

Alpena, Michigan

Interview with Dorothy Painter, Dorothy Goetz, and Betty Mullins

Onaway, Michigan

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Russell M. Magnaghi: RMM

Dorothy Painter: DP

Dorothy Goetz: DG

Betty Mullins: BM

START OF INTERVIEW

RMM: Okay three ladies here and we'll start with Dorothy Goetz. Could you tell us your birthdate?

DG: August 20, 1922.

RMM: Could you tell us a little about your reminiscences of growing up in the area? Where you grew up?

DG: I grew up in Alpena Township, Michigan. Went to high school in Alpena, grade school was a small school, until the 8<sup>th</sup>. Grew up on a farm, I had five brothers and two sisters. My mother was very calm, talked to us, never spanked us. We get in trouble she would set us down and talk and we'd have to answer her. When my dad came home at night she said if you're real bad I'll tell your dad, so we wouldn't say a word and he never spanked us either. We have a nice family, we had a good time always had parties, Thanksgiving. \_\_\_\_\_.

RMM: You said you were living on a farm, how far was the farm from Alpena?

DG: 15 miles. We would go to town, maybe five, six years with the horse and buggy to get groceries. We walked to grade school until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then after that we went to high school we had buses, small \_\_\_\_\_ jobs. Then later on when I went to 12<sup>th</sup> grade they had the big bus. The roads were not paved they were gravel. Had touring cars like Ford Model A and Model T cars, it was hard to get them up the hill, even today when I get in a car and go up I feel like we have to push it. We had to push cars back then to get up a hill. \_\_\_\_\_. Then I graduated from high school; there were no jobs, just like it is today.

RMM: So this was during the depression?

DG: Yes, that was the ending of the depression.

RMM: But even then there was problem with jobs.

DG: Oh yeah, you had to wait until someone died before you got a job. Sometimes you wouldn't even get that somebody else would step in ahead of you. Anyway four years of high school and the war broke out, we went to Detroit and worked in the plants. The first job I got was two dollars a week; I worked in a warehouse for potatoes. I was printing bag tickets for potatoes and shipped them out by train. Then we went in to Alpena and got a job at the Dime Store for eight dollars a week. I paid five dollars for rent. Then got a job in another Dime Store that was 12 dollars a week. Then I went to a plant and got 50 dollars a week and we were rich.

RMM: So that's what the arsenal of democracy and so on, were the good wages. Obviously that's quite a difference.

DG: Yeah, well from that time on we didn't have to depend on anybody for anything we made our own wages. We were taught to always to make your own way, don't depend on other people, always help people out and never go back. If you were broke and we know you were broke, you were the one who got into it. When I was growing up on the farm, we had hobos, men that road the train. The train was only two miles from our place and when it would stop a couple of them went in the stores or warehouses to take on potatoes and bail out the hay and stuff like that, other towns. All those hobos would go in area and set up people's houses and we fed them and they would get back on the train and go. But this one get he sat there on the porch and said he had travel from California to Alaska on train he said it was hard, they always road in box cars they never slept on a mattress, never had anything to keep them warm. This one time they took sheep from one state to another and they had enough sheep on the train that they could sleep in the {mound} to keep warm. He said he went through subzero weather and that was the only thing to keep them alive was having the live sheep with them. When they got off the train then the conductor came back and said if you boys want meals we'll feed you on this car. So they take him up and feed them and probably put them on another boxcar and let them go another distance, maybe they were going to warmer country. They would go back down to Florida, he said when they go down around Texas he said it was just like heaven, and it was beautiful warm. So anyway we had {scene coals} on our place. I don't know if you've heard of the {Scene Coals}, we had were we lived, it was only maybe a mile from our place and my brother was going to spend one day because he knew that would back out into Lake Huron. So my mother say's if your determined and your coaxing to go she said I'll put white cross in for you. She said I coax you not to go, you do what you want to do if you got that in your mind to do it you can do, but she said remember the cross will be there. He never did go. That's the way she would handle situations. We had our own swimming hole; we had the river that ran maybe a quarter of a mile from our place. There was one spot that we could always swim in but we couldn't go anyplace else and we'd make rafts and float them

down the river but we couldn't ride on. The other neighbors would get on them and go and see how far they'd go. They'd tell us, it was interesting and that was back and tell you everything. From the time I was three until maybe 12 to 14, we slept on straw mattresses; we didn't have mattresses like they do today. They bought ticking and it was a little heavy, not as heavy as canvas but almost. They filled them with new straw and we'd always have a nice bed until it started matting down and then we'd have to fix new ones, but that's what our mattresses were until we got working and could afford it.

RMM: What did your farm produce?

DG: My dad worked out, he worked at Rock Port, he was a fireman out there. But our farm produced potatoes, wheat, oats, all kinds of vegetables, apples, cherries, we had everything.

RMM: Who took care of the farm?

DG: My brothers and I. The girls worked the house the boys worked the barn. I had five brothers and the girls couldn't go into the barn to work, they had to do the housework and the boys done the barn work. Then in the fall we sold, we sold potatoes of the farm and sell them, we'd get ten cents a bushel. We were going to plow, my dad was going to plow them under and I said no at least they buy a pair of shoes for us, so we'd pick them, after school at night. During deer season everybody was left out of school, so they could pick potatoes. We had to pick them by hand. We had no machine pick them then. It was interesting.

RMM: Before your brother's came along then, your dad operated the farm by himself?

DG: Yeah. Not a big operation because he worked out.

RMM: So he had always worked out? Now he was working at the quarry?

DG: Yes, he was fireman over there. They had to keep the furnaces going for some. I think when they shipped cement out, all these big boats, that's what he worked for.

RMM: He was working there and then had the farm, but the farm was mostly for your own?

DG: For our own household.

RMM: Then when the boys came along, you and the boys came along, then the farm extended.

DG: Yes.

RMM: So you had sort of two incomes coming in, his and then what?

DG: We had all of our own food, we didn't have to buy very much. We bought sugar, lard, not mostly lard either, I've got a list that I can remember, salt, pepper, vinegar, mustard, ketchup that was our list.

RMM: Now did you sell anything from the farm or it was just a self-sufficient farm?

DG: Self-sufficient, we sold some but not a lot. Like a neighbor would want something, we'd sell it to them.

RMM: But you didn't bring it in to Alpena for sale?

DG: No, potatoes went out on a train one time, but my dad didn't want to sell, he said we keep them for the neighbors in case something would happen if they burned out or something, we'd always had food for them. And our basement was always full of canned goods and stuff for the poor; yeah we had a lot of poor people.

RMM: In the area?

DG: Yeah.

RMM: Was this something your family did or your local church or just...?

DG: No, I think it was just something we did, that we always had help and we still do it today. It's hard not to once you've done it.

RMM: When the hobo's and the people riding the rails, when they were doing that were, it sounds that the people were helpful, I mean you and people and along the rail lines. It sounded like the conductor and the people on the trains weren't throwing them off.

DG: No they didn't, they took care of them.

RMM: So they did take care of them. Kind of what feeling that they were...

DG: They weren't bad people, they were just out of work.

RMM: yeah they were just out of work. They were caught up in the economy at the times, the lack of it.

DG: Depression, they would come even from Florida on through the trains, they rode the trains all the time because they didn't have anything to do. Then Florida they'd get off where they knew they could get food, they would get off and eat then go again.

RMM: Would they stop and do some kind of odd jobs?

DG: They'd ask us if there was something could do, but we had everything done, at our house they didn't have to do it, they would eat and then go. That's the way our life was. Well what else?

RMM: Ok, now we'll move on to Betty. Betty Mullins.

DG: I don't know if I help or not with it.

BM: I can't tell it much as you did lady.

RMM: Let see, let's start with, you were talking about, where did... Well first your birth date.

BM: August 19, 1932.

RMM: Where did you grow up?

BM: The edge of Menominee until I was 15 and then I left, I didn't finish school, I quit in the ninth grade and I went to Rogers City and I babysat over there for quite a while and then I got married, then I lived there for 18 and a half years, then I got a divorce then I came back to Onaway. Then I worked in the Onaway hospital for a while. I did work years ago after I first got a divorce, a year I think at the Garment Factory.

RMM: Okay, let's stop there. Could you tell us, you weren't there for a long time, but you were there for a year?

BM: Not at the Garment Factory.

RMM: How long were you at the Garment Factory?

BM: Oh, about 8 months. But it was a nice factory they kept a lot of ladies employed there.

RMM: Let's talk about that, a little about the Garment factory. What was the name of it the official name of the factory?

BM: Onaway Garment Factory.

RMM: What did they produce?

BM: Clothing didn't they? Dresses and clothes for women and men too. Men's clothing and women's too.

RMM: Was it part of a larger national company or was it just a local?

BM: It was large, she knows more about it than I do.

RMM: They had one where then?

IDK: In Alpena. The Onaway Garment Company, same factory.

BM: See I didn't know that, I hadn't worked there very long.

RMM: How many people, were there men, women working there?

BM: I think there was a couple men and more women. There was about 50 women maybe working there at the time. It was a nice little factory it kept everybody going.

RMM: So did most of the women in Onaway have jobs at the - or could get jobs at the factory?

BM: Yes.

RMM: Okay, and where was it located in town?

BM: It's on Backstreet Outlet, it's called right now, off of Main Street.

RMM: The building is still there.

BM: Oh yes. They have what is called the Backstreet Outlet now, they sell used furniture there. The factory has been gone for years.

RMM: What year do you think they?

BM: I have no idea, I couldn't even...

RMM: Do you remember?

IDK: Oh my, it's been gone since I've been here, and I've been here 50 years. It's been gone a long time.

RMM: So it was probably closed down in the early 1950's.

BM: Yeah.

RMM: For Dorothy Goetz. Betty had said there was an Alpena Garment Factory do you remember anything about that?

DG: No my sister worked there, but I didn't work there.

RMM: No, but how many people worked there?

DG: I'd say maybe a hundred.

RMM: So it was larger than the Onaway one?

DG: Yes.

RMM: Owned by the same people?

DG: Yes.

RMM: Okay, those two then provided jobs for women in the community, and how long do you think that lasted?

DG: I would say 56 years, they worked all through the depression same as here and it was \_\_\_\_\_.

RMM: We'll get back to that. Back to Betty here – what did you do, you worked there for about 8 months, what year was that?

BM: I don't remember, I gathered material together. I don't even remember what it was; it was little pieces of material different pieces you know. Then I did some stocking little pieces here and there and \_\_\_\_\_.

RMM: So they would have, the individual women would all work on their particular machines and worked on a piece...

BM: They would have their own sewing machines, yeah.

RMM: ...and then put it into a box or something and then eventually someone would put it together?

BM: Yep. It was a nice little factory to work; I didn't know they had one in Alpena though.

DG: They had cotton dresses. It was mostly cotton.

RMM: Cotton dresses in Alpena?

DG: Up here too.

BM: They made men's pants, shirts up here too.

DG: Yeah, I don't know what they all made because I was gone.

BM: Yeah, they did. Yeah, men's pants and shirts and stuff.

RMM: Question here that you might have an answer to – what did they do during WWII in the Garment Factory?

DG: I was in Detroit working with the plants. I made parachutes done there and then we made piecework down there too. Each factory, each parachute had their own section that had to be sewn together and then put together so it wouldn't fall apart when the guys were coming out of the parachute.

RMM: Did the plants here, the Garment Factories up here produce more garments for the war effort?

DG: I don't remember them doing that? I remember them making men's clothing and stuff and different things, but nothing to do with the war. At that time when I was there.

RMM: Okay.

DG: I'm too young for that.

RMM: Let's hear from Dorothy Painter, we'll finally get you, we keep mentioning your name, now well get the real Dorothy. Can you tell us your birth date?

DP: October 7, 1939.

RMM: Where did you grow up in the area?

DP: Outside of town, 12 miles from town. And my dad was more like the farmer and my mother did stay home most of the time.

RMM: What kind of a farm did he have?

DP: Just a small farm, just barely survived.

RMM: So he wasn't producing anything in particular, \_\_\_\_\_, just a subsistence farm?

DP: Yeah, he just farmed, nothing else for him to do I guess. There was eight of us kids. My oldest sister was grown up before my mom had the last two of them.

RMM: Did they have anything for the farm, did they have any orchards, any fruit trees or anything.

DP: No. He sold crème.

RMM: A dairy farm.

DP: Not a big one to say so.

RMM: Could you tell us a little about how did you leave the farm and how did your life progress.

DP: Well I went to a country school up to the eighth grade. Then I came into town for high school for four years, I graduated. After that I just stayed around and got married a year after I was out of school. In my own working experience I was a babysitter and I worked up as the school's teacher's aid for two years. That's about my only work experience.

RMM: Then now let's get back to Dorothy Goetz and you were going to, you wanted to talk about it the wheel rim factory.

DG: \_\_\_\_\_, wheels for cars for Model A and Model T cars, the wooden wheels.

RMM: The steering wheel?

DG: The steering wheels, we had rimmed wheels \_\_\_\_\_ we started a \_\_\_\_\_. The courthouse, they wanted \_\_\_\_\_ court house \_\_\_\_\_. We said no, try to start a museum or something, maybe that would keep. There were seven or eight other ladies so we got together and we cleaned it all up. People \_\_\_\_\_ at that time, that was after the factory and people were moving going to different places to get better jobs, selling their homes and \_\_\_\_\_ for that museum. Just like I said, all kinds of pictures we still have pictures in there of the Garment Factory. They took it out of {long} pictures \_\_\_\_\_ all decked out. We had a lot of pictures like that. We had \_\_\_\_\_ mills from the other factory. I knew most of the people that owned the factory because of their cottages at the lake. I had a restaurant when I came up, out on \_\_\_\_\_ lane, {four} miles from Onaway, one mile from Black Lake, so we had one to five miles away. We lived on the shortest US highway it was a five mile highway. So I had restaurant

there that was a drive-in for maybe four or five years until they came and put the highway through. We lived on a dirt road all Elm trees along the highway going out like five miles away. By the park we had a big store \_\_\_\_\_ across the road from houses and then the road went out. The road goes this way around Black the south end, and the road goes this way around west to east end. All those people who had cottages, they were not good cottages, they had the wood floors wore out and the stoves were bad and the refrigerator wouldn't work and they had me cook their meals. I had a drive in so we'd go up at night \_\_\_\_\_. So people at the lake kept saying you need a restaurant and we eat here so I'd start giving the plate lunches. I had two tables, three booths and four stools, so they come in and eat. I had a table outside and fed them. The conservation officer would come in and would have to eat in the storeroom. We had a dentist and our doctor from town and the pharmacist and they all ate in the storeroom, they would \_\_\_\_\_. So they kept saying, "So when are you going to build a restaurant?" I said when the road comes through we'll probably have to move the drive-in, so that's what happened. When the road was, they said they were going to put the highway through and my husband said we better start building a restaurant instead of hide it. It was a drive-in at night, they would wait to make it five/six o'clock until they came out and they would stay until twelve in the parking lot, it would be just full \_\_\_\_\_ the rain and the snow. We still have a \_\_\_\_\_. And then after that we made a restaurant \_\_\_\_\_. We had enough for 50 people to sit down and have a place to eat. I had three girls for working as waiters, a girl that went done dishes, and one girl that made salads and I cooked and made all the pies. We had a doctor Chicago that came and he looked in the window and saw the pie casings, taped on the door and said we were closed. Opened the door and said do you bake pies, and I said yes. He said \_\_\_\_\_ and said I'd make them every day. He said well can I keep these or take a piece home with me, he says if it's good pie I'll be back, if it's bad I you'll never see me. Then I couldn't rid of it. Then we had a store across the road that carried the fresh meats and steaks. A lot of people insist on us getting steak, but steak was kind of hard to keep, and not knowing how many people would come or what would happen. So had they had to go buy their own steak and bring it across and I'd cook it for them. Then we had a guy from Chicago that rented a little cottage \_\_\_\_\_, you had buy your own cottage. After this guy would come from Chicago and says to me I want my breakfast at five o'clock in the morning, because people were hunting, he rented the cottage for deer season. I said I think I can get up at five o'clock and do that for you. So I got up at five and he ate, take off. And before he went to go home he said I want you to tell me your recipe for piecrust. I said I can't, I don't have a recipe, I said you'll have to come and I'll show you. So he came in back and I showed him how to make piecrust. He said no, my cooks I couldn't tell them. So anyway, he goes home and he {owns} a big restaurant on Main Street in Chicago, he had five chefs and I said you don't \_\_\_\_\_ up here. Somebody with that kind of chefs to help him out, I said they bake the pie. He said the pie \_\_\_\_\_. And I thought my goodness all they do, one chef cooks turkey, the other cooks beef, and he said we don't have time. So I said well I can help you. So he wrote back and said thanks. So then we had another man on the south end of Black Lake he was a lawyer. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. This one day he came and he said his wanted another pie and she told us never, never send him pie or anything with sugar, he was diabetic and back then if anyone was diabetic they did have the medicines for it. So he'd get very, very ill. She said whatever you do don't ever feed him anything with sugar. So I said okay. One day he came and said my wife is home and we have company. He said, "I want you to make her lemon pie." I said, "You can't have it, don't coax us because we can't give it to you." He says, "Alright." So he goes home. Then back he comes and he says, "Now here's my wife's phone number and you call her, she wants lemon pie." It sounds like maybe she does, so I gave him the pie. I get a note back two days later, "I lied to \_\_\_\_\_, I stopped in Bay City and ate the whole thing." He never got another pie after that, never drop of sugar. He made me laugh, he says, "I didn't even get sick." I said, "You're lucky."

RMM: I should say.

DG: \_\_\_\_\_, I had a bunch of characters. Then I had all the conservation guys, when they'd get, they had to patrol the lake. So they'd all come up and they had somebody that had to find, but they wouldn't tell me, but they'd hide their car's behind my place and all these guys would come in and I said, "where's your cars?" They said, "We don't have any." But they didn't want anybody to know they were in the area. That's how they would patrol. Then I made a mistake one day because I had a new \_\_\_\_\_, in the old building I had windows that \_\_\_\_\_, and they could drive their cars right up and this was a police cars and the big shots from Cheboygan and all over and they meet, so they drove up to the new building on the opposite side and this was a Chief of Police from Cheboygan. He came in the front door and I said, "All you have to do is open the window and you can hear the calls." "Oh," he said, "that's where my men were all the time." I didn't know, here I'm telling him, I'm getting in trouble deeper and deeper. So the boys were not supposed to have a coffee break until the afternoon sometime, but they'd always stopped ten in the morning. So I turned on them. I said I'm not telling anybody anything anymore.

RMM: You were just trying to be helpful.

DG: I was. I helped everybody.

RMM: Let's go back to the wheel rim factory, the steering wheel factory. How do you spell the name of that company?

DG: L-O-B-D-E-L-L.

RMM: And that was it?

DG: Lobdell Rim Company.

RMM: Oh Rim.

DG: When it burned down they moved to Ohio, but they didn't have as big of factory, but they made brooms, they made steering wheels, they made the steering wheels like for the old Ford cars, so if you have a Ford car with a wood wheel steering wheel, it came from Lobdell's.

RMM: So it was made up there?

DG: Yeah.

RMM: When you were growing up here were there any ethnic groups that were obvious, Germans, Polish?

DG: We have Polish people in Hosin, not Rogers City, but Hosin. Hosin was only five minutes from us, Hosin was all Polish people. Ours was all French, English, and German. We had a lady and a man from Prussia, there's no more Prussia today, that moved into, they had four or five children. He was here one year when he died. I don't know, he got some weird disease when he died, but they don't know what it was. But she had to raise those five children all by herself. She was a beautiful lady, but she said she saw her town on the TV, but she never wanted to go back, she said it was right near Russia, and she said there was such bad people. They were dirty people, she said, "They didn't keep their places clean." I don't know it's just what she told me. She was a seamstress, she had a sewing machine that she brought with her that would be this big and maybe to that wall. She made men's clothing without a pattern, she \_\_\_\_\_. Didn't have a pattern of any kind, we made quilts with her, she taught us all how to sew. So she'd done her part in the community and my dad would help her out. He did one night, there was a, he worked at the - it's a plant company in Rogers City.

RMM: Right.

UNKNOWN: Calcite?

DG: It was a different name that he worked for, but at the end it was Calcite \_\_\_\_\_. The man that moved into our neighborhood, I don't know where he was from, and he wasn't Polish, more or less English, small guy. He had seven children. He said he bought that farm that he was in. His dad moved there at night and they had nothing to eat and came over to our place and he said. My mom had roast pork and beef in a roaster with carrots and tomatoes in the oven all ready for dinner. He says can you kids eat soup and we wanted to know why. And he said these kids don't have a thing to eat, this is all going across to the neighbor. So he took the whole thing over and he said now I want a quilt off of everybody's bed. We all had a fit and he said look you guys you got a bed you got blankets, you've got everything, they don't even have a bed they've got to sleep in the floor. So we gave them the beds, the blankets, and the pillows and gave them

shoes and anything we didn't want anymore, we gave to them. So the next day that he went to work with Dad they got him a job. So we didn't have to do that. When they came to school all they had was bread, butter, and pickles. That's not a bad sandwich today. I like bread and butter and pickles, but anyway they got him a job and he tried to pay my dad back and my dad says no. He said you buy stuff for those kids; you put stuff in the basement for winter for when we have snow on the ground. He said I don't want to you see you suffer. So he took care of them. Well they left the lake to go take their children to school, like they go out on vacation. They go home like two weeks and then that one lady came in and she wanted to eat in a restaurant and before she went home and I said I can't, I can't buy the chairs, there's no place in Onaway that had that many chairs to sell in a furniture store, there was no place to around that I could get them. If you guys want to eat in that restaurant you bring your own chairs. So that night I had umpteen thousand chairs all colors. And they never took them back. Anyway that's how the restaurant got going.

RMM: Betty you talked about your dad coming from Pennsylvania, he did masonry work. Did he come to Michigan because of the automobile industry?

BM: No, I don't know why he came to Michigan, I don't know. I was too young, I wasn't born yet, but I don't know why he came.

RMM: He came up here, they didn't stop in Detroit?

BM: I think they were in Detroit for a while too. Yeah, but then they came to Onaway, how they got to settle in Onaway I never, I don't know I never asked my mother about it. Cold, cold house in there all the time, believe me it was cold. We had a heater in the front room and we had one in the kitchen and the kitchen stove and one in the dining room too, three stoves all together. Oh it was cold, it was so cold.

UNKNOWN: We had a nice farmhouse but it wasn't high, it was like a story, a big kitchen had a stove, a table that we would have everybody could sit around the breakfast table. We'd have a \_\_\_\_\_ that, we had a big barrel full of flower with a board on top with a trimmed edge and that was tipped up just right \_\_\_\_\_ bowls and \_\_\_\_\_ on it. Had a \_\_\_\_\_ on its side that we could fry bread on top, sliced potatoes and fried potatoes on top, onions in the stove, a great big long wood box that went up to the ceiling with wood.

RMM: In the house?

UNKNOWN: In the house. We had a pump, had a well, had a pump in the house the well was out just across \_\_\_\_\_, and we had lamps the oil lamps not kerosene.

BM: Our well was out in the shed, Dad dug a hole there, I guess our water must have been safe because we used to have a big pail on top and we'd drop the pail down in the well to get the water and pull it up like that.

RMM: Oh yours was the old original well.

BM: Oh, was it ever. We had no pump in the house at all. No bathroom, we had an outside t\_\_\_\_\_. And every washday that I could clean the \_\_\_\_\_ had to be polished.

BM: Don't talk about wash days, my poor mother had the old fashion wash scrub boards and had the old tire hand ringer, I had to ring the clothes out to the \_\_\_\_\_ stuff and bring them back again. Oh yes it was rough.

UNKNOWN: Then we got an electric washer after dad got working a little bit or one that was run by a motor and then \_\_\_\_\_.

RMM: Was it a Maytag?

UNKNOWN: Yes it was. It was nice that she said I don't have any trouble with you guys I bought ice cream. She said but when it comes to washing clothes you all cry and mope. Oh I'm telling you.

RMM: Now you had mentioned food that you were cooking.

UNKNOWN: On the stove?

RMM: Yeah.

UNKNOWN: We fried bread dough, they called scones and we could put jelly on them.

RMM: Could you talk, how do you spell that?

UNKNOWN: Scones, we call them "sconces." And then we fried potatoes, slice them, we had baked potatoes, we'd slice them and cook them.

RMM: But these "sconces" or scones would cook them on the iron stove?

UNKNOWN: On top of the stove on the lids, they'd be all polished. Dish pan about that big around she'd put flour in and make a little \_\_\_\_\_ and water and yeast stuff in and mixed it around until it got that big around and then we'd take pieces of that and that's what they called it "sconces" and you'd flatten it out and put it on the stove. Catch in range it cook it on the stove like that. Then when she'd bake the bread we couldn't

wait until the bread done so we'd get the tail end of the bread, the heel of the crust and cut it off that was good.

RMM: So this was something that everybody cooked I mean baked in town?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

UNKNOWN: I cooked at Polish weddings, I didn't cook at all, and I helped. And they cooked washed tubs and I thought they were going to poison everybody, but didn't, they ate 'em. They had a big fire outside with this big old boiler really, it was galvanized tubs. Made chicken soup, it was good, but the chickens are like they are today, chickens were raised on the ground when you got all the \_\_\_\_\_ from the ground and they were great flavor. And the juice from the chickens made beautiful gravy. Today you have to add stuff to make it taste like, I can't stand it.

RMM: You saw some of this, could you comment on the Polish Weddings?

UNKNOWN: Yes we would take one of the bedrooms and made shelves in them. A day or two before all the pies and cakes they would use they would celebrate a week or more so they had to have a lot of food for them. We cooked a lot, made a lot of coleslaw and Calabosas. They made a big wooden platform outside to dance on, and they had kegs of beer and all kinds of whiskey, they just partied.

RMM: So this was down by the Poles?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

RMM: But who was making the pies and what not?

UNKNOWN: I helped make them, the whole family would, they would always pitch in.

RMM: So you're saying that in the house they would put all these shelves up temporarily for the wedding food.

UNKNOWN: Yes, in one bedroom and filled it with baked goods because it would take the whole room to feed that many people. They made a lot of stuff, the Polish sausages, hams, you can name it, it was fun.

RMM: So they didn't buy this, this was all done from farm produce?

UNKNOWN: They made their own stuff, everything.

RMM: So you made sausage and what not?

UNKNOWN: Polish sausage, oh I can eat it. Duck soup made in duck \_\_\_\_\_ because the tip them upside and drain the blood from them. And we had invited everyone over for a fish soup dinner and the head was right in the soup, I had to leave the table. That's not for me. They always thought that was the best stuff there ever was.

RMM: This was all locally, the fish were locally farmed?

UNKNOWN: Yes. They didn't buy anything.

RMM: So you're kind of saying all these farms in the area then, were self-sufficient.

UNKNOWN: Yes and they weren't big farms, they had harvest trees and everything to make their farms bigger. When they bought those farms, we were in the war. They weren't very big, my family had to cut trees every year to make the farm bigger. They didn't have the money to do it like everybody else does today. No we didn't have the big equipment either, you see all these new tractors ahead of the show.

RMM: So these immigrants came up \_\_\_\_\_ and then buy a plot of land and then slowly cut the trees, clear the land and expand the farm over many years.

UNKNOWN: As they grew and as they got the money would.

RMM: Are there still people like polish ancestries still farming?

UNKNOWN: Yeah they stayed.

RMM: Can you talk a little about the Calcite?

Dorothy: I had a man the other day who said, "Dorothy, those are not boats those are ships." I said I know but ever since I've been in Onaway those ships have been called boats. Every woman from Alpena to way up north, they had to meet the boat, their husbands were coming in. So he was quite upset with me that. They were quite big ships and every time we'd go across the bridge there would be five, six big ships going through underneath the bridge. Now you go and see one if you're lucky.

UNKNOWN: Didn't Canada buy those ships?

UNKNOWN: France. France bought calcite out. France bought out, they had a store in town here, MP. I think it was French that bought out, my brother worked there. I said right at the end, I said to him one day that, that place can go down anytime. And he said oh Dorothy that will always stay there, it will always be there. It was two years and it was gone. It still operations but not like it did.

RMM: So you're talking about the boats, the boats were taking out the limestone?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

RMM: Let's see is there anything else you want to add, anything I forgot any \_\_\_\_\_ that. Well we'll get to him in a second and he'll have his own tape. Of course then you guys will be here. Okay, thank you.