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LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978**

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William Waisanen, Arthur Erickson, Waino Pelto
October 21, 1973

Michael M. Loukinen

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SUBJECT: The very early days in Pelkie history 1900-1920.

SOURCE: Bill Waisanen
Arthur B. Erickson
Waino Pelto

COMMENTS: Bill Waisanen and Art Erickson are the "elite" of the folk historians in the Pelkie area. They are sages in the field of folk history. Both are rather articulate for having only the one-room schoolhouse level of formal education.

R:

R-1:

R-2: *W* *#* *to*

I: The following tape was made in the home of the Waisanen Brothers on a Sunday afternoon and Bill Waisanen, the oldest of the brothers was home and visiting him were Arthur Erickson from Pelkie and Waino Pelto who was born on one of the first homesteads in the area. The Waisanens were homesteaders, the Ericksons were homesteaders and the August Peltos were homesteaders. The interview is built within the context of visiting and so some of the conversation might not be specifically be related to history.

R: ...they went to work and sawed that log in two...but my dad just did that to see what the saw could do.

I: Who was that who built that?

R: Oscar Saumanen...he died in Siberia during the First World War.

I: Was he one of those who decided that Russia was a better country to live in?

R: He went from here to Finland and from Finland I suppose he took up that Communist stuff or something and then he was sent to Russia and Russia he was put into jail and he was sent to Siberia and he had a nice (???) over there...he was carving wood into shoes for himself...so he had a nice education from the Russians...didn't he.

R-1: Oh there were quite a few families went up there and pertnear all of them to Siberia.

R: Yeah, that's where he died...no, he didn't die, he made

a book when he came back from there and from that book... he had a brother in Ishpeming too. He went by the name of Louma...yeah...and so my folks read that book and found out what Oscar was selling them.

R-2: Was that the one that was living in Marquette...that prison guard? There's a prison guard over there by the name of Louma...he's a big guy.

R: Might be Louma's son.

R-2: He's a big man, about your size.

R: I don't know.

R-2: We used to go visit them once in awhile.

I: Your father was one of the original homesteaders out here?

R-2: Yeah

I: And his name was what?

R-2: August Pelto

I: August Pelto...I've heard of that name before. When were these camps built back there...these old homesteads?

R: 1901...the Homestead Act was the year before that

R-2: 1907 when we...

R: 1900 that first shack was built...but then the new house was built about 1903 or '04...something like that.

R-2: Yeah, well he started on it about that time but he didn't get it finished before 1912 because we only had a chance to live there about a year and maybe a little bit.

R: Oh, was that all?

I: What was it like living out in the middle of the forest?

R-2: When we were kids we thought it was fun

I: How is it different from living out on the farm, in the open country? What was it like to live out there...can you remember?

R-2: Well, I don't know. We enjoyed it anyway...we enjoyed it very much because there was them big hills up there...could ski up there in the wintertime and...

R: Fish in the summertime.

Fishing in the summertime, there was plenty of trout them days.

R: Yeah, there was a lot of game over there at that time.

R-2: And deer...

R: And deer, yeah.

R-2: They were just like sheep. If you wanted deer meat, why you just sit there on the porch in the evening and get one right from there.

R-1: Take your pick.

R: They were full of heck. They built the school over there too, you know and my dad said me (???) to August Pelto's, you know, I was about...oh maybe eleven or twelve years old then...just fooling away just (???) when I got there...him and John were behind a big hemlock stump...it must have been four feet thick. They had a engine pull aiming at me...bomb...bomb....bomb. They were full of action them days.

Well, there was a quite a flock of sheep coming.

R: Well, the first school in Pelkie was down over there by my dad's place...there were only about five going to that school...there was Robert and Vela Larsen and Dan and Lillian Carlson and Hilma Mantila. That was the first school in Pelkie...where I live now...not in that house...

I: When was this?

R: Well, nineteen hundred and what would you say?

R-2: About six or seven.

R: No, it was before that.

Before that?

R: Yes...I'd say about 1903.

Well, it was after there was that place...

R: No...no...there was no place...no school house then. The first school was at my dad's place.

R-2: Oh, at your place...I didn't know that.

R: Oh, at your place.

R-1: Yeah, downstairs...it was before you people come here. See, they were the people named Carlson...they owned that place where Ed Pelto used to live.

R: Oh, yeah

R See, that John Carlson and Mr. and Mrs. John Carlson are were the God parents to my sister. That was right around maybe 1901 or '02. Then they built that little school by King's there.

R Oh, that's after that.

R After that.

R I didn't know there was a school there.

R Remember the teacher...her name was Annie Anderson...she only had a eighth grade diploma...she was the first school teacher.

I: Now, you mentioned Kings. Where was King's at the time?

R At Tourinen's place.

I: Tourinen's and Tepsa's and also...

R There weren't Tepsa's there at the time

I: I know, but where the land is now

R The land where Tepsa's is.

R Yes...and the other King was where I told you...where James Peterson lives and then there was another King over there where Kooiman lives. There were three Kings here then.

I: And it was called King's Landing before it was called Pelkie.

R Yes

I: And before it was called Pelkie, what kind of economic activity was there? Was it a landing for the white pine?

R Where...Pelkie? From what I figure, there was no landing there.

I: Why did they call it King's Landing?

R Well, after the railroad come through there was a side-track there...that's where it got the name King's Landing. See, when the railroad come through there was a side-track. You remember where that one come in there...

R Yeah

R Where that big gravel pit is...and that's how it got the name King's Landing.

I: How did it get the name Pelkie then?

R That was the King's Landing when the railroad come in there and then they changed it to Pelkie.

R I told you how it got the name Pelkie.

I: Well, we went through some of it and I know some of it, but say it again.

R Well, see Mr. Pelkie used to be a foreman down at the Nester Mill at Baraga and Mr. Dunsmore and Mr. Pelkie they split that homestead where it comes up to my place; and Mr. Pelkie had a carload of lumber.

I: Shipped the lumber from there.

R And that's how they called it Pelkie Siding.

I: Okay, I knew that...you told me that last time; but since then I've heard that Pelkie was also very responsible for building or contributing to the building of the Post Office.

R Well, that's kind of a little bit farfetched.

I: And for that reason they felt that it also would be nice to call the place Pelkie because he was the one that really contributed to the Post Office...whether in his labor or in his work or whether in his money...I don't know. This is what I heard from the Larsen's.

R It could be.

I: Have you heard anything about that?

R No, cause I was a pretty young fellow myself here...I wasn't much acquainted with Pelkie then 'til around...well it was several years afterwards.

R Yeah, and the first Post Office was where Oiila is now

R Well, Paquette's house.

R Paquette's house was the first Post Office.

- I: A French family, right?
- R Yeah...there were all Frenchmen and Swede's and Norwegian's around Pelkie then.
- R That was around 1903, wasn't it?
- R Well, that was before my time. I can't answer that one.
- R 1903 I think that Post Office came in there. Because you see, when we came up here, I think they were getting the mail from Baraga...or either one.
- R I guess it used to go along what they called the Ontenagon Trail.
- R Yeah
- I: The Ontonagon Trail, what's that?
- R That's M-38
- I: When did it get the name M-35?
- R That's when the state took it over.
- R Around the twenties
- R 1928 or '29, something like that.
- R No, before that...I'd say around the 1920's. See, right after World War I then the state, I don't know, appropriated money to build all these (???)
- R County took it over first and that was around 1924 or '25.
- R Something like that.
- R And then I think it was around 1928 or '29 before the state took it over.
- R Could be.
- R Yeah, something like that.
- I: Well, you've all know what it was like to live here early ...you know, with the game and all that. What about the wild animals? Was there any danger in the forest as compared to the way things are now?
- R Well, not that I know of...well once in awhile you'd hear that...
- R You'd see a bear.

- R A wolf would attack a (???) or a (???) and suppose it happened now...(???)...on the train, you know, and there was a big wolf in there and they claim that...I don't know did it come from Pelkie or someplace up there, and they say it was seven feet long from the nose to the end of the tail, was laying on the caboose floor or on the baggage car floor and they say he was attacking a tie cutter or...but I don't know how true that is but that's the way that story was at that time; but that's the only story I heard about attacking a working man.
- R That's the first one I've heard of. I never heard of them going after anyone.
- I: But, there were wolves around here years ago.
- R Oh yeah, there were all kinds of them.
- R Every night you could hear the wolves howling...big packs of them.
- I: You could tell that there were a lot of them?
- R Oh yes
- R You could tell by the sound of them then.
- R Well, there was one time, I believe it was 1905, we had men working for us and this day it happened to snow, you know, a kind day when they weren't able to go out and work and these two men were living over there where Locko lives now, there were tracks there. They were living there and they used to come work for us. Well, this one morning when they wasn't able to work, they come over and asked us...asked my dad if they can have a rifle so that they could go and look for deer. So, dad says he wasn't gonna give it 'cause he wasn't gonna give the gun away although they were people we knew. So, dad says "I got (???) on it well that'll be for deer." And Rustain (???) said, that was the one fellow and the other fellow was Charlie Carlson. So they went up on top of the mountain then and two deer jumped and then they took...and asked, did you see these two fellows coming, so they made a quick turn the other way and they were going for their lives then there came three animals chasing them. First thing you know there was about fifty going after them. So, Andrew was going to shoot, so his partner says, "Don't shoot," he says, "there's a lot of them". So, they didn't shoot at all. Because they only had four cartridges... they came back and told the story but dad didn't believe it and so he went up there with them and he said that there was a lot of tracks but you couldn't tell how many

there'd been but there were a lot of tracks going after the deer.

R Yeah, there was a lot of those...lot of (???) too.

R Oh yeah, there was lots of them around.

R Otter too...they lived in that thick swamp.

R We had a man that was cutting wood for us...this was a Saturday...Saturday evening and like a lot of them used to work late, so next morning he says he heard somethin' squealing up there...like somethin' was in trouble up there where this guy was making that wood and he thought maybe a deer or something was being attacked over there. There was squealing going on and like that. So next morning the boys went over there and sure there's a dead deer with a big hunk bitten out of the rump here and the throat was open and they left it there. That was a wolf that done that, yeah.

I: Do you remember any stories of travelers years ago walking through the woods that either came close to being attacked by wolves or at least wolves were following them?

R No

R Say, you got a pretty good story about that night I came to your place...what become of that man nobody knows.

R Nobody knows where he went, or where he come from. He come through the woods from Winona up north, in the middle of the night and boy it was cold...cold night too. And come knock at the door and was midnight when he came and I went to open the door and he was half froze and I let him in and so he stayed the rest of the night there. Then in the morning he had coffee and breakfast and he went outside and when he come back in the house he started acting kind of funny, you know, because he didn't see no full-grown man around. My grandmother lived with us then and they took the broom and they gave it to him and chased him right out the...but he was...he couldn't have been all there.

R No, he couldn't of been.

R Because, he had all kinds of these monkey pictures from Cracker Jack boxes in his bag and everything and...

R He must have been a little bit short.

R Yeah

R Yeah, he must have been a little bit short.

R Yeah because a full-grown man would carry that kind of

stuff. So then he went to Foostie's (???) and Mrs. Foostie met her at the door with a rifle.

R Met him, you mean

R Yeah, she wouldn't let him in because there was no men folks, they went out early, you know.

R Sure, all working out in the lines.

R Yeah, and she took the rifle and chased him out. But at Jolene's...I don't know.

I don't think he got in at all there he started out on the road...

R I don't know...but there's some gross stories going around...whatcha call this here Cook...you remember Cook, was Cook wasn't it...

R Yeah

R They went over there to make hay up there in one of their old barns up there, well they were making hay up there... or it was they were picking berries...Eva Lundt...I forget now which one, just where that road comes from...what they call Santi's road, well they seen a man standing on the road and give them a kind of waving like that you know, and then they turned around and either Cook looked back or his wife or how it was, but anyway he turned around for a moment and then he turned around and looked again at this guy and there was nothing there. So there's some...guess going around maybe that guy is dead there someplace...buried.

R Well, are you telling us about over there where Roger's place is where they found the bones on the guy hanging in a tree? When you first homesteaded there and they burnt the rest of it up?

R I don't remember that.

R I can't remember who told me that but anyway that's long ago when (???) moved in there when he first started clearing that land and the boys saw that there and they burned all the rest of it up...there was no identification of any kind...just human bones and oh that was nothing so they burned it...burned it up in a brush pile. Whoever it was or anything nobody knows.

I: Did you ever hear of this story where some older man from Alston once was real old and used to go fishing down by the Bruno there, and once he went down there and his body

was gone...just some of his clothes...one of his boots or so was left and they figured that a bear got him, you know. Do you recall that story at all?

R I never heard that.

R I never heard about that one either. Then there was that one that disappeared over on the creek here beyond Looko's there was a man disappeared in there and nobody knows what happen...never knew what happened to him.

R That was along Pierce Siding there someplace.

R Somewhere in there...in that area.

R Yeah

I: What happened there?

R Nobody knows

R There was a guy in there fishing or somethin and no more trace of the guy. He just disappeared.

R And then there's one over there what they call the Laird Creek...the one that runs through Alston there, that's what they call Laird Creek...and was up there above someplace a fellow disappeared...not disappeared, he dropped dead and they found his bones...his name was Laird, old man Laird...first settler here...township was named for his name too.

I: Was he one of the first ones here?

R One of the first ones...I couldn't tell you exactly if he was the first one, but...

R One of the first ones.

R One of the first ones.

When did he come here, do you recall?

R I don't know. That was oh about 1885 or somethin like that. Oh, I beg your pardon...he died...they found him between Muule's and Winona up on the road over there...

R Oh, up in there.

R That's where they found him, up in there...that's where they found old man Laird. Then there's a story going around about Fife Lake...there's an old shack over there

...there's a man disappeared over there but then I don't know if it was at the homestead of what it was, I don't know.

I: Did you ever have any trouble with animals years ago, like any bear?

R No, never....they never bothered our cows...we had a few cows then and they never bothered.

R They had a little experience with a bear...I wonder if we told that to you already.

T. I don't know...anyway...

R It was when we moved here...I don't know...was shortly after we moved here anyway, we moved here on May 7th.

I: What year was that?

R 1901...and then we only had that one shack there...I think it was twelve by fourteen or twelve by sixteen, something like that. And us kids were sleeping on the floor...me and Matt and Ada and mother and dad was sleeping in the bed with Art and then we had two windows on the place...one on the East side and one on the South side and when one was on the top of the South side on top of that window dad made a hook with a crosscut saw... he had a five-foot crosscut saw and mother didn't have no curtains only she hadda...well it was checkerboard...or I mean Arbuckle Brothers coffee table cloths, you know, and that for a curtain; so I suppose Mr. Bear thought there was something funny around here, so he comes behind the window and mother was sewing with the sewing machine...I suppose he didn't like that noise either because sewing machine going on made a lot of noise. So, started scratching the window then slowly; so mother put the table cloth on the side a little bit and she seen a big face against the window...she said it looked just like a man had a hat on...had such a big face on him. Well, my dad was sound asleep...mother woke him up and told him that somebody's behind the window. Well, my dad didn't first believe her, you know, she says, "Come on, there's somebody behind there scratching the window and shacking that saw." So dad got up and pulled that table cloth to one side and asked in English "if you're a human?" So, naturally there was no reply. So then dad took a little better look and he said, "No, this is not a human, this must be a bear." And he was gonna shoot him through the window there, see. Mother had told him, "Don't shoot... there's three kids on the floor over there and one in the bed, well they'd get scared to death. Better go outside if you're gonna do any shootin'." So, he went outside

and he had a grindstone outside...during the day it had rained a little bit, so dad had his slicker on half of that grindstone...black slicker and he thought that was the bear and he shot at that grindstone and took a piece out of that...bear didn't get a shot. So then a couple of days later, you know, Hazel there used to be the railroad camp there where the railroad contractors had their dump over there, well there was John Olsma living there at the house at the old railroad camps there and then fellow by the name of Oulette...he was a French fellow and Fred Oulette was his name, he was a married man, so at that dump they had seen that morning eight of them over there looking for somethin to eat.

R Eight bear!

R Yeah...eight bear. That's a lot of bear at one time

I: Have you ever had any close to your place...a little too close for comfort?

R Bear?

I: Yeah

R Well, yester...no Friday one of the fellows that work for me, he was cutting hay up on the farm, and he could hardly believe that cow was going faster...and he was going some more and he looked up there and was a big bear along side of a cow...up there on the farm going toward Larsen's...that was Friday around noontime. And last summer...that would be around in June, why you know where the can is over there, the Mrs. had baked some ham in tinfoil and had threw that in the barrel...they weren't as full then as they are now; and hear some noise at night ratteling them tin cans and...in one of those fifty-five gallon barrels, you know, well the dog chased them away. Well, the next night he come back and he tipped the barrel over. She looks out there and the bear's standing right at the corner of the house...you coulda taken a good crack at it...was about that far from the corner of the house. So the bear's been that close to our place too.

I: Did you ever have any real close calls years ago?

R No...no I've been so close to bears that we've taken pictures of them years ago. I remember when my dad used to log on that Clear Creek, there's a dead horse over there and he'd eat that dead horse and we could get within maybe twenty feet of it before it would run away and took pictures of it.

I: But it never would attack you.

R No...no he better not because one of us always'd have a rifle along...he wouldn't have had a chance to attack us; but I mean, we just played it safe.

I: Do you recall any cases where a bear actually hurt someone around here?

R No, I don't know, but I'll tell you a story about Art seeing a week or ten days ago up there in North Laird... they got a dump that's pesky for bears and animals over there, just not far from the house and the middle of the day a bear come over there and everybody looking at him and talking to him and hollering to him and he was just sitting on his hinds and scratching his belly with his hind feet. Art said, by golly said he should have had a moving picture machine. No, I heard a story, but that's not around here...that was around the Sault and there used to be a lot a bear years ago and they used to attack people and then there was an old loggin road that was made out of their corduroy bridge...you know, over there through a swamp, and he was hunting...violating too that time, and well he was coming home then. He met four bear on the road. One of them start coming for him, so he picked up a skid...one of those corduroy stocks and killed the four bear with that corduroy.

R That's a lot of baloney.

I: That's a little more of a bull story than a bear story maybe.

R Well, that's what they were telling us

R I just got through tell them about...

R They told us his name was Indian Pete and he was married to an Indian.

R I just got through telling them before you come here a story about our neighbor...ofcourse he's dead and gone... right at the county line...Ira Cousala, this happened a few years back and he was a big guy about maybe my size and it was the fall of the year and he killed a deer and was in the evening and dragged...carried home half of it and the next morning he went down there with the axe to get the other half and a bear was going with a half of deer and he took the half of deer away from the bear. That was Ira Cousala and that's no B S either...that's an actual happening.

R Well, I know Ira...we went to the army with him together

R Yeah, he wasn't afraid of anything although he wasn't a

very big guy

R Yeah, I knew Ira for a long time.

I: You guys ever hear of a man named Bill Dorfey?

R

R Yeah, he used to work for us.

I: Tell a little about him...you know any stories about him?

R Well, (???) while he was working for us, that's how I know about him. I heard stories about him...some but I don't know how true are they...he was a quite a ...

R Hermit you might as well say too

R Yeah, he was a hermit. He didn't want to live with people after all, he was always in the woods.

I: But I heard he was a pretty good man when other people would come there and need a place to stay or something.

R Oh yes, you bet.

I: Did you ever hear of Bill Dorfey?

R Yeah, I heard about him but I don't know anything about him other than...

R He (???) was up there...somewhere's up there one time they went up there trout fishing along that creek...was Hebert and Matt Oiila...and they were gonna have some coffee and the coffee pot was full of pine stones and he'd been cooking coffee out of that...Bill Dorfey had... they weren't used to that kind of a drink, so they hadda cook coffee in another pot...isn't that something?

R Yeah...well we had a camp over there and my dad had (???) were sitting up and him and (???) were over there and Bill Dorfey were supposed to make ties too but he had some other things morein mind than working...cutting ties. So, like our cook camp was...well there's lot bigger camps than ours, you know, might have been about the size of this kitchen there, and the summertime, you know, the doors are open when the weather is warm, a big bull frog come in the house, you know, jumping along, you know how they do...leap on the floor, so Aho said, catch that bull frog Bill. You know how he chased it?

R Unt un.

R He stepped on it and spread it on the floor.

I: That sounds like Bill Dorfey.

R Yeah, that's what he did; so Able quick said I don't want

to live with a pig like that.

R I don't blame him

I: Years ago, I heard that people would have shacks in the woods that during the depression, for instance, lot of the youngmen who had no other means of making a living at the time went into the woods and that it was very common to walk in the woods and to see an empty shack to go in there to eat a little food if there might be some there, to chop a little firewood for the next guy, to wash your dishes and clean up the place...you know, ifit needed it a little and then go on and to not even harm it or steal anything but actually even help setup things for the next guy. Can you recall that sort of a

R Well, there was a lot of that going on.

R There used to be...I don't know if there's any around here at that time, but there used to be like some homesteaders, you know, that used to leave their home unlocked you know, like they had some food they left them in there.

R That's right.

R In case somebody happened to get lost well they could go in there and then stay overnight...if there's any lunch well they could eat it, see. But, I didn't know...but (???) didn't make any of those, was the homesteaders.

I: Live in them for awhile and then move on.

R Well, you know when they homesteaded land they come over and lived maybe five-six months on the place and then they go to town to earn some more money.

R They had to live so many months out of the year otherwise you couldn't lay claim to your homestead.

I: Oh, was that in the contract also?

R Yes...

R Yeah, you hadda clear the land...

I: Do you remember how many months it was that they had to live there?

R No...I don't know.

R It was five years on the place...you had to clear five acres of land besides your home. One acre of land every year. After five years you could...

- R Lay claim to it
- R ...yeah, make a claim to it...they call it prove it.
- R That's how there was so many little clearings all around the woods then years ago.
- R Yeah...yeah
- I: And that's why there's still a clearing there from what I've heard today.
- R What would they call them...glades or what'd they call 'em?
- R Somethin like that.
- I: Well, didn't Charlie Larsen live back there somewhere? Didn't he make the clearing?
- R No, he didn't make no clearing over there...he was my cousin.
- R That was no homestead though.
- R No...no...and he was living on that...Matt Tourinen's land over there.
- I: But there's a clearing there that's still a clearing today ...a bit of a clearing.
- R I never was there...I couldn't say...I never was there. Matt Tourinen had a hundred and sixty acres and he was gonna buy that from Matt Tourinen, see. I don't know who Matt Tourinen bought it from, I don't know. Must have been some homesteader.
- R That's like when you go over there in the (???) country, all them homesteads are there...they all had them little farms you know where my uncle lives.
- R Yeah...yeah...yeah
- R Well they had to, like you said, clear that acre of land every year to prove their homestead and you take that's all the way over to Kenton there's a little strip there over in the woods there...that Peterson you told about.
- I: Where were the homesteads in the Pelkie area...where were the homesteads?
- R Almost every farm was a homestead.
- R Almost every place was a homestead.

- I: But they weren't all homesteaded by Finnish people.
- R They were not all homesteaded, but it was all government land.
- I: When did the people start homesteading the land and when did the homesteading stop in this area?
- R Well, I couldn't tell you exactly when it stopped, but...
- R It probably was all taken up by the turn of the century.
- R By 1907 or '08 they were all taken up; what was decent for farm land or something like that. But some bought what they call timber homesteads. They had them for awhile and then sold them, see. They didn't even get the (???)
- R Remember that old maid, what was her name?
- R Maggie Wallace.
- R Yeah, Maggie Wallace...that's what she had over there.
- R Yeah, and she hadda shack that was there, didn't she.
- R Yeah, that was a real homestead
- R Then Kittonen.
- R You know, I seen that Kittonen's check when he come from Wooster Lumber Company at the Houghton Bank because I and dad were talking to that Vice-President at the bank and he had a bunch of checks under his elbow like this while he was talking to us. There was Kittonen's check there on top from Wooster Lumber Company...\$5,000.00. I told dad them when we left the bank, I says that Kittonen had sold his homestead, there was his five thousand dollar check. That was a cancelled check.
- R That was a lot of money.
- R That was a lot of money them days for a homestead timber.
- R Sure, yes when (???) over here on Fike Lake right around 1940 he got that whole section from Wooster, what was it ...for around twenty-one thousand dollars...a whole section of virgin timber.
- R Was that all?
- R You bet...because I saw him up there...beautiful timber

in there.

R This check was for five thousand dollars...he must have had good timber in there.

R Yeah, that's good timber.

R

R My land had good timber on it too

R Yeah, your land had some of the best timber; boy talk about nice timber and hardwood.

R Yeah, just about all hardwood on there

R But that was of little value years ago...they were all looking for hemlock and pine.

R All they got was basswood and spruce and pine and hemlock I've seen the poles.

I: What did they use basswood for in those days?

R Lumber

R Remember all those rules you see made into yardsticks, that's made out of basswood. They make them down in Minominee at the American Rule and Block Company. I've hauled dozens of loads of basswood down there and I've watched them being made in the factory.

R (???) had nice basswood on top of that mountain. Four foot stumps and like that.

R And they made a lot of veneer...used a lot of basswood for veneer...the basswood veneer.

R I and Emil Kemppainen hauled basswood over there...four feet three inches from the butt.

R That's somethin, eh?

R And it had a hole on it...about a ten inch hole and I didn't know when they cut it and so I and Emil we got that for about eight or ten pieces.

R Oh, they lost a lot.

R I don't blame him.

R ...wasting timber like that. So, Emil told him...said, "Well, bring 'em to the landing, maybe you can use it for somethin." And naturally when a tree is four feet three inches by the butt, there's a lot of white stuff on it.

R That's right

R I didn't understand the game then yet, you know, so we hollared to the landing and when the first car came for basswood we put it on the car and we got paid for it.

R You'd have a lot of yardsticks in one of them

R They didn't kick about it.

R Not when it's that big they wouldn't

R But pinewas different then...there would be four feet on the stump and if there was a three-inch hole there was a (???)....it was a pine like this and with a hole about that big and somebody come along and said he said they're all (???)

R Like there used to be what they called the Pineskeever's Camp back there just across the road on that next forty there...and there used to be some big pine that they took away, you know, before we got it. There was some butts there five - six feet long. There was only a small hole about five - six inches. That's the way they used to waste timber.

R And the heart's no good anyway.

R No, the heart is no good anyway.

R It's all lumber when you get it sawed...I mean at three feet...lowest grade lumber is the heart.

I: When did your folks start commercial farming? I mean, when farming first started in the area, it was just a couple cows more or less...just to feed the people on the farm.

R That was around 1920 when we started commercial farming.

I: Where did you sell your milk at the time?

R We were not selling milk, we were selling cream.

R You gave the skim milk to the pigs and the calves.

- R Yeah, and then we shipped our cream to Houghton and Hancock...Bitman Russell was the only buyer around here then.
- I: Do you recall what you'd get for a price then?
- R Well, the best price for a five gallon can of cream was around three dollars and fifty cents or something like that.
- R Above that I think.
- R But the poorest...the least what we ever got was during that Hoover depression...for a five gallon can of cream we got a dollar and a quarter so we weren't gonna get rich on that.
- R That was around 1928 when the stock market crashed.
- R 19....no that was 1930...when Hoover was his second term of office.
- R Oh...oh, I see.
- R Yeah, I think around 1932...33...something like that... a dollar and a quarter (???) for five gallons of cream.
- I: Afterwards did you begin to sell cream at the Pelkie Creamery?
- R Yeah, after they put up the cheese...well no, we sold some to Pelkie Creamery but they were worse than Bitman Russell and then when they opened up the cheese factory then we started selling the cheese factories.
- R Selling milk then.
- R Yeah, the milk.
- I: Do you know when the Pelkie Creamery started?
- R Yeah, it started...the first creamery when the founders started it, it was around 1913 or 1914, something like that.
- I: Do you recall some of the farmers who started it then?
- R Well.
- R Wasn't Conrad in there...he was the manager.
- R There was Pelkeila and my dad and Matt Karrinan from Nisula...they began it and August Pelto and, oh there

I think your Uncle Ed was on there...

R And my dad....

I: Ed Pelto?

R ...and there was a note for fifty dollars to get it going.

R Huh?

R I remember my dad endorsed a note for fifty dollars to get it going...to get some finances.

I: How did they get it started? Did they ask the farmers to contribute?

R Well, you buy...was ten dollars to buy a share...that's the way it started...ten dollars a share.

R Yeah, see they hadda get a little money on hand to pay for the cream as it came in; so my dad was a logger at that time and he was in kind of big business, so they had him endorse a note for fifty dollars. That was a lot of money at that time...like twenty thousand now.

R Yeah! Dad even paid that fifty dollars himself.

R Well, so did my dad actually...the company went broke I guess, and give it up.

I: What was the plan then on the first creamery? Was it a profit making thing?

R No, it didn't pay no dividends, but anyway it was to keep down a little bit this here Hancock Creamery.

R Yeah, to give them competition.

R Yeah, give 'em a little competition.

I: How many men worked there at the creamery?

R Just two...the buttermaker and then the helper.

I: And then all the farmers from the area, that was the first time they started to make a little money off their herds.

R Yeah, that's...well out of their herd...yeah, that's right, yeah out of their herds, yeah.

I: How much did a cow cost in those days? Do you recall?

R Well, you got a good cow for forty dollars...you got a pretty good cow...you could pick a cow for forty dollars.

I: What was the average herd at that time, right when it started?

R Well, I don't know what it was first, we only had about eight - nine cows.

R That's about what everybody started with.

R That's about...I guess that's about what August started with.

R Yeah, right around nine - ten cows, like that.

I: And, when did the creamery finally collapse?

R Well, it collapsed the time when they started the cheese factory. They had a creamery there too, they made butter in there too; what they didn't make for cheese, they made for butter.

I: Do you have that date down very well?

R No...no

R Wouldn't you say around 1930 was about the end of the creamery?

R No...they were after that yet

I: I saw a check dated 1936 that said the Pelkie Creamery on it.

R You could find that out from Harry Plough...he isn't around here today...because his dad was manager there then. Hey, Matt Oilla would know...he was in...he had his finger in it too.

R Oh yeah...yeah, of course Ed Pendlow (???) is dead now.. well Walter Kinnunen might know.

I: Was that a cooperative thing?

R

I: In the beginning was it?

R After the farmers outfit went broke, they took that over then.

R I remember they had Charlie Karrinen, he had it for

awhile too.

R Yeah, he rented it for a year or so.

R Otto Schultz worked for Charlie too.

R Ah ha...I can remember that now...was that that old Overland he had...remember?

R No, he first had a Model T.

R Oh yes, and then he had an Overland. Remember it was stuck there across the river there...was a kind of a made over to a truck...we pulled him out with the team.

R Then when he screwed up the Pelkie outfit, then he went to Chassell.

R Yeah, that's right

R Then from Chassell he went to Baraga.

R Yeah, he was quite a guy.

R He went up Bellaire Hill and he went on the road here and he said he doesn't understand where all that power comes from.

R I met him in town one time...I met him in town and he was going to Chassell...at that time. And I said, "How's she going now...I understand that you're operating the creamery in Chassell now." Well, he said, "Well, it's goin kinda slow right at the start now," he says, "but the doctor told me not to work anymore," he says, "that's pretty much on his nerves". I don't know what was the idea on that...was something worrying about him or what. So the doctor told him to quit that.

R Something worrying him...I don't know, he was a changed man altogether.

R Yeah, yeah...and then from Chassell to Baraga, but he didn't last long there.

I: Can you tell me something about the formation of the Coop in the early days and how it got started and how it got organized?

R Well, was that...?

R The Pelkie Coop started.

I: Yeah, how that started and when.

- R That was around 1917 when that got started.
- I: Right.
- R Same way with shares...selling shares
- I: Who were the founders of it, would you say?
- R Well, there were some.
- R Kaupilla was in there and Erikainen.
- R Yeah, and Semainen (???)
- R Was Ed Pelto in it too?
- R Yeah
- R Your dad Raulie
- R Yeah, my dad was in it too.
- R That was the same way as with the creamery.
- R
- R That's the only one that's been working since....and Kooivannen's...
- R Yes, they were all in that.
- R Yeah, I guess Matt Sivola was in it too...and John Johnson.
- R Yeah, there was a quite a number of them in there.
- I: Were there any people that wouldn't support the Coop in the early days for fear that it was Communistic? Was that ever thought of or did some people think that the Coop was bad?
- R Well, that was...them days the Communists went by the name of Socialists.
- R That's right.
- R And they...a lot of the church people didn't have much use for the Socialists. But actually, the Socialists started up that Pelkie Coop store...like August Juuntanen, he was one of them and then some of those guys that worked for Matt Tourinen for years and years, well they were some of the instigators too and they finally got it

started and that's how that Coop got going...started.

I: But, all the people supported the Coop, didn't they?

R Mostly, not all, but mostly...yeah.

R There were already two stores in Pelkie...was Funk's store then...it wasn't Gauthier's anymore and then... (???)

R Yeah, and then came Rouna and then MattOilla.

R Nobody knew it for a long long time, but Matt Rouna was the backer...he bought the store for Matt Oilla...nobody knew it for many years. It was on the Q-T.

I: Oh, how long did Rouna own that on the Q-T?

R I think it was about three - four years 'til he got on his feet, 'til he got financially fixed so he could go his own.

R He had a good racket there...he had that Post Office and everything.

R Well...you bet. That was a good drawing card for business, you know, that Post Office. Lot of people come in there to get their mail and they do a little shopping the same time too.

R Yeah, and another thing, somebody was in a rush and get his mail he hadda wait for an hour or so 'til they got through waiting on customers. Nobody never reported that, but that almost lost his job.

R Yeah, I remember one time...remember Lena was...she was a clerk and the Post Mistress also...and there'd come different Post Cards in, you know, she was distributing the mail and oh, she'd read that card...

R Yeah...they weren't supposed to do that.

R No, but I mean that salesman then finally asked her, I don't know who he was, "Do you read all those cards?" He said, "Will you hurry it up and get 'em in the pigeon holes." I can remember that as if it happened yesterday. No, they ain't supposed to do that.

R I was in there one time...that was in the old place there, you know, I was in there one time and a fellow come in there and I don't know who he was...he come in there and went to the Post Office and he's stand there for awhile and the women folks were waiting on customers

over there. So, he finally says, "Isn't this Post Office open anymore?" Well, right away they dropped the packages and went over there.

R Yeah, I remember you had long good waits there once in awhile. Yeah, I remember one time you were there...I was a kid then and somebody was selling was it the grapes and I remember the little kid tried to sell you a gun and he says, I can't read. I still remember that I can't remember who the kid was, but I laughed.

I: Do you fellows recall how the downtown area of Pelkie looked right when the railroad came in and all the logs were stacked up there? We were talking about this last time a little and how sometimes you would see big piles of hemlock bark drying out there and men all over the street with horses dragging logs here and there.

R Yeah, I don't know...that used to be that way especially during the Copper Country strike when Thompson was logging in there...you could hardly...well you just could barely walk through the logson both sides the road...(???) against the fence right on the road. That was really jammed up with logs them days.

R The only way you could walk was on that sidewalk between the saloon and the railroad...they didn't have any logs on that.

R Yeah, and then in the spring when the weather warmed up then between there you hadda have high-top boots, you know, when the snow began to melt.

I: There was dirt in the street there, eh?

R

I: When did they pave that road...the first time...or black-top it?

R Oh, that's not so long ago.

R 1955 I think it was paved the first time.

R Yeah, something like that.

I: The main road in Pelkie.

R Because George Hawkins had the contract to raise the road. I furnished the fill dirt and I took care of all of the equipment...I was maintenanceman. Then I drove truck or was bulldozerdriver or anything when they were short. But that was in 1955 when that road was ready then.

I: Did the road always...when did road go through to Houghton...you know, through Elo and Tapiola and up that way?

R You mean the road to Houghton?

I: Yeah

R That was open about 19....during the Copper Country strike...1913. That's when they opened the right-of-way.

R Otherwise the road only went as far as my dad's place here for, Oh, I don't know for how many years.

R Yeah, well we hadda guy workin for us...that was, remember Sam Maki?

R

R Well, he's (???) brother...he was helping us make hay and then on a Sunday I went to Alston...I was a twelve year old boy then, I went up to Alston and my dad says, "See if you can get in the store to get the mail." So, the store happened to be open and they gave me the mail and there was a letter for this guy then...from the old country from his wife and there was bad news in the letter telling that one of his child had died and he was reading that letter in that next room from the old kitchen over there...he was reading and he began to bawl like a baby over there in that room. Well, my mother says "What happened to that fellow...he's crying over there." And my dad pushed the door open and went in there and dad said, "What's the matter?" He says, "You read that letter too," he says, I forget what that kid's name was, you know, and dad says, "Well," he says, "not to worry about the child, yeah, the child is resting in a good place." (???)...oh he was bawling like a kid, you know. He says, "Write a letter to my wife so she'll feel better too." He really acted goofy and mother said to...mother must have told him...dad then during the night that better get rid of that guy, he might...he was big husky guy, you know. So next morning, that was a Monday morning, you know, dad tells me, he says, "You know where Sam Maki lives?" I says, "I don't know." "This man says he lives around Otter Lake." He says, "You take"...his name was Nicholie, you know, "take Nicholie over there...you find him when you go up there." So, we started out and he had a nice bamboo straw hat...them days you know, it was seventy-five cents you get a good straw hat, you know. I only had a ten cent cap on. By our place there was no bridge there then...

End of Part

R Well, I'll tell you, these people in 1905...and I brought this man around through Larsen's, you know, and Manpass and up in there to...What's his names...Kaapila's and up to Sam Maki's, up in there.

R There was a bridge on the river...my dad hadda bridge.

R No, there was no bridge there then.

R Well, not where it is now, but up the river. My dad hadda bridge because that's where Larsen's used to cross.

R Well...then when I got through over that, well then he came over from his sister's place...well, he told his sister, he says, "Get that boy somethin to eat." Well, this was good news because it was about two o'clock in the afternoon already. So she got me some lunch and I started off and I was gonna go and he says, "How much do I owe you?" I said, "I don't know," so he gave ma a half a buck anyway and I started off and I got to Kaapila's again. So, old man Kaapila was living there then and he says, "There's a new road site right-of-way as far as the Baraga County line. There's a path, if you follow then, that'll take you right straight to..." that's where the Finns used to call Jackson's. And I followed that so I didn't have to walk around on horse-shoes.

R And you saved them miles

R There was no bridge there then.

R No, but I mean my dad had one up the river.

R Oh, up the river

R Yeah, because we used to use that to cross on

R Oh...Oh...Oh...but I don't remember whatyear that bridge was built there by your place...I don't know.

R Around '04 or '05.

R This was 1905...there wasn't no bridge there then. It might have been about '05 or '06 in the fall or somethin like that.

I: There was pretty good traveling to Baraga though, way before that, right?

R Wagon road.

I: Yeah, but there wasn't/a wagon road/^{even}through to Houghton. ^{all the way}

R Well, when my dad come up there wasn't a wagon road then because...

- R Oh, not when the early settlers come in...there was none then.
- R I know, my dad used to carry groceries from Baraga... there was no road up there then.
- I: When did the road connect Baraga and Pelkie?
- R I think before my time.
- I: Any guesses?
- R Oh, 1900 maybe.
- R I think a little earlier than that 'cause they had the bridge there then...
- R On the Sturgeon.
- R Yeah...wait a minute...was 1905 when I crossed the first time on the bridge there, so it must have been several years before that when they had that bridge there...
- R On the Sturgeon thereby Slollems.
- R Yeah
- R Was before my time, so I can't answer that one.
- R 1907...Johnson...John Johnson had a stallion we had in there, so dad told me to bring that horse mare over there to Johnson's...gonna have 'em bred...and he went on a train to Pelkie then, see. And you could just...flood time, you know, the end of this bridge...on the end of the bridge...on the west end of that bridge, there was water that deep. The water was running over, you know, the floods and the water was running over there. And I had a really tough time getting that mare to go into that water. I finally got her, but I had to keep my feet like this to keep from getting wet. You see, they didn't have that built there yet...was so early days. But that bridge by Kero there, that was built long afterwards.
- R Maybe around 1915 or so.
- R Well, they had that before when they was building that church in Kero.
- R That's 1914 that says on the Kero church...in the basement there's a plaque there.
- R Yeah, well I think that bridge was on there then, I don't know.

- R No, Mr. Engstrom from Baraga worked on that bridge and he used to stay at our place once in awhile and he used to walk from there to that bridge when they were building that bridge. That was right around that area.
- R No...no...wait a minute...that bridge...that church was built 1917 and they were having picnics and everything there at that little road there by Pelkie and then there was that there...what's that farmer's organization?
- R I can't think of it now
- R (???)
- R No, long before that.
- R Oh, I don't know.
- R That first one that come around here.
- I: The Grange?
- R The Grange, yeah.
- R That was up there on the...the Grange Hill they call it. Remember?
- R And the organizer was over there...he had a new Ford car, and after he got through talking there at the picnic well, well he went to crank his car. Every time he cranked the car, the car went ahead. I didn't know nothing about cars, you know, so I happened to step down on that clutch, you know, with my hand...so I said, "Try and crank it now." So, he cranked it...didn't jump then. I said, "Your trouble is here." So, you know that lever that you used to pull back like this, he had left that forward, so I pulled that thing back, I says, "Try to crank it now." Then he got it started. That... those people's name was Anderson.
- R Yeah, from Skanee
- R What the heck was his first name...wasn't that Charlie Anderson from Skanee...
- R Huh?
- R Charlie Anderson was his first name.
- R I forget his first name.
- R I was a kid then...that's all I know about that.

- I: Was there a pine forest here in the early days...right here in this area?
- R No, there wasn't...we didn't have any hemlock forest; there was pine down there...they used to get some pretty good buys from Chassell...one time my dad and I went up to Chassell to buy some stuff...I don't know what they called it...there was all kinds of stuff there, some hemlock and there's pine and hemlock, honey and spruce and so forth...good lumber in there...twelve dollars a thousand. Some of it was even planed. Yeah...there was some (???) floating in there too. That was pretty good buy them days...they mixed in there, see....I been for lumber a lot of times afterwards...some of them rejects or something like that.
- R It could be.
- R Yeah
- I: Was there any stealing the timber in those days...did you have any log pirates?
- R I don't know where City was, but my uncle talked about a guy somewhere out of Baraga...he logged the same forty for...was it about three winters...and always asked him where you gonna log this year, up on the same forty and I guess it turned into be about a section.
- R Yeah, well we were talking about (?) (???) a little while ago...that was all stolen stuff from government's bush. Bill Erickson...you remember him?
- R
- R He was telling me a story...I think they were telling the truth. There was one time there was pine there on the Sturgeon River for twenty-two miles distance. He said that he run for many miles on that and there was nothin but pine. So, that was all stolen stuff...from government bush.
- I: Who logged it out?
- R I don't know who logged it out...I never heard that...that's before my time.
- I: Why did the French-Canadians move out of the area here?
- R I couldn't tell you but they started selling out. They stayed awhile and then they went. Just like there was English people over here...they thought they were getting good prices for their homesteads...couple of

thousand or somethin like that, you know, them days it was big money, you know.

R You bet.

R And I think that's what pulled them out and then they went back to lower Michigan again.

I: Lot of them went back to lower Michigan.

R Yeah, lot of 'em went back. That old man King...that's where he went.

R He bought a big farm down there somewhere

R Yeah, even lot of...Arvo Walitalo was a...he's got that King place over there. He told the name of the town but I...

R I used to know it too, but I can't...

I: Whitmore...have you heard of that?

R Whitmore?

R I guess that's it

R That's on the other side of Munising up there...Whitmore. Oh you mean...

I: There's a lower Michigan Whitmore also.

R It might be...if there's Whitmore there just on the other side of Munising...they used to have a water tank there on the railroad and there's a few houses there now too.

I: I heard that you used to work on the railroad.

R Who?

I: You.

R Yeah, I was a pump man

R Get to fill the water tanks with the water.

R I used to fill the water tanks; then I worked round houses...that's about all I worked on the railroad...work on the section here too for a little for Matt Oja's father.

R See, there was somebody ahead of him...I can't remember his name.

R Oh you mean Section Foreman?

R

R Yeah, Ed Vergo.

R That's the one.

R And then before him was Vizina. Ed Vergo died in Greenland...oh it's about ten - twelve years ago Ed died. He was a nice chap...very nice people. I remember one time, my mother was giving birth to a child, my sister Fanny, and my folks used to give us a time when we had to be back from visiting...but this time we hadda lot of fun over there at Alec Kinnunen, so I came in late. Well, it was gettin dark out and the old man was gettin nervous...he says, "It could be they had trouble here;" and naturally he got hot for me, you know, he says, "Where you been so long?" And he was gonna give me a beatin up, you know. And I told him, I said, "I been Isaac Kinnunen's," and I told him when I know I was gonna git a whippin so I told a little lie and I said, "Isaac Kinnunen wanted me to stay for supper." So, I tried to shave from that... and remember old man Haataja...you remember him...used to live over here...place when he was living here is where (???) Kemppainen lived now. So, he happened to be visiting our place. So, old man raised up his hand and he says, "You go with (???) to Keweenaw Bay and get a doctor." I said, "How we gonnago there?" "Walk to Pelkie and take a handcar from there." So, we took that advice and started walking...was dark already when we started. And naturally when we got to Pelkie after we walked that four miles, you know, an hour was gone but there was a little light burning in the section house there. I went and knocked on the door and course (???) wouldn't go noplac, he was just sittin over there by the gate; and Mrs. Vergo come to the door and said, "Who is there?" I told her, I says, "Waino". She opened the door and says, "What do you want?" So, I couldn't tell her, you know, about baby births or anything like that, so I told her "My mother's getting a baby and I have to get a doctor for 'em. My father said to ask for a handcar from you." So, she went upstairs and gets Mr. Vergo up and he came out there and give us a handcar...just me and (???). Pumped that nine miles to Keweenaw Bay and when I got to Keweenaw Bay that was my job again to go and get the doctor. I went to the doctor and naturally he was asleep over there, you know, I knocked on the door...I knew where the doctor lived, you know, I knocked on the door again. Mrs. Springham came and opened the door and naturally she asked me what I want. The doctor had been to our place before too, so he knew where our place

was, and she went and waked the doctor up and the doctor came and he knew me and he said, "What do you want Sonny?" I said, "My mother is gettin a baby and they want the doctor there right away." "How we gonna go?" I says, "We got a handcar over there." So, Mrs. Springham...doctor's name was Springham...she went over there and packed up his suitcase, whatever they gotta take, you ,now, and he came with us. He pumped sometimes...sometimes he didn't pump. We got here it was about two o'clock in the morning...oh about one-thirty...two o'clock, something like that... and we got him here and he done his job so naturally we had to bring him back.

R Boy, quite a trip.

R So, we brought him back and brought the handcar back and we left it on the platform of the handcar house, there...we left it there. He said to lock it up with a chain and a lock, you know, he said lock it up. We did that and we went to the back and walked home. And I tell you, that was quite a hitch. I was only twelve years old then.

I: Years ago, of course, everyone around here spoke Finnish...you told me how even your mother learned to speak Finnish right away just in order to get along with all the people here. Do you ever recall the words, dois gellinan? The other people of the other language or other tongue?

R Dois gellinan? What do you mean?

I: Have you ever heard that word or those words used years ago?

R No, I don't recall that.

I: Maybe I'm not saying it right. Dois gellinan?

R Dois gellinan? Oh yeah, other language, that's what it meant...yeah, I didn't first catch it.

I: Un huh, it's hard for me.

R Yeah, dois gellinan, that's what the Finns used to call an Englishman come in the place where there other people even people other nation said dois gellinan.

I: Dois gellinan...in the early days was there mistrust of dois gellinan?

R No, not too much. They were always pertnear...they were always helping each other, that's what it was. That's why you had to be over here otherwise you couldn't make things go. Yeah, they were willing it out yet, most of 'em.

R Remember that place over there where Kings lived on the Sepanen place?

R

R I know my dad was in there with a gang and they built that house of his in one Sunday. They walked up from Baraga...he was working in the Baraga Mill then, you know, for Nesters and him and a bunch of guys came up there...was built out of logs, see...well most of it in one Sunday. I remember that much about it...that's all I remember 'cause I was a little kid then.

R Yeah, by the way, they used to call those bees...when they help each other.

I: Was there a Finnish word for them or did the Finns call them bees too?

R Girka, that's it.

I: Girka?

R Yeah...people get together and help you on a Sunday.

I: Did that happen out here quite a bit?

R Well some...some occasions yeah. People haven't really hired out, they used to get together and do the big chores

R (???) that was the first store.

R Yeah, well...Douquette had a store too

R He hadda little store too, eh?

R That Tepsa's place, there was a store there too.

R Yeah, that come in after it.

R Yeah, it must have...I know we bought the first blanket from Gauthier when he was living at Silvaba's place there.

R Boy, ain't that somethin.

R That was a nice old fellow, Gauthier.

R Yeah

R Yeah, he was a nice man.

- R And the next store he started over there where Soli Ekilola is.
- R Well, wasn't that Gauthier that started Matt Oja's store?
- R Yeah...Gauthier owned Sorya's place over there. My grandfather was the first carpenter in Pelkie, he built that store for him.
- R And Matt Gauthier had a saloon over there where the gas station is.
- R Yeah, I remember the big mirror in there. That was when a passenger train...
- R That was Middie Gauthier.
- R Yeah, Middie Gauthier
- R Yeah, Middie Gauthier
- R I remember that big mirror in the bar. I was a kid and my Uncle Matt come out to meet the train...that was in the wintertime, and he took me in the saloon to sit by the box stove...I can remember that big mirror in the bar...that's all while we were waiting for the train to come in...my mother and dad were coming in on the passenger.
- I: Do you ever remember what it was like in there? The kind of people that went there?
- R Them days I didn't stop in bars.
- R We were too young then.
- R
- R Well, the lumberjacks...
- R Not only that, but we didn't have no money.
- R Boy, you bet not.
- R I stopped in Tom Bonds there when I was nineteen...no wait a minute...yeah I was nineteen then.
- R Maybe you'd get a bottle of white pop for a nickel... that was the only kind of pop you could get. Was the only place you could get a bottle of pop was at Tom Bonds.

- R That was real pop too.
- R You bet.
- R And it was a funny cork on it too...that was cork out of it.
- I: Who did people buy their land from in the Pelkie area?
- R What?
- I: Who did your fathers buy their land from...your father homesteaded, your father homesteaded, your father homesteaded...did your father homestead also?
- R Yeah, we homesteaded three forties.
- I: Who were the private people who owned land at the time that your fathers came in and homesteaded?
- R When we came here there was a party by the name of Palmas...I forget his first name. His son's name was John. Then there was Olson...John Olson...he lived right there where Colby lives now.
- I: A Swede, yeah.
- R Then up on M35 there was Matt Wise, Burtram and, what was that Italian's name...Lillola (???) and up here was Elly and there was Aliatsons and Gillsons and two or three Drews up there and Frombergs and oh there was a lot a...quite a few people over there...they were mostly all homesteads.
- I: What about toward Pelkie?
- R Oh, McDowell was there too. I don't know so much about Pelkie, but when I was around twelve - thirteen years old well then I began to know somethin about Pelkie. I think old man Johnson was a homesteader... John Johnson, and then that Polack was over there, that got in trouble over his daughter...what was his name, I forget?
- R Zilkowski.
- R Zilkowski? Zilkowski was there when...?
- R And they was livin in a weed shack.
- R And Norvakowski...or Noravakowski, what-da-ya-callit?
- R Yeah, that's right, that was another one. I was trying

to think of it, it's been so long.

R Yeah, and Undalala's

R Down on the river there.

I: He was a homesteader also.

R Yeah

R Matt Undalala and John Undalala

R Yeah, Matt had four forties, John only one forty.

R Was that all John got?

R That's all he got was one forty there. That's all my grandfather got was one forty...that's all.

R They didn't want anymore.

R Beg pardon?

R They didn't want anymore.

R Well, that's all that was left that was available then. See, all the rest was taken up.

R Ohhh...ohhh. Then there was Reshore over there and Gale and Tice and Clisch...Frank St. Germaine, (???), Pat...what was his name now...was there where Erikainen's place...not Erikainen but Palanitch place...

R Then there was Cogswell over there and

R Pitman or something like that.

R Yeah, and then there was Cogswell over at Kuivinen's place. My grandfather built that barn too for him. And then we get down in that...(???) and there was Bovin down there.

I: What was it like during the depression here?

R Pretty tough going here...it was in 1934 wasn't it?

I: Right.

R Yeah, was pretty tough going here.

I: Do you remember those?

R What?

- I: The depression days?
- R Oh, nobody ever forgets them.
- I: What were they like here? My parents are also from the Copper Country and they told me that the depression taught them a tough lesson.
- R They wasn't buying any automobiles over here, I know that.
- R No, the automobiles (???) then.
- R Well, you was selling eggs for twelve cents a dozen you wasn't making money and you didn't get no money for that, you hadda trade it at the store for groceries.
- R Same as the butter...you churned a big lump of butter you traded it in wasn't it for groceries too?
- R Yeah, yeah
- I: What were the groceries that you needed from the store in those days?
- R Coffee, sugar mostly.
- R Yeah, and flour and...
- R And you bought crackers, they came in those big boxes when you could afford to buy a box...
- R Yeah, them were real bargains
- R Toast used to come in big barrels...toast used to come in big forty-five - fifty pound barrels.
- I: Was deer shot in those days pretty...?
- R Whenever you wanted one, I guess you shot one if you needed meat.
- I: Was no problem to go get a (???) in the thirties?
- R Fish, you could get those/^{with} what you call a roushout (???) And remember Andrew Pearson telling me one time, your dad came to help Andrew Pearson pull the nets out of the river...was so full of fish that one man couldn't pull it out...it took two husky guys it was so full of fish ...by the Sturgeon...I still remember that.
- R I guess we counted that day was around five hundred.
- R A lot of fish in a net...I know that was/^{only} around what about eight feet long countin the...hauling 'em out?
- R I was there with 'em...was Edie Pelto's one time and old man went over there to help with the nets on the

and Edie comes back and and he tells Toivo and August to come out there and help him pull out the net. Well of course I was an inquisitive guy too, so I went over there so I hadda pull it too. Oh, that was just full of suckers.

R Well, when you figure that there was five hundred fish at least five - six hundred pounds in there, eh?

R Oh yeah.

R Didn't take a very big fish for two pounds.

I: Was it legal in those days to net the rivers?

R I don't know how legal it was...but I guess your dad made a trip to town one time didn't he.

R Yeah

R That was the one time...what was that he...?

R And he wasn't there long, I guess that sheriff let go.

R Tom Bond's boy was on the river bank and we had that net so nobody could see it, you know, cause there was (???)...and then covered in the river; but he had known when he came down...he came with the boat down the river and he had loaded it. And that old Wilson was staying at Tom Bonds that time. He notified Wilson that next morning and Wilson was over there early in the morning... we hadn't even started milking cows in the morning yet when he was there.

R What was the name of that other game warden then, after that one? There was one more.

R I forget his name.

R I know Sinclair Wilson was that one that was your with.

R Well anyway, he come up to the house and he says, "Is that your net?" My dad says, "Sure that's my net." He says, "Well, come and help me pull it out and you can have the fish" and he'll take the net. So they pulled the net out and there wasn't many fish in there so he took the fish too, you know, was against the law. And ...(???).. He got Tourinen at the same time.

R Yeah, now I remember that

- R The Sheriff, what was his name...you know the sheriff that time?
- R Pennock?
- R That was the one that got shot.
- R Pennock was the sheriff.
- R Pennock, wasn't it...Pennock?
- R Pennock, yeah.
- R Pennock was the sheriff then. Well, they at the court house they told my dad, he said, they should pay bounty on those suckers instead of gettin arrested.
- R Wow...he was a quite a guy.
- R Well, I'll tell you, they couldn't understand how Pennock could (???)
- R Yeah, I remember that when your dad was explaining about that Pennock, you know.
- R Well, he was shot.
- R Yeah, he was shot right through here. That happened in Sidnaw. There was two cracker jack shooters shooting, you know...
- R They were a little bit drunk I understand.
- R ...and what-cha-callit...Pennock had a cigar in his mouth and that fellow told him, "I'll shoot it outa your mouth." Well he did alright, but he took part of the jaw.
- R Well, the other guy got hurt 'cause the other guy was supposed to shoot back, but he shot too close.
- R Quite a sport, ain't it?
- R Yeah.
- I: Do you recall any other old stories, any old violating stories years ago...everyone used to...well it really wasn't violating them days?
- R Nobody bothered you any. I remember this other game warden, it wasn't Wilson, it was the one that was after Wilson, he stayed at Tom Bonds also and he told...I remember him telling my dad that he had got Tourinen. Tourinen would put his net in at night and he'd go and pull it out early in the morning. And he told my dad

about that...how he watched him when he pulled the net out early in the morning, see. See he was staying at Bonds and Tourinen's where right down a little bit across that marsh, you know. I can remember that although I was only a kid. Yeah, so he took the net away from him. That was after the...the next time. This wasn't Wilson, it was a different name than this here...the next game warden.

End of Side A

R That was Jim McMann's father

R What was that big violators name at Otter Lake? Rousky?

R August Raffee.

R Yeah, Raffee and then that there...

R He had shot a deer out there on Otter Lake and Wilson was following him and he knew that it was Raffee and he had drawn a line across his tracks, you know, in the snow...there was a little snow up there then, and he sput a little note and had put a note there, don't step over this line. And there was...he was waiting behind a tree, you know, and just the minute Wilson stepped over the line, he shot...he had a corncob in his mouth, and he shot the corncob out of his mouth.. and he said, "There...take another step and that and (???)".

R And remember Raffee...Raffee got to be game warden after too. You know they used to rib him about that. That when he lived where Nicola's live now and he had a few deer and he had 'em waited down with a rock in there...there was a lot of brine on top and the game warden's knew that he had deer in there. They only rolled up the sleeves so far, you know, that brine was cold...but he wouldn't reach all the way, only down so far, nothing there. And Raffee was watching and snickering to himself...there was four deer halved and quartered down there in the bottom, weighted down with a rock, see, that they couldn't...the barrel was empty ...he didn't reach down far enough. Then, well, then when Raffee got to be game warden, oh my mother used to giggle about that every once in awhile how he pulled one over on the other game wardens.

R Well, he ...(???) when he got to be a game warden. We were living in Baraga that time and I told him...well I said, "You're a game warden now, I'm gonna go and violate too and don't catch me." He kind of laughed and he said, "You can go and violate but don't let me catch you."

R He was a game warden already when he lived in Tapiola.

Yeah, but even when he was in Tapiola for awhile... I'll tell you what happened. I hadda twenty-five - twenty rifle...I was pretty good in the woods with it, I shot two partridges with that twenty-five - twenty... course you got no rights to shoot with a rifle then, you know, only a shot gun. And I just got acrossed the bridge and I had that rifle you know, saw a car coming and I didn't know who it was, well anyway I dropped the rifle down in the grass and I picked up a stick. Here comes Raffee going by. Well, he would have nailed me right there with that rifle, you know. Well, I was as smart as he was...I picked up a stick. Well when that car was gone, then I went back down and got my rifle...with that twenty-five - twenty...you'd get fifty shells in a box. There was so many partridge then you didn't have to be fussy, you just shoot the heads off 'em, you know. If you missed, well shoot at the next one and you don't only take about three - four - or five because if you took fifty shells along and came home with fifty birds then that was too much. There was that many partridge...you only took a few cartridges along.

- I: It was like a garden...you only picked what you needed at the time.
- R Right...well we never shot any more than we could... enough birds for a stew or a brine because like I said, you took fifty cartridges or shells with you, you could have fifty birds if you wanted it.
- I: The old timers way back, they didn't waste any of that venison did they?
- R Oh no. They sort of lived on the fat of the land. You just took what you needed...nobody shot foolishly.
- I: How many deer would you say the average family would kill back in those...in the woods?
- R Oh, half a dozen maybe. Like in the wintertime or fall you got one or two and they froze and you...you didn't kill any more 'til you used it up, isn't that right?
- R No...no...they didn't (???) like they do nowadays...if they hadda change to shoot five or six, that's what they'd get. That time they used it all up, every bit of it.
- I: Were you ever taught that it was a sin to waste?
- R Well nobody ever really shot any deer and left 'em there to rot away. You shot what you needed.

R No, that's for sure.

R No, not like they do now. I gotta tell you what happened, this was back in about...ohhh...1955 or '56 and we still had a lot of deer around and you know how they'd always call into what it was WMPL then...It was WHTF then... about how you got your deer in the morning? Well, this morning I had gone out just across the field...was gone thirty-five minutes and I had a twelve-point buck and I come in and I called back. Some lady had heard that on WMPL and they had been hunting up on the Clear Creek, that was my brother Dick and Evert Larson and this guy had heard me and told Dick, "Your brother Art was gone thirty-five minutes and come home with a twelve-point buck." Well, in the afternoon I went up to Skanee where (???) lives. We were sittin there and having coffee about four o'clock and bang...right by the porch. He had a big apple orchard. Somebody had shot a buck no farther than the other end of the house from his porch. Boy did he run out there. He had the place posted...he knew the guy so he couldn't say too much. So that fall on the forty back over there, the Conservation Department had called in over forty deer on one forty. They might have missed some. That was the time when you could take a buck (???) if they shot it alright, no harm done. Just imagine that was only on one forty. Just imagine how many that were lost in all that.

I: When was this now?

R Around 1955 I'd say...or one year more or less.

I: Lot of wasted doe

R Well, you figure forty deer on one forty or whatever it was...that isn't saying they counted all of them either. But just imagine on all those sections...the thousands of deer that were left there to rot. Well, (???) even that morning, early, they were coming up and down that road, you know, they'd swing the car around because they had a lot of apple trees in that orchard, you know, they'd swing the lights in there and the deer were in there eating apples, you know, that'd fallen at the beginning of the season. Sounded like a war around there when they'd start shootin.

R One time, I was a kid about thirteen or fourteen years old, and we didn't have no meat. Remember that man that used to run a grocery store in Keweenaw Bay?

R

- R So, he told me to go over there and get some meat. So, I started out and I was close to Hazel already they start hollering that they had enough to go on the train...come back home. And I was just walking toward the water tank wait for the freight. Then a working man come over there hollering for me...he was by the switch over there...remember that switch used to be on this end...he was standing by over there, hesaid, "Say Bill, come home"..he said, "we got one this morning."
- R You didn't have to go and buy any meat.
- R Yeah, I didn't have to go over and get the meat
- I: What did beef sell for in those days?
- R I think it was ten cents a pound, maybe even?
- R Well, I don't know...my dad sold quite a few years to the lumber camps and he got five cents.
- R Well like at the store maybe you'd pay ten cents
- R Yeah, at the store was maybe a little more
- I: The value of money was a bit different then.
- R You got somethin for your money too. You probably remember when Sam Hill had that store in Baraga. I remember mother used to talk about when they got eleven pounds of coffee for a dollar at Sam Hill's store. I remember the name...was Arbuckle Coffee.. I remember that name...Arbuckle Coffee.
- R We came over here...the first year we got tenpounds for a dollar and Lionshead coffee eleven pounds for a dollar.
- R Well, this was eleven pounds for a dollar...Arbuckle.
- R And you could buy hamburger...two pounds for a quarter.
- R I remember one night I stopped...this was around maybe 19...yeah 1933, I remember I had trucks hauling over then...you could get a hamburger for a nickel in Ishpeming...a pretty good-sized hamburger for a nickel. Is seventy-five now. Well, Friday evening when Art and I went to this Big-Boy Restaurant in Houghton...we were in there the first night it opened up about a year ago... no it isn't a year ago....when it opened up anyway... and we were there a Friday evening and it wasn't too

big a bun and had coleslaw with it and coffee...the coffee wasn't very good, I'll tell you that, and we got each a piece of pie. It cost us two dollars and twenty-four cents a piece and was supposed to get kind of a ham sandwich in with lettuce in there and tomatoes and a coleslaw...and it was almost four and a half dollars you might say for that...sandwiches.

R For two of you.

R For two of us, yeah. But for one...for one the bill was two dollars and twenty-four cents for one.

R And the tasteless food.

R You hadda wait your turn...it's a wait 'til the hostess comes and gets you to give you a table...it was so full in there people. That's where the old Nelson Restaurant used to be. Isn't that an awful price to pay for somethin like that...for say an oversized hamburger. It'll be a long time out there before I ever go back there and pay that kind of money. Well, that was the only place open, you know, where you could go and get something to eat because all the other places were closed. So, we tried that...Leo's was closed...Finlandie's was closed...

R Well, Sundays they don't open...they're not open.

R We noticed the (???) well we figured we'd eat downtown rather than take the time...we didn't havemuch time left to make the Copper Country to get into the bank before it closed. We did some shopping over at the A & P and so forth, and thought well we'd have a little lunch before we come home. We hadda pay through the nose that time. Yeah, you get stung once in awhile like that. And like I said, it wasn't a real good tasting sandwich...I don't know...I didn't like the taste of it and then we hadda few french fries with it too...they probably...I doubt if each one was about the length of that...oh that was an awful price. Yeah, they'd come every once in awhile and pour some more coffee into your cup, but it wasn't even hot that coffee, was lukewarm...just tasted like that cheap coffee you used to get years ago...remember it tasted of chickory?

R Yeah

R That was an awful poor tasting coffee...I don't know, I didn't like it and Mrs. didn't like it.

- I: Well, look at how the land values around the area have gone up too...not only food, but land.
- R Land values, you bet they've gone up. My brother Walton bought two lots in Pequaming...that'd be two what was it two years ago last spring...they were five thousand dollars a lot. Now they're twelve thousand dollars a lot in Pequaming there. He built a new home there a year ago. Yeah, and then that State Policeman got one on the side of him now...what the sam hill's his name now? I can't think of his name...but anyway...
- R I'll take the best house that's there...when it comes to buying. You know why?
- R I don't know.
- R That belongs to the Indians right there.
- R Property?
- R All of Pequaming.
- R Well, they'll have to chase my brother...
- R I'll take the best house over there.
- R Well, my brother got the best one over there now... it's the newest one.

Stop in tape

- R We sold a half a forty to these here Ketola's son-in-law...three thousand bucks for a half a forty because Ketola lad come and got me to come and how to run the lines out...he didn't know anything about how to run a compass, so I went over there. Was kinda in the spring of the year, half snow rain that day, you couldn't do nothin, so I hadda...I went with a...I hadda good compass and I traced the lines out for the. In fact I got...remember Whiskey Pete?
- R Yeah
- R I got his compass...it's one of those with like a transet...you can set it lkie on a stick and you can run a line with it; but that day it was too dark...we couldn't use it, I had another big one. You probably heard of Charlie Peppanger.
- R Yeah, I heard of him.
- R Well, I had his compass. I used to cruise land a

little with Charlie Peppanger...I got to like the guy, heck of a nice guy, and when he died I went up there and I bought that compass from his widow. It's a very...I don't know what you (???)

R He hadda place...was a nice spot there.

R

R It was by that pretty lake in there.

R Yeah, I been there dozens of times. King Lake

R Yeah, I been there cruising timber around there

R That's where I cruised a little bit with him too. You know, he could tell you oh we get over there so and so by that birch or pine, we'll be so many steps away from the corner. You went over there it was right too. He said walk ten paces, you walk ten paces, it was there. Oh, he really was good in the woods. There's a dentist from Ishpeming, a Doctor Holman, he has a cottage on the southwest side of King Lake. Funny way how I got to meet him. Some of the Baraga players were having a basketball game at the...

Stop in tape.

R When we first moved in here, you know, these creeks was all alive, you know, full of ~~trout~~, them are real streams. Just as soon as I found 'em over there when then the fish were drying in the summertime, that maybe two three months a year.

R You remember when my dad and (???) in back of (???) on Clear Creek? I was....(???)...on a Sunday forenoon, I don't know, they probably had a hundred and fifty... had a gunnysack they carried them in...trout, you know, well they took...fished enough so they had enough for the crew in the bunk house.

R Them days, you know, when you hadda license you could bring home thirty-five fish. But now, what is a basket now?

R Five I guess.

R Huh?

R Five I guess is the limit now.

R Five????

- R Yeah, that's trout...that's now.
- R Oh boy...oh boy.
- I: There were big beaver dams back of the Bruno there?
- R Yeah, there was beaverdams and then there was some old dams that they used to bring the pine down. They used to bring pines along that Bruno.
- R They were man-made dams, see. Dams...see they'd haul the pine logs up to the...or softwood...up to the creek, you know, in the wintertime...deck 'em up. Then so many miles down they'd build a dam across the creek to raise and hold the water in the creek so they'd have enough to float those logs, see. Then it went through that dam and farther down they'd have another dam that would hold the water up and so on.
- I: So the Bruno was just damed up all the ways to make more water so they could get the pine out of there.
- R That's right. And all of those small creeks were the same thing...they hadda dam on 'em.
- R On the other side of Nisula they had a bid dam there.
- R Those bid dams were on ClearCreek.
- R Yeah...that dam over there was noted for fishing and they'd come over there...all of them went over there and spent two - three house and they hadda basket full of fish.
- R Lotsa times you'd fry 'em right by the creek.
- I: Were there big trout in those creeks then?
- R Oh yeah...they were all the way from...
- R Four inches up, eh?
- R Yeah...there were some twenty-inches long and like that.
- R Yeah, great big
- R I know there's a fellow...what was his name now...he bought his father's land...umm...I can't think of his name now. He came out from West...he wasn't feeling very good, you know, he'd come over here to spend the summer and he went up there to Otter River and he brought home fish...well the shortest one was eleven

inches. We hadda picture of him right there at the Alston store. Yeah...I can't think of that guys name And that was a nice catch...eleven fish and eleven inches was the shortest one. Twenty-one inches was the longest one.

I: Do you think a man could live off the fat of the land today?

R Could makeit scratch a little bit, I'll bet ya.

R I doubt it

R There's no fish hardly anymore...no morepartridge, no more deer...you might as well say no more because it's ...you see maybe one deer or two in a year now, that's all.

R I think it was last week Monday or Tuesday, I camefrom the mail box and I happened to look that way...there were two deer going by...maybe somebody was chasing lem, I don't know. But they were going west...and all you could see was the head and a little bit of the back of the leadin deer and then the other one was following her...or following him, I don't know which it was, a buck or a doe. All we could see was the head...I hadn't asked what they was, you know, when they went by. That's the first two deer I've seen there for the whole summer.

I: What about years ago?

R Oh, years ago, was the time (???) died, well we had people come from town over here to view the body and that was twenty-nine they counted on that hill...up on the hill there. We had winter feed in there... there was twenty-nine they counted. I don't know how many was down behind the hill.

R Yeah...but no more. Remember like that Peterson homestead...

R You don't see no more twenty-nine come in our field.

R At the Peterson homestead you told me about remember where all the apples trees are...a year ago last fall a fellow that stayed in that camp over home, he went in there and he didn't see a deer...just a few old tracks. Well, I bought a license last fall so I could hunt with him. I never saw a deer for the season. He got a glimpse of a tail off of one and we were up on the plains, and we were up in there on the Kenton Road, down at the Otter, everywhere.

R And that's the best deer country.

R And we were up on the Huron...

- R Used to be...not anymore, but used to be.
- R Yeah, around Kenton that was big deer country. And Silver Mountain, that was the best deer country, used to be. Well, Limestone Mountain was good too on the edge of the swamp.
- R I don't know what they're figuring on that the Conservation how that they give permits for does...
- R Yeah
- R ...and their reasons then. They should stop it for two three years.
- R The whole works
- R Yeah
- R Then we'd have some deer.
- I: Shut it all off.
- R That's right.
- I: That's what I suggested at the Sportsman's Club, but no one went for the idea. I said stop it for a year or two...give 'em a chance.
- R Here's what Evert Larsen has against it. You stop it for three or five years, he says, "then we'd be too old to hunt." Well, that's right, what he says.
- R That's true, yeah.
- R But there'd be deer come back for the guys that can hunt. I'm in favor of stopping it for...it should be five years.
- (note - everyone is talking at once and impossible to pick up conversation)
- R I had two bucks they were so plentiful...that was around 1956...lots of deer, but no more.
- R ...to cut down on the herd. There's no herd to cut down on anymore.
- They're crazy. They make their policies from behind the desk.
- R Yeah, these here at the Sportsman's Club, they're ruining the deer herd...I mean, the deer country. They

haven't got no good ideas to keep or preserve deer and theother game.

R Now they could close it...like partridge, there aren't hardly any left anymore.

R There ain't hardly any.

R Very seldom...same with rabbits.

R Same with rabbits.

R I was up on the Clear Creek last fall huntin, I went there alone that day because I guess it was next to the last day of season where there used to be lots of rabbits, you know where the (???) is, where they had their huntin camp; there wasn't a rabbit track, not even a deer track, but lots of coyote tracks. I was back in there about three miles and not one rabbit track and it used to be so good deer country.

R Yeah, and you know the state doesn't pay any bounty on coyotes either.

R That's why.

R That's that groovy governor we have.

R And they say, like they protect the hawk now, they get lots of partridge. I know if I ever seen one in the woods.

I: I hear that they'll stay after a covey of partridge until they wipe it out, right, they'll stay in the neighborhood.

R I wouldn't doubt it

R I think skunks are bad too for partridge

R Yes

R You know, in the spring when they have their nests.

R That's when they get the little ones and they eat the eggs too, I guess.

I: Skunks do that?

R Un huh.

R I know one time we found a partridge nest and

partridge got to be so tame, you know, we went there every day, that we could feed him...we could feed that partridge from our hand. He was just laying on top of the eggs. And a few days later we went there again and the nest was all broken up, and feathers all over and the eggs were gone. It must have...it could've been a skunk. They sure can do a lot of damage.

R You know what happens when a skunk gets in a chicken coop...?

R They make their nest right on the ground

I: I've heard that years ago there were just partridge everywhere. It was no trick at all to go out and get a few for dinner.

R There sure was partridge everywhere.

R Them same old skunks used to raise cain with the chickens in the early days when the homesteaders used to move in here.

R Yeah, you hadda shoot the skunk or make sure he was trapped or got rid of him because he killed the chickens.

R You know where Herman Heikkinen lives over there in Nisula?

R

R Well, they were over here...I guess they come over here around 1893 or '94 'cause they were one of the starters of that Nisula church, that was built 1895. Mrs. Heikkinen said, "Somebody must be in the chicken coop because there's so much noise in there." So, old man Herman Heikkinen put his pants on and took a lantern and went in there was a skunk in there. Well, he grabbed ahold of the skunk and he beat him until he was dead. Well, naturally, that fellow smelled pretty good.

R Well anyway, he got the skunk, that's the main thing.

R Yeah, he got the skunk anyway. But you know, there was feathers and everything around, I guess he had two or three killed already before he caught him.

R That's a funny thing how they kill and kill.

R Yeah, kill 'em all.

R They leave 'em lay there

R Yeah, they'll leave 'em lay and seems to me that they only suck the blood out of 'em, that's right.

R But then, if they kill, they come back for them one

by one.

R Oh do they?

R Yeah, because I know we had some chickens and they were just young ones, but they were gettin pretty heavy. And I heard them hollering and I went in there and he had killed four and left them there and he was gone. And then I waited for awhile and I was kinda of late getting back 'cause I was supposed to feed 'em and come back home. So, I waited for awhile and sure enough, that skunk come back again and he grabbed ahold of anotherone (???)

Unable to hear remainder of this tape.