



Finnish  
American  
Historical  
Archive  
and Museum

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

*(Funded in part by the National Endowment For The Humanities)*

**F.F.S.C.G.L.M.R. DIGITIZATION PROJECT 2010-2011**

*(Funded in part by the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission / U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service)*

***CONDITIONS FOR USE OF .PDF TRANSCRIPT:***

Finlandia University, formerly Suomi College, holds the exclusive copyright to the entirety of its Finnish Folklore and Social Change in the Great Lakes Mining Region Oral History Collection, including this .pdf transcript which is being presented online for research and academic purposes. Any utilization that does not fall under the United States standard of Fair Use (see U.S. Copyright Office or Library of Congress), including unauthorized re-publication, is a violation of Federal Law. For any other use, express written consent must be obtained from the Finnish American Historical Archive: [archives@finlandia.edu](mailto:archives@finlandia.edu).

***PREFERRED FORMAT FOR CITATION / CREDIT:***

"Maki, John", Finnish Folklore and Social Change in the Great Lakes Mining Region Oral History Collection, Finlandia University, Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum.

**Note: Should the Finnish American Archive be a resource for publication, please send a copy of the publication to the Archive:**

Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum  
Finlandia University  
601 Quincy St.  
Hancock, Michigan 49930 USA  
906-487-7347 - fax: 906-487-7557

Eleanor B. Fournier  
July 31, 1973

Art Puotinen

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
Genealogy	1	
Parents and Grandparents	2	
Cook in Lumber Camp	3	
Lumber Camp Life	4	
Winona	5-6	
Father was Policeman	7	
St. Joseph's Church	8	
French Custom-Christmas	9	
World War II	10	
Depression Years	11	
Politics	12	

INTERVIEW WITH

INTERVIEWEE: Miss Eleanor B. Fournier

INTERVIEWER: Arthur Puotinen

DATE: July 31, 1973

A: Your grandparents were the first settlers in North America?

E: The family, yes.

A: Perhaps you could give us a little bit of facts and figures of who's who in the Fournier household, going back to early times.

E: Yes, I 'spose I can start out by telling about my grandparents, who were born in \_\_\_\_\_ Canada, which is in Quebec as we know, and my grandfather Cyril was born in 1839 and died in 1925 and my grandmother was Elsa Olson? She was born in 1842 and died in 1926. And they had 16 children, and several of them passed away at an early age, some at birth, and those that did pass away did soon after I would say. And they came to this country--my father, I think, preceded them by a few years and they came to this country--my grandparents and most of the family about in 1890 and I think my grandfather's brother lived in Lake Linden, Mason, and my grandparents stayed with them for a little while and then they moved to Hancock and bought this property on which the house is still standing on Summit Street. And my grandfather was a carpenter, this was his trade, in Canada and here, also. And most of his family, he left my Aunt Anna, remained in Canada and she married a man by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ and they had a large family, something like 12 or so children. And they owned farms in Canada and some of her children, or their children, remained on the farm and are still farmers, however, prosperous now compared to what they were then. One of my father's sisters, one of the youngest ones, remained in Canada and she joined the Sisters of the Assumption, a religious order there and stayed in Canada all her years. Some of my Aunt Anna's children, the men, boys, joined religious orders and were missionaries in Madagascar and they are, most of them, living with the exception of one, I think, passed away and he was a secular priest. And of the family, they remained, most of the brothers who were married, and daughters, lived in Hancock and in the early '30's some of them moved to Detroit but my father stayed here and 2 of the---an added addition was that my grandfather's brother's wife had a little daughter and she died when the baby was 6 weeks old and my grandmother adopted her. So that enlarged the numbers to 17 instead of 16. And she, too, joined the Order of St. Joseph as did Mary who is Sister Mary Berkman. And some of the--well, those who stayed here--some had 5 or 6 children, some had none and one of my uncles never married; he lived at home with my grandparents. And one of my younger aunts, Mrs. Ruelle, lived with the grandparents and her family in the same household. When I was a little child, we had a home across the street from my grandparents; of course, I used to run over there and my grandmother made cookies which I thought were just delicious and they were large, large ones; I wouldn't touch one now (laughter) but they were delicious at the time.

A: Were they of a particular French recipe?

E: Not particularly, they were just sugar cookies. Just big sugar cookies; of course they made everything which was large because I would say they were very generous and did everything in that way.

A: Do you recall any French customs that your grandparents used to share with you or celebrate in your own household?

- E: Well, no, they were very -- you'd call it -- courteous now and generous---they'd accept everyone who came and they were always extending invitations, it was kinda' like a "drop-off"; everybody would stop, if they came in from Lake Linden, or Mason or wherever there were friends there, they'd all stop there, be it a Sunday or during the week and they were always invited for a meal.
- A: Sounds like there was a lot of visiting that went on
- E: A lot of visiting, more so than we have now; and then one of the daughters was married and lived next door and she had a large family so those children enjoyed our grandparents; we all enjoyed the grandparents and they didn't speak English; at that time we all retained our knowledge of French and spoke French to them; and I don't think my grandmother and grandfather ever learned much of English all the while they were in this country.
- A: But they were able to get along just fine
- E: They got along all right; and my grandmother used to wear one of these little black bonnets, the little ribbon underneath and she was always in black. I can see her walking to church with my grandfather and he had white hair and a white beard; talk about the young lads now growing hair and my father was bald at an early age, I would say in his early '20's because I have a picture of him and he just had a little rim of hair around his head and also wore a mustache. Well, you know how shocked we are now when we see mustaches on young people, so it isn't anything new.
- A: Going back to the garb of your grandmother, the black, was this just for dress-up occasions?
- E: Mostly. But she was a very large woman, she was kind of short and she was stout and in those days, you used to enjoy riding or sitting on your grandmother's knee and she'd sit there and she'd bob up and down--entertainment--she did a lot of singing; course they were always kind of joyful; sang a lot; and used to sing French songs and my mother knew a lot of French songs and wrote and spoke fluently; she wrote French, she could write French language and spoke it, of course, as well. My father learned gradually to speak English and write, get along.
- A: Your father learned English
- E: in this country
- A: when he was going to school
- E: He had had a little schooling but had had none after that. He came over to this country without much of any schooling and as he had told me, he learned to speak the English language by being with people and used to go to the courthouse to listen to cases and learned it that way, and writing, I suppose, was the same way. It was just association.
- A: About how old was your father when he came to America?
- E: I gather he must have been somewhere in the 17 or 18 category and what he did at the beginning, I don't know but as I remember, in later years, from what I heard, he worked in lumber camps as a cook and was quite a difficult kind of life; you see these pictures on the western stories, you see these lumber camps, that's exactly what---they have these things depicted up in the Adirondacks in one of their central viewing spots, these little pictures of lumber camps with all the laundry hanging down around and they worked in the wintertime, too, when it was--that was what they did--they worked most of the winter and they'd come in in the spring.
- A: Did your father have any culinary abilities before he went into the camp?

- E: Well, I don't know, he must have because he did it a very long time and he was well considered in that area but he did very little at home.
- A: I talked to a man today who had been in lumber camps and he said that really the life in the lumber camp either rose or fell upon the cook's cooking. And that in most cases the cooks they had were generous with the food to a full. They tried to provide a great deal.
- E: Yes, they would. I know later years, my father worked on The Gaillard on the Corps of Engineers dredge and his cooking was extolled all over, they'd say, he makes delicious pies and he makes delicious donuts and he used to do all this baking and the men coming on or off shifts, you see, at 3 o'clock in the morning or whatever, would have access to this food, they'd have a snack before they went back to bed or before they went on duty, so they were well supplied and people talk about having gone to the dredge, just to visit, pop would invite them in and they'd have a little snack, some of his pies were so delicious, donuts, and bread.
- A: Did your father meet your mother while he was in the lumber camp or was that later?
- E: Well my mother's mother passed away when she was 9 years old. And she was one of 4 children and my grandfather and grandmother (her family) lived in Arnheim on a farm and they lived in L'Anse at first; this is where mom was born; and when her mother died my grandfather took her to Canada, he had relatives there still, and put her in a boarding school and this is where she got her education and lot of it was most on the artistic side, she was a musician and she did very beautiful fanciwork, handwork, and then she came back, and my grandfather went to remain on the farm and the other 3 children remained with him. And then when my mother came back from Canada, she lived with her grandparents, she never lived on the farm, with the others. She lived with these grandparents, called Houle, she lived with them, and she had her young years there, and she gave music lessons, I understand, and I think, so I heard more recently, I was trying to find out how these two got together because my mother would never tell--I was never told anything about their romantic business--and it seems that the young men from the Houghton and Hancock area used to go down to Baraga a lot and this is how they met and they were married in 1900. And as I told you, my father worked in a lumber camp, cooked in a lumber camp, up in Wyandotte which is now where the Wyandotte Golf Course is. And there are still some cabins remaining there that are undoubtedly the cabins that they lived in at the time. The mine itself, they took this down a number of years ago, I don't think there's any relics of it there any longer. And this is where they started their married life so it wasn't very elaborate you could imagine; it was a camp really and I was, they tell me, that I used to be taken around, I was in a cracker box or what have you, used to sit around in that and they said I caught on to the Finnish language so readily I could speak, I could understand it anyway--
- A: Is that--well, there were a lot of Finnish lumberjacks
- E: Oh, a lot of 'em, miners, I don't think there was any other--well, there were some Englishmen, too, there were a few who worked in the mine and Mr. Frank Van Orden who was a graduate of Michigan Mines, in those days, he graduated in the 1800's and this was his first job as--in mining and he was the superintendent of Wyandotte Mining so through my father's later years, Mr. Van Orden lived in Houghton so he and father were great friends and he would come over to visit my father on Saturday afternoons and they'd reminisce and I'd listen to all this business, these stories, they were very, very interesting.
- A: What were they about--the relationships the men had, or was it about the difficulties
- E: Yes, they would talk about the men who were there and what they did and there was

one Frenchman who was always watching after me, I have pictures of them, his sitting down and here I'm standing, and knee-high and had a long white coat with a cape on it, you can imagine how well-dressed we were in those days; mother's dresses were always down to the floor, sweeping the dust around

A: Were your mother and you the only females in the whole camp then?

E: Oh, yes.

A: So you really received special attention

E: Oh, yes, indeed; they had no families up there; we were the only ones; the men lived in what they called the "bunkhouses".

A: There's a lot of stories that circulated about the lumberjacks who would get pretty active on Saturday nights

E: Well, actually sometime not on Saturday nights, but they would spend a whole season in a lumbercamp and not come back until spring and usually, I know my father, when he had this place in Winona, was always the custodian of their "buundle", they'd come in from a winter of working in lumbercamps and they'd give the money to my father because they knew it wasn't going to last very long; and they just celebrated, that's all there was to it. Then they'd go broke, they'd lose all their funds, finally they'd have to resort to something or go back to the camp again and get back to work. But that was a kind of a traditional thing-----unwind after a whole winter in a lumber camp, there's not much activity and they worked hard. They had to go to bed real early because they were up real early in the morning, work all day.

A Do you recall what year you moved as a family from the lumber camp?

E: Well, I don't think I was up there very long, I don't think my parents stayed up there too long because I went into the kindergarten, before I was kindergarten age; I would say they were up there for 3 years maybe the most and then we came down here and this is when my father then went into the saloon business, as I told you, he and Mr. Racine, they were good friends, and they opened this place down here that Phil Houle was in for so long; and those were the days when women were not seen in a place of this sort and were not very interested in going in either, there was always additional room there if the women wanted to come down with their husbands if they wanted to bring them down; but I would go down to call for my father and there was never ever anything very objectionable, I didn't think, because they all seemed to be kind of moderate to my way of thinking, course I wasn't there very late but when I was there, I'd see what was going on. And they had refreshments on the bar; all good eating, nice food and sandwiches.

A: What was the name of your dad's place?

E: I don't know that it had any particular name, well, Mr. Racine's name seemed to be in on it but I really/<sup>don't</sup> recall what it was unless they just had the last names down.

A: Was there any kind of outstanding artifact or piece of furniture that kind of distinguished the interior of the saloon?

E: Not necessarily, it was just a large room and it had a bar and a mirror behind it and one thing they did have, was a swinging door and I don't know if I told you this or not but it is now in Phil Houle's home, residence; when he bought this place he took the swinging door with him and has it dividing his living room and kitchen and it's very attractive and I can't remember where in the building it was because the front of the place is still like it used to be and it must have been where they came in, I'm not sure.

A Did the saloon have such things as cuspidors?

E Oh, definitely; oh yes, that was a must; and a railing, and cuspidor.

A There certainly must have been a lot of tall tales and stories spun in that saloon in the early days.

E I can imagine so and I don't remember that one quite so well as the one in Winona, because you see I was----when we went there, we were there for about 8 years so I don't know, coming down in 1917, what was that now, 1919,---we came down from Winona in 1917 and that's the period before.

A Up to 1917?

E: Yes, Whatever year that was; anyway this is when I was up there and I went to the public school for a few years in Winona and Winona we called it, (Wenona, I think is Wisconsin) (Laughter) and then my parents wanted me to go to the sister's school so I came down here for the 7th and 8th grades. And I went to St. Joseph's School, the sisters school, and I lived with relatives who were down here. But I would go home every Friday night and come back on Sunday and I traveled on the Copper Range RAILroad, by train, just a short ride. And I'd come back on Sunday night and all the kids I knew would come to the station and meet me on Friday night and they'd be at the station on Sunday night when I left and I played piano considerably and on Saturday night at home, I'd play and all the kids would be around the porch and singing and listening, and oh, it was great fun.

A: So, in terms of your own childhood, some of your most pleasant memories

E: Oh definitely, were up there, oh, yes.

And when we moved down here, I was in high school. And then my father, well, he was unemployed for quite awhile, I think the first thing he did then when he got into---he could not have gotten into the police force--yes, I believe he must have shortly after that and then he was in that kind of business and then became chief-of-police for a number of years, and then after he was finished with that, then he did go to work for the Corps of Engineers out of Duluth and then he worked doing that for quite a number of years and then he became ill and he was incapacitated then so he was at home from then on. And I went to school and I came back here and I was employed at Michigan Tech After I finished my schooling, I had an opportunity to stay in lower Michigan to work, there was a job offered me and they said, come home for the summer and you can go back in the fall, but I never returned, I stayed home. This is where I've stayed most of the time.

A: I wonder if we could go and trace our steps and go back again to the Winona years, we didn't really discuss those in great detail.

E: Well, Winona was then a very flourishing mining town; it had King Philip which was one of the areas; and there was a stamp mill and there was the power plant; and there was a stream, there always is one where there is a power plant; and the railroad, the Copper Range railroad came into the town with the cars for taking the copper out; and it was a very busy little town.

A: About how many people would you guesstimate?

E: Just a few hundred. I wouldn't know how many people were there; they had a doctor;

A: Do you remember his name?

E Dr. Aldrich was one of the first doctors, his son is John Aldrich, the dentist; and Dr. LaBine who is now--well, both doctors have passed away, but Dr. LaBine was there a

number of years; there was a Dr. Cox, they were company doctors. I think he was there before Dr. Alrich, I'm not sure, I believe he was. His wife is living in lower Michigan, I hear from her at Christmas time and they were company doctors. And we had our own dispensary and superintendent was Professor Seeber, I say Professor because after he finished at Winona, he came down and was head of the mechanical engineering department after his stint at this, and the officials of the mining companies were all situated in Boston; all these mining companies are operated out of Boston; and they would frequently come to Winona to see what was going on and how things were progressing and Mr. Seeber would call mother in the morning and say there would be 3 or 4 men here from Boston, coming in and we'll have luncheon at noon, well, they'd just say they were coming and mother would have a special table for them all ready and all the goodies.

A: Do you remember any of the persons who did come from Boston?

E: No, I really don't know, I don't remember them. We had a company store and Dan Wessel was the head of it, and he was not born in this country, he was born in Australia, I think, and they lived on the hill, everybody of importance, you know, lives on a hill. It seems, and the Seebers had a home on the hill, too, and they had 2 children, a boy and a girl; and they were about my age and Mrs. Seeber's mother was still living, she was a dowager, she was quite old, at least I thought so, and they had a carriage, horse-drawn carriage, team of horses, and with the fringe all around the top, black fringe like the surrey with the fringe on top. And they would come down and pick me up and we would go riding in the country and you couldn't go very far, there weren't too many roads open, of course, the road from Winona to Houghton was open, that one ran up to Ontonagon and our reserve park was Lake Roland, that's where we used to do our camping, and swimming and go down there.

A: Was Winona at all affected by the copper strike in '13 and '14?

E: I really don't know about that, I don't know. That was before we'd gone up there-- we were then, sure would have been, we came down in '17 but I remember the strike was on but it seemed to me that was before we went up there, I think when the strike was in session. I remember all the trouble there was up at the Quincy Mine with the strikers up there, difficulty they had, I was little then,

A: The kind of establishment your folks ran there was what?

E: It was called a hotel, and it was owned by the Bosch people, the people who have the brewery, and the old gentleman, Mr. Bosch was still living and in Lake Linden. This is Phil Ruppe's grandfather, his mother was a Bosch. And they opened up these establishments in various places around and Winona being a kind of a flourishing community, and they started one there and it was called the Winona Hotel and mother had charge of the restaurant part of it and my father had charge of the other. And it worked out very well, it was well regulated and there were a lot of busy times there on a Saturday night. Very well crowded

(end of tape

A Yes, we were saying that there were no dances then in

E: Not in that, it usually closed at 9:30 at night or 10 o'clock, no longer than that.

A: So in many respects it sounds like a Supper Club

E: Well, you might say something like that but the meals were not served other than just the regular breakfast, luncheon, and evening meal and most of the men who worked in the offices had their meals there, it was considered their boarding house you might say because there were no transients, if there were any transients, they would come in and join the crowd, that's just about the way that worked and the only time they'd have

transcients to plan on were when Mr. Seeber would call and say they were coming, but there were a lot of salesmen who came up there for the grocery store and the store was a company store so it sold everything, merchandise, all types of merchandise, materials for sewing, and farm ware and farm machinery and all, it was pretty complete

- A: Looking back on that experience, were those what you might call "good times" or were they kind of hard times? Up in Winona, not only for your family but everybody.
- very
- E: No, no, they seemed to be/good times, oh, everybody worked who worked in the mine were apparently satisfied with what they were getting; I don't think there were unions in those days, no, I don't think so; and some of the graduates from MCM would go up there as their starting job and through my years on campus I met them all over again, by this time they were all successful miners and working with, lot of 'em with the Oliver Mining Company in Minnesota, lot of them were on the Minnesota range, on the Mesabi range.
- A: I believe the school began in 1885, didn't it?
- E: That's right
- A: Over the years dispatched quite a few millions of the mining industry, at various levels, locally
- E: Oh, yes, we have engineers all over the world really, and mining however has taken its toll, there are very few students taking mining engineering any longer. But I 'spose it was bound to happen. And then gradually all these little mines closed and the places are left there, just like C&H and how that's closed, just like Quincy Mining,
- A: I was told by someone just recently, that I think in '21 C&H closed down completely for a year, that that was a period of hard times in this area and you were back already in Hancock.
- E: That's right. I know there was a time when my father was working on the police force when there was no---the pay was reduced and I think that happened to us at Tech, too, one of the years our salaries were deducted, I mean, taken from it.
- A: Did your dad join the police force immediately after your family moved down here?
- E: Not immediately. Some years after. Few years after, not too long, he wasn't unemployed for too long a time
- A: Must have been in the '20's then
- E: Must have been; he couldn't take much of unemployment and he was active and wanted to remain active.
- A: Did he go for any kind of special training when he joined the police force?
- E: No, in those days they just picked up--accepted people that were probably trustworthy or thought they could handle the situation and I guess he learned going along the way that's all. There was no such things as police schools.
- A: What types of cases did he run into, was there a lot of crime in this area?
- E: Not very much, kind of delinquents, some who had been in their cups and who had to go and sleep it off in jail or something for the night and there was not too much disention; well, I think that would be about the extent of the disturbances in those days.

- A: What impressions do you have about the local people towards the policeman on the corner, there has been a lot of controversy in our present time about people's attitude towards policemen and vice versa, but my impression is that there was a much different feeling earlier, I mean, there was a closer kinship.
- E: Well, I think so, I don't think they were considered--they were considered top-free law men but I think they were all kind friends and there was more friendship attached to it than there is now, I seem to think that, I may be wrong, but I can't remember my father having very many enemies that I can think of.
- A: Did your father belong to any fraternal organizations?
- E: In the Eagles and the Knights of Columbus, too. That was a Catholic organization and he belonged to the Eagles and in those days, they used to have large picnics out at the various parks, I think out at Condon's Grove which is now the athletic field, that used to be a park and picnics were held out there and he was also a member of St. John the Baptist Society, too, that was a church society and they had a lot of activity, too, there were more of those things going on in the church then than we have now.
- A: What was the purpose of the St. John organization?
- E: Well, I don't know what the purpose was, but they got together (laughter) probably some purpose to it.
- A: Plenty of fellowship.
- E: It was a French society.
- A: Which church did you belong to?
- E: St. Joseph's.
- A: And that was largely composed of?
- E: It was German and French. And they used to teach German and French in the curriculum. In the grade schools. And Father Glaser, there's a Father Yacker was here before, I didn't know who he was but Father Glaser was the pastor at the time and he and My father were very close friends and my father was quite a contributor because Father Glaser, of course I was going to his school down here and he would come up to Winona as our guest and as I said, he was a good friend of my father's and my father contributed a lot to the church down here and we had--our church up there was services conducted in the school and we had one priest who took care of the range, you might say, he would take care of the range, he would take care of Winona and Mass City and Rockland and I think Ontonagon and mother was the organist on the little pedal organs and she had been in the choir here so she brought the hymn books from down here up there and had a very good choir and when she had her 90th birthday, there was a rap at the door and this woman said "do you remember me, I'm Ida Tredeau," and I didn't remember her from Adam so she and her husband came in and she was one of mom's choir members and she had seen the article in the paper about mother's birthday and she and her husband came down to see mother and they had a great reunion; I've been hearing from her ever since. She and her husband lived in----she taught up there for a number of years and she and her husband went to lower Michigan and they came back here to retire. They have a home in Greenland, there they are.
- A: That sounds as if your folks were very much involved in the life of the church. Were there any festivals during the church year that kind of stand out in your mind as high points for the family?

- E: No, just when my grandparents celebrated their golden anniversary, everybody came, my aunt came from Canada, her family, and of course the parish, everybody from the parish was there, I can't think of anything outstanding.
- A: For example, how would you as a family celebrate Christmas? Was there any particular Catholic custom or French customs that you
- E: We have a very nice French custom which I don't think, which I think has kind of gone by to the boards and I think it's too bad, but our Christmases were always in our own home and we did a great deal for Christmas naturally, lot of decorating, especially in this house, I have decorations and mother loved them as father loved Christmas but we go visitng to one another's family, we always went to my grandparents of course and I think I told you we would go to Mass on Sunday morning and we'd always stop up there to visit with them before we came home. But on New Year's DAY we used to go to Mass in the morning and we'd go to our grandparents and you always embrace whoever you meet and that's one of the things you do on New Year's Day. You do that on Christmas, but that was special, they'd all say, look at these French, they're always kissing on New Year's dAY. It's a good way to start the year so when you get into a houseful of relatives, why, there was much going on there for a while. You didn't need any mistle toe for a suggestion.
- A: Would you say that this is characteristic of the French to be fairly affectionate?
- E Oh, I think so, Oh, yes, and I think they're demonstrative. That's what I think.
- A: Thinking about the different kinds of contributions various ethnic groups have made to Copper Country, like looking back if you would point with pride to certain things that French people have done, what might they be? There are numerous things of course but in your own mind, what kind of stands out as---
- E: I don't think that I was cognicent of anything like that in my earlier years about when they were here and when they were doing. There were some merchants, not very many, and stores as we call them, and their grocery stores there were many of those, I remember one particular one was a judge, and some had insurance companies and I can't--there must be something very outstanding about 'em but I can't
- A: Did the French have, for example, their own newspapers? Do you ever recall any?
- E: No
- A You mentioned your grandparents spoke only French
- E: They used to get Canada papers from Quebec.
- A Oh, they got Canada papers, I see
- E: They used to get their French papers from Quebec. And they taught French and German in the schools and Father Glaser was German, very German, and after World War I, this was discontinued so there would be no discrimination, so you couldn't favor that and not the other.
- A: Was that an especially rough time for the German populus
- E: Yes, I think so, there was quite a feeling; and my father used to tell about the Irish. And the French who congregated up here, and some of the English. And as I said, they lived on the side hill, that's where most of them lived and I guess there was great differences of opinion among them and there was a lot of scraping, I guess, nothing very serious but to make it interesting.
- A: Was there much inter-marriage between French people and other ethnic groups?

E: A little bit, but not very much.

A: Do you think there was a desire on the part of, say, parents, that their children would marry in their own nationality group?

E: Well, I think that's always hoped by families but it's certainly not the best, I think, so far as I remember, most of my father's brothers and sisters married French women and mother was all French, she had had no other nationality and my uncles and aunts, of course, nieces and nephews have gone, they've married outside of the nationality, some have married out of the church as well but not very many, they're really in the minority, I can't think of any who have, probably one.

A: Let's go on from this subject to one which you touched upon briefly but we didn't develop, and that's your own education, you came from Winona here and you went to high school locally?

E: I went to St. Patrick's High School.

A: St. Patrick's?

E: I seemed to want to be where the sisters were. And I wanted to be with them and I had 2 years of high school and I became ill and I was ill for 2 years and then I went back to high school to finish and of course, I had a different group of companions in school and after graduation, I went to St. Catherine's in St. Paul and I studied music mostly, music and language, and then I made a decision that I wasn't going to be earning my living in the music world so I talked to my father about it, and he said, well, I think you should go to the Normal which was in Marquette, that was called the Normal then, you should go there and get a teacher's certificate, and I think that will be the best thing, and I said, oh, I don't want to teach school, foolishly, and so he said, do what you want then and I wanted to go down to Cleary, to take a business course in Ypsilanti, and this is where I went so I took a course there and it held me in good stead and I took music lessons right along and then in '41 I was the organist in St. Joseph's for a number of years; mother was in the choir at St. Joseph's a long time and we played here a great deal, we used to play duets which was very nice, she played very well; so that's about all.

A: During World War II which was a very decisive period and just referred to about just the time you were organist down here, do you have any recollections of the effects of World War II on the local community? Did lot of young men go off to war?

E: Oh, yes, see, we had a Naval Reserve organization here and they left in '41, a whole group of them, and it was pretty quiet here when they were gone, the campus had suffered its toll then too, we had reached a 1000 students on campus in the fall of 1940 and then the war started and the students were all told to get into the Reserves because they wouldn't have to then serve and during the Christmas holidays they were notified that they had to report, so they were told to come back to campus and they shortened the winter quarter and they all left and we were reduced to nothing practically. That following summer we had just a few hundred on campus. And it was like that but we did have the Reserve Training quarters after that that came in and we're training all these students so we had a large enrollment all during the war years up to '45.

A: And you had steady employment at Michigan TEch?

E: Did I have steady employment? I should say I did! I was there for 42½ years. And it was wonderful.

A: Could you just state briefly the different types of duties you had? Different positions?

E: Yes, at the beginning I was typist and stenographer and then we had one of our men on

campus visit the various schools, as they do, to sell the school and I had charge of that, sort of the itinerary, wrote letters to the principals to say so-and-so would be there at such-and-such a time and that was part of the duties and they were very---then the ROTC came in and I worked a half-day with the head of the ROTC organization so I wrote to the Army, too, and I worked for the president for quite a while, and then a girl came in that part of the department who was with the president and the treasurer and worked there and then I--well, I did lot of you might say, counseling toward the later years, I would help in that, and a lot came to me for advice as they were coming in school, and you'd see them when they came and you'd see them graduate.

A: Sound like it was very satisfying.

E: And during the war years, I remember one student particularly, he started to write when he was still in service, and he wanted his papers and he wanted to enroll and he finally landed on campus and I saw him face to face after all the letters we had had and he brought me a gift because I had written so many letters to him about coming and I get a Christmas card from him still, he and his family. And he was married when he came here and then a lot of the students who came back after the war years were married and some had had only 2 years of college and then they came back to finish up. And they came back with families and some of them came back alone and oh, the picture changed on campus then. There were very few students coming directly from high school because they were going into service so your freshmen enrollment, I think that year, we had about 700 coming into school and the president got the branch at the Soo started, and that's what started it and they were taking a good share of the first year students and then the understanding was that the second year they'd come up here. And it got so that they stayed there for 2 years and then they became autonomous. Now it's Lake Superior College.

A: I'd like to ask you about the depression years in the '30's and what type of experiences you and your family had, and also your father; you mentioned that there were--he was very kind to a lot of different people.

E: Oh, yes, they'd come in and they'd simply kind of "land" here and lot of them had little houses down on the lakeshore and of course, there were some on the Houghton side as well as the Hancock side and they would come up into town and they would go around from house to house to see if they could find something and they tried to work; they weren't so interested in working as getting something to eat and my father, of course, helped a lot of them out by giving them money, his own, and/or buying them coffee or something of that sort, and he was the same way with the children, father was; and he would see that they got into the picture show, and he'd see that they--sometimes he'd find one late at night who fell asleep and had to be "evicted" so he had all sorts of experiences with them and they--it sounds as though the youngsters thought an awful lot of him and he would take them across the street, there was no such thing these youngsters watching, as they do now, these patrols, he was the one who would take them across the street and they would all hang to him in the hand and on the arm and the leg so they could get across with him safely. But then the depression years--and this is when the salary was reduced, too, and it was a difficult time.

A: Was there any organized charity here in Hancock, you mentioned your father on his own did, was there thing of an organized nature? City-wide?

E: Not that I remember. I know during World War I, they had Red Cross organizations and mother belonged to that. But I can't remember of any, there might have been. But I can't remember any of those "soup kitchens" they used to call they have 'em in the cities

A: Was your dad's position an appointed office? or elected?

E: Yes. It was appointed. And he was replaced after a number of years, by appointment again

- A: During--up to the '20's and even up to the early '30's this was largely a Republican area,
- E: Pretty much, I have an idea it's still a little bit
- A: It's still very strong, but there was a change to the Democratic party during Roosevelt's time.
- E: Yes, right, when we had the NYA, all his government projects.
- A: Did the depression have any noticeable effect on your own father's political beliefs? Did he stay where he was?
- E: Oh, he was definitely all the way and always remained such. He inherited that
- A: So he was what?
- E: He was a Republican. He was, I told someone the other day, he was an outcast in his family because he was Republican; the others are all Democrats; his parents were.
- A: From the very outset?
- E: From the very onset. Pop was always on the Republican side and my grandparents, big brothers, his brothers and sisters, were all on the Democrat side.
- A: Was this
- E: I don't know how he ever arrived at that, I don't know how he chose that side but he did.
- A: Were most French people Democrats?
- E: I would say so, not necessarily French, but I think of the Catholic religion.
- A: Tended more to be
- E: Tended more, oh yes. It seems to me that it that obvious.
- A: Did you ever attend any political rallies or things of that sort?
- E: No. I was never very interested in politics. I was asked a couple weeks ago if I wouldn't run for councilwoman, they needed an extra person and they said they thought I would fit the bill and I said, no, I was not that politically motivated. I would probably ask for too much for our street they wouldn't like that; we haven't been taken care of for so long that it's pathetic.
- A: For your own interests throughout life have been your music
- E: Definitely, and traveling, my work, my family; when father was living, mother and dad were together so I was free to go on vacations and we only had 2 weeks so we took advantage of that; I remember I asked for an extended vacation to go out west one time and I got it, but now on campus, things are different as far as that's concerned. And I was elected to the Midwest College Placement Association, I became a member of that so I took a few trips in that interest, of course, that was about the time I was ready to leave, so I didn't enjoy too many of those.
- A: Thank you very much.
- E: You're very welcome

(end of tape)