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

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Virginia A. Cooper
August 6, 1973

Betty Berry

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INTERVIEW WITH

INTERVIEWEE: VIRGINIA COOPER

INTERVIEWER: BETTY BERRY

DATE: August 7, 1973

B: -----living room with Miss Elizabeth Vivian in Houghton on August 7, 1973
I have with me her guest for this evening. What is your name?

V: My name is Virginia Cooper.

B: And where are you from, Miss Cooper?

V: I am now teaching at Eastern Michigan University at Ypsilanti where I've been for
27 years. Before that I taught in Kenton in the south end of Houghton County, and
then Bergland and then for 10 years in Ionia.

B: Why are you in Houghton at this time, Miss Cooper?

V: I'm in Houghton to attend the Houghton High School reunion this past week and this
week I plan to make thimbleberry jam for Christmas gifts and see my friends.

B: Was this a tradition here in Houghton County to make thimbleberry jam?

V: Well, I've been doing this for all the years that I have taught, partially to repay two
brothers who put me through college and will not let me pay them back but we made
thimbleberry jam in Keweenaw County when I was a child to add to the family income
when we camped over there in the summer. My mother used to make 64 dozen pints of
thimbleberry jam; the children picked berries for her at Eagle River. I had to carry
the water from a well to sterilize all those bottles and we looked over the berries
by lamplight and put up the jam in the evening when the berries had been picked all day.
They stayed at my grandfather's warehouse in Eagle River while we did this.

B: Had your grandfather been a merchant or

V: My grandfather came to Eagle River in 1844 from Peterborough, New Hampshire; he was
born in 1823. He was the first agent at E. I. DuPont while it was still E. I. DuPont
de Namours and he had a powder magazine on the beach at Eagle River from which he sold
explosives to the mines.

B: What was his name?

V: His name was John Senter and the DuPont plant near Dollar Bay was called "Senter" after
him. Because he was the first agent of E. I. DuPont here. He was also the county
treasurer in Keweenaw County and, I think, he had a store at Eagle River; it was his
warehouse that we stayed in down near the beach and the Host next to the Peterman Hotel
and burned at the same time the Hotel did in 1912. He used to go on business trips to
Chicago when he did, he sewed his money in the lining of his coat and had 4 other men
taking turns breaking trail with him so they snowshoed to Green Bay from Eagle River,
took a stagecoach to Chicago, a stagecoach back to Green Bay and then they snowshoed
back to Eagle River. He learned to ride a bicycle in Houghton after he was 72 years old
so he could go downtown after the mail. Certain amount of gumption here! Incidentally
he raised tomatoes in his garden over at Eagle River before anyone ate tomatoes, because
they're a member of the night-shade family and people used to believe they were poisonous.
He raised them only because they were beautiful. He was 44 when he was married and my
grandmother Senter was only 17. She came from Ypsilanti. My Cooper ancestors came from

Binghamton, New York and my father first lived in Birmingham, Michigan and then his father, Mr. James R. Cooper, was the superintendent of the Quincy Smelter at the end of the bridge, the Hancock end, and my father was James B. Cooper who was the superintendent of the Calumet & Hecla smelting works at Hubbell, where he was an expert in copper smelting.

B: Were you born in Hubbell?

V: I was born in Hubbell in the 26-room house at the foot of Linwood Hill. All we had to do to get heat was turn the wheel so that they had heat in the house and hot water from the smelter.

B: Was this a company home?

V: It was a company house, yes. And my father used to stage the 4th of July celebration in Hubbell; the whole town came and had ice cream and cake and he shot off fireworks every 4th of July in a sort of "town celebration".

B: Did they have a parade?

V: Well, I'm really not very sure; I was only three-and-a-half when we left Hubbell so part of this I've only heard about.

B: And who was your mother?

V: My mother was the daughter of John Senter and her two brothers were Bert Senter and Henry Mortimer Senter and her brother Mort, as he was called, was the captain of the University of Michigan football team in 1896. They were brought up at Eagle River and mother said she--having had two brothers, she never found out what girls were supposed to be afraid of and she was very nonchalant about snakes and such and she was brought up with a lot of books; there was so very little else to do over there at Eagle River and they had a large dictionary and got into the habit of looking up the meanings of words in books that they were reading and it had quite an affect on her vocabulary. She used to tell about cleaning pans before the days of steel wool so that they had to use beach sand and bricks to scour a kettle and before there was any parafin for jelly, mother used to put jelly in quart bowls and when mother was about nine or ten years old, it was her job to cut circles of paper the size of the top of the jelly--she dipped the paper in whiskey and set it on the jelly and then covered the top of the bowl with cheesecloth that she tied on with string so if there hadn't been pure Lake Superior air out there, I'm sure the jelly never would have kept. We seldom stop to think what was done before there was parafin.

B: Did they have a school there in Eagle River?

V: There never has been a high school in Keweenaw County--never has, so that mother went to the Liggett School in Detroit to go to high school, when Mr. Netleg was only 17. She lived with relatives in Detroit and now most Keweenaw students go to Calumet and spend the winter.

B: Or lot of them are bused in.

V: Yes, I expect

B: And did she had a one-room school where she did her grammar school work?

V: Well, I'm really not sure where she went to grade school. But my grandmother Senter came to Eagle River from Ypsilanti to tutor children. She had been there the year before she was 17 to tutor someone.

B: This was for a private family?

V: Yes.

B: She wasn't brought in by a company?

V: No, I don't think so

B: You were born then in Hubbell, how many children were in your family?

V: I'm the ninth in the family and I was only three-and-a-half when we moved to Houghton and had Michigan Tech students in our house on College Avenue until I finished college.

B: Was this a boarding house?

No, just a rooming house

B: Where did the students board then?

V: Well, quite a lot of them at Mrs. Thompson's on Blanche Street. There was some at Mrs. Meyers' also had a boarding house, on Pearl Street, corner of Pearl----and I'm not sure what street, it was the Fred Meyers family.

B: Do you remember any of these students in particular?

Well, Carlton Garot, for instance, was the son of the Parrot Garot who wrote for the Post; he was a very interesting person who married Dorothy Roy from Houghton; and Hank Keast was a wonderful fellow from Detroit who refereed basketball games to earn his way through college and many of our basketball players were glad to have a Detroit referee so that they were ready for southern Michigan referees in tournaments.

B: Do you remember any pranks that these students played or anything that the college board did?

Well, they really studied so seriously all week and part of them would stay up all night once every two weeks getting their math done so it appears something of a custom to have a little extra to drink on Saturday night, but other than that, I don't know of anything very special that they did.

B: Did you go to the Hubbell School?

V: I went to the Jay A. Hubbell School, yes, where our background in grammar was probably the most remarkable thing that ever happened to us; Miss Laila McCormick and Miss Prisk really raised us on a most remarkable amount of grammar; Miss Bowen practically gave us a course in American Literature in the 7th grade; we read Evangeline and Hiawatha and memorized the last ten lines of Thanatopsis when we were in the 7th grade.

B: Did you go on to the Houghton High School then?

Thanatopsis

V: Yes, I went through the Houghton High School where we had the good fortune of having four years of Latin and this helped a great deal with the Latin majors that Doris Breadback and Lydia Kotelainen and I had.

B: Who was your teacher?

V: Miss Mary Henderson and Miss Margaret Lees were the teachers that we had for sophomore, junior and senior Latin.

B: Were there any other teachers who are outstanding in your mind?

V Miss Anita Sewart's World History was very remarkable.

B: During this time was there any special problem in discipline or

V Oh, I don't think so, there were some of our students that didn't study very hard but we had a lot of very serious students and this was just in the pre-depression era, 1927, when lot of us were quite anxious to prepare ourselves to earn a living. It's interesting that 32 out of 64 in our graduating class of 1927 were Finnish and that Northern, when I went there from 1927 to '30, there were 750 students of whom 350 had both parents born in foreign countries and their families were so proud to have them in college and the students were so pleased to be there, that it was a very hard-working, very difficult college. There we had Mr. Chase as head of the history department who had previously taught in Houghton, and I know some graduates of the Houghton High School who said they learned more history in high school from Mr. Chase than they did in college

B: Did you graduate then from Northern?

I went there for three years and finished at the University of Michigan. And have my Masters there.

B: And then you started teaching in

V: In Kenton. And when I first went there, we were 56 miles from a movie and a doctor and 85 miles from a hospital. We had 300 people in town; I taught Latin I one year and Latin II the next; American Literature one year and English Lit the next; American History one year and Government and Economics the next. So that if anyone ever failed a subject it was year after the next before he could take it again. And the result was that that first year I tutored, 17 students ^{to try} to get through that year, and when I finished, I was given a chicken, a hand-hemmed towel and a finger wave. The sister of one of the boys who graduated that year owned a beauty parlor in Milwaukee and when she came home to celebrate his graduation, she did my hair for commencement. This was old-fashioned barter. We went to a debate at Quinnesec in the winter of 1932--the only car I could get was a Ford with no left front window and no heater and it was 26 below zero the day that we went to the debate. All the plumbing in Kenton was at school and it didn't come above zero till February, till the 4th. In that first year when there was almost no relief given to anyone, the people wanted to start a community club so that they could help youngsters who didn't have mittens and scarfs and to do various other things and things of that sort, and a delegation came to see me one evening, these people explained that there were two factions of people in Kenton and neither one of them wanted to elect anyone from the other faction but if I would be the president of the community club, they would do the work. We gave hunter's dances, had bake sales during the hunting season, and raised money to buy linen so that we could make pillowcases for people that were sick in bed and didn't have one pillowcase. We bought yarn and knitted scarfs and mittens and got layettes for new babies when there were no layettes at all in the family, and it really was a wonderful thing, an enterprise.

B: Why were there two factions?

V: Well, I don't know exactly, really; the factions had formed before I got there.

B: They weren't based on any nationality group or economic group?

V: No, I don't think so; they didn't seem to be. And when the township supervisor decided that he didn't like my superintendent, he took out the street light by the school. We had to carry flashlights or light matches to get down off the hill from the high school so we didn't vote for this man and he lost by 2 votes, and this was the greatest amount of democracy that I've ever experienced, I never expect to have my vote count for that much again. We had 27 cows walking about and full-grown bulls in the street;

one of which I had to dodge by going around the depot to get to school in the morning,

He had his path and you were trying to fowl it

That's right, we were trying to avoid it as a matter of fact.

B Where did you stay in Kenton, in a boarding house?

V I stayed in a home where they had rooms and we ate there also, and this was back when the streets had not been paved and the mud pulled our rubbers right off our feet so we always wore galoshes after it rained. We were hired and fired on the results of achievement tests.

B Were these from the state or just from the one

My superintendent simply ordered achievement tests and I was not teaching out of the literature and life series and had to give literature and life achievement tests. So this was very difficult.

Sounds like the New York system where you are hired and fired on the basis of your students passing tests.

There are one or two other Keweenaw stories that I would like to tell you about. We used to stop at the Cliff Adit which was the entrance to the Cliff Mine to have cold drinks of water when we drove past that mine and my mother told us about visiting the Brockway home at the Cliff Mine when she would go there for week-ends, someone in the Brockway family for whom the Brockway Drive (Mountain) was named, would go over to the Cliff Adit and get the cream, milk, eggs and butter. After breakfast someone would take the dairy products back over there to keep them cold and the Cliff Adit with this extremely cold spring was really the community icebox when everyone must have been quite trusting about having people leave their things alone. Once we climbed up the side of the Brockway Mountain before there was ever any Brockway Mountain Drive made; we went to Mr. (Chin)brook from Calumet who was the Episcopal minister. He and his children and I went up there and anytime we couldn't climb any farther, he hung onto a tree and reached down and pulled us up so we really appreciated having the Brockway Mountain Drive put over the top of the mountain during the depression.

Were there any other local activities during the depression that you remember?

Well, particularly in Kenton, we had to work up our own entertainment and for any shows or other special events, we had Waino Takkanen come from Covington or we'd have him stay afterschool and then somebody drove him home, the 25 miles to Covington afterwards. He played his accordian just beautifully and we danced schottisches and polkas. Everybody in town, in Kenton and Sidnaw, who was invited to the show, would bring 50¢ and if enough people came, we could buy an occasional chair or possibly a davenport for the bride and groom. And when the Civilian Conservation Corps came in, they worked up their own orchestras, different fellows, and one of the other Civilian Conservation Corps camps would play at the town hall and we would dance and if any of the fellows got drunk, because prohibition didn't prohibit much, the fellows would take them out to the town pump and put their heads under it and pump some cold water on them and toss them back in the truck and take them back to the CCC camp; all the rest of the CCC's had been dancing. And this added quite a lot of fun to the teaching there then, and we used to go to Bruce Crossing to dance on Saturday nights, they had an excellent dance floor there and had a very, very good orchestra. But generally we had to make most of our own fun.

B: Where were these CCC camps?

V: They were about 4 miles from Kenton in one direction and two miles in the other.

B: What were they doing?

They cleaned out parts of the forest that had been burned over and planted trees; they were instructors at first on how to plow and plant a lot of trees, some men from the Conservation Department at Michigan State came up and taught them, how to do it.

B: This had originally been a lumbering area, through there?

V:

B: And destroyed by fire?

It had been a wealthy lumbering area in the 1890's or so.

B: How far was your school area, you say the young man came from Covington, 25 miles?

V: Well, yes, their juniors and seniors came to Kenton to high school and now, I think, they go to L'Anse. And all the Kenton students go up to Ewen to high school. And part of the time, after we left, they were bussed all the way to Iron River. They had to go 45 miles on Forestry Road to go to high school.

B: These were the first bussings?

V: Well, our students came from----it was 10 miles to Sidnaw but many of the students came from 6 miles south of Sidnaw and part of them had to milk 20 cows before they took the school bus, so they have a very, very long day and it was wonderful to see them come back to the 25th reunion which took place in 1934, the 25th and 30th reunions. Students who have had absolutely no opportunity to go to college in the 1930's, had their children in college by this time. And it was wonderful to see them looking so well and so prosperous. There was one student, for instance, who came to the 25th reunion and she at this time lived on a very prosperous farm and she said at the time, it wasn't funny but she could laugh by this time and she had had to make a floor plan of her house for a 4-H project so that she would be able to do something to make the house more attractive during the summer. For instance, part of the students would use 2 orange crates and put a piece of plywood across them and then hang, in order to make a vanity table, they would hang flour sacks that had a flowered pattern so that the material was usable. And this girl had made a floor plan of her house but the kitchen in her house backed straight into a hill so of course there was no window in the kitchen. The home ec teacher didn't know very much about the circumstances of the family and asked her whether she thought she could persuade her father to cut a window in the kitchen. She said she was so embarrassed that she could not tell her home ec teacher why she couldn't have a window cut in the kitchen. And when I go back to Kenton now, I sit in people's living rooms for a couple of minutes and then they say, come here, and I go out in the kitchen and see their nice new kitchen cupboards and their new sinks and then they turn the water on. Now you would show me your new cupboards and your new sink but you wouldn't turn the water on to prove that it runs!

B: No

V: This is enough to make an optimist out of anybody! you see, but this is what lets us know that some things are better than they used to be.

B: When you said that the relief was slow in coming, when it did come from the government, what form did it take there?

V: Well, they had relief so that they had some income with which to get medical attention for instance, and the Couzens Fund, which for a long time, paid for the Bay Cliff Camp

for handicapped children, did a great deal of good in the Kenton and Sidnaw area during the early 1930's and the Couzens Fund nurse would come each month and help mothers with new babies and would go to see people who were in bed all the time and then the Couzens Fund sent a University of Michigan graduate who was an oculist, he tested the children's eyes and the Couzens Fund sent glasses with silver rims so that they couldn't be broken very easily. After a while a University of Michigan dental graduate came with a portable chair and filled the youngster's teeth with silver fillings so that they were not too expensive and many of the students then left comfortably because before that they had tried to keep their lips as nearly tight shut when they ~~left~~ ^{laughed} as they could because they had so many cavities. We had 27 cows walking around town but most of the families sold the milk and bought just the little can milk for coffee and the children had so little milk to drink that they had terrible teeth. The first year that I was in Kenton I was invited to a Copper Country home for a Thanksgiving dinner and mentioned how many of the youngsters had no milk to drink. Very shortly my hostess sent a \$65 check for my superintendent to order half-pints of milk for all the grade school children. She didn't want anyone to know who had sent the check so the children wrote thank you notes to "dear lady". After we had relief, we did have hot-lunch program, so I used to stir the bean soup on the oil stove and then go back and teach World History for a while and then go stir the lunch. We had to do a variety of things to keep all of this going.

B: This was the forerunner of our modern hot lunch program.

V: That's right. It was all done on an oil stove.

B: And at this time, there's no major industry in Kenton.

V: No. The students, boys particularly, would take Trigonometry; we were careful to have that on the curriculum because then they could get a job---many of them had jobs in forest fire towers and you have to be able to strike the angles from 2 fire towers so that you can locate a fire. I had one student who took six subjects, his 5th year in high school in order to be able to graduate and I tutored him in American History every Saturday, he had failed it during the American History year. And he would walk 7 miles from Sidnaw or ride up on the snowplow and I taught him American History from 10 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon and I couldn't give him just some casual history exam, I had to give him an achievement test in American History to prove that he had really done this. But he thanked me when he was the bartender at the 25th reunion of his class, he thanked me a second time, shall we say. And another thing that helped us to know that things are better than they were was that we had a tuberculosis program at the time when Dr. Arthur Fisher from Quincy who was particularly interested in reducing the amount of tuberculosis in Houghton County, came out and did the skin tests and my superintendent said he was willing to have this done if Dr. Fisher would follow up with X-Ray if anyone had a positive skin test.

(end of tape, side 1

-----and the glasses, really.

B: How were these brought in to you?

V: The Couzens Fund did a great deal of fine, medical care in areas like the one at Kenton and Sidnaw during the years of the depression just as they also helped so much with the Bay Cliff Camp. The Couzens Fund nurse came once a month and talked to mothers of new babies and went to call on people who were in bed all the time. The Couzens Fund also sent a University of Michigan graduate who was an oculist to test the eyes of the children and then they sent glasses with silver frames so that the glasses could not be broken very easily. After a little while a dentist who was a University of Michigan graduate; he had a portable chair and put in silver fillings so that they would not be particularly expensive. It was interesting the number of children who laughed comfortably and easily after this was done. They had tried before that to keep their lips nearly closed as possible when they laughed because they had so many cavities. It was quite wonderful for them to have less toothaches too.

B: Did you find a great difference when you went to Bergland to teach?

V: No, not really, we had very much the same kind of student body and they were just as appreciative as they could be of being taught what they needed to know. They were very, very easy to teach and we gave achievement tests at the end of the year to tell what had happened; I had freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who were all of the senior median with a basketball player at the middle _____ of every one of them.

B: Were these first generations of what group of people?

V: A considerable number of my students were Finnish and part of them talked Finnish at home; some of them had to read and write Finnish before they started school so that we did have some work to do on idiom. And they responded very well and quickly adapted to the language but it did take some extra teaching and the boy who said one time, I'll take that test some times else was obviously thinking in another idiom. When one of my students said "there's too much weather out tonight, isn't there?" when there's a blizzard, reminded me of my Dutch Geometry teacher in high school, who said "there's lots of weather out tonight, isn't there?", it obviously was the same idiom in his language.

B: Did you do any work with the parents?

V: We didn't get to that point. I was teaching 6 subjects a day and coaching debate, declamations and oration, running the library, and putting ^{out} the school paper of 14 stencils every 4 weeks with no commercial department; I had 7th grade Geography, 8th grade American History, 10th grade World History, Ceasar, American Lit and American History. So we taught 6 hours a day.

B: How many student usually were in your classes?

V: Well, by doubling them, we had some classes as all the juniors and seniors would be in American History, we had 20-25 in a class quite often, but it was a big graduating class that had 25, we didn't have that many until the students came from Covington.

B: How much were you paid?

V: \$1,026, it finally got up to \$1,100 and when I went to Bergland, I got \$1,200 but spent the difference on having a bathroom in the house; there were 2 bathrooms in Bergland and we had one of them so I lost my raise paying for this privilege.

B: It was a privilege worth paying for

V: Indeed it was, there was no question about that

B: Do you remember anything about the 1913 strike?

V: Well, I don't because I was only 3 years old at the time that it happened but I've heard a great deal about it. And my father was dying of cancer at the time; when he was superintendent of the smelting works, he was concerned that the strike might spread to the smelting works and when the men found out that he was concerned about this, they sent a delegation of men from the smelting works to our house to assure my father that if anyone wanted them to strike against him, they pour molten copper on the feet of the organizer, and this was quite a marvelous re-assurance during his serious illness.

B: It was certainly a tribute to the way he had run his smelting works

V: Yes.

B: Do you remember anything about World War I when you had moved to Houghton?

V: Yes, the Michigan Tech campus was just one pup tent after another because the fellows were encamped on the campus and were trained there and we could hear taps every evening. My older sister had a canteen in the old Michigan Tech gym and served sandwiches, coffee and candy bars out there. She also taught us knitting in the east Houghton school every Thursday afternoon; we learned to knit by making white store-string washcloths for sailors that I hope they never had to use because we had some knots in them; we saved peach pits because when they were ground up they absorbed poisonous gases and we saved all the tinfoil from our hershey bars. And my friend, Catherine Fisher tells me that during World War II she was over in Eagle Harbor and she saw someone drop the tinfoil from a hershey bar so she ran to get it and some little boy ran to get it for the war effort, and they cracked heads together on the steps of the Eagle Harbor grocery store, to do their bit.

B: Are there any other things about World War I? Were there name changes here among the Germans?

V: Not that I know of. I don't know; we called hamburger, liberty steak of course to keep from saying a German name; some high schools stopped teaching German but I don't think there were any in the Copper Country.

B: Do you remember anything else about Houghton before you went to Northern?

V: Well, the fire in the chemistry building was soon after World War I and this, I think, was the most beautiful fire I ever saw in my life because the chemicals went up by the boxful, in such beautiful colors, and Quincy Hill was furnished the white background for it. First we worried about the guinea pigs in the Michigan Health lab and after we were sure they were dead, we simply stood there and enjoyed the fire as long as it had to burn. And after 2 Michigan Tech buildings burned, they did increase the water pressure to the campus area.

B: Do you remember what the second one was?

I don't remember, which other building it was.

B: They were close together?

V: Not very many years apart. Maybe the chemistry building was the second one, I can't remember.

B: What did you do for your leisure time while you were in high school?

V: In high school, we went to basketball and football games, chiefly, and patronized the Kerredge Theatre, it really was a very, very beautiful theatre. We had a remarkable number of movies here before they were shown in big cities. They were tried out up here.

B: Did you go to the Hippodrome or the Amphidrome?

V: Oh, the Amphidrome; we had our graduation operettas down there; we gave an Indian Cantata when I was in the 8th grade, on an unventilated stage at the Amphidrome; Miss Jessie Cameron directed it and every time anybody fainted, all of the 8th graders from East Houghton, Central Houghton, West Houghton and Hurontown were all on that stage, on a very hot night in June; my brother Gage operated the curtain and he crawled in on his hands and knees and pulled out everybody that fainted. We also went to the Amphidrome for hockey games and for the Copper Country Fair which was a very excellent fair. I can still see Aunt Sally Scott there in the fancy-work booth. She was the first white child born west of the Soo, a dear little old lady in Lake Linden who always had the fancy-work booth at the fair.

B: Did many people compete with their fancy-work?

V: Oh, yes, indeed! Fancy-work and preserved fruit, and vegetables; animals

B: Who were the judges?

V: I really don't know. Whether the agricultural agent chose people or how it was set up

B: Did you go skiing at all?

V: I didn't, but a lot of other people did; I snowshoed a lot. And went sleigh riding and tobagganning.

B: Did you do ice skating?

V: I didn't but a lot of other people did.

B: Did you ever go on the pleasure barges on the lake?

V: I spent a Sunday on the ^{Bosch} "Bosch" boat once and one on the "Reiss" boat and Mr. Jim Dee's Houseboat used to go to Duluth for weekend parties before my day, but they used to have a tug that pulled the houseboat to Duluth and back for weekend parties. And Mr. Jim Dee owned the houseboat that's down below his property.

B: How did you get to Marquette when you were a student?

V: Oh, we took the train and sometimes, the bus. Very, very slow.

B: Do you remember when the first automobiles were kept out in the winter?

V: I really don't know. Some people ran them all the time, but a lot of people put them up on blocks for the winter.

B: How did they remove the snow?

V: Oh, they used snowplows in the streets and they plowed the sidewalks. Sometimes when the storms were bad enough, you had to walk on the road when you couldn't see, the snow banks were so high, they were higher than we were. Once there was so much snow that we

had snow over an 8-foot ladder between our front and back yards. But that was a rare winter, when we made a hugh snow fort in Meyers' backyard.

B: Are they any other individuals such as Aunt Sally Scott that you especially remember in your childhood?

Well, there were just so lot of wonderful, very charming people in Houghton; very well read, very interesting, very kind, delightful, and I wouldn't have missed knowing them for anything.

B: Did you ever know the Shelden family?

V: Yes. Aunt Mary Shelden lived to be 96. I knew various Sheldens: Carlos, Skip Shelden.

B: Do you remember any stories about Congressman Shelden?

V: No, I don't

B: During the depression, do you remember anything here in Houghton?

V: Well, not particularly, I taught the first 4 years of the depression in Kenton and this is when we danced, particularly, and the Civilian Conservation Corps fellows made up their own orchestras and we danced almost every Saturday night at the Town Hall and otherwise at Bruce Crossing.

B: How many of your family stayed in Houghton?

None of them

B: Why was this?

Well, in general you had to go somewhere else to earn a living, really, but we all enjoy coming back here every time we have a chance; I know someone who said that the people who love the Copper Country the most are the ones who don't live in it and I'm not sure that's entirely true but at the time that the president of Lake Linden exchanged with the Mayor of Detroit--the Mayor of Detroit asked about the kinds of business up here and the president of Lake Linden said, one of them was "baby exports". There had been so many remarkably energetic and capable people who had come from the Copper Country and gone to other places.

B: And your family has found this necessary in order to make a living?

V: Well, apparently, they've all left the area, with regrets.

B: Do you remember when Senter was open? For the powder company?

V: No, that was before my day. I don't know just exactly when.

B: I was wondering what your grandfather had it named for ~~and~~ ^{him,} if you had some memory of the occasion.

V: No, I don't. I'm quite sure it was before his death in 1912; I don't recall the starting of the Senter plant.

B: Did he run Senter then?

V: No, no, it was simply named for him. He died in 1912 at the age of 89

B: So that he had been retired for some time.

found to have TB and sent to the sanitarium. After a period of time she realized that she was going to die. The young girl wanted to go home. There were young children in her home and the parents did not want to expose them to the disease. They bought an abandoned school bus; they took out the seats and put in a cot and an oil stove. The girl was moved to these quarters and she died in this bus in her parents' yard, in a snowbank.

When she was asked why she felt that there was so much TB in the area, Miss Cooper said that this was partially due to eating habits. There was a very poor understanding among these people at that time as to what was good nutritional habit. She feels that there is a sign of real progress in the Copper Country in eradication of much of the tuberculosis in it having taken a place as a minor illness. It was a sign of progress when the last bed patients in the Hancock sanitarium were taken to the sanitarium at Marquette to Morgan Heights because there _____
The sanitarium at/Hancock could be closed as a sanitarium for tuberculosis. It could be opened as a center for Medicare or for care of the elderly.

In telling of Kenton Miss Cooper spoke of the only water facility being in the high school. This was done by A. P. Young who became head of the mechanical department of Michigan Technological University. A Methodist missionary all through the area that are stories of kindness, the uses of his natural ability by this good man.

Another story Miss Cooper told about her second grade at Jay Hubbell school. At that time it was necessary for the children to come out a long cylinder on the north side of the school when there was a fire drill. The janitor was to be at the foot of the cylinder so that he could make sure the children all were left in line again. When the fire bell rang this one day with great enthusiasm, the youngsters ran from their second grade classroom, but rather afraid I'm sure, to the entrance to this fun on the side of the building. They were _____ that the janitor was not there and such an accumulation of arms, legs, and small boned bodies that had to be removed slowly. This required that there be a second try at a fire drill that day, in order that it could be done correctly.

Another story was while she was in high school. At that time as she indicated Miss Cooper was a Latin student. An older girl returned from the University of Michigan where she was majoring in Latin. The college student brought with her an excellent library of translations of Latin books which she was studying. Miss Cooper asked _____ was given different ones, for the use of herself and her friends during the summer. When the college student was about to pack her library to return to school, she found that these were not there. So she called Miss Cooper who said, "yes, I'm through with them, my friends have enjoyed them, thank you, I'll return them." They were not to be found! Miss Cooper looked for them; she searched for them; she called her friends who couldn't find them either; they hunted everywhere; the Latin _____ were not to be found anywhere. At this time at the Kerredge in Hancock, there was a mind reader doing an act. Miss Cooper made her way to the Kerredge, bought her ticket, and went in. When she had an opportunity, she asked the mind reader, where are those Latin books? The mind reader was _____ quite good, and in some process, told Miss Cooper, "they are in the telephone bench, look in the stand, there they are." Miss Cooper hurried all through the telephone stand and there she found them under a pack of papers. The student received her library in tact and proceeded on to _____.

Today Miss Cooper is through using her early training as a teacher of idiomatic English. At Eastern at Ypsilanti, her primary work is with foreign students, to whom she teaches the idiomatic English, as well as other forms of correct English usage. It is interesting, I found, that this early teaching of first generation of foreign born be _____ the correct English idiom _____ which has carried Miss Cooper to all parts of the world, on her influence with these foreign students from South America, Asia, Africa, Europe. She finds it very interesting and perhaps there is a little bit of the Copper Country being carried back to these corners of the world.

(end of tape)