

Interview with Caroline Glacherio

Where were you born?

Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, West ? County

Can you tell me something about your parents?

Well I know my mother was 18 years old when she got married I guess my father was about 21, 22, she was formerly a Kozak girl. Her dad died when she was quite young so she was just raised by my grandma. In her younger years I guess she worked in glass factory and a hospital quite a bit.

What were their names?

My mothers?

Yes

Ludmila it's pronounced Ludmila but they called her Emma for short and that's what everybody knew her by ? Emma.

And your father?

My father was Andrew ? and he came from Czechoslovakia and the majority of the people from the same town that he was from came to America. The majority of the people went to Pennsylvania because there were lots of coal mines there and they were all employed by the coal mines there. Well my father worked there until, oh I forget how long they were married, and we built a new home in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania and there the house was six months old when there was a terrible, terrible blast in the coal mine and a lot of men got killed so then the mine kind of closed down for a while and a lot of those other men that were not hurt left, they didn't want to stay there no more so that's when my father ventured to come to Ironwood because he had a sister living in Ironwood whose family, her husband and her sons and her ? all worked in the iron ore mines so my father just wrote her a letter and asked if there were a possibility that they were hiring men in the iron ore mines and she said yes and she told him to come and he could stay at her house until he got situated or got a job so he wasn't there two days and they were hiring so much that he got hired right away so he just went back and sold our brand new six month old home then we came here. So we came, by the way at that time there was railroad service I mean there was not the bus service for us but we all came by the railroad Chicago Northwestern Railroad was here and he got a job and started working right away and practically all the others who had settled in Pennsylvania eventually moved here in fact we had lots of them ? were from Pennsylvania too and many other families but they all worked the same way, they wanted to get in the iron ore mines and out of the coal mines so that was that part of it and I think we came here about 1920 of course I was just a few years old just ready to start school and that is when we did start school after we moved from Pennsylvania to Ironwood we did start school in Ironwood. Me

and my sister, my sister wouldn't go because she was about two years younger than me and she didn't want to go to school yet so I got started though in kindergarten and at that time there were a lot of small schools in the area the Aurora School, the ? School, ? School, Central School, Luther L. Wright ?that was all the schools in this area at the time. You didn't have to go Catholic school but you could if you wanted to. And we got to know all these other people who came from Pennsylvania got acquainted with them and to be neighbors with some of them, related to some of them.

What do you recollect about your grandparents?

I know they were hard workers, good providers, they believed in education. They were thrifty, but very good providers, both of them.

What did they do?

My father worked in the mine.

No your grandpa

Oh my grandpa got killed in the mine in Pennsylvania so I never did know him.

What about your grandma?

I didn't know her either. Though she knew me because I was a few years old before she died but I don't even remember what either one of them died from

What were there names?

Kozak, there last was Kozak. What was my grandma's first name, I can't remember. I think it was Emma too and my grandpa, I don't remember his first name.

What language was spoken in your home and the homes of your parents?

Slavish all the time. In fact when I started kindergarten and my kindergarten teacher was showing us different things and we had to say what it was and she showed us a big spot of rust on a tin can, do you remember me telling you that and I said that's ardza and she says what did you call that and I said ardza in Slavish it's ardza a rusty spot and she said no this is rust so there's where I got rid what's Slavish word and I got the English meaning to it. That was my first mistake in school. I recognized what it was I knew what it was within myself but that truly wasn't what it was in English.

What stories do you remember of the old days that perhaps your grandparents told you?

Obviously with your grandparents not being around when you were younger there couldn't really be much that your grandparents told you.

when she died, she died from Lupas, and then there was ? I think was 70 and Bill was younger, Bill was maybe in his fifties when he died and he had a heart condition so that's the story on that. They were all Vicertowskys and they were all, they all had been married.

The next question is what kind of work did your father do but you pretty much already covered that he was a miner.

He was a coal miner first and then an iron ore miner after.

What were your mother's daily activities

Well she was a terrific cook and baker, she was a terrific sewer, good housekeeper, canning, she did overall in the hundreds of canned goods every year because we had a big garden. She canned, she crocheted, she lots of sewing, she made most of our clothes.

How much did you help around the house, yard, farm, etc.?

Around the house, well I think I was 11 years old and I remember making the first cake. My mother told me how to make it and I wrote it on a piece of scratch paper and Sunday morning I waited until they went to church and I made that cake that she gave me the recipe for and I have been baking them since.

So you helped quite a bit around the house?

Oh yeh, oh yeh, and I used to do a lot of sewing machine sewing because she had a sewing machine and she taught me how to use the sewing machine and they also taught us to cut up all of our old clothes for rags and sew them together to make nice rag rugs we had lots of home made rag rugs that we all contributed to all the kids.

I think I remember you making some rag rugs didn't you?

Yeh sure.

Were you born at home or in a hospital?

Home.

You were born at home?

Uh huh.

If you were born at home did a doctor or mid-wife attend your mother?

The doctor.

No, no, no. That is kind out of my ? there because as I say I truly don't remember either what either one of them look like, I don't

What are your first memories as a little girl?

Memories of what?

Just your very first memories.

Well I was taught to fear the dark. Taught to fear the dark soon as it started getting dark outside we couldn't go outside if our mother or father wasn't with us they didn't let us go no place. I don't ? there were a lot of boarding houses because there was a lot of Finnish men that were working in the iron ore mines and they were drunk all time. Fighting in the middle of the street and we weren't allowed to go out and we weren't supposed to see anybody fighting so I can remember that distinctly and I can remember the time my sister and I were both in the school play and we had to come home at noon for lunch because it was just ten minutes up the hill from school and when we came home my mother made us take a bath and then she put on brand new black patten leather shoes, white socks, and white chiffon dresses for our program. We were running to school my mother always taught us when those drunk men holler after you, come back home right away, don't you go anywhere near them. So we were taught to fear a drunk man and we got so scared when we were going to school to be in this program, we took a shortcut up the hill past ? house, you know where that is, and then there was the Host family and they had a dairy and of course maybe about 30 cows in that barn and then the new barn was sky high and we were running looking to see if these drunks were coming behind us, both of us fell in this manure pile with our white dresses and black patten leather shoes. So that is very vivid in my mind. I have said that every time I go by the darn place I told the story because it happened. Then we never did get to be in the play we had to go back home and clean up. So that sticks in my mind and you know being afraid. Little did I think that I would marry a man that was drinking heavy and I would be selling the stuff working with what I was afraid of. And I was. There was nights when it came time to close this place, I was scared I would be in here with some ? when they first came to town dirty you know, I didn't know who they were they came from Chicago and they wanted drinks it was after serving time and on the deadline I announced this is the last call for alcohol if you want something to drink now you can have it if you are going to wait later you aren't going to have it so they were testing me. About 1:10 one says to me you better give us one more round. I said I am sorry I said I already said last call for alcohol at 1:00 I said you don't get no more. Oh yes, I said oh no I don't serve after hours because I am not going to go to jail for you.

Do you have any brothers or sisters and what were there names and ages?

Well there was Dorothy Vicertowsky Gance and she was 27 months younger than me. I forget how old she was when she died, seventy something.

What did she die from?

Double amputation. She had both legs cut off. And then Martha Vicertowsky McCall was 35

What were some of the home medical remedies of the day?

Well ? Oil if you had the sniffles, goose, grease, and turpentine mixed if you were hurting all over if you were arthritic they always say the goose grease and blended it with turpentine then they would give you a rub down like that, then for a sore throat or a sore neck they would always take a wool sock fill it up with middling, that you would feed a cow, and they heat that middling on the pan in the oven then you had that, there was no hot water bottles or there was no electric heating pads at our time, so that was our heating pad, our hot middling sock on your neck if you had a sore throat. That was that and essence of peppermint if you were throwing up or if you had the hiccups, just a drop of essence of peppermint on a drop of sugar and put it down our throat and that was it, that was the whole medication. Turpentine played a big part, goose grease played a big part, vicks vapor rub would have came on the market but it was long before vicks came on the market you know where we could have it at home.

One example they gave here is hot poultice.

Yeh this was hot poultice.

That what that was?

Yeh and muster potter everyone swore by muster potter and that was easy to make. We take four tablespoons of flour and one rounding teaspoon of dry muster potter mix it together and then keep adding cold water in there until there was goeey or gummy or like paste and smear it on a clean white rag and then put that rag in the turkish towel and put it on your chest and keep it there until it burned so hard you couldn't stand it and then take it off then that area is all heated and you're pink and then you rub that goose grease and turpentine and your cold was gone.

That's interesting. What kind of fruits and vegetables did your mother put up and who helped in this activity.

Well us girls all helped. Peaches, she put up about four bushels of peaches every fall, pears the same thing, then she made a vegetable soup mixture everything goes in the vegetable soup she would put it in bottles and cook that cold packet for three hours then all winter when she didn't know what to have and she thought ah we had some vegetable soup maybe a sandwich with that and she went down and opened a two-quart ? jar of this heavy, heavy vegetable, you know it was canned together, and that was it. Everything she could make jelly out of she did. Everything from goose gob(?) to blueberries to raspberries, strawberries, choke cherries, choke cherries were the worse jelly you could make it was always so strong.

You said goose gob? What is that?

It's a berry that is real light. It's almost transparent.

Did those grow around here?

Yeh, we've picked them before, we picked them years back. They grow on little bushes, they are very sweet, there good. We call them goose gobs but they are goose berries.

What kind of transportation did your family use?

Well we had no car so there was no transportation except for a little while the city between Ironwood and Wakefield they had bus transportation. You could take the bus only certain times a day. I mean there was either two or three trips throughout the day and made all the way from Wakefield to the flats in Hurly that was the only transportation. Then later on, then there was street cars from the flats into Hurly which is way down by where Gordon's apartment house was that was where the flats started and it went all the way to Wakefield to Jimtown, you know where Jimtown is in Wakefield and Rolondo's had their bar and that's where the street car would turn around and that would go two or three times a day on that run.

What kind of transportation did you use when you moved up here from Pennsylvania, how did you get up here?

Train

You took a train?

Chicago Northwestern yeh, Chicago Northwestern was running this run.

What were the roads like where you lived?

Well, we had cinder roads to go to school on. They were ? as far as the street part but what was supposed to be the sidewalk has cinders and I carry the cinder to this day in my elbow where I fell someplace here there is an embedded cinder because I fell it was raining thunder and lightning and we were trying to get not too wet and I ran and I fell and I got that cinder. There was no bus transportation to school, we had to walk summer or winter.

Where did you go to school?

The Aurora location had one school it was a four room school.

Which school did you go to?

Aurora, yeh, Aurora location and then that only went to the third grade and to get into the fourth grade then we had to transfer either to Central, Newport, or ? from where we lived in Aurora we had to go to Central school. You know where Central school is in Ironwood across from ? Peace Church. That's Central school so I went to Central then fourth, fifth, and sixth grade and then from there I went to Luther L. Wright.

And did you graduate?

No.

What grade did you complete?

I quit eighth grade. My mother was already sick then and I had to stay home because there was all the other kids I had to help take care of.

What do you remember about your playmates from those early days?

Well I learned to speak another language by playing with the Finnish kids because they lived next door and the mother baked ? bread, biscuits, and goodies every day that oven was going of course there was about eight or ten kids in that house and we would play there and after a few hours then they would come in our yard and play because we had a beautiful yard that you could play without stubbing our toes or anything, but there's where I learned to talk the Finnish language because after we played about an hour and the stuff was coming out of the oven, this lady would tell us before we go home like tonight, I am going to tell you five words in Finnish, tomorrow morning when you come back if you can tell me those words like I told them to you and tell me what they mean, she said you will have coffee or milk, which ever one you want, and any bakery that I take out of the oven tell me which one you can have. So naturally we loved to talk we were fast and to this day a while ago I was downstairs if somebody would make me mad and they were Finnish I would tell them off in Finnish and then again that Orvac and the other one from Annville that spent all that day there and they were talking about me all the while and I was just listening and then finally one says to the other one, should we have one more drink before we go he said in Slavish and the other one answered old man Orvac answered him he says ah no use to stay with this Finlander she don't what were talking about anyway. See they referred to me as the Finlander because my hair was always so light so anyway, that's when I pulled what I did I never acknowledged that I could speak Slavish that I understood every word they were saying but then when ? it got to be 3:30 in the afternoon or something like that the other one said well do you still have some work you got to get done and rather than catch hell tomorrow he's going to go home and do it now and he says come on lets go. So then that's when I left the bar, shut the register, left the bar and I walked out behind them and on the way out I did nothing but Slavish. First I thanked them for coming in, I thanked them for understanding every word they said, that was fun, then they started laughing outside and then they come back the two of them come back and then a car stopped in front which was another guy from ? so they invited him in so it was about 9 or 10 o'clock in the evening those guys were still there since dinner time everyone of them was drunk with their head on the bar you know sound asleep and I told them they had to go home now because I'm going to be closing up well I wasn't going to be closing up at 9 or 10 but I had to get rid of them. So anyway, I found somebody to drive everyone of them home and then when they went like this next time if you don't talk Slovak when we come in you are going to be in trouble with us and I said I was in trouble with you all afternoon because I was listening to you talking about me. It was fun.

Who were teachers and what do you remember about them?

Oh some of the names in the Aurora school, in kindergarten we had Ms. Ketchup, first grade we

had Ms. Beanblossom, in third grade we had Ms. Burns, May Burns, and she's the one whose brother had that Burn's Hotel in Marenisco, it's the only hotel in Marenisco, well she was my third grade, then in the fourth grade I had Minnie ? and Minnie? again, she was a heavy drinker she was drunk in school most of the time she carried her little bottle in her purse and then she would sneak in the closet where she kept the books and she took a snort and of course then she would walk around and we all could smell liquor you know. Well anyway, that was fourth grade then she got married and I had her again in the sixth grad and then she was Mrs. John Albert that's who she married was John Albert from Ironwood. She married John Albert so then I had her. In between there I think I had Ms. ? in the fifth grade. I remember Ketchup, Beanblossom, Burns.

Then you had sixth grade was when there was Mrs. John Albert then?

Uh huh.

Then who did you have in seventh grade?

Seventh grade I had Ms. Bell, and eighth grade I had another drunk old man Tate was my school teacher and now there's a Tate that's a doctor in the emergency the GrandView ? So I acquired if old man Tate was still living. He said oh Uncle John, he's long gone he said he drank himself to death. So I got to know that much about him.

Do you recall any poems or recitations from your school days?

Recitation? Oh yeh. I used to love poetry and I don't remember exactly which one it was but we had the highway man, remember that? ?? Twenty four verses I knew it. I knew it inside out. The Highway man was one but I, what was the other one.

I was just wondering if you put the whole poem on there but Jim said no.

No. I wouldn't remember the twenty four versus no more but that is what I did know because I liked it so.

Did you remember any other poems?

Yes but only

Citations?

No but I can remember I was in spelldown and I remember how mad I got about that. I was an A speller, in fact I always an A in spelling and math on my cards and then the teacher told us we were having a spelldown and we should study real well because which one of us win we were going to go to Lower Michigan for a spelldown. Well it was between ? who later was Dr. ? wife and me, we were two of the best spellers in the class. Well we had to pronounce the word first and then spell it without hesitation you just had to rattle it off. I had no problem what threw me, I

had never seen the word pneumonia written. The first I saw written was when it was time for me to spell it and I pronounced it (p neumia) and I lost my chance because of pronunciation I had never, up to that point I had never known I had never seen it written you know so I could say well that's pneumonia. Now I could spell it but at that time I had never seen it on the board of on paper so there's where I blundered and I never forgot that but I missed that chance.

What funny things happened to you or your friends when you were small?

Falling in the manure pile.

That's pretty much covered hey?

Yeh, Yeh.

What kind of games did you play? Describe one or two of them.

Tin can over the roof.

You have to describe that because I don't know what that is.

Well you take a small can like a tomato soup or tomato juice can you know the small one and you crush it and then you through and you holler anty anty I over and toss it over on the other side of the roof and who ever is on the other side of the roof and whoever is on the other side is supposed to catch it. If they catch well then that's good because then it's there turn to come over and decide. That's all. We played that and then hopscotch. We played that. Drew the hopscotch on the sidewalk because we had cement by the house there. Those are two ? things that I can remember.

What did your parents for? Food, Clothing, other items

What or where?

Where did your parents do their shopping for food, clothing, or other items?

Well for food there were two A&P stores in Ironwood, there was a big one and a small one. The big one is where that bank is now near the Ironwood Post Office near that big bank on the corner, what is that D&N or whatever that is. There was a big A&P store that took half of that block, that is where we did our grocery shopping and if we wanted to go to the small A&P store that was were Schwartz's Chiropractic place is now across from the library. It was right directly across from there old library, the small A&P the big one was down there I told you but the small one was right across from the library.

What does A&P stand for? Do you know?

Atlantic and Pacific.

Oh would that be a railroad?

No, no. It would be the ocean. They service both the sides of the Atlantic and sides of the Pacific

The coasts.

Yeh, Yeh.

That's interesting.

And then our clothing was, all the shoes came from John Albert's store I can remember that, they all went for patten leather I mean all the kids in Aurora so many had patten leather. And sewing stuff that my mother used to use either for sewing or for crocheting came from JCPenney's when JCPenney's was about where the Dime Store is in Ironwood now it was in the middle of the block. It was a big JCPenney's. It was bigger than the one we had ?.

Did your family take vacations? If so, where did they go.

No, I remember one vacation that we all went and it took us all day to get there in our broken down star car we went to Topaz. You know how far Topaz is from here. It took all day Sunday to get there and about eight flat tires. That's the only vacation that all of us had. My aunt and uncle had a farm out there and the other vacation I remember was when my aunt in Cleveland was sick and my mother was called there because they didn't expect her to live and Ethel was six old when she went there and she got sick. They had an epidemic scarlet fever there she picked up that scarlet fever and when she came home from Cleveland from my aunt's every one of us had it. So that what was left with a near problem ever since and me, I got ? that's a kidney problem after I had scarlet fever. So that's the two vacations I remember and neither one of them turned out good.

What was your nearest town and what do you remember about it?

Nearest town?

Yeh, what was the nearest town and what do you remember about it?

Oh, Ironwood. I can remember when the streets were awfully, awfully bad and in places it was bricks you know for street, what do we call that?

?

Yeh I can remember that and I can remember the horrible looking fronts on all the stores. Some of them like the old Davis and ? where you turn out the S and L later. That was such a junky place but it was a big store you could buy anything, anything from shoe rubber there to dresses and well as far as the A & P's the big A & P was nice but that little one across from the library, that was just a whole in the wall. You couldn't get to know how everything was placed so that

you could go there and find the toys. That A & P wasn't taken care of that well.

What particular stores do you recall the best and why?

Well I guess I about covered that.

Pretty much the A & P, John Albert's.

John Albert's for shoes and men's trousers and JCPenney's.

Do you remember talking with any very old people when you were small and some of these stories that made an impression on you that you could still possibly tell?

Well the old ladies use to get together and were plucking feathers in the fall you know they got through killing the geese and the ducks and that then we plucked the feathers and to pluck a feather that's a job because you can't talk out loud or you can't breathe too heavy because the feathers are away from you and you had no feathers on your lap to strip, they call that stripping them, make your own pillows. The old ladies would always have a scary story or Mrs. Koshier was telling about she had a son, this lady that was her neighbor had a son and he was always in trouble but his biggest trouble was stealing and bringing home something and his mother never once, never once made him go back with what he stole. She praised him for being a good boy and bringing so many good things home so he would come home with a doll buggy and he would come home with some hammers and he found everything, he always found everything he never said I took it, he said I found it. Well that happened in our house, my sister Dorothy came home one day, my father came from work at four in the afternoon and he saw a doll buggy with a doll in it in our yard and we never had, we had dolls but we never had a doll buggy. So my father said to my mother, "where did you get that buggy?" My sister ran and said, "I found it!" My father said where did you find that? Gee that's nice. He praised her. But it was all fixed up between my mother and my father we were taught to fear the dark. My father said to my mother, don't say nothing now but after we got supper through and the dishes are done and put away, I'm going to make her come on a walk with me and pick this buggy and she's got to show me where she found it so she had to walk with him pushing this doll buggy and the doll from Aurora all the way to the third house on the corner of ? Avenue, you know where ? Avenue you hit that little house and it takes you to the memorial building. So anyway, my father just kept walking with her and he kept asking her, "well where did you find that, you've got to show me where you found that buggy" so anyway she pointed the house and she took the buggy and pushed it right up by the door. In the mean time my father just shoved her over to the side and he rapped at the door and a lady came to the house and the lady said, "is there something I can do for you mister?" and he said his name, he introduced himself and he said I got a little problem and he said I got to square it off today. She said what's your problem, maybe I can help you. And all he said to her, "do you have any little girls?" "Yes, I got little girls but both of them are in bed and one is crying." My father was curious and he said why is she crying? Somebody came and took her doll buggy today so my father said that she is fine, there's the little girl that came, that's my daughter, she came here with another girl and they each took a buggy and is this your buggy and he pushed that little buggy up closer to her house see and she said yes and she called this little girl and she started crying out

loud because her buggy was back with the doll. Well anyway my father told her, let this teach you a lesson. You didn't pay for that, I didn't buy that, grandma didn't buy it, or ma didn't buy it for you, don't you ever do this again because I'm not going to just walk you to where you found it I'm going to give you a little licken and ? with my leather strap. So that was the funny part of that because she never found nothing after. She never found nothing after, never.

What are some of the difference between growing up now and when you were a child?

Well I think everybody was more or less pressing for religion back then I mean church came first of everything. They called me a church mouse because no matter what was going on in church, I had to be there, whether it was six in the afternoon or six in the morning. Church, we were forced to go to church. Right now how many go to church? You know the younger ones. You don't see to many young people in church no more. That's one thing that is different. And oh the clothing styles were much different. At that time when your overalls were ragged the next thing was cut them up for carpet rags and we'd all sew them together and make rag rugs out of it. Right now they cut the holes in them and they walk around with half of their shorts sticking out in the back or the pocket hanging down. the difference is it's just great. We could never, we were never allowed to wear shirts with and overall, never. Our brothers had to have their dress pants for Sunday. So that's two things that I can remember real well. Religion was kind of pushed on us and if you didn't have a hat on when you went to church, the priest stopped you at the door and you had to pull out a big handkerchief and put it on your head and that started here too for a little while when ? was here. ? use to do that. If you didn't wear a hat to church, you had to pull out a handkerchief put it on your head. Just lay it there but you had to have something on your head, couldn't go to church with just your head, your hair.

Wouldn't it now be out of place to wear a hat in church?

No not really.

When you were a child, what did you expect to do or be when you grew up?

I always wanted to be a doctor. I always, always wanted to be a doctor and I had encouragement because when I worked for Dr. ? they knew that so he gave me access all his library, his medical library which he had one wall just full of medical books and he would always say would you go home if you're not too tired Caroline pick whatever book you want mark it down here that you took it home tonight and when you are through it bring it back and he said we will help if you are interested in that field and then my two aunts were both old maids both had plenty of money both Aunt ? and Aunt Mary neither one of them were married and they were in their thirties already and they knew that I wanted to be a woman doctor and at that time that wasn't heard of I mean I didn't know one woman doctor but I still wanted to be a doctor.

How would you have described a successful person at the time you were growing up?

Well someone was never unemployed, you know they always had a job from one job they right away somebody would be picking them up because they were a good worker and the way they

appeared in the public, they weren't all mouth you know a mile a minute, there was none of that. I liked to be talking to somebody that would answer when they were being spoken to you know not just jabbering go, go a mile a minute, I couldn't stand that and I didn't like it.

Describe a typical 4th of July when you were a child.

Well, number one we got new black patten leather shoes, that was for 4th of July every year all three of us. My mother made us red, white, and blue dresses because she sewed, I remember that I remember the dresses, it was a weeks getting ready to go to the parade and of course we had to go all the way up town for the parade and we walked because there was no transportation for us and well we enjoyed everything that they sold after a parade there were like popcorn and pop and hot dogs usually. I can remember that and how excited we were then later it got dark and they had the fireworks. That was all 4th of July.

What are your earliest memories of Christmas?

Well the fear I had when I realized we didn't have electric tree lights, we had those clip on clothes pin candles and how more people burned to death with candles burning on a Christmas tree that's all ready dry and you know crackly I feared when our Christmas tree went up because I was scared of a fire though they were careful but we never had one set of electric lights. We had all these candles about this high.

Did you have any fond memories or like maybe something that might have happened at Christmas?

No, it's just that you know the families all got together one weekend it was at one house and well we had festivities, eat until you couldn't eat no more and unwrap packages because everybody got lots for Christmas but most of the stuff was homemade.

What was the effect of 1929, the big depression, on your family?

Well, the majority of the mines closed, there was a relief office established, I think it was between Bessemer and Iron Wood, they called it Papa Dooda's office. Mr. Dooda was the head of that and of course you could go there, they would give you everything from flannel nightgowns to bed and mattresses in the line of necessities for the house and then canned goods, they would give you beef stew and grapefruit juice and whatever, they had a big shipment of then you could come one a week and tell then what you have used up and they would replace that but you have to go to Dooda's office to get it and the biggest part of the people were on that. If you didn't have a garden or if you didn't have chickens that you could kill at home, you had a lot of hungers in the house especially if the family was big. At our house there was never hunger because my ma baked the bread, she did lots of canning, we always had a couple slabs of bacon, a couple hams hanging in our coal room in the basement so we didn't have, our biggest problem in the food part came coffee and meat, but later on when they went to having ration stamps, well being we had the restaurant here I always had lots of ration stamps so if we needed it at home I would just give them some of my ration stamps and they could buy coffee too you know. The price was not

higher because you had to get it with stamps but you had to have stamps and they gave us stamps according to how many pounds of coffee we used last year at this time of the month or at this time of the year that's how they judged the allotments.

What moves to different houses or places did your family as you were growing up? Though you already covered that.

One move from Pennsylvania to Iron Wood and then I got married and it was from Iron Wood to Ramsey, that's all the moves.

How did you decide on a career?

Well I don't know if I, the depression made that decision because the mines were working and I sure wasn't going to bank on both the ? and my two aunts helping me financially I wasn't going to bank on that.

How did you meet your husband? What were the courting patterns of your day?

How did I meet him? Well I was working for Dr. ? and I was walking to work with five other girls which they were all working for doctors too there's lots of doctors in our end, Dr. Maloney and Dr. Crosby and Matajeski and McConney and O'Brian so all of these girls were working for one of these doctors and of course we were all through about the same time seven o'clock after supper and the dishes were done we could all go home. We were walking home and all the signs there was great big posters nailed to them great big Easter Monday dance at Ramsey town hall. Well I didn't know where in the hell Ramsey was I wasn't out of Iron Wood we didn't have no way of going anywhere so anyway all of us girls were walking home and one said to the other one "have you ever been to the Ramsey town hall" and I said no I don't know where Ramsey is and here nine miles away I didn't know where Ramsey was which I didn't. And they said well good, make plans and we will go to Easter Monday Ball in Ramsey. So I said I didn't know if my mother and father would let me go but if they will I will go so I went out and bought a nice beautiful white suit and new shoes and a hat for the Easter Monday Ball but that was also my Easter outfit and we all dressed up and we all went. We didn't know how we were going to get there because there was no bus after supper there was none of us had a car but we went and stood on the corner I thought it would be the ? corner but I forget exactly where on north side. And we said well we will have to thumb a ride so imagine five girls standing there pointing in some direction with their thumb. So we got picked up, this man said wonder if I can get all of you girls in the car but I would be glad to give you a ride, where are you going? Well one of them Sophie ? spoke up and said we are going to the Easter Monday Ball at Ramsey, do you know where Ramsey is? Those girls knew but I didn't, I was the youngest of the bunch so he said yes I am going to Wakefield so I will have to go through Ramsey. All the way we were talking. One of us had an operation the other one had an operation and our conversation was all about these operations and the doctor didn't say a word we didn't know he was a doctor. Anyway, when he dropped us off by the Ramsey town hall he told us where it was and there was a sign Easter Monday Ball begins at such and such a time. so we thanked him for the ride and he got out of the car, like a gentlemen and he said well I have to get out and thank you girls he says your

conversation was very interesting, I am a doctor, I am a surgeon. I did all the operations you girls you were talking about. I took out tonsils and I took out appendix and I took out gall stones. Every one of us had one of these operations I had my tonsils out and ? she had her appendix out. He says it was very interesting he said I didn't say a word but I enjoyed every bit of. I'm not sorry I gave you all a ride. So then when we got to town hall, at the door John ? and Jim were the two active members in the athletic club here, they were selling tickets so tickets were 25 cents for the Easter Monday Ball you know. Well I guess we all had a quarter on us. Each one of them gave a quarter then Jim handed them each a ticket but when it come to me he slipped a ticket in my hand but he pushed the quarter back in my hand. He wouldn't take my quarter so I gave it to him and he said no. Well I didn't how he felt about me, why he did that. Anyway, then when we got upstairs and the dance was going he walked over to me after I had gotten in with my ticket and ? took the ticket upstairs Jim sold it to me downstairs and Hoyle took it away from me upstairs. Anyway he said blondie first dance okay? That was me. I says yeh so all the others were dancing and he didn't get up and ask me to dance so I got up and I just stood there and he said where you going? I said no place I thought we were hear to dance I said we came to the dance. He says lets just sit and talk I would rather just sit and talk so that's how the romance started. We sat and talked while the others danced. Kind of numb hey?

Whatever works. Did you or your parents belong to any church club or other group?

Yeh, we belonged to the alter society, I did and my mother. My father belonged to a lodge that was like an insurance company carried that insurance all through and then I collected on that when he died.

You said it was auxiliary? What was the club that you and mother were in?

Alter society.

What's alter society?

Well church doings when you go once a month if you belong to the church you automatically belong to that alter society. I am supposed to start going to the readings at the ? because I never did sign up, I wasn't sure if I cared for the church that much to go to alter society either the first or second Monday of the month.

Did you have to travel far to catch a train?

No. Downtown Iron Wood that's all.

When did your family first have electricity, inside plumbing, and a telephone?

Electricity, well that was the first thing they did to the house that they bought, when they bought it there was no electricity they had all kerosene lamps and they had only pumped water so that's the first thing my father did. He put in electricity right through the house and then he put in city water and that was right away that would have been like 1920 something around then it was right

after we came here. Telephone, we never had a telephone until oh after my mom was sick so many years then I had a phone put in for her because I figure when my mother could not move off the chair, she sat in that rocker for nine years with the phone right there she could call a neighbor across the street and that neighbor lady would run and see her when Ethel was working so it wasn't too many years that they had a phone.

Do you remember anything about State or Presidential elections?

No I could never understand the difference between the Republican and other parties you know and my father would be talking politics he was quite a politician and he was very active in politics when Frank Pearlage first started running you know he was still not married he was living up in ? well I didn't know the Pearlage family and I didn't know nothing about politics and I wasn't voting then yet either you know I didn't go to vote right away when I was old enough.

Sure she could talk ? but she wouldn't talk she wanted to talk about me in my presence. well I took it for so long and after about a week of living up there I thought I will fix this. I am going to buy a composition book, a big one, and I am going to get pencil and I am going to lay that on the chair in the dining room and when Katie comes to visit and I am going to slip in there and every word that I hear I am going to write it down and I am going to write it the way I can pronounce it not the way it's properly spelled then when Jim would come home for dinner or supper which ever was coming up first, I would say come on upstairs for a minute and he said what you want and I said what does this word mean, what does this word mean, I would always have at least ten and to this day I carry that in my purse. All these years I have carried the way I wrote it, the correct pronunciation, and then what the meaning is and then well I was pretty good then sometimes we had an Italian girl working here and I would get some words from her, sometimes I got word from ? now anytime I am stuck for a word or I hear the word more than one time I'll ask Rosie, what does this mean. Grandpa used to always call me a ? so finally got on my nerves I thought what the hell is a ? so when Jim came home I said hey what is a ? He said why are you asking that is what your father always tells your mother let that ? do that. when there was something to do grandpa wanted me to do it. Well ? is a running squirrel and he said I never walked whether I was going down the basement or upstairs I was always running I was moving so fast and he gave me credit for moving fast so he called me squirrel ? Well anyway, Rosie laughed because a lot of times you know we are talking and she will be, she forgets stuff and she edges in a few words in Italian then I'll answer her and she says I didn't know that you know what that meant. I said oh yeh, I got a whole list of Italian and Finnish translated words. She said how can you remember them all. I said well I am going to tell you a story when we had these girls and I had to ? the uniforms I didn't just buy them and wash them, I had to iron them and deliver them downstairs so the girls had clean uniforms at six o'clock so I said it would take me three-quarters of an hour for one starched uniform to iron them dry and I says rather than to be bored that I have to iron these uniforms instead of them doing it themselves, I said I will write down ten words and then I put English, Slavish, Finnish and those were the ten words I would memorize while I was ironing and first thing you know you would be surprised how many of them I knew and never

forgot to this day. You know I well like I said if I would have had light was one of the ten words that I wrote, well in Finnish it's ?, in Slavish it's ?, and Italian I forget now I forgot but I got it written down anyway but that is how I kept all three languages straight you know. Then when we were in Dallas and I told Uncle Joe's friend there that I could speak the three languages if I let myself you know just go I know I remembered. I will be damned she bought a book and she sent it to me, a Slavish book.

The tape got cut off at this point and I think she is in the middle of another question.

Oh in ? remember when we would go up there by you know where we would go the back way for my ? there, there was that one shop there, who has got that, I forget the name of the guy who has got that, there was an Italian paper published it one time, I remember.

You said there was a Slavish paper?

There was a Slavish paper, it was called the Obraana, my father used to get, my father got two Slavish papers, that one and Sokol.

Were they published up here in the U.P.?

Oh yeh they were. The Obraana I don't know if it came out of Duluth or if it came out of Ashland. Maybe Ethel's even got some copies of it I could ask her for the hell of it because she used to save all that kind of stuff.

What were the translation ? those or don't you know?

Well the translation isn't in the paper but I mean when you read it and you know the language you can translate it yourself.

I mean though what is the name of the paper?

I told you Obraana that's the name of it in Slavish.

Is there an English one for that?

No, no, no. But truly the word Obraana means your defense, translated that's what it means.

What you could probably discuss right now with Jerry is I would discuss your history. Where you started.

Start with when you and grandpa got married.

Well I can start it right where, we got married June 14, but he started the bar June 11, 1934 and the first place after we got through church and our meal, our wedding dinner or breakfast

whatever it was, dinner I think, he said well now we got to go to Ramsey, this is where you are going to live. So I said what you got a garage for? He said well you know I started a bar on the 11th. Well he didn't ask if it was okay with me or if I had any thoughts about a bar at all, he just did he started it. So anyway, he said now we got to go and get ice, we didn't have electrical back bar like everything was electric plugs you know now ?. He said we got to go to Massie's ice house in Bessemer and we've got to get a few bushels of ice to ice up the kegs of beer. Well the kegs of beer were downstairs in that liquor room, not in the liquor room but you know where we used to tap the beer, so we had to load everything with ice and then behind the bar where the bottled beer was we had to put ice in everything so that was the first job I had to do in the bar in 1934. That's how that started and then from then on when there was a problem we had bartenders and we had bar maids and of course we added the lunch counter it which spelled more work for me. On Saturdays I used to make a ? you know where you put eight ? jars into the cold pack I used to make that full of chili for Saturday evening in a half an hour, depends on? I never got to taste my own chili after making so much that's how fast it went. And of course the laws were changing, I mean we thought everything was running smooth you know we had the growing help and we had the place all furnished the way everybody was furnishing a bar until the liquor inspector came and found out that we had no hot water so we had to put in a hot water tank that was number one, then we had to have two restrooms, one for the ladies, one for the men, so we had the end of the bar's where we built the men's restroom, you remember where that was, and the ladies well the ladies used ? and then of course we had to go for neon lighting and neon tube lighting well because it was a better light well it dressed up the place a little too. And of course there were the ? days where the guy didn't have too many jobs but those \$44 a month jobs that's what they used to give to work ??

Ramsey park right?

Uh-huh that was ? project. And before we were married, grandpa tried to get a job on ? when they were talking about going to build a nice park for Ramsey. So he went to apply for a job and he got hired, he worked a day and a half and the big wheel there that was head of the project says you're fired. He says what did I do wrong? You didn't do nothing wrong, but he said your folks have enough money to keep you, you don't have to work to bring anymore money home. That's what they used for an excuse so they laid him off, Tommy Pollard was the big wheel, he was cousin Jack and of course the cousin Jack's were kind of catered to at the time they got all the supervising jobs and you know the better jobs, the hard working dirty jobs the other guys got.

What's a cousin Jack?

English, strict English.

I have never heard of that before.

Yeh, well they referred to them as cousin Jack's and the women are cousin Jenny's. ? was a cousin Jack, ? was

And then when, do you remember when the Keystone Bridge came about?

No that was one of the projects at the time of the bridge but the exact year I had that down because Father Smith gave me all the low down on that when they were going to tear or blow it up he was really wild, he went every place, he said I will do anything I have to to save that but that is not going to be blown up and then he went out and got the literature somewhere I think from some library where it was published that there was only two in the world and we had one and the other one was, he knew where he told me and I don't remember now but,

But the Keystone Bridge, that's where you pull out the one certain stone on there...

Yeh there's one stone that holds the whole thing. That's why they named it Keystone, one stone holds the whole thing, and to figure how much transportation went over that you know when..

Chicago Northwest

Not only when the mine was working, all night long those trains were running carrying all that iron ore, there was 40, 50 great big iron ore cars honking along here you know three four o'clock in the morning, oh that was for years and years when we first came upstairs here we built up here..

Above the bar?

Yeh, you couldn't sleep because the vibration of you know all those ore cars going for almost an hour, but all forty of them you know they would have to stop on the crossing and then start all over again all that squeaking of the brakes and everything, it was awfully noisy at first but then you got used to it after.

What about prohibition?

That was before my time here because prohibition was what year? But that's when we had a lot of Moonshiners, ? had most of the Moonshiners in the county. Sure they would make grape wine with the dark and the light grapes and then all that mash and they would make Moonshine and Moonshine was selling by the gallons coming down the hill from ?, kids you would see were coming down with a box on a sled in the winter time with two gallons of Moonshine that was bought up in ?. The ? family used to make lots of Moonshine.

What else about the bar that you can remember? Didn't you guys have a big feed on the 4th of July?

4th of July? Yeh, 4th of July we had extra help, well you remember who was some of the extra help.

Dave Bracket?

We never had Dave Bracket up here to eat.

No, he used to help, he used to say he worked the bar every 4th of July with ma.

I don't remember. Maybe I didn't know that at the time, I don't know but mostly we had Al Mortier, and Bobby LeBlanc, whatever girls we could get, Ed ?, Helen ?, Helen ?, oh we had about 18-20 girls in a period of time.

Tell about what kind of spreads you used to put out for everybody and that you didn't charge them for it.

You mean Christmas dinner or open house? Oh yeh, well Jim use to always say, you know we've been taking money from these people who have been patronizing us all these years, I think it's time we do something for them and I said like what. I didn't think of it that fast or I would admit. He said we should have open house. The reason we started open house was the first year the ? or any tavern was not allowed to be open on Christmas Day. We had to close Christmas Eve at eight o'clock and couldn't open until a day after Christmas. Well when that law was instilled, that's when Jim came up with the idea well that's fine, we don't have to be down here waiting on anybody, what we will do is fix a nice little party upstairs for them and invite them all for Christmas morning to come to our house instead ? come on upstairs. Well the first year we had 50, the last year I had it was 151 because we kept the book and somewhere I got the book with all the names in it of everybody that came and it took me three days to prepare all we had because I had baked a ham, and a dozen sausages from what's his house, ?, I baked sausages, ham sausage, a stuffed turkey, and then I would have coleslaw, rigatoni, gnocchi, everything in Italian that I could make and every kind of salad and every kind of bean and then for dessert we had walnut ? and creme puffs, fruitcake, everything that I liked to make in desserts we had, when I set that table I had both boards in it and the table was from that door to the arch and it was just loaded with food, I've got pictures of that. We never ran out, I mean I never had an empty dish that I couldn't fill up, I would just go in the kitchen and get another platter full of something else that's how much food there was and no charge. And that went on for about ten years until this one year fixed it so we quit, the boys, Jim and Gordon and his brother were bartenders and I took care of the food and they took care of the mixed drinks and carried them in here. Well as it was, we had cases of liquor in the laundry room, one case of the higher class liquor and a case of the other kind and you knew who drank what you know, so and then we had cases of beer we had a tub in the bathtub with ice and everything was ice cold and proper for drinking. Well I would be running back and forth and Jim would say the Kessler bottle is empty go get me a ? bottle. John Plesh and Barbie Maki were sitting on the radiator there and at that time there wasn't that glass enclosure for the shower so some were sitting on the bathtub, some were sitting on that board on the radiator because it was so tight in here there was no more room. They watch me going in there and coming out with a bottle and handing it to Jim. Well that registered real hard here. After they were through eating I don't know when they did it, but I know they did it because I saw it when they came out, they both had their coats on and one of them first went in there and he took a bottle of liquor and he stuck it under his coat and then he said well Barney don't you think we ought to go, let's make room for somebody else, they agreed to go. Then the other had slid in there and did the same thing, they both had a jug of liquor under there arm and I saw this and I ran in the kitchen and I said to Jim, Barney and ? had both taken a jug of Whiskey from the case from the laundry room or not from the laundry room, from the linen closet and I said they're

leaving now. So he just left the kitchen and went there and he grabbed them and he said where you guys going were not through yet, there's lots of food there's lots to drink yet and John ? said oh we got to make room for somebody else because it's so smokey up here, we'll go and you can open up the windows and at least there will be room for somebody else and we'll come another time. He says no you won't come another time he said because I'm not going to have this maybe every Christmas I don't know. So anyway, when they were fighting to go Jim just grabbed the coat downward and ? bottle and down went Barney's bottle, fell right on the rug in the hall. If you ever wanted to hear Jim let loose, he swore up and down and he said I'll be a son of a b, he says since eight o'clock I wined you and dined you, I gave you all you could drink, I couldn't pour it any faster than I poured it, you had all the food you wanted to eat if you didn't want something hot you had something cold if you didn't want meat you had something else and he said this is my payoff? He says well I'll tell you one thing, you're lucky you stole yourself each a bottle because you'll never not even get a glass of water from me at my house anymore and that was the end of it. Then we announced it, there was going to be no more Christmas party, that cleared it.

That's a shame.

Wasn't it though.

They can sit here and drink all night for free but yet steal from you.

They went right in the closet where they saw me coming you know they should have known that I was going back and forth, that was my job, I was the in between and I was delivering the food and delivering the bottles to them. I don't know what they were thinking, well they weren't thinking. So that's how we got rid of all those good time parties, there never nothing after.

Normally ? what mainly did you sell for food? You served pizza's and (Tell him the story how you came into the pizza business.) pizza burger's obviously and chili on Saturday nights.

Yeh but we use to, we had short orders for a while but the problem came in, none of the girls would want to work in the kitchen. They would wait on tables because there was a tip you know when they got through with that table and they'd tend bar but the minute there was pizza orders everyone of them got diahherea had to go that restroom and never came back out to make them. But we did have short orders you know where we would make pork chops or fried potatoes when we first started and the pizza business, how did that start I don't remember?

Oh, the bar was changing and no one was coming in or the people would go for the bar to the bar to the bar then a guy from New York came in..

Yeh it was a real stormy winter night, real, real stormy and Jim and I were sitting in the library booth..

What was the library booth?

It was a square booth with all the daily globes and the ? heralds and magazines, and story books you know, and anybody that sat there would sit there by the hour it usually was Pat Fowler you know because he would watch everything and then he would go around telling everything, who was out with whose wife and all that crap that went along with it. Anyway, this one night Jim was so upset there wasn't a soul in the tavern only him and I sitting in the library booth and he said what the hell do you think is happening to this business. And I said nothing is happening why did you ask that? He said well there's nobody in here but me and you. And I said well maybe we ought to get smart and close the place there's nobody here why are we losing out on sleep, why don't we go home. Well it's easy to say but I don't do business that way, I don't lock it because there's nobody here and I said okay well then sit there, you can read if you want and if I feel like reading okay otherwise I'll turn the radio up louder or put some money in the jukebox. So then he said was well the thing I am trying to think of can you come up with something that would solve the problem of why aren't we doing the business that we had? I said number one did you look outside? Who's going to be crazy enough to go out and get drunk tonight in this storm when the cars couldn't go through main street because the snow was over a foot deep already then. So anyway, we just mumbled back and forth for a while and then finally he said what do you think we could do to pick it up. Well I said I know what you could do but it would be a lot of work and he said what's that and I said add a little pizza to the menu in the other room. He said if you think you can sell a pizza in Ramsey, you're fifteen thousand times crazy. I said what do you mean by that. He said who in the hell do you think is going to come all the way to Ramsey to buy pizza's. I said if you make a good pizza, they'll go further than Ramsey they would go all the way to Hurley to Libertyville to buy them now and I said we make as good as the Libertyville or better I said we are going to have a good business. Well I don't know about that. He says some of you think that it's all right but he says some of it is beyond me. I said okay, forget it. So there was no more conversation and it wasn't too long after we decided to sweep and shut up. Next day, as it was meant to be that way, my doorbell rings and who was it Jim at the door, Caroline somebody is down here to see you. I said I am in the middle of baking a cake I can't come down now I'm not going to go half way I won't know where to start when I come back to finish this cake. So I said who is it? I don't know who the guy is he is from New York I guess and I think he's got an answer to your prayer. I said I am not praying for nothing. I was mad. And he said what do you mean you're not praying for nothing, he says when I asked you a question yesterday you gave me an answer he said and I think he's got the answer. And I said whoever it is whatever they want to see me about, tell them I won't be free until 1:30. I figured by that time the cake will be baked and out of the oven and then I will go downstairs. So 1:30 I go down here's this guy there, well dressed young man introduced himself and asked if I was Jimmy's wife I said yes. I said I understand you have an idea and he said well your husband just told me that you were kind of shopping around. He said how big of an area do you have to work in and I said this is it right where you are standing here and I said what kind of a pizza oven do you have oh and tell me something about it. So he said well this is it, he had a miniature one with him and he put it on the counter and I said well how many can that make at one time and he said well two at a time and I said well that's not for this place. I'll tell you something I'll give you some idea of size. I said one night a month I get 17 nurses and 1 doctor here for pizza so they order 18 pizzas, one order, that's always at 11 o'clock at night and I said if I can only bake two pizzas at a time in this and it takes 20 minutes to bake them, I said I will be here all night and everybody hasn't got there pizza and can go home so I said I need a bigger unit. He said well

show me where you're going to lay the pizzas out when you make them before you put them in the oven. So I showed him this is the counter top and we're going to work on this, this is the counter top they're going to be cutting on. So then he looked through his book and he said well what you need is a unit that can make eight at a time, four on the upper deck and four on the lower deck right on the cement piece that's in there. And I said well where would it fit? So he went and took a tape measure and he measured the corner where the electric stove was you know and he said well are you going to have to have an electric stove here? I said well the set up is going to remain pretty much the same except the stove is going to be here because hamburgers and ham sandwiches there going to be with us and the pizzas over here and the refrigerator where we keep everything. So he said I'll tell you I would suggest that you took and ordered that eight unit deal because he said you can take out eight pizzas every fifteen minutes. I said well now that's more like it, I said now if I get an order for 18, 17 nurses and the one doctor that come in here once a month, I said that will work out just fine. So he said well I'll have to special order that stove. I said well okay if it meets with his approval that he wants to go into the pizza business I said that's fine. So he said with that I will give you a head start on it, I'll tell you what else you have to order and you order the first order directly from our factory in New York so he ordered a certain kind of sausage, a certain kind of crust, a certain kind of sauce, a certain kind of cheeses, the graders, the grinders, everything that went with that, we bought the whole set up. So he didn't know anything more about making pizzas then I did I've never seen one made, I've never tasted one outside of Liberty Bell's, I had no idea all the fun that you had smearing it up with stuff you know. Well anyway the stuff came and then we didn't have it maybe a month and Jim came up with a smart idea, he said did you stop to think that when this group of 17, 18 come in at 11 o'clock at night and give you this big order, if this stove clunked out what would you do to fill that order and I said no I didn't think of it that way because I never thought we would be in the pizza business. He said I am going to order another stove just like it. And I said then where you going to put that one. He said we are going to have it downstairs, if that problem happens you know where our pizza stove clunked out, I would get two big guys like Nick ? or Mike ? and Nick picked this one up and take it down to the basement go down to the basement take the new one plug it in and we are back in business. Well that was fast thinking and it was good thinking because that is the way it went at one time you know where it clunked out and we just got a couple guys to go down in the basement and we just shifted them around so that's how the pizza business got going and then like I say when it got to where the hunters came up here and we had the night before the hunters were going back to Detroit, him and I would have to stay and make pizzas all the rest of the night until morning until those guys came to pick up there, you know they would order 24 or 34 to take for their freezers at home. Well we worked our fannies off to get all those orders filled up for those guys and we didn't want to make them until last minute you know so they were fresh, fresh, fresh and then the first freezing will be when they hit their freezer. So that's how that thing started.

Do you remember when you made your first pizza, do you remember the date by chance or the year?

No I don't remember off hand but someday when I'm cleaning my filing cabinet I can look up, I'm sure I've got the receipts all the bills I paid ?

Because I thought that you were close, or supposed to be the one that had the first pizza in the Upper Peninsula.

No.

? had before you?

Oh yeh, for maybe three years on Sunday nights we used to have song fests at the bar, the stormier it was, the nicer business was at that time. Nobody wanted to go so they would all eat pizza or order a sandwich or whatever they wanted and a drink and well a couple of times Bonnie ? got the smart idea, she said why don't we all see how many pieces we want, mark them down and what we want on them and we'll send somebody to Libertyville, we'll call ahead and tell Libertyville to set up this many pizzas somebody is going to go and pick them up. So that's what we used to do, we'd get order for like 20-25 pizzas from Libertyville, we'd call them and give them the order and say how long will it be before you have it ready and we'll send somebody down to pick it up and that's how we started. So I got to study their pizza, what it looked like and the texture of the crust and everything. Pretty soon it worked up to be a big thing. I told you what we made the last year we were making them, 9,000.

9,000, that's a lot of pizzas to make. And what were you selling them for?

Nothing. A dollar and a quarter for the works and a dollar for just sausage and cheese.

That was a 12 inch pizza?

Yeh.

That was cheap.

It was. It was, and how many trips we would make to Saxon to the cheese factory when the ? were running the cheese factory in Saxon and we'd call there and say well we're going to need so many loaves of cheese, you know they were big long loaves and then we'd have to grate that for half an hour in the morning to get a great big mixing bowl full. Everything had to be ready so it was just, half asleep and you could do it put the sauce on and the spices and the mozzarella and then the sausage and whatever else they wanted anchovies, mushrooms, olives, whatever. So 9,000 I know because I know how many crusts we had made and then we used to, the crust generally when the baker made them for us, it got to where I was making it first and I said oh I can't keep this up where I got to make all those crusts roll them up and cut them and everything bake them partially so then he said we will see if we can find a baker that will do it, so then we did find a baker that would bake them for us but he made them a little thicker than what we wanted, we wanted them nice and crunchy. You didn't have to chew on raw dough or undone dough. So then Jim use to go down to the liquor room and sit by the hour trimming those crusts, they were paper thin and all that trimming, well we had a gillion blackbirds in the yard because we would throw the stuff on the grass and pretty soon a swarm of blackbirds would come and eat up all these trimmings from the crust you know, everybody was wondering what's going on there. They

had no idea that that was the trick to our pizza's being sold. It wasn't a fat doughy piece, it was thin, nice and crunchy. That was the answer.

Then you had pizza burgers after that.

Yeh, well then we started buying more meat from ? and then, I don't know who gave Jim that idea for the pizza burger but there were lots of calls for them too. So it was a real experience and it was kind of a nightmarish thing you know when a lot of times I could say it was five minutes to one and somebody would come in and somebody would come in and order so many pizzas and I would say we are not going to be open that long I can't take that order, when am I going to make it? Well you take it and make and we are not going to have anything more to drink so you won't have to worry that you are going to be picked up for quoting alcohol after hours. I told somebody that we sold 9,000 the last year and then well we were having trouble with help, the girls didn't want to make pizzas anymore, they weren't going to slop up there uniforms with that sauce.

How many years did you make pizzas?

Ten for sure.

What were you selling your pizzas for the first year?

Same price all the way through.

A dollar for a twelve inch and a dollar and a quarter for a ?

Yeh and somebody got kind of smart one time and said I ordered one with the works and Jim said you got the works, he made it so he knew what he put on it, and he said I didn't taste the onions damn it and Jim snapped right back at him and he said onions isn't my recipe, I don't use onions and I don't intend to start using onions just because you demanded tonight. He said do you want this or don't you, if you don't he said there will be three, four, five, people in the bar that will take it right away, I'm not worried, I don't have to throw it in the garbage because there's no onion. So you have to kind of defend yourself. I don't know what else he expected on there beside what we had on it because with everything was anchovies you know, sauce, anchovies, sausage, mushrooms, olives, black and green both, cheese, and we were very, very generous with the cheese, it wasn't a dry pizza on top it was always nice and juicy.

Do you know anything about the open pit mine?

Well not too much.

Talk about how many mines were open here at one time.

Oh, when the county was at its peak and everybody was working in the mines, well there was Ramsey Mine, there was the Open Pit Mine, there was Mine in Annville, Mine in Tilden, Annville had ? then it extended to Wakefield, Wakefield had one in Jimtown there was a mine, then

Peterson Mine in Bessemer, then in Iron River there was lots there were Norry, East Norry, Aurora Sea Shaft, Newport, South Paps, Paps was the one that had the bad cave in in 27, a lot of men got killed, Montreal had mines.

We want to stay in Michigan. Were there any other types of mines around other than iron ore?

No.

Were there ever any big like what ifs? In the Upper Peninsula it is proven that there is gold and silver and there are diamonds and I was just curious if there was ever any small, small, small, mines.

No, last that they had in the paper about perhaps diamonds hit was in Wisconsin some place near Cable, Wisconsin, I don't even know where Cable is but that was in the paper not too long ago again but they haven't done anything about it.

Do you remember much about Copper Peak?

Copper Peak? Not too much no. It's high and it has been used for tourists in the summer, you know they would give them rides to the top.

You don't remember when it was built?

No, I truly don't, but the biggest change in Gogebic county came when US 2 was taken out of Ramsey because US 2 wasn't just US 2 as it is now, US 2 came through Ramsey and this way out and that's when we had bus transportation and we had for a little while we had railroad, a little railroad depot in fact John ? house is parked on what used to be our railway depot here right on the corner. You know where ? house is back there? Well right before there there was the railroad depot and Mr. Nippits was the railroad depot man and he lived up there where ? used to live on the hill over here, that was years ago. I think it was 1951 that they took US 2 out of here and after that then Ramsey started going down great. One mine after the other was closing.

Do you remember anything about the Great Storm of 1937 or 38?

We lived in the house on the hill, everything was tied up for almost a full week, you couldn't see telephone poles, just the very tips of them that's how high the snow was and in Ironwood the stores were closed because they had to shovel tunnels in order to get into any front door of any store in Ironwood.

How long did those tunnels last, did they get cleaned out in a week?

Oh no they melted down and when it quick snowing they collapsed from the heat that came from in the buildings but I can remember when snow was so high here and the Ramsey mine was going and ? lived up there by where ? live, maybe that house or the next one, and old ? worked at this mine down here and he got a pack sack and the men hadn't gone home for three days and three

nights they were right there and Mr. Brown was busy on snowshoes and the pack sack on his back cooking coffee, making sandwiches, and fixing anything he could eat and carrying that pack sack down to the men that were marooned in that dry house for three days and three nights.

That person, Ano Brown, gets a lot of credit because I remember Dave Bracket talking about that out at camp. He has even talked about Ano Brown about what he did for all of those people.

That's true he did. That's all he did you know, he no sooner got down with one load and he would come back up and get another load and poor old grandma Brown, she was pushing 100 and she was still cooking for all these people, that's right. Her house just tumbled down within the past year or two years that house fell there, do you remember Leonard, that house was toppled over and it finally fell over.

Do you remember much about Hiawatha?

Yeh. Grandpa's cousin started that. Charlie ?. That's his idea here. He was a big wig in the city of Ironwood and he was ? you know and of course he tried to do all things on the side. He's the one that proposed that for the city of Ironwood, he's the one that ordered it and helped install it.

What year was that?

It doesn't say?

Did it say cost by chance?

Oh it did, in the paper it was, in fact information came with that plate but I think I threw that I away I don't think I got that anymore.

Here is says its permanent color withstands 140 mph winds, weighs 8 tons, and is 52 feet tall.

The end of the interview