first class to be confirmed at this school...I mean at the church?
- R: No
- I: Where did you go for confirmation
- R: Hancock
- I: Oh, you went to Hancock.
- R: To the Hancock church. Rev. Beck was the minister there. He was a bachelor. It was in the wintertime we went up there. We had to go... the mailman carried passengers, you know, Jim Fulcher, he was an Indian; and you hadda ride with him to Chassell and get on the train in Chassell and go to Hancock and stay up there and board for a week, we just had a week in the wintertime. Then on Easter Sunday then in the spring we had the other two weeks and then we were confirmed on Easter Sunday. You know, you hadda go in a round about way.
- I: What did you study in confirmation? Was it all in Finnish language?
- R: Finnish, un huh
- I: Memorizing the catechism?
- R: Un hum and the Bible history.
- I: Was the McAnders Bible History written by that time
- R: I don't remember...we had some kind of a Bible history...I don't think so.
- I: I think it came out a little bit later
- R2: Yeah, that was a big event, that confirmation service.
- R: Oh yes.

- R1: Another thing, in the wintertime...
- R: Well, now they have it different...much easier. Of course everybody's got cars and they don't have to stay in town. Well, I had an Aunt in town I stayed with her.
- R1: Used to have a pinochle party every Saturday night too. Got to one house and then the neighbor's the next time and all the way around.
- I: In the wintertime?
- R: We had all kinds of entertainment of our own...we'd make out own entertainment. Well, the biggest events was Christmas and Easter, Washington's Birthday, we always had a program at school...a regular stage up there and they had dialogs.
- I: You had some plays? People put on some plays?
- R: We had plays, yes.
- I: Minnie, did you belong to the (?) Temperance Society?
- R: No, I didn't but my father was a great temperance worker. I was too young then.
- I: Did he bring over his interest in temperance from Finland or did he get started in it once he got here?
- R: He got started out here. He didn't bring it from Finland.
- I: How did the Temperance Society begin in this community? Did somebody from Hancock start it?
- R: That I don't know who first promoted it; but they had it for many years.
- R1: Wasn't it that one teacher that started it?
- R: Could be...I can't remember.
- R1: I think so.
- R: I can't remember that.
- I: A Finnish teacher or...
- R1: I don't recall, but it seems to me that it was a teacher
- R: Must have been...there was no English people in that there Temperance Society at all. They were all Finns...and they used to have stage plays too at that Temperance Hall. They were good play s too. I can remember some of it, but I can't remember it all.
- I: Do you remember any of the names of the plays or what kinds of things they...

- R: No, I can't remember...I can't recall that...I don't know. They were good though.
- I: I heard...a lot of people have told me about other Temperance Societies and I wonder if this was the case here that there were a lot of box socials supper type...
- R: They had those...yes those baskets. The young fellows would buy and who paid the most for them...whoever brought the basket would auction it and then they had to eat it with that guy. I went to...when I got older I used to go to some of those socials like that in Chassell, but I didn't...I was too young to...my father and my mother they had baskets...my mother did and my father had to buy it.
- R2: You mentioned...did they have a Temperance Hall here then?
- R: Oh yeah, you know where Floyd lives, well on this end of the corner in that building was the Temperance Hall. Then when we couldn't go to the church for our Christmas tree program, you know when there was too much snow, they'd have it in the Temperance Hall. We always had a Christmas tree.
- I: Where is that location specifically...can you give it to me?
- R2: That Temperance Hall?
- I: Un hum
- R2: Well, it's right up where this...Floyd's Grace lives now?
- R: Un hum, right on the corner.
- R2: Just at the end of the road and just before you turn right on that corner. Right across the road from where Russ lives.
- I: What kind of building was it? Was it just a simple one-story building or..?
- R: Yes, we thought it was a big building them days. It is still there across the river, that building...that guy, one farmer bought that building when they quit the temperance society, so this here Rousma bought that building...it's over there across the river yet. They've got it for a barn now.
- R2: You say when the Temperance Society went out, was that when the people began to leave the community and so on, or did...
- R: Yes that's why, they went away from here and then they didn't get anymore new members so they finally all left the place.
- I: When did the people start leaving? When the quarry started to slow down?
- R: Well, yes...well most of it. They used to come and go all the while. They didn't stay too long. If they got tired of chopping that rock

well they'd look for better work in another town and new ones would take their place.

R1: That was partly the cause, all right, because this strata of rock, see, is on a slant like that.

R: That rubble rock that they

R1: When they first started there was only a small amount of waste on the top of it, but as it got deeper...the harder all the time...was many tons of rock that had to be taken out before they got to the good rock. And about the same time they discovered how to make cement... dry powder cement. Previous to this all their cement was imported from the Old Country. It used to come...it was wet as far as I can figure out. And it come in barrels. And then they mixed something with it that activated it or something and when they used it in the building process, that's what they'd...just open a barrel and stir it up and it was ready to use when it was exposed to the air apparently, it started to dry. But what kept it from drying in the barrel or hardening, I don't know. But anyway, they found out how to make cement and when they did the price of stone went down like that and that was the last of the quarry. Now, in later years, this waste... sandstone...which has a lot of white and red mix, would bring a higher price than the pure red stuff because everybody wants that stone with that red and white, see.

I: Is that right.

R: It's more decorative when they build...but they don't build houses from stone anymore.

R1: No

I: Now, where did this stone go? Did it stay mainly in the Copper Country?

R1: For building purposes, all over the United States

R: All over the United States.

R1: There's a hotel in St. Louis that was built out of this stone T imagine it's torn down now.

R: Didn't they ship some across the ocean too?

R1: They shipped some across and I know of one case in Marquette, Johnnie Longear was a great pioneer, you probably read a history of him, and he had a house built out of sandstone that was up on top of that cliff over looking the harbor. Beautiful spot up there so the...I think the LS& I wanted to put a railroad track down through there and he says, "No, he didn't want it there". Well, he bucking the railroad company, see, well they said, "We gotta put that railroad through there anyway." He says, "You put that through there," he says, "I'm gonna move out of this town". Well, the railroad went in and

Johnnie Longears had that house torn down block by block, loaded them on the train and took it to Brookline, Massachusetts where it stands today.

.2: He was quite a philanthropist too. There' a Longear Hall at Northern.

My dad worked for him too. He had a new passenger boat that used to run from Marquette down to Munising and up and down the shore there. He also sailed that for Longear family. But Longear's biggest interest was in Iceland...mining. He owned half of Iceland.

I /ell that's amazing /here the stone went to

Oh, there're buildings I think in New York City...a great many places. I think Marquette the Courthouse, isn't it, that's made out of Lake Superior sandstone.

R: /ay, Mr. /eckman's got his house partly of that stone.

ure

R: He found pieces over there on the docks yet.

R1: I've seen buildings with the entrance just sandstone; but you could tell that because some of the buildings right in Houghton that when you walk in you can see all the sandstone is wore right down, you know, it didn't hold too good.

R: My sidewalks all around my house are sandstone

Yeah, Russell, there's a.

Yeah, that's the samples.

This is a core that is four inches in ameter

And they used to drill that up and find out how deep their stone is and then they took samples like that with a diamond drill.

And everybody's house had a block like that by the door to hold the door open.

Didn't they drill wells this way too and take the core out and eventually get water?

R1 I don't know.

R2: I think there are core-driven wells up here...not just shallow wells. I know up at our other place we had a well there that was forty feet deep and they may have taken this core out. That's that white stuff you were telling me about.

They had a lot of tombstones made out of it years ago when they didn't have what they use now.

It was easy to carve, see, that soft stone, see. The result is that a lot of these stone markers out here in our cemetery that the writing is worn right off of there...it's washed away with the elements. Can't read it anymore.

R: There's a lot of those tombstones over there in that cemetery you can't read.

It took about eighty years to do it though.

R: Some of those had fallen down though...those tombstones...had to put them up again.

Those have been recarved now.

One that is kind of interesting...it's a cross made out of the iron from a wagon wheel...an old wooden wagon wheel had a steel tire on it, and this thing is cut into two pieces and a cross was made out of it and welded...not welded but riveted with an iron rivet in the center.

R: Where is that?

Ri: In our cemetery there

R: Really...I never happened to see it

Ri: The inscription on it is carved in with a coal chisel...and a coal... a hammer. Hand carved right on it there.

What does it say on it?

I don't remember now what it says, but anyway it's

R: I never even seen it.

Lot of times it'd have a Bible verse or something on it.

No, it's a person's name and when she died or something like that, see and Rest in Peace or some inscription.

I: Was the quarry related in any way to the mining company interests? I don't know that much about the background of the quarry.

You mean did any of these mines up in here?

I: Yes

I doubt very much because as far as I can remember it was the Portage Lake Sandstone Company and J. W. Weicoff Quarry Company...

R: Well there was two...the new quarry and the old quarry.

Ri: Seiferths Quarry and Seagers Quarry and Jacobs Quarry and these were all individuals...independents. Berks Quarry...

R: Wasn't that at Berks Quarry that hidden pool?

Yeah

R: That had no bottom.

Oh, there's a lot of those

R: Is there?

Yeah, that's a legend. I've got some pictures of it in that...right here.

R: You couldn't get through that woods around in there...it's so thick in there that you couldn't get...walk through.

I'll show you in that picture that you can see this pool and you look right through the woods and see the old school house up there. And you look the other way, the picture is taken the other way and you can see the buildings that he used to live in when he was a kid, right down on the shore there. Now you can't see fifty feet there for the woods that's grown up. Trees that big in there where there was just...

R: There's sandstone...well, what stone is this?

R1: Well, that's out of the old quarry

I: While mentioning trees, was there a logging operation years ago here as well?

Well, yes there apparently was a certain amount of local logging and a lot of the stuff was cut down to make timbers for the houses that were built. In fact that clearing there in Jacobsville, I believe that's where they got their timber was right locally, right there. Cedar and Pine and the like of that.

I: So there really wasn't much planking or wood imported for construction of the local buildings then. It was really right here on the spot.

R1: Well yeah, the pine that they had, that was all cut up in Chassell. most of it.

R: Yeah, they had a sawmill in Chassell.

Was a big mill there in Chassell. Huh...here it is right here. See, that hidden pool and look over here...

R: Was that where it is

See the school there on the hill.

R: We always thought there was no bottom to it

Oh yes, there's a bottom to it.

R: We used to go picking berries there but I think the blueberries are all on the lakeshore because now that brush is so thick in there.

- R1: And here's the other way where you're looking out the other side these are the houses down by the shore.
- R2: Are those the same thing?
- R: Same thing...the huckleberries are more black and blueberries are really blue. Then the huckleberries are on low bushes.
- R1: You can see the reflection of the trees...well, here is a sample of it, but there's ripples on the water there but you can see the roots all around there...

Everyone talking at once. Unable to transcribe

Stop in tape.

Were there some other ministers that you had to mention, Walt?

- R2: There were other names, but I don't think they were ministers. But there are a number of names in here that were part of the early community...Mr. Edgerton is mentioned here.
- R: Edgerton...well he was a big farmer...one of the first big farms that ...they had acres and acres of land. And then there was another Edgerton that lived across the river...John Edgerton. Columbus lived over here.
- I: Did you get any people moving here from the mining locations after the copper strike in 1913?
- R: I don't know, I don't think so.
- R1: I don't think so
- I: So really, Jacobsville was not at all really affected by the copper strike to any degree.
- R: Not Jacobsville anyway. It was just around Calumet and around there that the men had worked in the mines. Nobody from here worked in the mines. They all got farms and after that quarries closed and lived on the farm in summer and fishermen and that's the way they earned their living. And then they started fruit farming...berries...raspberries and strawberries and that was the industry around here now. And then that there cream business there, you know they all had cows, don't you remember the cows that used to be here. They used to ship cream to that factory over there...cheese factory over there in Dollar Bay. They bought all the cream and the milk from the people and in that they had a chance to make up for what they lost.
- I: Well, that's very interesting to hear that. Even though you had one major industry like the quarry, people still were able to adjust and make a living and stay on.
- R1: The quarry terminated...
- R: The quarry closed around 1916.
- R1: '16 or '17, around there

- I: Did any of the people go down to Detroit?
- R: Detroit?
- I: Yeah, Henry Ford had his five-hour day.
- R: Oh yes, we all rushed out to Detroit from Copper Country. Now, they're all coming back. Now they worked over there and made lot of money and they building here...new homes. There're several new homes built here now this last two years.
- R1: Oh yes, yeah. You go along this lake front here and harbor now and on top of that ridge there where the old fish house used to be... well Lelandhoffs had a house there and then the Colonels build one.. there's been a dozen houses since.
- R: They came from Chicago; the Lelandhoffs.
- R1: Well, some of these in the last two years.
- R: Well some are year round and some are just for summer places. But eventually I think that they're all gonna come back when they retire Lot of them still work yet.
- I: Can you folks remember when the hardest times were here in Jacobsville?
- R: Oh yes, I remember. That's when Depression.
- I: Those were really hard times.
- R: Second World War...I'll say they were. Well they were hard in a way they were, you couldn't get everything you wanted. We hadda have stamps. Hadda buy meat with stamps, all your groceries and everything so much you just...well like if we bought sugar, it depends on how many were in the family. Two pounds to a person of granulated sugar. That was during the war.
- I: Were a lot of people on WPA in the '30's?
- R: They were all on WPA for awhile.
- R2: I don't know, there's a period that I left
- R: Everybody was on that.
- R1: I left this country in about '23, the summer of '23...
- R: You were in the war...in the service.
- R1: I come back here in the wintertime for a week or so until I retired; then I moved back here. So there's a period in there that I don't know what went on here. I was gone thirty years and came back in '55. No, '60 something I came back.
- R: World War was in 1945...I know, because I lost a boy in the

In 1944, Jerry got killed.

I: How many children have you had, Minnie?

R: I had a family of six and I lost one boy in the war.

I: I neglected to ask you who you married

R: My husband's name was Sanfred Marsi...that's where my father boarded when we moved over here. Of course, I was only a few months old. But it was at his mother's place that my father boarded when my mother came over with the children. She had four of us then.

R1: Didn't you have five sons in the Army?

R: Yes...I had five sons in the service; but one was...one died and Art got a crippled arm and he was crippled on one side. He's still living though.

I: When did you get married?

R: 1912

I: Was the wedding in the church here?

R: We celebrated our wedding down at White City. I was working at the time over there and then they had a big dance hall there and we had a big party in there at the dance hall.

I: Well, who married you? A Justice of the Peace or did a.

R: Noooo, we went to the parsonage in Hancock. We went and got married he had a gasoline motor boat and we rode it to Hancock and got married. I can't think of that minister's name.

I: Was it Hesselman?

R: Hesselman, yeah, he married us. He was the minister there at the time.

I: That's interesting. Going to your wedding in a motor boat.

R1: He was a fisherman at the time.

R: What?

R1: Wasn't Fred a fisherman at the time?

R: Yeah, he was a fisherman with nets.

R2: Yeah, we used to get fish from her husband and he had a boat house down there and boats and motors.

R: Yes, we had boats, we had row boats and now I ain't got anything. I can't even get across the river if I want to.

- R2: Well he was a very fine fellow. I remember going to Houghton with him sometimes on the launch, you know. We used to go over and ride with him and spend the day and then come back at night. He let us off.
- R: And he had quite a few passengers really.
- R1: Ask her about her sons, what they've done now and where are they. They're not here in Jacobsville.
- I: Sure, fine. Can you give us a little background on your sons. Where are they and what are they doing?
- R: Well, I have one in California, he has a furniture store...Jack...his name is John Stewart Morrison; so he's doing very well with his store with his furniture store. He worked for the wholesale companies for many years and go to know how to sell furniture. Well then, Jim lives in Duluth and he works in the railroad yard.
- I: Okay, you were saying about your son Art...
- R: Well, he's in Duluth but he's not working at the time...he worked on the ore boats too. And my oldest son Fredrick, he works for the ore boats. And then I had one daughter and five boys and one girl and she lives out here in Bootjack. So that's my family. Oh, I've got great grandchildren.
- I: I'd like to ask you about your husband's fishing operation. kind of fish did he get?
- R: Trout and white fish and herring. They used to have a herring season. They don't have a herring season here anymore. Used to ship all kinds of herring.
- I: Was his a one-man operation or were there several men who went out in the boat.
- R: No, he didn't have such a...just one man. His boat wasn't big enough for hiring. He worked with the boys while they were home and then after that he operated alone. He didn't have no...much help. Once in awhile he had help. He'd hire someone to help like for the day just.
- I: Well, let me ask a little bit about you Russell. You were here until '23?
- R1: Yeah
- I: Now, how old a man were you at that time?
- R1: In '23 I was nineteen.
- I: And you were single at that time and where did you go?
- R1: I shipped out on the Lighthouse ?

R: He's worked on the waters. He's been a...

R1: Unable to hear

R: Yeah

R1: This is the first summer I've been home. I've worked the whole season.

R: He worked on boats too

I: On the Great Lakes or beyond?

and around the world.

On the lakes/ Delivered fish boats to the yard in Sturgeon Bay down to Portland Maine and Boston and New Bedford. Went down to...ah... where the Duke University is doing research.

I: Well, that's very interesting. Both of you have had very productive lives.

R: Well, I don't know, but.

I wonder, looking back to earlier times even before '23 or even after, can you think of any what you might call important events? Was there ever a major fire or was there...

R: There never has been...well, a few houses burned down, but not no major fires. Well, there used to be bush fires here.

*R1: One event that kind of stands out in my life was about 1914 or '15, I guess it was...probably it was later. But anyway, there was a boat load of wheat. Left Duluth and on the trip down the lake why they must have sprung a leak or something and they pulled her into the lily pond over here. And they wired to fire up and pump the wheat out or do something and try to get it fixed or do something with it; but anyway she layed here about a day or so and then during the night for some mysterious reason she caught fire. Was a wooden hull and it burned. Well the deck burned off of it and the warf was wood at that time, so they cut the lines off of her and let her drift out in the channel and there she sunk almost crossways in the channel there, right in the harbor. Well, knowing that she was loaded with wheat, the next night Fred and I, that was her husband, we took a row boat and we went over to look at it, see. And here was this mound of wheat that was still above water. It was burning and was turning black. But there was a coal bunker was still burning and there light enough from that to...we could see was just like daylight there. We scraped off a little of that black wheat and here was nice wheat underneath that. Was wet, but it was...oh boy! Back home we come and got a couple shovels and a whole bunch of burlap sacks and went back out there and scraped off this burnt stuff and there we filled up, I don't know, sixteen - eighteen bags of wheat. Put it in the rowboat and rowed it home. Wheelbarrows and everything and got it up to the house...Fred took half of it and I took the rest, about half or so, and was gonna make chicken feed out of it, see. So we said, "Now don't tell anybody where we got this wheat...Don't say nothing".

I said, "No, I ain't gonna say nothing". So, we layed it out to dry, you know, we'd rake it over during the day several times to let the air at it to dry it out, you know. And two or three nights later, he says, "Hey Russ, should we go and get some more wheat?" I said, "Sure" So we got our empty bags and went down there and we got out to that boat, you know, and there were so many boats around there you couldn't even find a place to tie up.

Everybody was there after that wheat

- R1: Oh, I was just a kid but I can remember that plain as day. And what had happened was, we got the choice stuff. Then when other people got in there they started scraping this way and then scraping back again, when they got through they got all that burnt wheat, you know mixed up with the other. We had wheat at our place I betcha for four five years afterwards.
- I: Speaking about wheat, I started thinking about rye and a few other things. You mentioned that there were three saloons side-by-side here years ago. What happened here during the prohibition period. Did those saloons close down?
- R: Oh yes, they did. There wasn't anymore saloons
- R1: They closed before that. The all three of them burned down.
- I: How did they burn? Just by accident?
- R1: Well, yes. Mysteriously by accident.
- R2: That's a good way to put it Russell
- I: Well, did the Temperance Societies get after them then?
- R: Oh, we didn't have those Temperance Societies then during that time anymore.
- R1: That was abandoned then.
- I: Oh, I
- R1: But the population was gradually dissipating and the saloons, that was it.
- R2: That picture right there looks like Fred's nets here.
- R: Well, I don't know. Maybe they are. Could be
- R2: That's where he was located down there. He had that boat house down there.
- R: Yes...that' where he had his boats out. Backman sold his place down there.
- R1: Do you know who' sitting in that big box in that picture? Is there

two girls in that picture?

R2: Which one, Russ?

By that reel.

R: I didn't see any girls.

Oh yeah...well, you look close at those two girls. Yeah, you know the both of them.

R: Who are they? I didn't see. Oh!

Was that my sister...I can't tell. That's Ellen sitting in the fish box and Marie...

R: Ellen and Marie Maki

I: Walter, did you...you came to Jacobsville continually then every summer.

Just about...coming here originally...well, I was born in 1908 so ever since that time we've been coming practically every year except for a number of years when we were down state while I was teaching and going to school. And I think we started back in 1945 when he bought the old place up on the other road from Hanners.

R: You mean that

That Froni house.

R: Yeah, that was Burkholtz.

R2: Burkholtz...she was one of the superintendents of the school

R: Yes, she was the last superintendent in the quarry

And that was one of the houses left remaining that we bought in '45. And then we remodeled that and fixed it and kept coming every year until five or six years ago we bought this place. So, I've always had an interest in the community and now that I've retired, of course, I plan to live here except for the colder months maybe...we may head south then. I think my folks and all of my brothers and sisters and their families have been coming for that length of time.

R: Mike Handers came here the first year that we were married in 1912. That's when they bought those camps, you know, and they fixed them up and they're still up, those camps. Say, is Old Sigrid's house down in the lake yet?

R2: Nope, still there.

R: Is it still there?

R2: Yep

I: Walter, what...coming here as a summer resident for so many years, what have been the biggest changes that you've been able to observe in the life of the community?

Well, of course, we were here as only for the summer. We did get to know the people in the village as we called it up where the store was and, of course, we got well acquainted with them and our parents got to know the older people there. They, I think, had a very stable kind of life. They were simple, hardworking people and that tradition that they kept on as long as the community lasted; and we still have farmers here who are the same way. You can go into some of these homes and they're just as clean and spic and span and the rugs are just as white as snow and that's the way it is. Not because they have a lot of money but because they believe in keeping things clean and neat. Actually the farming has practically disappeared, the fishing has disappeared, the lumbering has disappeared for the most part, and then after, of course, the people have moved away. It's only the newer ones that Minnie mentioned that are coming back now for retirement or for summer homes that are making the community what it is.

I: Are they primarily former residents of the area who are coming back or from other sections of the Copper Country as well?

Well, many of them, of course, had roots here. Now, when Esther Ahonen's place was sold, I think a family by the name of Pallo...

R: Eric Pallo

And they are related to people around here although they live in Detroit. Houfta...Walter Houfta up here lives in Detroit but he has a place here and relatives here. Those are people who have gone away and now come back; but for different purposes, not to make a livelihood or anything of that kind but for more for retirement or for vacation.

I: Well, this would sort of suggest the future for the area then too. It would become more and more of a place for persons to retire or to have summer homes.

I would think so because certainly it's not a farming community, there's not even strawberries raised here much anymore. It used to be a big strawberry center.

R: Well, one farmer's got strawberries, that's Jutonen's; but I don't think they're selling in a big way but they just got a small patch and they sell berries for the local people. That's what I heard, I don't know if it's true or not.

R1: Well, actually the only outsiders as you might say that come in here is that Shannon family that lives out on the road out beyond her place. They are new people...they came in from Wisconsin.

R: Oh, you mean the ones that bought Jean's place

No...no, the one that bought Pallo's place.

R: Oh yes, they're related to Mrs. Bergstrom over there.

Well see, they had relations somewhere up here. I mean as far as themselves, they've never lived up here before.

My sister lives here. They remodeled this old light house that was built in 1865 and then, of course, her children have places here and, of course, their children have come here and that's the way the thing has kept going.

I: I see. That's very interesting. The roots have blossomed...

X: That's true

There's something about the place that's very attractive and people like to come down here.

R: And we get the good fresh air here.

No doubt about that.

R: That's why people live so long out here. We don't have any of that smog or anything like that like they have in California.

R1: At one time the fishing industry was such around here that it supported Booth fisheries. Now that's all around the country now. At that time there weren't that many Booth fishery establishments and they did have one of their fish houses in South Haven and it takes quite a bit of fish to maintain something like that.

I: Well, I think maybe we ought to stop.

R: Do you think so?

We've had a pretty good evening.

I: Thank you very much.

R: Well, I was very happy to come