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

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Bertha Jacka

Betty Berry

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This is Betty ..... and I am interviewing Bertha Jacka at her home on Portland Street in Calumet.

I Have you lived here all your life?

R I have lived here all my life. I was born on this street and I'm still living on this street.

I Were you born in a house near here?

R Two blocks away from here.

I Towards the Railroad Station?

R Towards the Railroad Station

I Towards the West?

R Yes.

I Was that your family's home?

R My family's home

I How long has your family lived in Calumet or was it Red Jacket.

R It was the Village of Red Jacket in those days, it was no town and a few years back it became Calumet.

I Had your family lived here for a long time?

R My grandparents the Jackas came from the Cliff, to Calumet in about 1865. My grandfather Jacka had a store down on the north end of Fifth Street. He sold produce, grains and he was a farmer too.

I Where was his farm?

R His farm was out in what we call today the Tamarack Waterworks area.

I At that time was it known as Yellow Jacket?

R No, it was much farther away out by Yellow Jacket. Yellow Jacket is just the area across the tracks.

I To the west.

R Right, that area from Portland Street over to Pine Street is known as Yellow Jacket.

I Where was Wood Jacket?

R Woodjacket was the area that laid between Fourth Street and Waterworks street. To the east of Red Jacket.

I Were there any others?

R There was Newtown and Newtown laid to the south of Red Jacket.

I Was much of it taken up by

R Newtown, Red Jacket and Yellow Jacket were all Calumet and Hecla property.

I Were they areas where people lived or was there mining?

R Those were areas where people lived. Residential areas where people lived who worked for the mine

I Are those the mining houses of the men who we recall were the executives?

R No, the homes of the executives were all over on Calumet Avenue. The homes in Blue Jacket and Red Jacket were not the typical company homes. Like we see up on Rockland Street and Mine Street. Many of the houses in Red Jacket and Blue Jacket were build by people themselves. They were on deeded land.

I Then they rented it?

R They owned their own homes

I But the company owned the land?

R Right, the company owned the land and they paid rent for the land.

I How much was this rent, do you remember?

R No, I never had to pay and I don't remember. It was a small amount though.

I I had heard it was a dollar a year. Just to maintain ownership.

R Yes, to pay for water and the land lease and I don't know really know how much it was. 1

I Were there many mines around Red Jacket?

R Well the mines were all the way from South Hecla which is out towards Osceola and northward past ..... there were mines. Some on Calumet Avenue and some on Mine Street. And of course there was the Red Jacket shaft and that laid to the north and west of town, on the way going towards the cemetery. That was the old Red Jacket Shaft. And then west of Yellow Jacket was the Tamarack property. And there were about four shafts on that property.

- R All I can remember is the Tamarack Mines and most of the mines were along Calumet Avenue and Mine Street. None of these are left today.
- I None are working today.
- R None are working and none are standing.
- I When did the last one close? The building was destroyed about five or six years ago.
- R Well at the Osceola, they put up some new shafts to work the Osceola.
- I When you speak of the working shafts what years are you speaking about?
- R Well I'm speaking about from as far back when I started school in 1905 or 6 through my highschool days I know. There were fewer shafts working after the twenties because they were finding new shafts. I don't think there have been many of them working since the twenties and the thirties. Calumet and Hecla went northward with their mining back into Keweenaw. The new Centennial mine and the Kingston mine. Those were all to the north of town.
- I Your family's original interest came from the Cliff Mine.
- R Yes, my grandfather had been a mining man in Cornwall. I suppose you could say he was imported to come to the Cliff to be a mining captain. My grandmother's people came from Cornwall. Her people were mining people but they came into the country to Virginia, from Virginia to Southern Wisconsin where her father worked at the lead and zinc mine.
- I Down in Southwest Wisconsin.
- R Right. Down in Southwest Wisconsin and it was from there that they came up to this area. With the Wilcox.
- I Which is a very Cornish true name.
- R With Mrs. Weber, she was a Wilcox. Blanche's father and my father were cousins. Their people came into this country by way of
- I Mineral Springs
- R I don't recall.
- I Well when they came here your grandmother and grandfather had a family but your father chose not to go into the mining.
- R When they came here my grandmother and grandfather were married here, they were not married in England. They came here and married when my grandmother came to this area.

- R They lived at the Cliff. My uncle George and my Aunt Mary Ann were born at the Cliff and my father. He was born in about 1860 or 1865 I think. Then after working at the Cliff they came uptown as they say. That's when he had the store down on Fifth Street. And also the farming. And the family did timber business with the Calumet and Hecla, with the mining company.
- I They were farmers in the summer and went to the woods in the winter.
- R In the woods in the wintertime. It has been said through the family that through the years, they worked with the timber and logging and would sell the timbers to Calumet and Hecla. And that went on because I know my brother and my cousin and Saturday was their job to go around the company property and pick up the Jacka chains. They were used to bind the logs onto the sleighs. That was their job on Saturdays to go around and pick up the chains from the mining property. So I know that they, or Uncle George was still taking care of that into the twenties.
- I They still had a supply of lumber.
- R They still had a supply of lumber to sell to C & H. I don't know where the money went but it is reputed that it is a million dollar business selling lumber to the mining companies.
- I Of course it was a valuable commodity especially when they ran short in the middle of winter of shoring equipment. Then you were born here on Portland Street?
- R I was born here in 1901 in Portland Street. 710 Portland Street. I'm now living at 510 Portland Street.
- I What was your father's business?
- R My father worked for the family. He worked with the family in the logging until 1907 I believe it was and he was appointed Street Commissioner. This was of the Village of Red Jacket.
- I When did Red Jacket become a Village?
- R Oh, I think it was incorporated into a village long before 1900.
- I Did your father have any special training to be a Street Commissioner or City Engineer as we might call them now?
- R No, not as I would say
- I But he had the practical training.
- R Yes, he had the practical training. Everything was horse drawn in those days and working with horses and the equipment.

I And with wood

R And with wood. He was with the village until about 1917. My father died in 1920. So he lived quite a long time.

I Yes, who was your mother?

R My mother was Bertha Heinerbonnie from Houghton.

I Which was a German sounding name.

R Her people, her mother was a family of all girls and a brother had been in the country. The girls came over on a sailing vessel. I remember hearing about that. They came to Springfield, Illinois., where the brother had established a baker shop. The family had had a baker shop in Germany. They lived in the part that was known as Holstein and Germany took Holstein away from Denmark, then they left that area and came to this country. The family, they were called Tunners, and here they had a baker shop in the town and also had a ferry that went across the Kiel Cannel.

I Was there any special reason except they didn't like Germans?

R Well, they didn't want to be under German rule I guess so they just gave up and left. There was just the joice.

I Was there the thread of military service for the young men?

R I don't know, we never talked about that. My grandmother came to this country and married a man and he went to what they call the German Society and joined up for the Civil War. He never returned from the war. He was wounded in the battle in Tennessee I guess it was.

I I believe they were with General Grand on his battle on the Tennessee River.

R I don't know about that but I believe it was at the Battle of Petersburg.

I The battle of Petersburg was at Virginia.

R .....Andersonville, and a couple of the boys from Wisconsin tried to escape which they did. And they walked all the way home by night from wherever the Andersonville prison was.

I It was in the deep South.

R Okay, from the deep south, to Wisconsin.

I I think some of these people were held very much as the runaway slaves by the underground railroads.

- R Well then Grandma married this young guy who had left Germany in 1865 or so. He left his home in Germany because he didn't want to servè in the Germany Army. He got to this country and to Wisconsin and married my grandmother and brought my Grandmother and my mother to Houghton at the time they were building the canal between Lake Superior and the Portage River. They lived on Sheldon Street in the neighborhood in what is now known as the First National Bank.
- I The Houghton National Bank
- R The Houghton National Bank.
- I Near the Douglass House?
- R Yes. In the block beyond the Douglass House. On the north side on the street.
- I On the Lake Side.
- R Yes. They lived in Houghton from the 1860's from when they came and they bought property up above South Street. They lived in what used to be called ..... gulley.
- I This is just south east of the present Houghton High school. Up the hill. And to the east was Irish or Porktown. Did they get along?
- R I don't know mom never said much about that.
- I She didn't?
- R No
- I I'm sorry she didn't. Because I heard rumors that they tried to live together to a point and suddenly the bricks would fly, the rocks would fly and the two groups would return otherwise there was no ethnic friction.
- R The southeast, on the road going up to the Hurontown Hill we used to call it.
- I
- R They lived up there. There have been roads build across there now.
- I Yes, Seventh Street.
- R I know they weren't there when my mother and grandfather lived there.
- I It wasn't there when we moved to Houghton either. Now I spoke of the Irish and Germans there in central Houghton. You were raised in Calumet at the time of the ..... at it's heights

R Oh yes.

I When there were more groups. They say there were 40 different nationalities.

R Oh goodness yes.

I How did they get along?

R As far as I can remember we all got along fairly well. I know after school and during the evenings we used to play and children from the four block area down there between Seventh and Ninth and between Scott and Oak. I know that there were Finnish and I know that there were what we used to call Austrians in those days, I know there were Norwegians, English, and Irish.

I Italian?

R Yes, there were Italian.

I Polish?

R I can't remember Polish living right down there in our area. Many of the Polish people lived in the Swedetown area in those days. Swedetown seems to me was the section that was South of Newtown. I went to the Webster school from the kindergarten to the fifth grade. We had the children from Newtown and the south side of Oak Street and some from Yellow Jacket. I know that there were Italians, Irish, Scotch, English, some Polish, Austrian, Chexlovakian

I Were there any French?

R Oh yes, there were French.

I How did they all get along?

R I think they got along well.

I Did most of the people who sent their children to school want them to succeed?

R I'm pretty sure they did.

I Did they emphasize about getting an education? Especially those whose parents were immigrants?

R Well as I look away back I think all the parents wanted their children to do well in school.

I Did any of the immigrants give you the idea that they were competing because their parents wanted them to be better and have a better place?

- R No, I guess I was never conscious of that.
- I Well in some schools they had been. Did the teachers insist that these immigrant children change their names and anglicize them?
- R I only know of one instance and I got that from the girl in later years. Her name was Carlsson. And when they came here they spelled it Carlsson. With two ss. The teacher said that was wrong and took one s out and made it Carlson. But they were Scandinavian and always went by Carlsson.
- I Right.
- R And the father was Carlsson. That was one instance and as I look back that's the only one that I remember of.
- I Did your parents get along well in this four block area and if someone needed help was it given? No question as to their nationality or their occupation?
- R Everybody seemed very friendly.
- I Did your parents have social interludes with these people from other nationalities? Or did they have their own social groups?
- R No, I don't believe they did. They both went to the Episcopal church. We were a large family and we all lived around my grandmother's house here on Eighth and Portland. There were four houses besides my grandmother's house. And aunts and uncles and their children occupied everyone of the houses. I'm pretty sure everyone checked in on my grandmother's every day or after school they were in and out of her house. Just like we were home and I do know that we kids had some glorious fights right there in their big yard.
- I So it was an inner family community.
- R That was it, much of the social doings would be with the family
- I Did your family intermarry among the different nationalities as your father had married a German?
- R My father married a German. My uncle George married an English woman. Uncle John went to New York state after he graduated from the Tech and he brought a bride home who was German. Uncle Walter married an English girl and Elizabeth married an Englishman who came from England. The others were English or Scotch.
- I So these were the two predominant.
- R Right.

- I Did you find this as you have known other people that the German and the English seemed to have a repore?
- R Yes, there were alot of German and English marriages.
- I Do you remember going downtown shopping? In Red Jacket when you were a young girl?
- R I can remember being on Fifth Street on a Saturday evening with my mother where you could scarcely move or get a baby carriage through the crowds of people.
- I What were some of the stores?
- R What were some of the stores. Well up in the first block here we had a big furniture store. On the corner of Portland and Fifth Coleman's Candy Store or confectionary store. Across the street as I can remember was the furriers. They had the two spaces that are now occupied by Carpenter's and Sears. It was an art store and courier.
- I Almost anything that you'd want you could find in the area.
- R If you go down the street where the Merchant and Miner's Bank, incidentally, that building was built by my family, the Jakca family. It was built the first time and it was wood constructed. It burned and they rebuilt it of wood and it burned a second time. My grandparentshad moved from the north end of Fifth up to this building and lived onthe second floor. There was a Jeweler shop and I think a drugstore in the storerooms below. It burned and when they rebuiltit the third time they built it as it is today of brick construction. It was probably in the twenties or thirties that the family sold the building to the Merchants and Miners Bank. Then there was a market on the corner of Portland and Fifth. Then going down the street there was a famour Sauer Sample Room. Somero's of course were millionaires of years back who owned so many shares of Calumet and Hecla. Sample rooms were where sample salesmenused to come and display their wears and the stores of the area would come to these sample rooms and pick out what they wanted for their stores. There was a tavern in one building and in the next building where DeMotts hashis photography there was the Sauer home. Across the street was the shoe store. Then there was the Ruppe Store and that was next to Sauer's home and Ruppe's store was a complete department store selling groceries and men's clothing, women's clothing, drygoods and furniture on the second floor. And going down the street we had the First National Bank. That building is demolished and that building is where the dimestore was. Where Woolworth's is now located. At the corner of Oak Street and Fifth Street was what we called the Red Front Store. And that was a drygood store. They sold all manners of notions and drygoods.

I Going further north then on Fifth Street from Oak.

R Okay on Oak going north,, in that block there was a great big Glass Block store. In that store that was built, the basement had a grocery store and a china department. The first floor was a drygoods shoe department, cosmetics, notions, underwear. The second floor had ready to wear, a hat department, and the third floor was furniture. As near as I can remember. That beautiful Glass Box Store burned one evening at suppertime. The Glass Block had given it up and it was bought by local Jewish people. And after they had it a short while, fire broke out and it was in the evening about suppertime and the store was completely destroyed.

I Well your fire department downhere on the next street was nearly behind the store wasn't it?

R Right.

I Did you have an organized fire department at that time?

R We had an organized fire company at that time right here in the Village of Red Jacket. And not only did we have a fire department but the Calumet & Hecla had a fire department and the South Hecla had their own fire equipment, Laurium had an organized fire department And the Tamarack Mining Company had a fire department.

I Did they all come to work together?

R Yes,

I Is there a conflict of who gets to the fire first gets to run it?

R Not that I know of.

I But the building was destroyed.

R It was destroyed.

I Would this be where Vertins is now?

R No, it's down the street, there's a new building there now. The water company has a building where the glass block store was

I There's a small building across the street from there. It looks as though it's one of the remains. It's a small store about ten feet wide.

R Across the street from where the glass box was

I Would be. What was that?

R Right across the street was the first five and ten cent store. Woolworths, the first one that came to town.

- I That's the building where the Keweenaw people were?
- R Right. And before you got to the ten cent store was the Quello block and they had a meat market and grocery store on one half of the building and Ed Haas had a store in the early days.
- I A branch?
- R A branch of the Houghton store. Martin Haas and Herman had charge of the Calumet store. Then as you went on down the street there were quite a few Saloons as I remember. There was one interesting place and that was called Tunny's and that was the fruit and vegetable market. He always had lovely fresh vegetables and fruits. Another one was a Nichols store in that block too and they were maybe Lebanese or Syrians. They used to go out with their packs and sell and they had beautiful hand embroidered and lace goods. Then as you went on down Kemppainen's had a Hardware Store. Their first one was on the left side of the street then they built a new one where the Ace Hardware is today. Then ..... Pierce had the old hardware store, this was a piano company. Then going on down into the last block, there were quite a few Saloons and Carlton's had a hardware. They had a hardware store at the corner of Elm and Fifth. Going on down in that last block there was a florist shop in that last block, there was one of our early shows the Grand Movie Theater. Then there was another great big department store, called Readings. Groceries, ready to wear, furniture or anything you could find in a department store.
- I About how many people were these stores serving? What was the population?
- R The population, at one time, it seemed as if the stores were all busy. See besides Red Jacket, Yellow Jacket and Blue Jacket, then down and across the Copper Range Railroad tracks was another little settlement known as Red Jacket Shaft. It's still there today. Then there was another little settlement on the east side of the dam and that was known as the waterworks location. Then beyond the waterworks location there was a little area known as Waterworks Junior. Then Tamarack Junior went into Centennial Heights.
- I I think we need a map for all of this. You know all the local names and if we wondered where they were you could put them down for us. Do you remember anything about the 1913 strike?
- R Yes I do. It was Christmas Eve and my mother was cooking dinner and the woman next door to us came in and said there was a terrible accident. Someone had called fire and there was no fire. This was at the Italian Hall. That was when my father was working for the village and he came home much later in the evening and he was quite distraut as I remember and he had been helping as they were bringing these bodies down the ladder. They had to lift the people through the hall and down the window because the stairway was so packed with bodies. He'd been doing that for several hours.

R I was in the third grade and there was a little girl in my room no I was more than in the third grade, I was twelve years old so I must have been almost in the fifth grade. Her name was Mamie Leesar and that Christmas Day a woman came to our door and she was Mrs. Ruppe, Phil Ruppe's grandmother. She was looking for the Leesar's. We told her where they lived because they lived in the neighborhood. She was one of the children that had been killed. It had been a green Christmas and when we went to church that night it started snowing and when we came out it was still snowing and it snowed and it snowed right until the first of February.

I Every day.

R Every day until the first of February. Christmas must have been on a weekday because on Sunday we kids from the neighborhood walked down to Pine Street to watch the funeral procession for many of the children who died.

I A mass funeral

R A mass funeral service. Yes for many of the people who were lost in the Italian Hall disaster.

I I understand one of the main ministers was the Reverend Heideman.

R Yes.

I And his son has told of the number of people that came and his father took care of at that time. And the number of coffins that were brought to the church.

R Would that be Bert?

I Yes, and his father never had any money. He said later someone was critical boy did that man clean up and he said this he knew there was never any money to speak of. This was a very unhappy public service that he felt he had to do. Was there any other things about the strike did you feel the tension?

R I started almost in the middle of it but that was almost the end of the strike. There had been a carnival in town around the 4th of July. When the carnival left town the strike broke out. The first we heard of it was the strikers had stopped the men from going to work one morning and one of our church people had rocks thrown at him. Then they brought in the national guard and of course we lived down here on Portland Street just a block from the railroad tracks and they used to bring the national guard in early in the mornings. They'd come in on special trains and they would be coming up the street about 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning and we'd hear them tramping and of course we'd get up and look out of the window. As they were tramping up the streets you could hear this town has paved streets and this town has streetlights. Many of these boys came from lower Michigan where they didn't have these things.

- R So you see we were quite well advanced in those days.
- I They didn't know particularly where to find Calumet but they were impressed by it.
- R Right, impressed by it. Their camps were set up in a field between the Library and the warehouse, in another field behind the library and south of the congregational church and up here in what is ~~Agosay~~<sup>Agassiz</sup> Park today. Another encampment was always at the Red Jacket shaft area and these boys had regular duties to do and patrolled the area. One of the things they did do for the people of the area was they brought the Michigan Regimental Band and they used to have band concerts along with the Calumet and Hecla band for the people.
- I Did they patrol in the village of Red Jacket as well as at the mines?
- R No, not in the village of Red Jacket, it would be more on the mining property. Guarding and watching the mining property.
- I What happened in the village anything?
- R Oh, we used to have a great many parades and the strikers would come out. You know they always said the Village of Red Jacket was never built for beauty and it showed because the lots were so built up with houses on them facing the street and then behind and that showed up in the strike vote the numbers of people that showed up in the area there.
- I In other words, between two streets, a lot or a double lot would have three sets of houses.
- R Oh yes,
- I Instead of two at least?
- R Yes
- I And sometimes more?
- R Well
- I Were they ever built very tall or were there just alot of them?
- R They weren't built tall, just two stories
- I But they were solid
- R But they were built solid then.
- I Without yards to speak of.

R Without yards

I And when the strike came it showed up.

R It showed up because they came up and down these streets

I Did they have slogans and banners?

R I can't remember that.

I Did they ever have women leading them?

R Oh yes, big Annie?

I Who was big Annie?

R I'm not sure what her name was but we used to call her big Annie. There was a mother Jones who was here who was quite.....

I An agitator person.

R I remember seeing her marching in the parades. They used to carry the American flag because I can still see big Annie carrying the flag. And two little smaller girls carrying what would you say the streamers.

I The banners?

R No cords.

I From the flag pole.

R Right, from the flag pole. And one is still living here in town

I Did it divide the town or did people take sides? Company people versus the mining people.

R I think there was because the men really did have cause for it because their pay wasn't very high.

I Did your father need to take any side where he was the Street Commissioner.

R Well he had to be careful I guess.

I He could be neutral though.

R

I They did not demand either your forus or your against us.

R

I You didn't feel any threat at school from this?

R No. One man called Frank Schumacher had a meat market and he rather took sides. And when the strike was over his business just kind of went down.

I But this was his choice?

R Yes, that was his choice.

But even though you were in politics your father did not have to make a decision?

R No

I Do you remember what came after this? That any bitterness lasted between miners and families? After the strike was finally settled.

R Well I think there was bitterness about the Italian Hall.

I Did they blame anyone in particular?

R They really never knew who called out the word fire when there wasn't any fire.

I But there was just the general bitterness of the people in general

R Right.

I You said when the soldiers came up the street they commented on the fact that it was 1913 and Portland Street had cement.

R Yes, the first cement was laid in about 1909 or 1905 or 1906 about that time. I would have been about 4 or 5 years old and my brother would have been about 3 or 4. I remember my mother had gone into Houghton into the Fair. A Mrs. Lewis was taking care of us and she was ironing in the kitchen. Ted was in the highchair in the porch watching the men working putting the cement down. He fell over the rail and cut his head and I can remember that incident, because we were both little kids. That was when they were laying the first concrete sidewalk.

I Did the C & H Company pay for this?

R Oh no, this was village. At that time, around 1905 or 6 my father was the village representative for the building of the sidewalks and it was the Bush Company from Chicago that was doing the building. He was the representative for the village. I think maybe that's how he got into the street commissioner or street work then. Within another year, 1907.

I He was hired as the village representative?

R

- I I understand that one of the first paved streets was paved here, now these were sidewalks were the streets being paved at the same time?
- R I think they were being paved at that time too.
- I They were one of the first in the state of Michigan?
- R Yes, they were one of the first in the state of Michigan. Eighth Street down here was a Cedar Block street and it was considered a residential street. Everytime it rained in the summertime these cedar blocks swelled and the sun would come out and the blocks would pop. My father would have a fit when that would happen because the men would have to go to work and chisel out the blocks and reset them. So that it was level. So eventually these cedar blocks were all taken up and not a concrete road but a blacktop road was put down. The whole length of Eighth Street down here.
- Were these local cedar blocks or do you know?
- R Well they probably had them shipped in from somewhere, I don't think they were made here.
- I I don't think I ever heard them making them here.
- R I said a little while back that after my grandparents left the north end of Fifth they came down here and lived on the second floor of the bank building. Then they built their home down on the corner of Eighth and Portland. When they were living on Fifth my father and his brothers and sisters used to go down in this area around Eighth where there was the cedar swamp as you were speaking about the Cedar Swamp. They used to pick berries down here.
- I Well there is Cedar Bay up here.
- R Well Cedar Bay is down by the Tamarack Waterworks.
- I I imagine they could have been slick in the wintertime, how did your father take care of the streets in the wintertime?
- R Well they used to have men that shoveled in the wintertime. The Tractionline had the street cars on Sixth Street, along on Pine and two blocks on Oak Street. Down to the Depot. They had a plow and their plow used to come out and blow the snow off the tracks. Then the village had great big snow sleighs and the men used to shovel the snow into the snow sleighs. So they had quite a crew of men who shoveled snow. The snow sleighs were built like a W. The inner of the snow sleigh was metal. Thinking back it must have been tin or something and then when the sleigh was filled with snow they would take it out uptown someplace and dump it. All they did was unfasten the sides with a lever and the sides swung and all the snow just swung out. That was the way they removed the snow.

- I The pitch of the side it would slide.
- R It would slide right off of the metal.
- I They cleaned the streets how far down?
- R Not the way they do today. Then they had a great big horse drawn roller and that used to roll the snow.
- I And pack it down.
- R Right.
- I Is this where the Calumet sidewalks came? As winter came it was necessary to build your sidewalk out to where the street came?
- R No, that's more recent in the last years
- I Those walks.
- R Yes, those plows throw the snow up to the street level and makes the high snowbanks.
- I Did the people sometimes have the roads built high enough to have to walk up onto the street?
- R Well I've heard tales that they had to walk down into some of the stores because the banks were so high. I myself can't remember that.
- I Maybe they did a better job when your father was the superintendent taking care of the streets. Then in the summertime there was usually the water wagon.
- R The street sprinkler to wash the streets.
- I This was fun to follow?
- R It was fun to follow. And get into the spray. It used to make two trips, one in the morning and one in the afternoon downtown. Then in those old days they used to have the street sweeper and they used sweep the streets and they had so many men doing that. Of course with so much horse drawn traffic they would sweep the streets and the sprinkler would wash them.
- I Did your family do things together with Grandmother Jaaka, did you ever go to Crestmeir?
- R Crestmeir, you mean Crestview  
Crestview
- R Yes, Crestview. On a Sunday School picnic

I Where is this?

R Crestview was down from Phoenix as you drive from Eagle River there is still an old road that goes up to Crestview. But we used to go down on the Keweenaw Central Railroad and the tracks went into Crestview and Crestview was high above Eagle River. They had a Pavillion there and we had a picnic there. We could walk and it wasn't too long of a walk from Crestview down to Eagle River to the beach.

I Then you were probably between the Eagle River Cemetery.

R No, I don't think it was on that side. Not on the cemetery side, on the otherside of the road.

I Down toward the beach.

R Between the Eagle River road and the Eagle Harbor Road.

I Was there an amusement park at all?

R I can't remember that it had anything like the Electric Park had. It just had a big pavillion where they used to dance and there were picnic tables where we could have our picnics but I guess the idea was most of the people seemed to walk down to the beach. It wasn't too far to walk down to the beach.

I Did anyone ever go bathing, or swimming?

R Oh yes. The girls with their suits with the bloomers underneath and the full skirted tops.

I And the men wore nearly as much.

R

I Except there's were sleeveless.

R Yes. But the girls had the skirts on them. It was almost like a sailor suit with bloomers underneath.

I They were nice to keep warm in that Lake Superior water I'm sure.

R They certainly did. The Jaaka would have a picnic in the summer and everyone would spend the day before getting all the food ready. Grandma would go down and someone would drive here and Ted always was the little boy and he would ride with Grandma. Grandma's boy we used to call him. Then we had a side seater and surrey and the whole family would pack in and ride to Eagle River. We'd get to Eagle River early in the afternoon after leaving in the morning and have our pasty picnic and almost right away start for home and get back as far as what they called North America. North America was not too far outside of Mohawk on the old Cliff Road.

R It was between the Cliff Mine and Mohawk, on the old Cliff Road there was a place in there they called North America. We used to stop there and have some supper and by the time we would get it home it would be ten o'clock at night. In fact I have a picture of us at Eagle River with just such a picnic.

Second tape

I I am speaking with Miss Bertha Jaaka at her home on Portland Street in Calumet. This is Betty Berry.

I Miss Jaaka you had alot of fun with your cousins with the other people in the four block area. What were some of the ways you had fun? What did you do in the summertime?

R In the summertime, I think we played games. I know the girls sewed and dressed their dolls. We played with dolls and dressed our dolls when we were much older than the children today. They seem to have no more use for dolls when they're very young today.

I What kind of dolls did you have, china headed dolls?

R I had a china headed doll and several small dolls and we used to sew for our dolls. We used to get together in the early evening and play hide and go seek, rob a sheep rob a sheep run, and we used to play hop scotch, jump rope, do all those things that children sometimes do today. We used to have alot of fun with hide and go seek and rob a sheep run because we had so many places to go and hide. Sometimes we used to say no fair going outside of this block.

*run, sheep, run-*

I Would this include all ages?

R Well I would say sometimes the older children joined in with the younger ones in playing these evening games.

I Did you bring the very young along in the afternoons when you were playing dolls?

R Oh the little ones, we used to take them with us wherever we went. Because there were alot of little young cousins and we used to take them wherever we went. Of course some of the girls had little sisters they had to take care of, I didn't have any to take care of.

I There was no question about a babysitter?

R There was no babysitter.

I It was everyone went together or you didn't go.

R Yes, if my mother and father went out for an evening it would be an older cousin that would come in and stay with us.

I And that cousin didn't expect to be paid for it

R No, I don't think she was paid.

I This was part of your family relationship. Did your family have a special 4th of July?

R Well the town always had a big parade and always have big beautiful floats. There weren't automobiles in those days so the floats were all horse drawn.

I What were they built on?

R The floats used to be built on the old ice sleighs. They were put onto wheels in the summertime and had the runners in the wintertime. Now an ice sleigh was the thing an iceman used to use when he was cutting the ice. Bringing in the great big blocks of ice. I can remember when Bears used to have their ice put in for the winter. This whole upper end of this building used to be an ice house. They would be packed in sawdust and the icemen would have a little runway that would go up to the back door. This is the way they kept their meat in condition.

I They were decorated.

R The Eagles always had what we called the white wagon. It was arranged in tiers or steps and they would go to the top and at the top would be an eagle's nest and in it would be a great big artificial eagle. All the girls were dressed in white and held a white flag and we used to call that the white wagon. But my father never was an eagle so I couldn't be on that.'

I He wasn't fair was he?

R No he wasn't.

I The daughters of the eagles were allowed to be on the white wagon.

R Right. The 4th of July was always quite an event. Of course we always had firecrackers and in the evening a display of fireworks. In town and sometimes people would put them off in their homes too.

I Were there many bands in the parades?

R Oh yes because of course there was the great C & H Band and it even won a prize when it went to Milwaukee to compete. Then some of the ethnic groups had their own bands, there was the little Finnish Band.

I But for the 4th of July parade in Red Jacket itself they'd bring in these outside bands?

R Just from the local area.

I But every community would have it's band and it's parade

R

I Were there alot of poeple in Red Jacket then?

R Oh yes. The streets would be so packed with people that it would be hard to go through.

I Did you have big picnics then in your parks?

R We used to have alot of our picnics at the Electric park. The electric park was between Calumet and Hancock. Along today what is known as the highway // You can walk in, I don't think you can drive in from the old US 41 on the highway. There at the electric park is the big pavillion where we used to have the dancing in the evening. They had the slides, swings and teeter totters and boat swings and all manner of swings. We used to go there for the Sunday School pics, Masenic picnics and sometimes just family picnics You could go to the electric park on Sunday on the Streetcar and just your own family go out, or a group of children would go out. At the back of the park they had a couple of stoves where they would make the coffee. For the Masonic picnic you could take your pot or pitcher and go to the house where they were making the coffee and get your pot of coffee. There was a concession in the grandstand and they sold pop, candy, bars, icecream and various things. A part of the Calumet and Hecla band played for the dancing.

I Did they have dancing every weekend during the summer?

R I believe they did. The people would come from Houghton, Hancock and Calumet. In that way you got to know people from Houghton and Hancock because you got to know them at the park.

I As well as a visit with your relatives. Throughout the Copper Country.

R Yes, that's right.

I This was a convenient place to meet.

R Right.

Did the ethnic groups here have their own special celebrations?

R The German people used to have many of their picnics in what we called Section 16. That is on the road going past the cemetery going west, into Hancock today. That area down through there was known as Section 16. That's where the Germans used to have their picnics.

- I Was there a special German brotherhood to which they belonged?
- R Well there were two German Churches, there was the German Reform Church and the German Luthern Church. So I imagine probably they were the people from those churches.
- I In Hancock, there was the Germania Hall, which was a part of the German's men's group.
- R I can't remember if there was such a group out here. I don't remember.
- I Perhaps there was. Were there other Ethnic groups? Which had celebrations for Saints Days etc?
- R The Hibernians, Irish, and St. Patricks's Day and the Catholic Church always had picnics in the summer and the son's of St. George.
- I Who were they?
- R The Son's of St. George were largely an English group.
- I Was this a secret society or just a group of Englishmen?
- R It was a society, I don't know if it was a secret society but it was a society.
- I It was a national group?
- R It was a national group.
- I Which they were a branch
- R Right.
- I Then of course the Masonic Brotherhood had lodges here.
- R Yes they did.....
- I Also the Order of Eastern Star.
- R Yes, the order of Easter Star. Of course they had their picnics too but their picnics were out at the electric park.
- I Do you remember--
- R They had a special streetcar.
- I Just to accomodate these people.
- R Right

- I Do you remember any other fraternal groups?
- R ..... and the Pythian sisters.
- I What were the Macabee's?
- R That was a group of women that made up a group and the thing I remember most about them was they had an insurance policy and every time a baby was born they got a sum of money. That's what I can remember about them.
- I Were the Knights of Pythias founded up in Eagle River?
- R Eagle Harbor
- I Oh Eagle Harbor. The organization was written up by the school master. I do not believe it has lasted.
- R There is none in this area today.
- I Another thing is many of these groups seemed to establish insurance companies such as the Italian insurance company.
- R Oh yes there's still the Italian insurance company over in Laurium today. That started years ago. The Finnish have too insurance agencies. There's two down on Pine.
- I Do you remember if these were before or after the strike?
- R I don't remember but I do know they've been here a long time. There's those on Pine and that one in Hancock in the old bank building.
- I The Finnish Mutual.
- R The Finnish Mutual and I still think they have a branch down on Pine and there's another one down on Pine too. We had some newspapers too down on Pine that were published. A Finnish newspaper and then down here on Seventh Street there was a printing shop and they printed a Slovenian paper. Then there was an Italian paper that was printed here in Calumet too. This was besides the Calumet news. The Mining Gazette was a morning paper and that was published in Houghton. The Calumet News was an evening paper and that was published in Calumet. The Evening Copper Journal was an evening paper and that was published in Hancock and it used to be delivered out here as the Gazette now is.
- I In your home what was the main reading outside of the local area. Did you get a paper from away from here such as the Chicago Tribune?

- R No, the Milwaukee Journal and the magazines would be the Saturday Evening Post and the Ladies Home Journal. The Ladies Home Journal came once a month and the Saturday Evening Post came once a week. The Farmer's Journal came every week too. They took orders from the boys.
- I They came regular like the newspapers?
- R Yes, the boys took care of the orders and the managers took care of the details. I don't remember where they used to get them I think down at the newsstand.
- I Did they sell subscriptions?
- R Well they got orders, so they must have sold subscriptions because they had regular customers to whom they delivered these.
- I Were there ever contests?
- R Not that I can remember, but they used to get prizes win certain prizes, but never contests like the Milwaukee Journal has now.
- I Well no, but comparatively to that date it was something to win a new jack knife or something like.
- R Yes.
- I What did the girls do in the winter time when they had to be in the house? Did you learn to cook and sew or did you get out and play?
- R Well, we used to get out and play alot too because my mother taught me alot about cooking and sewing but I think we had alot of time to to play after school.
- I Did you slide, it's awfully flat here in Calumet?
- R We used to go out to the Tamarack rock pile and slide down there with our sleighs. Even with skiis onthe Tamarack rock pile. This is down here at the end of our street.
- I What kind of skiis did you have?
- R Store skiis. My first skiis were <sup>lumber</sup> bear staves. My father made them
- I Did you use a piece of rubber or how did you hold them on with a rope?
- R We had leather.
- I Leather
- R Leather straps
-

R They were riveted to the skis and then a ..... to tie them on. My brother's first skis were Finnish made skis. They were made by a Finnish skimaker and there used to be alot of them around here in the early days. But my first ones were bear staves if I remember. Then after that I got a pair of store skis. They weren't like Ted's slim and narrow, mine were wider.

I Did you do the cross country skiing out there?

R Yes.

I On the same skis?

R On the same skis

I Did they have anything to hold them on at the ankle except for the thong?

R No just two straps nothing to hold them on at the ankle.

I Not like they have today.

R No.

I If one of the skis went down the hill in front of you there was nothing to do but follow it.

R Right. We used to sleigh ride alot and snow shoe

I Did you have any special trails. Or did you use the hills as you found them?

R No,

I Did you make toboggan runs?

R No just used the hills as we found them. We used to go out to Maple Grove and go sliding and Maple Grove was the area between Tamarack #5 and the old Red Jacket Shaft. We used to go out there to sleigh ride or ski.

I Walk out and walk back?

R Right

I In your wood clothes?

R No, I can remember when I was a kid I had tights

R Then we used to put our skirts inside of the tights and I think then we had a short coat. It never was a long coat when we went skiing.

I It wasn't

R Then of course we had the Palestra and of course I never was over to to the Palestra to skate but alot of the young people did. Then the Coliseum was built up here and we used to go to the Coliseum to skate. There was one night a week that was family night and we bought a season ticket and we used to go skating on family night.

I How much was a family ticket, do you remember at all?

R I think it was a couple of dollars for the whole winter.

I For the whole winter once a week

R No, I had a ticket and Ted had a ticket and we used to go but I think it was a couple of dollars.

I The Palestra then was over in Laurium.

R Right

I And the Collessium was where?

R On Red Jacket road.

T What kind of ice skates did you use?

R The first ice skates that I had were the kind that you clamped onto your shoes.

I Did they curl over the endsof the shoes?

R No, I think they were a little bit shorted so they didn't protrude. Those were my first ones, the kind you just clamp onto your shoes. Then one Christmas I received my first ipair of shoes and skates.

I These were often made by local men weren't they?

R No, my skates weren't made locally, now where did I get them, some shop that sold shoes and skates. I know where I got them at the Bee Hive shoe store. But there was a shoeman called Mr. Metrey who used to make custom shoes for people who skated.

I And these were the ones that went above the ankle.

R They laced above your ankle.

I Because I have a pair of those that I bought to learn to ice skate which I never did.

- I Did you have any special sleigh rides for groups in your church?
- R Yes, Mr. Tenberg who was our minister for so many years, we used to go on sleigh rides on a side seater a long side seater sleigh. And straw in the bottom of the box. We'd go on a sleigh ride and them come back to the church and have hot cocoa or something like that.
- I Was this the gentleman who was one of the first ..... for children Mr. Tenberg?
- R I don't know.
- I Virginia Koepel from Houghton said the first time she went up to the Brockway was with Mr. Tenberg.
- R I wouldn't doubt it because Mr. Tenberg used to take a group down to Eagle River to camp. I never went with him down to Eagle River but Ted did. And Paul went so that must have been when he took a group of boys. They would hike around Keweenaw so I wouldn't doubt that was Mr. Tenberg that took then.
- I Well she was there with her grandparents .....1
- R Well that would have been down at Eagle River.
- I Well he must have been very impressive to work with the young people.
- R He was and I remember Mr. Tenberg did alot with the young people.
- I Was he very popular among the town's people do you remember at all?
- R No, I wouldn't say he was, he just did his work within the church.
- I The Episcopal parish here has been a mission, it was a mission then?
- R When Mr. Tenberg was here we were a parish
- I How many people attended the church?
- R Well I don't know how many attended but I can remember that Easter Sunday the entire church was filled and they would put seats on either sides of the aisle so it just made a narrow lane for the choir to go down because there were so many people in church. And now today we have had seats taken out from the front and seats taken out from the back so we have far fewer seats in church today and we never fill them.

I You must have had approximately 150 to 200 people in those days

R Right.

I Did you sing in the choir?

R I sang in the choir when I was in the grades, and into high school and while I was teaching.

I Was this with a pump organ?

R Pump organ did you say?

I Yes.

R Yes, we had a pump organ and Mrs. ....was the organ player and Roy or his brother Charles or some of the other young fellows in the church used to pump the organ

I Where was the handle for the pumping? Was it in the back or up next to the player?

R It was at the side of the organ.

I Next to the player.

R Right.

I So if they became interested in something in the congregation the choir and the organist would lose their power.

R Sometime the boy would look out and forget to pump and then she wouldn't have any power to pump.

R The first Episcopal church was the Grace Episcopal church. My grandfather was instrumental in getting that church built.

I Was it built at the pit?

R The cliff workings as we see them today down there are on the left side going north on the old highway. Some of the houses in the town were on the right side. The Grace church was on the right side. Like over the hill there. You can drive in from that part of the cliff from US 41.

I This church was not moved.

R From the cliff?

I Yes.

R

I Some churches had been moved. The buildings themselves but this was never moved.

R No

I It was finally abandoned

R Yes.

I And at that time they would use any priest that would happen to wander through, as a clergyman?

R I don't know about that.

I I know in Houghton and Hancock's congregation Episcopal church if any Episcopal priest happened to wander through they used him.

R That was the way my mother was confirmed. She presented herself for confirmation when a Bishop came up from Wisconsin. So some of the girls were confirmed by this Bishop. I have her certificate of confirmation and it says presented herself.

I This was before the Dioces was organized

R No I think we had our Dioces in the Upper Peninsula.

I But no priest

R Evidently there was no Bishop. Someday I'll have to show you that certificate.

I The church then has grown with the town and become smaller with the town.

R Right, up and down. Our church down here was built in 1893 and prior to that they used to have services up in the Washington School Hall. Then our church was built and we were almost from the beginning a Parish. One time we had sister Helen here and then Mr. Jewel came and then Mr. Tenberg and he was here until about 1920. Since then we have had a succession of priests. Today again we are a mission because we are unable to take care of the church financially.

I Your Sunday School grades went pretty high, how large was it when you were young?

R We had a large Sunday School when I was young. I can't say how many we had but we had quite a few. There weren't so many little children in those days it seemed. I know there were classes of boys and girls and classes of high school people and older. In our church today we have alot of little tiny children being brought into the nursery and I can't really remember little tiny children being brought to church years ago.

I Well the thing is you have to get a baby sitter because you don't have the large family of cousins.

- R That's it, but today we have alot of young ones.
- I Perhaps it will go back that way again
- R Maybe it will.
- I Did you go to the Webster School to the Fifth Grade and then where did you go?
- R I went to the Jefferson School, which was the old school next to the Washington. There were only four rooms in it. There were the sixth grade and seventh grade classes. Then from the Jefferson School I went to the Washington School for the Seventh and Eighth Grades. Then on into High School. In the Sixth Grade I had sewing along with our regular studies and then in the Seventh Grade I had sewing for a half a year and then in the top of the Seventh I had cooking and then in the Eighth grade.
- I Wash't this a fairly modern idea?
- R Yes it was. Yes at that time they had cooking and sewing
- I Was this typical of education that you starting having training at the .....front?
- R We started having what we call manual training, cooking and sewing for the girls and manual training for the boys starting in about the Fifth Grade. In about 1909 or so.
- I Was this about the time the idea of trade schools were first being introduced?
- R Yes. And one Calumet High School had a wood shop, a blacksmiths shop and a machine shop. As well as a drafting department for boys The girls had cooking and sewing in High School.
- I The boys could actually get alot of apprentice years.
- R With the blacksmiths and machine shop. These classes for the boys were taught by men from the C & H.
- I In other words they were being prepared to go right into the shops.
- R Into the shops. Men from the C & H shops were the teachers. They didn't have men from College doing the teaching, they were men from the C & H shops.
- I The experienced person.
- R Right, the experienced person.

Did they come into the High School or were the classes conducted at the C & H shops?

R They came into the High School. In the basement of the High School up there they had these C & H shops.

I Did the C & H pay much of the cost of the education?

R I don't think they paid much of the cost of the education although I know they built the buildings, and maintained them in those days

I They also had hospitals here?

R C & H had a hospital on Calumet avenue. In those days it had a training program for nurses.

I In those days did the other mining companies have their own hospitals?

R The Tamarack Mine had a hospital too. Tamarack had their own staff of Doctors.

I These were company doctors, did they ever treat the people in the town or was it strictly for the mining people?

R Well many of the people that worked at the mine were people who worked at worked at the mine and lived in Newtown, Red Jacket, Yellow Jacket and Blue Jacket. So they would be able to receive treatment and go there too.

I They would be eligible for the clinic type or the doctor treatment.

R There were many people who lived down in the Tamarack location in 1930 after the strike and probably during the 20's and 30's alot of the houses were being torn down. Some of the materials went to Kingsford and they used to build houses in that area.

I You were not of the mining community so you had to have a doctor who did you go to?

R We had Doctor Joy. He was with the C & H earlier but was finally dismissed from the C & H and had an office over here on Oak Street. He was our doctor and Doctor Mills was the Doctor my mother had when I was born. Then Ted broke his arm and a Doctor Abrahams took care of Ted's arm. Incidentally, that was Jimmy Abrahams father.

I

R He was the doctor who took care of Ted's arm. Ted also had diptheria when he was a little boy.

I Were there any other diseases such as an measles epidemic or flu that you remember.

R The summer that my older brother died there was a measles that seemed to go through the community. All the little kids in the yard had the measles and my brother Billy had the measles and he developed pneumnia and then had diptheria and he died in September. He had had the measles earlier but it all seemed to stem from the measles earlier.

I He was so weak

R One came right after another

I What year was this?

R 1902 because my brother Ted was born in the morning and my other brother was buried in the afternoon.

I Do you remember a flu epidemic at all?

R In 1918 when the Armastice was signed we were out of school because of a flu epidemic. We were home for several weeks at that time because of that flu. That flu seemed to be much more serious than the flu this winter because quite a few people died. I suppose they didn't have the things to do that we have today. So many people succumed to the influenza of 1918.

I Do you remember any of the doctors or nurses or local women who you might say were heroic in their attempts to help people at this time?

R I know one, she was called Miss MacClin and her sister was married to Center, John Center. This was this Virginia Cooper's uncle, John Center. Miss MacCleheney was Mrs's Center's sister. She is one that I know that worked with people up in the area.

I Skanee?

R No not Skanee I don't recall but I imagine it would be in the Nisula area through Pelkie and up that way. She worked with the Finnish people because they seemed to be very seseptible to that flu.

I Did you find that these same people were also seseptible to tuberculosis?

R Yes, many of these people seemed to be very seseptible to tuberculosis.

I Were there any other doctors or people that you remember or dentists?

R Well we had Jimmy Watson, Doctor Watson who was in the Jacka building and that's where we all went to have our teeth taken care of.

- I And aslong as you can remember there was a dentist to take care of you.
- R There was a dentist to take care of us. It was a standing family joke that he never had to pay any rent because the Jaaka kids kept him going.
- He didn't need another clientele.
- R Right
- I Well with so many other Jaaka's were there other families that were clanish with so many brothers and sisters?
- R Well the Sauer's were all clannish and they were all friends of ours and the Shank family was another clanish family.
- I You said the Sauer's had the rooms for the merchants
- R Where the salesmen displayed their wares right
- I Did some people call them peddlers and some middlemen?
- R Well they were salesmen and the drey men would bring their great big trunks and they would open the trunks and display them on the tables. Vertins, Readings and the Red Front and Lane's over here and Henneson's over here all these people would come there and pick out what they wanted for their store.
- I What was this other families business?
- R The Shank's?
- I Yes.
- R They had a saloon. There were several boys and several girls and one of the girls married the shoemaker and he was the one who lost alot of his business after the strike.
- I Did you know of any other families? You spoke of your minister marrying into one of the families.
- R The Daniel's.
- I What did they do?
- R Well, I think Mr. Daniel's was a mining man. He made alot of money in mining and mining stock.
- I This is an interesting statement. Alot of people talk about the family being in mining. But if it was the investor he is called a mining man. Did you find this true?

- I In that Mr. Daniels was a mining man because he invested money in mines?
- R I think it was.
- I The term is mining man.
- R Right, investing his money
- I Just like you would say a doctor or lawyer.
- R Yes like the Ho<sup>a</sup>tson family. Jim Ho<sup>a</sup>tson was a mining captain here at C & H and his brother Tom. Well he went on a holiday to Arizona and while he was in Arizona he discovered copper there. He formed what was known as the Calumet and Arizona stock company. He made quite a bit of money so he was what you could call a mining man because he had been a captain in the mine but then discovered copper and made much money in the Calumet and Arizona. The Calumet and Arizona was absorbed by the Phelps Dodge people. The Calumet and Arizona had their home office up here in the Jacka building for many years until finally they moved their office to New York and it was absorbed by Phelps Dodge.
- I Were there any other companies that came out of this where other people went out and founded a company.
- R No, not that I remember
- I Of course alot of them went onto Michigan Tech and went into the mining field all over the world.
- R Right. My uncle John who was the youngest of the Jacka boys and I think he was one of the youngest ones of the family, was one of the early graduates of Michigan Tech. When he finished he went to New York state and he was up in the asbestos mines. Up in Canada first and then up into New York state. Finally he came back here and they all had chickenpox at Christmas time and then Kerrie came here with his bride from New York and he started working for the LaSalle Mining Company and LaSalle was out in the neighborhood of the highway.
- I Did many of your father's relatives find jobs in mining, politics or in the family business?
- R Well my father and uncle George were in the family business and my other uncle ran a livery stable, uncle John was a mining engineer.
- I But they found local work?
- R The girls all married men that worked locally  
the next generation prove as fortunate?

I Or did some of them have to move away after the strike?

R After the strike uncle John went back to New York and worked for Republic Steel up in the northern part of New York. One aunt moved to Detroit with her family and another aunt moved to Flint with her family and another aunt moved to Detroit. Two of them went to Detroit. That was between 17 and 18 because there wasn't much work around here. That was after the strike. I know one family the daughter taught here one year and she went down to Detroit and got into the Detroit school system. That was in about 1918. My other uncle worked for the mining company and it was slow then so he went to Detroit. He was the one that had come from England and he had a trade of a scale maker, working with scales. So he got into his own work working for Ford so he work all those years for Ford.

I But with the strike many of the Copper Country started to fold

R They started to drift away yes.

I Drift away is a better term because some of the miners went to find

R Better jobs

I Some of the people went to farms?

R Some went to Montana and some went to Arizona.

I Did some go to Detroit into the growing automobile industry?

R Into Detroit and Flint into the automobile industry.

I Did any go into the steel mill?

R No, I don't think so much the steel mill it was the automobile industry.

I So many of the names that were familiar in your classroom have disappeared from here.

R Yes.

I They come back to visit or retire.

R They come back almost every summer to visit and now some of them are retiring to Calumet. Like I said before in the early days there were three brockorage houses here. The ..... was in the first 100 block and the Paine Weber was in the 300 block and ..... was over here on Oak Street in the Bank building.

I Some of the brockorage houses had young men who went out to deliver the latest stock quotations. Do you remember that being done?

R

- R The horses were kept right down stairs
- I With the wagons.
- R And they would always practice and just as the twelve o'clock whistle sounded they would be standing there with their hands on the fire bell rope they would pull it when the whistle would go off. They were automatic doors and they would open and the six horses would come out and take their places. They would put the harness on them and they would be hooked up in a matter of seconds. That was their regular practice.
- I Everyday?
- R Everyday.
- I And these horses at the sound of the bell would react?
- R React, right.
- I Did they have a tank of water ready to go or did they try to use local water supplies?
- R We had a pumper and then of course we had the hydrants to hook up to. The pumper kept the pressure up and they always had the materials to keep the fire going in the steamer to keep the pressure up.
- I In other words they had three different vehicles and one was a steamer with a pumper, what were the other three?
- R One was the ladder, one was the hose and one was the pumper.
- I And all three were ready to go
- R Right, all three were ready to go. In the wintertime they were put on sleighs and in the summertime on wheels.
- I You graduated from highschool from where the highschool is now.
- R In 1919. Our exercizes were down in the Calumet theater.
- I These were real fancy with white dresses.
- R This was 1919 right after World War I and we all wore white sailor suits.
- I Serge?
- R No not serge, just cotton material.
- I Because I've often heard of white serge sailor suits
- R They were made of what they used to call white beach cloth

I Similar to a denim.

R Yes. and we were all supposed to have the same type of dress

I Very patriotic as well. Then where did you go to College?

R I went to Northern at Marquette.

I Was this when Northern was known as if you went to Northern you wanted to be a teacher because it was a teacher's college?

R Yes. It was a teacher's college

I You graduated from there?

R I went one year and a summer school and my father died while I was there. So when I came home that summer I was able to get an assistant job in District #2 in Centennial Heights. So I taught in Centennial Heights for four years. In that time I went to summer school again and I got my life certificate. Then I went to night classes and through Tech and I got my degree.

I I see during this time you taught in various places

R I taught in Centennial Heights for four years and in the ..... school and in the Boston school and all in all was a total of 45 years.

I Grade school work?

R Grade school work

I What grade did you like?

R Well when I was transferred from the Morrison School to the Washington School, I said I always like the fifth so I said I would take the fifth if there was an opening and there was so I took the fifth. I had the fifth grade for as long as I taught there.

I Was it departmental teaching or all subjects?

R It was all subjects that I was teaching but just when I had gotten into the eighth grade they changed over from departmental work to straight grades. They had departmental work until then because I know some of my older cousins had departmental work and they changed over. So I was in straight grades.

I This is what you always taught was the straight grades.

R Right

Was there any subject that you enjoyed teaching more?

- R Oh I guess I enjoyed teaching Geofgraphy.
- I Have you traveled alot?
- R Well I've done quite a bit of traveling since I retired
- I Well this was your hope then you traveled with your young students
- R Right
- I Did you find by teaching this way that you used all their skills with each subject?
- R Yes, I think we did
- I When you used a geofgraphy lesson you used their spelling.
- R Their spelling and their reading and their English.
- I I was wondering if you didn't feel that this was a more comprehensive foundation?
- R Yes.
- I It's quite differently presented today I can assure you. Are there any special teachers, or any fun things that happened that you'd like to tell about?
- R Well we used to draw in the kindergarten and I took my ..... one day to school and I was seated with my face to the wall in the corner so I never can remember what I did.
- I You don't know whether you spoke at the wrong time or said see my cutter or what.
- R Something that I had done but anyway I didn't get to draw my doll's cutter. In the second grade I had a Miss Warren for a teacher but I think her name was Waara rightfully because she was Finnish and they made it Warren. I was a messy writer and I was just learning to write with ink. One night I was kept after school and she called the principal in and oh they scolded me about my writing.
- I You had beautiful long hair did you ever have pigtails stuck in the inkwells?
- R You asked about my hair, well I had long curls until I was in about the fifth grade. Then my hair was put in braids.
- I Did they ever put the braids in the inkwells?
- R No, I can't remember that they ever did that.

I I know how messy I was with ink and I know how messy those inkwells were.

R I guess they were.

I Were you happy to see the changeover. The last years you taught were they still using the ink?

R The last years I taught they were still using ink.

I When did you retire?

R In 65.

I In 65

R And we still were filling ink wells. And filling a pen.

I It certainly gave you a different style of writing too.  
Well I thank you very much for doing this.