

KAARINA LUCAS
ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN
July 18, 1994

SUBJECT: Kaarina Lucas, aunt of the interviewer and wife of William Lucas Junior who was also interviewed for this series, was interviewed for a series on the life of miners and their families in the mid twentieth century.

START OF INTERVIEW

TAPE 1 SIDE A

MARY TIPPETT ANDES (MTA): Let's start by having your full name, first, middle, maiden, and married name.

KAARINA LUCAS (KL): Okay, my name is Kaarina Korpi Lucas. I had no middle name. And I was born north of Ishpeming, about ten miles north. On what was the Braastad farm in a log cabin. Born at home. On November 27, 1922. I was the fourth child in a family of eight children. What do you want, parents' names?

MTA: Both parents full names.

KL: My parents were Matt and Hilda Korpi. My mother's maiden name was Wiipola. And I can't tell you when they were born, what years they were born.

MTA: Do you know middle names?

KL: Pardon?

MTA: Middle names? Year of your parents' birth?

KL: My father was born in 1884 and he died then in 1970... 1970. And my mother was born probably in 1891 or 1892 and she died in 1979, I believe, or 1980. My parents, their nationality, of course, they were both Finnish.

MTA: Were they both born in Finland or were they born in the United States?

KL: My father was born in Finland. My mother was a first generation American. She was, both her parents came from Finland.

MTA: Now, before we get into too much of their lives, can you give me the names and if you know year of birth of all your brothers and sisters?

KL: Let's see, there were eight brothers and sisters. Arvid was born in June of 1916. The next one was Hilda, was born, I believe, in November 1st in 1918. And then Hilma was born on November 27th in 1920. I was born November 27th, of course, in 1922. Ellen was born in November of 1924. Amanda was born October of 1926. Matt was born in November of 1928... 1930. Arthur was born, hm, three years later. Three years after Matt. And I can't remember that year, that year for Arthur.

MTA: What was your mother's occupation?

KL: My mother, mother was mainly, she was a housewife. And her family was very, I believe, very, very important for her. My mother worked hard. She was up early in the morning and every day of the week. There was no Saturday or Sunday off. She worked every day of the week. She was up early and she went to bed, she tried to get to bed early but sometimes late, too, so. Father,

MTA: Let's finish with your mother first. Is it correct that she was also a midwife?

KL: Yes, mother was present at the neighbors when they had their children. I don't know, I remember a few, but I don't, she probably was at quite many, but probably the family that lived nearest to us probably more so than for anybody else. Of course they were, my mother and father were godparents to these children, they were also godparents then to us. So, that's all, that's the only memory I have of this.

MTA: Before we get in to your father's occupation, I want to talk a little bit about where you were born and where you grew up, because it wasn't really in a neighborhood, per say. Can you describe where you grew up?

KL: We were born on a farm, or a place that was owned by the Braastad family of Ishpeming and there was a small log cabin there. This was about ten miles, it was quite a distance then. I have no idea, there were probably people employed on the farm that also stayed there. There was a huge barn there that had an apartment. I remember it had an apartment inside the barn. And there were men, there were other buildings on that farm, also, where there were probably lumberjacks employed. I don't really know what my father did, I think my father was a woods worker I think he also worked on the farm there. Outside of these people we were probably the only family that was there, and then about two or three years after I was born we moved to the place that became the family home. We lived in a small log cabin there for a while and then we went into the house after it was built, the main house. But then we had neighbors, after that. We had neighbors probably a quarter of a mile away, and then other family probably a mile away. With children, and we would go visit back and forth and we had other children to play with. So, that was a change, different, but we had the same children always to play with when we started to attend school, they were the same children.

MTA: Tell me where the family farm was located.

KL: The family farm is located about seven miles north of Ishpeming on 573 road. And its, that's the only thing I can tell you.

MTA: Fire Center.

KL: Oh, the area used to be called Fire Center. I think this is beyond what, my mother was born in an area that was really called Fire Center and our farm was probably about two miles away from that area.

MTA: Tell me what your father's occupation was.

KL: When I was, when we were younger growing up father was a woods worker. He cut pulpwood, I believe, and he also cut, received orders for firewood from people in Ishpeming and he cut firewood. He was also a farmer. And we did, we had potatoes, we planted potatoes, we had turnips, we had cabbages, we had dairy cows. There were hay fields. Most of the hay, all the hay that we needed for the cows were grown there. And we also had, later we had sheep. There were always pigs. There were chickens always chickens for the eggs. And we all learned very young how to chop off heads and get the Sunday dinner. So, it's a, father was, I remember both father and mother working. Father was working all the time. He not only worked, he used to frequently provide rides, with horses for hunters going into the woods. And do other things like that for other people. And he would be paid for this. But he mainly seemed to be cutting pulpwood and cutting firewood for people in town.

MTA: He was born in Finland. Can you tell me anything about why he would have left Finland to come?

KL: Father said that he left Finland at a time there was a war. A Finnish war. And they were of course recruiting all the young men. And so he left Finland to get away from that and he then came to the United States to get away from that, the fighting, from getting recruited into the army. And I don't exactly know, I believe it was in the early nineteen hundreds that he came here. He was very young when he came here.

MTA: Was his name different when he lived in Finland?

KL: Yes, his name was Korpala. And been someplace along the line it was shortened to Korpi. In fact I wasn't even aware that he was Korpala until I was an adult. And then found out that he was, that there had been a change, when they...

MTA: When you were a small child what language was spoken at home?

KL: We always spoke Finnish at home. In fact we did not speak English until we attended school. And then the teacher of course would not speak Finnish. She made us speak English. I believe we already did know probably a few words. I cannot remember knowing, but I'm sure we did, I'm sure we did. And then we learned English in school. And I cannot remember having any difficulty learning it. I think we picked it up probably very, very rapidly.

MTA: Where did you go to elementary school and can you describe your school?

KL: We went to a little one room school house about two and a half miles from home. Which to me seemed like a very large building, but now when I go to the stop and look at the foundation seems

awfully small. We always had one teacher. All the grades were in that one big room. And we had, the teachers, well I think the teacher did an exceptional job teaching all of us. And we had everything taken care of, everything from Christmas plays to providing books for us. Library books. And I think that the education was good, I think it was very good. I think she, we all learned to read very well and whatever else.

MTA: And you went to the fire center school until what grade?

KL: I went all eight grades at the Fire Center School. And I was the last one, and then I believe then the next sister two years younger than myself I believe she finished her elementary education in Ishpeming School, with the Ishpeming School, the last, her seventh and eighth grade. And I was already a freshman in high school. A freshman or sophomore in high school.

MTA: Tell me how you got from home to school.

KL: Elementary school? We walked. We walked every... We walked and we would freeze our toes, we would freeze our cheeks, our ears. And yet I can't, I remember we used to have lots of fun. We walked, and I cannot, I remember being cold, just a very, well, I have just few memories of being cold. So apparently we did survive. We survived it just fine.

MTA: At the time you were growing up and walking to school and things like that do you ever remember missing school on account of the snow being too deep or anything like that?

KL: I have no memories of missing school. We must have missed some, there has to be days we did not go to school because snow was too deep or whatever. But I have no memory of missing school.

MTA: Alright, that just gives us a little flavor for what life was like at that time. At some point your father started working at Cliff's Shaft, is that correct?

KL: Mmhm. Father started working probably sometime after 1935. Probably about 1936. The first year when I was a freshman in high school I drove, I went to high school back and forth with him. And father would get up sometimes early in the morning. I remember putting, leaving, putting a fire, building a bonfire under the car or truck or whatever to heat, to get the motor running. Never, I never heard my father complain about that. Mother would be up early to get the fire going, make the coffee, fix up his lunch pail and help out in any way she could and father would leave. And surely he must have had many times the snow, there must have been snow on the road, whatever. And yet, I'm sure he was at work, he made it as many times as he could. In fact, during the big storm of 19..., the big blizzard of 1938 we were in Ishpeming for two weeks and we did not reach home. And then when we did get home they were only able to plow the road to within about one and a half miles of home. So every day until they were finally able to plow the roads we had to walk to where the car was. And then start the car and then go come in and then, in the evening, lock, stop and then walk home again. That first winter was not the easiest winter. But I think father as the roads improved and as the plowing improved it was easier for him to go back and forth then. Then of course with the buses, bringing the buses, I think began about 1938. '39. I believe 1939 the school buses students to the Wishishime [phonetically spelled] School. And

I think then the roads conditions improved also a lot and it became easier for father to go back and forth to work.

MTA: Do you have any recollection of how long he worked in what mine he worked in?

KL: He worked, farther worked mainly at Cliffs Shaft at the Barnum Mine. I believe that was the only place. I think he only worked about fifteen years. Between fifteen and twenty years, I don't think he worked any longer than that.

MTA: Did he ever talk about what it was like to work in a mine and did he ever have any observations about, did he bring his mining clothes home to be washed and what did they look like or anything like that?

KL: All I know about, I remember about my father's mining clothes, I remember I had to do some mending. We had to mend. He would wear one section, one set of mine clothes, and then they'd get a new one, new section because of the iron ore was very, very difficult to wash off the clothes and so he would wear one set until it was, probably stood on its own and then they would get a new one. A new set. But I also remember having to mend clothes for the mine, so there were some, probably his underwear and his socks, some articles of clothes he would wear more often and they were washed in between because I remember doing the mending. Helping mother with the mending. But I don't remember beyond that too much.

MTA: Are there any particular things about growing up on the farm, your childhood that particularly stand out in your mind for any reason? Things that you did as together as a family that were then vastly different as you grew up and had a family of your own?

KL: One thing when we were young. We only had a certain group of children to play with. And we played amongst ourselves, also. A great deal. We didn't have the radios. Or we did have a radio, in fact. We did have a radio. But there was no television, so we had to think up of ways to play and we did. We used to go skiing in the winter time and we used to go out to make the snow angels and make snowmen. And in the summer time we did have the swings, including the big rope at the end of the barn that we would swing from one corner to the other, I remember doing that. And we used to go swimming. We used to go, and I remember getting the blood suckers from that barn yard crick on our toes and had to pick out those, none of which bothered me. A blood sucker was nothing and I still get amused when somebody talks about bloodsuckers because we didn't think anything about them. But we found ways of playing. But we also had work, our chores to do around home. Especially in the summer time around haymaking, we had to get the hay made, it was very important to get that done. We used to help with the planting. We also had to help the weeds, which I hated with a passion. I still do. I remember pulling weeds and being bitten by bugs, insects. Piking those potato bugs, those dear potato bugs, shaking them off the plants into little pails. And then my father would gather them all up and they would be burned. I think they were burned. So, there was a lot of work especially from spring on till fall to do. And we all had our chores to do. Including the girls, had to wash the clothes. We had clothes washing to do and that means scrubbing them on the scrub board, boiling them, probably. Outside we had a black kettle, a black vat like thing and we would put a fire under it and have lye, my mother had lye and we boiled the clothes in

there and then put them through a wringer contraption in to two separate tubs of water, rinsed them, and then hanged them up to dry. So we had, we all had our chores. We all had a great many chores to do. Which had to be done.

MTA: When you finished eighth grade did you go to high school and finish high school?

KL: Yes, I started high school in 1938. And I wanted to go to high school. It was very important for me to go to high school. And of course I drove that first year back and forth with my father. And I guess Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ogden Johnson was the principal and he said he'd never seen such a bewildered student as I was when I went to school. It was so different for me to be with all these other children, where I had just played with the neighbor, only the neighborhood children. Now there were children, different students of all kinds and all types. So it was really a bewildering experience for me. Well, I guess I made it. But I always remember the teachers were always very kind. Even the students were kind. Not the, I don't think there is the type of ugliness there is now frequently then, there is now.

MTA: Did every one of your brothers and sisters graduate from high school?

KL: No. Not, only the three girls graduated from high school. That's odd. I don't... why, didn't the boys want to go, or. I think they were encouraged to go, but they just chose not to go.

MTA: When you were growing up was church and any religious life an important part of your life and if so, how?

KL: Yes. We went to Sunday school since we were very young. We would go to the neighbors' homes. We would always change, go from one house to the next house. And then next Sunday to somebody else's house. And we always had our lessons to learn. And I remember mother always asking us, 'have you done your lessons? Have you learned your lesson?' and then we would go from one house to the other. Religion I think was very important in our house, especially with mother. My mother, very important for her, my mother, she would talk about doing this was wrong and do that was wrong and she would talk to us about this was sinful and that was sinful, and surely if we did this we would go to hell. [Laughing] We wouldn't go to heaven. My mother was very, very aware of that, we have to be good. We have to very good. Especially as women, we have to be good girls. I always remember mother saying... this was very important for her, religion was very important for her.

MTA: Did she read and write Finnish and or English?

KL: Mother spoke both Finnish and English. I believe she spoke English very well, but she was self-conscious about it. She wrote both Finnish and in English. I think probably wrote Finnish probably better than English.

MTA: Do you remember reading being important in your family when you were growing up at all?

KL: Yes. Mother liked to read, especially. And I remember my father, we used to get a Finnish newspaper. Which they would both read. But my mother also liked to read detective stories and she'll

say that she liked to read the True Story, and she used to get that. And maybe that's why I liked mysteries now, even, because of my mother reading detective stories. There was all kind of reading material. And there was religious reading material, also, which they both read. I think mother was probably more of a religious person than my father was. But he was also, but not as much.

MTA: We're at the end of the first side so I'm going to turn the tape over.

TAPE 1 SIDE B

MTA: We're going to back track just a little bit. A couple of quick questions about growing up and then we'll go forward to graduating from high school and things. When you were growing up it was during the Depression, part of it was during the Depression and I'm curious how your upbringing was the same as or different from the neighbors in your area, in that rural area.

KL: We always had enough food, of course, because we were on a farm. I realized, of course, that we did have some neighbors that were on welfare. Our clothes, clothes were either mother made a lot of our clothes from feed sacks or we did get clothes also that were hand-me-downs from people in town. None of the girls for instance had, I don't think we had many dresses, and I think the ones we had we had just two or three. We probably wore them quite a few days before we changed them. Food. There always seemed to be plenty of food. And we were warm. I realized that some of the neighbors probably, I think they had perhaps more, but then I realized also that they were looked after by welfare, which incidentally we children did not know anything about. In fact I did not know anything about that until much, much later. My mother did know. But there were a lot of things my mother did not talk about because she felt that it was better that we did not know. No, she knew that we would get into arguments with the neighbors' children and she felt that we would, we might just say something. So she never mentioned that.

MTA: So, what was your parents' attitude about providing for themselves and their family and whether or not they felt it was acceptable to have welfare or anything like that?

KL: No, father and mother would never have welfare. Father did whatever work he had to do to earn money and to have enough to provide for the family. Welfare was something that he would never, never have. Or never go to to provide for his family. We all worked. We all had our chores. Father always seemed to earn either by cutting wood or by selling produce, mother would sell, the milk would go to a separator and the cream would be sent in by cans, wherever it did go it went by cans. We had the sheep, we had the wool. Eggs were sold. Vegetable were sold. Potatoes. Turnips. And so on. So there always seemed to be some money. In fact, I was very much aware of that there was even a savings account. I could hear mother and father always talked about their money in front of us. That seems to be a worry. I think they would plan for whatever might happen. Of course many things did happen where they needed money. I don't know if they ever borrowed, I'm not ever aware that they ever borrowed money from, or they had to borrow money from anywhere. Maybe they must have. Especially when the two little girls died. One little girl was brought to the Ann Arbor, to the university hospital. And I don't know, the little girl that died from cancer whether she was ever, exactly to what hospital she was brought to, but there must have been, there probably were bills. And I remember mother-, no, that was

when mother was in the hospital that was my father was already than working in the mine so there was money then to pay for those bills. But father would go in if there, I'm sure there were, I'm aware of times when there wasn't enough money to pay for something that father would go in and explain why and then they would pay, things would be paid off a little at a time. So it was very important for father to be independent and to stand on his own two feet. And I think he passed that on, too. To all of us.

MTA: That was the next question I wanted to ask you is how has that upbringing influenced you in the way you've done things?

KL: Well it's, I believe it's that you do not ask, if you are able to work yourself, you work. And you also, I think all of us, and I think this is all the brothers, all the sisters, I believe they believe in saving. I don't know, really, but I believe they all believe in having a savings account and providing and planning ahead. And I think the same thought that is in mother and father's mind was 'will there be money enough to bury us?' And I think we all have the same, to this day, we think we have to make sure there's at least money enough to at least bury us. [Laughing] So no one, so the kids don't, will not have to bury us. But I think we all learn that you have to stand on your own two feet, that if you, you do not go ask for money, you find a job. Which is what I did. I, when we, when the mines went to four days a week we had the house payments. I went to work. I went to the hospital I spoke to the director of nurses and the next day I was working. It was not the thought that you're going to go ask for money from your parents. You're not going to go do, you're going to go help yourself you're going to go find a job yourself.

MTA: Just to put that in to perspective, at what point was the work week dropped to four days a week, what year would have that been?

KL: That was in the 1960s, I believe. The mines cut down to, they went to a four day week for, I don't know how long. I can't,

BILL LUCAS (BL): I don't know. They shut down so many times that I lost track.

KL: Yeah, they went down to four days a week and it was, we had the house and we were building the house and we had the payments. Of course with the children, too. So you, that's when. I can't remember how long it lasted. But I was only supposed to work for two years and I worked for thirty.

MTA: That's a whole other story, we'll get in to that. [Laughing] Just for the record, your two sisters who died, the names of the two that died and under what circumstances?

KL: The two girls, the two siblings that died were Hilda and Hilma. Hilda was born in 1918 and Hilma, I believe, was born in 1920. I do not know, one of these girls died from cancer and the other girl was injured by a horse, she was kicked by a horse. And this is the child that was brought to Ann Arbor. She died, I think she was three years old when she died. The other girl may have been a little older, but I learned just now recently something interesting. My mother had held the little girl that died from cancer, held her all night, slept with her all night after she died. And then the next morning, ready to release her.

MTA: Let me just ask one more question. Knowing that your mother lost two children, how did that affect her? Do you know or what thoughts do you have about that?

KL: Well, we knew that it was very tragic to my mother. It was very hard, very difficult for her to speak of them. And she spoke very little. And in fact I never asked her questions about the two girls because it was such a big sorrow to her. And she only, very few times ever, she would mention them. She would say that she would see them in heaven when she died, but outside of that... I never, I often wanted to ask her questions about the two girls and I'm sorry I didn't. Now I wish I had asked her questions about them. What do you want me to say?

MTA: No, I think that's fine. We'll go on to a little more upbeat topic. And that is, first of all, I want to ask you a quick little interlude question, what did you call your mother and father?

KL: We called, we used the Finnish terms for mother and father. We called *isä* and *äiti*. And never would we say, it was always *isä* and *äiti*. We were brought up to respect our parents and in fact we were brought up to respect all older people and to use the correct terms in addressing them and to be respectful.

MTA: Just for the record for anyone who doesn't speak Finnish, which one means mother and which one means father?

KL: *Äiti* is mother and *isä* is father.

MTA: Now, tell me about when you grew up, let's backtrack a little bit, you grew up in a rural area outside of Ishpeming and so it took longer for that area to get electricity and all those kinds of things. Tell me about your father's zest for new things.

KL: My father was very, he liked new things and new discoveries and he was looking forward to have electricity come up north. He purchased a refrigerator and a range quite a few months before we had electricity. And he was waiting to, the bathroom of course was put in as quickly as electricity and he loved it. And he loved the telephone. He loved using it. He'd call up at least once a day and just to talk, just to say hello, how's everything? Fine. What's happening? And goodbye and hang up. And he loved, my father loved anything new. We had a radio, I remember listening to the Armstrong, the All American Boy, listening to the Lone Ranger, listening to The Shadow, listening to, what else was there? Detective shows on television. Listening to music. I used to love to listen to classical music programs. And so did mother, incidentally, like to listen to classical music programs. And we used to listen to, oh, I remember listening to the War of the Worlds with Orson Welles. And I was, I don't know how old I was at that, probably, I have no idea. But I knew that was a show. It was not real. And I to this day I can't understand why all the things that happened happened with that show. I also remember the death of the Lindbergh baby and how interested we were in listening on the radio to what was happening about the Lindbergh child, the kidnapping and then the trial later. My mother, mother, both mother and father loved, would listen to the radio. And we would, to see pictures of people grouped around the radio is very correct, that's what we did, with chairs pulled up, several around the radio.

MTA: Now, I think we're talking about two distinctly different time periods though. Radio was when you were growing up and that was before there was electricity at the farm. How was that powered?

KL: We had a battery radio. We had, there was just a battery. I remember it was easy, very easy to hook up and every once in awhile, I don't know, did we get a new battery, or did you have to recharge the old one? But, something anyway.

MTA: And approximately when would there have been electricity at the farm then? Which was long after you were married and had a family.

KL: Yes, I think electricity probably came there in the 1950s. 1950s, sometime in the 1950s, I think. I can't remember for sure.

MTA: Alright, we're going to take a leapfrog forward now. Where we left off at the end of the first side of the tape was you had started high school and you talked about how important it was that you wanted to go to high school and you wanted to graduate. What year did you graduate and then what did you do after graduation from high school?

KL: I graduated from high school in 1941. During that first summer I worked, I did housework in town, incidentally at the home of Vining Bjork, who was at that time was considered the youngest mayor, I think, in the United States. And then I left and I went to Michigan State College for I think one year. And then I was working and going to school at the same time. The war had begun already. And then a lot of the students were going into the service, so I joined the Navy then and became a Navy WAVE. I was in the service then for eighteen months and I was at [inaudible] Great Lakes. And one of the things I did was, I would go back and forth to the west coast, three different times, the west coast to pick up hospital, to be on hospital trains to come back with wounded to Great Lakes. And the first train was the biggest train and then gradually as the war wound down in the South Pacific there was less and less wounded coming in. So, the third train was the smallest number of wounded came in. We would come, we would join the train in California. I believe all the times were in California. We'd meet the hospital ships and they, the wounded, would be placed on the trains and we'd ride in. And the trains would always come in, everything else was blocked off and the trains would come right straight through and I think we made it in three days, or something, two days, three days. It would take that, then the wounded would be unloaded at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital and then taken care of there. And then after eighteen months or two years I believe, I came, I was discharged because the war was winding down and they cut down, they were cutting down on personnel.

MTA: What did you study at Michigan State?

KL: I studied, I wanted to study, incidentally I wanted to study biology. Like Trina. But I was taking just preliminary courses, the first courses, I never did get started in on that. I wish I had continued, but, so what happened.

MTA: How did you finance your education at Michigan State for that year?

KL: I was working, I was doing housework and I was working in the barns as a second job. The Michigan State of course has the dairy, huge, since it is an agricultural college they had all kinds of animals including the dairy farm. So I worked in the dairy farm with the milking machines and helping with the cattle and so on.

MTA: You mentioned when you started high school that it was overwhelming with all the different types of students that you encountered. Did you have a similar experience then when you went to Michigan State and then when you got into the Navy or how was that adaptation having come from such a small place?

KL: Well, I didn't, when I went to Michigan State I didn't have, really, I lived in a private home and I worked in that private home and I went to school, and that wasn't that difficult really. I remember registering, I remember the long lines. They do it exactly the same way as it is done today. And I had no problems. The Navy, I had joined the Navy, wasn't any problem. I went to, by train from Chicago to New York and from New York to Washington D.C. and then from Washington D.C. back to Great Lakes. So, it was, I seemed to be able to take, by then, that change and I just seemed to not have any problems with the change.

MTA: Okay, so then at the end of the war you were discharged and then what after that?

KL: I came home. And incidentally I think I was a very great sorrow to my mother because I did not write all that often and I feel sorry about. I guess there were times when she was worried about me. Our neighbor, the same Mr. Pranson [phonetically spelled] who lived down the road up and said 'One of these days you're going to be found someplace like in the Chicago River,' and jokingly. But I, after the war and after I was discharged I came home. And I think I met Bill. Probably up north at Emil's house, I can't think of anyplace else than,

MTA: Let's talk about that a little bit. I need to have you explain, too, who Emil is and where his house is.

KL: The Emil I'm referring to is my uncle, of course, Emil Wiipola. Who lived a few miles away from where my home was. And who we visited, of course, quite frequently. And I think I met Bill there at Wiipola's house.

MTA: Let's talk about that a little bit. I want to see if you remember the first time you saw him or how you met, how you got to know each other, what your courtship was like and approximately what year was that, too.

KL: This was in 1945, I think. I don't know what we did. What did we do?

MTA: Don't ask him, that's cheating.

KL: I don't remember, went on walks.

BL: Explored the north country.

KL: Yes, we did.

MTA: I've already got his version on tape, you have to tell me what you remember.

BL: We climbed the mountains up there.

KL: Yes, we went all over. We would go across the river, we'd go tramping all the way through the woods. And I still remember climbing all those hills and wish I had all that energy. And I remember seeing such beautiful, how beautiful the country is back there.

BL: It is.

KL: And that's mainly what we did. We didn't date as far as coming down town for shows or anything like that. Nothing.

BL: But the beautiful country up there. We climbed some of them high mountains and there's one by Boise crick. You could see Lake Superior,

KL: I remember we, on the other side of the Dead River storage basin, going across the river by boat, then climbing the high ridge there, climbing to the top and then going on the other side of this, there is a deep valley. Beautiful valley on the, with a crick running along the bottom and I sometimes wonder if that is still there or has it been developed or whatever. We also found a lot of mounds. A lot of huge mounds that had, I often wonder what these mounds are. So we had no idea what they were, what they really were. But some of them were quite huge. Quite big. Some of them were perfectly round. Not round, some of them were longer than they were wide. But they were perfectly rounded, and I often wonder what those were. So this is what we did, mainly. We didn't, I cannot remember going to town.

BL: We did hang around town that much.

KL: No, we did not go down town to go dating.

MTA: About how long did you know each other before you became engaged? Did you become engaged first and then get married? Or did you kind of know right away that you wanted to get married? How'd that happen?

KL: I don't think we went together that long, probably about six months. Probably about less than even that.

BL: It had to have been longer than that.

KL: It may have been longer than that, but I think we were engaged first. I remember Bill gave me a diamond and we were married soon after.

BL: December third.

KL: Yeah, December second [laughing] in 1945. And wedding was in a short dress, not a straight dress, limp dress. My sister was an attendant. And Mr. John Lundstrom,

BL: And Toivo.

KL: And Toivo Laitinen were the attendants.

MTA: Describe your wedding dress to me again?

KL: Pardon? Wedding dress was green and I remember it had a gold trim and the sleeves were below elbow length. And it had a gold trim on one shoulder. Sometime of gold metallic trim on one shoulder. I wore a hat, everybody wore hats. A hat was, you did not go anywhere, you went to church with a hat. Hats were a very important part of your dress at that time.

MTA: After the wedding what kind of celebration or reception did you have? Did you have a honeymoon? If so what?

KL: We just had a reception I think, at home at grandma's house. It was just a family thing. That was all. And then we just went to, I think we lived at the camp. We never had a honeymoon or such. We lived at the camp for, I think we lived at the camp until I was pregnant for Pat and the following spring. And then we moved into the family house, in west Ishpeming. That's where I said that Pat was the child I was pregnant with for seventeen months because I supposedly, according to the neighbors, I was five months pregnant when I was married and then she was born one year and three weeks later. After, I mean, after I was married. Three weeks later after we had been married a year. And we lived in the [laughing] we lived in the family house until we built this, the house we live in now.

MTA: And by the family house you're referring to Bill's family house?

KL: Yeah, Bill's family house. His father had built the house many, many years before that and the family had been raised. It was a family home until 1940...

BL: My mother died.

KL: 1960s I think. The early 1960s and we moved out of it.

MTA: And just for the record, that's right next door to where you live now, right?

KL: Yes, that house is next door to the one that we live in now.

MTA: And so, how many years all together have you lived either in that house or this house?

KL: We've lived in this house since 1963. About, no a little later than 1960, probably 1964. Or something like that.

MTA: We're getting close to the end of side one, but we have enough time to do names and birthdates of the children.

KL: Oh, the children. Pat was born, Patricia was born December 21st in 1946. And Paul was born April 20th 1947. 1948, I'm sorry, 1948. And Carolyn was born October 29th in 1951, I believe. And then we also, well, we might as well put this in, daughter Pat had a child when she was nineteen and we also adopted that child and Eric, we adopted Eric when he was three years old. He was born in December 16th of 1976 and we adopted him three years later and raised him.

MTA: We have time for one more question on this side of the tape. During the time that the kids were growing and the time that Eric was growing up did you work outside the home and if so doing what and for how long and was there additional education involved?

KL: I began to work at Bell Memorial Hospital as, I worked as a nurse's aide. And incidentally my salary in the beginning was ninety cents an hour.

MTA: In what year?

KL: And this was, I started working about 1960. I worked for about nine years and then I decided to go back to school. I was doing so many things that were being done that I was doing LPN work, changing dressings, doing many things that they were doing that I decided to go to school, it was time for me to go to school. So I actually took a leave of absence from work, I went to school for one year, and went back to work at Bell hospital then. And then worked until, oh, let me see, till I was sixty-seven, sixty-six? I was sixty-seven and I finally left. And so that's a few years ago. Four years ago.

TAPE 2 SIDE A

MTA: What I'd like to talk about now is, during the fifties when the kids were growing up, they were at various stages in school, can you describe for me what a typical day would be like?

KL: Bill was mainly on day shift, right? And I would always get up in the morning. And this was early, about five o'clock. Or sometimes before that even. We had a wood stove. I had to put a fire in that wood stove. We usually had kindling, kindling was brought in the night before. I would build a fire and put the water on for coffee. And start preparing the lunch box. Every morning I would pair..., he would have coffee in a thermos bottle. And I would make lunch. Sandwiches of some sort. There was always lunch meat or egg salad. And he always had his fruit, and he had cake. There was always a sweet of some kind. Bill always had breakfast of some sort, in the morning. I can't always remember what. But I know I had oatmeal, and at times, sometimes it was eggs. He always had, this was, I would do this all the time every morning and get him off to work and then the day would start with the children getting up. I can't always, I can't remember they would always get up later. I was of course, do the work, do the house work, wash the clothes, clothes washing, ringer washing, ringer washer at that time. Heat the

water. We did not have running hot water. So I would heat the water in a copper boiler on top of a two burner stove, I believe, of some sort. I can't remember what kind of a stove, really. Heat the water and then pour it into the washing machine and wash the clothes. It seems strange now to say that we washed all the clothes always with one washer load of hot water. Fels-Naptha soap, I think there was soap flakes at that time, if I remember correctly. Oxidall [phonetically spelled] was one if I remember. I would bleach clothes at times if they were needed. Wash the clothes, there was always two tubs of water and a stand for these, ringer stand that had a section on each stand for a tub. Then the ringers, the washing machine ringer would go over, change positions over the two tubs. And always hanging the clothes outside in the summer time. And in the wintertime hanging the clothes inside. And especially when there were baby diapers, there were clothes everywhere hanging. I remember clothes hanging in the kitchen, in the living room, and every other place to get them dry. The basement wasn't that large. There was one area of the basement had wood in it for, I believe we did have an oil stove, though, down the,

BL: We had a wood stove down the basement.

KL: Wood stove.

BL: We used for heating water.

KL: We had a wood stove for heating water, yes. And then we had another stove down there for heat. Providing heat for the house. And this is, the day was, I'd take care of the kids during the day. I could go out to the local grocery store, there was a local, there was a small grocery store in the location and I would get our groceries from this store. We had, I believe we were able to put the groceries on credit. I think everybody had their groceries on credit. And then, then slowly as things improved we would start going down town, we began to get our groceries from downtown and finally the store closed up. And I was able to drive. I took driver training. And then I was able to drive much to the delight of Bill, my husband, and he didn't have to drive me anymore. And then I would go do my grocery shopping in town.

MTA: How old were you when you learned how to drive?

KL: How old was I when I learned how to drive? I must have been...

BL: When you went over to [inaudible] that thing at the farm?

KL: No, no, no.

KL: This is, I must have been about thirty. Between thirty and thirty five, I think. I had, I always remember I had Mr. Ikkela. Mr. Ikkela was a high school instructor, and he was my driving, he was my, our driving instructor and it was for women. And we learned to drive with Mr. Ikkela. A very, very good instructor.

MTA: I want to back up a little bit and talk about laundry. Was there, aside from the time when there were babies and diapers, was there a regular day of the week for laundry?

KL: I always, I used to wash laundry, do clothes a few time a week. There was one probably at the beginning of the week clothes were done on Monday. I think it was just a custom from way back. It was just clothes were done on Monday. And then I would usually, baby diapers I would wash again as needed during the week. Just heat up enough water just to wash diapers again. And there was always a problem, of course, with Bill's mine clothes. Once a week I would wash the mine clothes, always last of all. And then I would have to wash the washing machine, and when were threw with that, so I think it was once a week that mine clothes were done.

MTA: Why did you have to wash the washing machine after mine clothes?

KL: Because, we washed the washing machine because the washer of course was red with the iron ore.

BL: It was like paint.

KL: It was. Believe me, it was like grease. It was greasy. The water would become greasy. And that would stick all over the washer and I'd have to take soapy, warm soapy water and wash all over to get the grease off in order not to, to prevent the other clothes from getting the dirt, getting the grease, the ore on them. Mine clothes are, Bill had two sets. Probably we may have had,

BL: Three sets.

KL: Three sets. And he had the underwear of course. And he had a shirt. He had pants. And heavy socks. And then he had nips to put on top the socks. That's a little slipper like sock to pull over the wools socks to go inside the boots. He also had a hat, a little cotton cap that I would make to wear inside of his helmet. And these were just a little round circle, probably six inches a diameter. And then another piece of cloth about four inches wide and about a width to go around his head. I would measure. [Laughing] Place a cloth around his head right above his ears and then sew them together. And this was actually a cap that he wore under his helmet.

MTA: Like a skull cap?

KL: Like a skull cap. And it was called a skull cap. The little socks were called nips and the little, the little, the cap under his helmet was called a skull cap. Right.

MTA: Laundry. Did you have to do the laundry in a specific order from start to finish?

KL: We always did the laundry starting with the white clothes first. If I had a child, a baby, the baby clothes were always done first. They always did those first and then started with the rest of the clothes. Always the white clothes, the linens, and anything that was white and going on slowly on to the darkest colors last of all.

MTA: Were there other days of the week that were kind of used for specific things? Was there a grocery shopping day? Was there an ironing day? And I want to hear about ironing, too, time, how much ironing

you had to do and how all that worked. But was there a regular day of the week for every different type of chore, usually?

KL: I can't, I can't remember. It's, ironing, I know we had the iron, the old time iron first that were heated on top of the stove, the wood stove. And then we had a gasoline iron. And I can't remember any specific day, really, for any chores, outside of the washing seems to be one of the most important things during the week. Especially when I had children I remember washing, getting the diapers, putting the diapers to soak, and then getting them washed and doing them more than once a week, using the washer twice perhaps, during the week to get those done.

MTA: How about grocery shopping? Can you tell me kind of the typical things you would buy and what did it cost you for a week or two weeks or so?

KL: We do the grocery, with the neighborhood grocery I could go as, and buy a few things as they were needed every day. But when we used to go, when we started to go downtown I would try and buy groceries for as long a period as possible. And buy, we used to have the milk delivered though, I remember that. We always had the milk delivered so we didn't have to worry about that. But we would buy meat, and another thing, I did not have a refrigerator until the nineteen fifties. Sometime in the nineteen fifties so I had to, that's why that neighborhood grocery store was important so I could go every day for the meat. Especially for the things that would perish until we had the refrigerator. So, almost every day, or at least every other day, would walk down to the neighborhood grocery and buy from there.

MTA: Milk delivery. Tell me a little bit about milk delivery.

KL: Milk was always, milk delivery was early in the morning. And it was, I remember the bottles. They were always glass bottles. And they were, I remember in the beginning they were a quart, and then they were a half a gallon, the bigger bottles. And we washed them and put them out. And then the back door would be open and you could hear the milkman come in and bring the bottles and leave them and take the others with him. I think there were other things we could get cream or buttermilk or whatever else we wanted with that. And I do not, I have no memory as to when cartons came. Paper cartons came. But I know that probably was not till a great deal later. Probably in the nineteen, late nineteen sixties or probably, late nineteen sixties I think the paper cartons finally came.

MTA: Do you have any idea what it would cost to have milk delivered for a week? How many, do you have any recollection of how much maybe a half gallon of milk was delivered at the house?

KL: I haven't, I cannot remember at all. I cannot remember at all. But we would spend, I remember if I spend thirty dollars for two weeks of groceries that was considered a lot.

MTA: What would a typical evening meal consist of usually?

KL: The meals in the evenings were always meat and potatoes and there was a vegetable. But always, this was, I think every working man wanted the meat and they wanted the potato. And slowly, there

were changes in food, in fact I think when we were first married even canned foods were still frowned upon a little bit. Then slowly things like salads started to appear. But always, and there was desert. Every. Day There. Was. Desert. Always. So it was baking deserts. There was, I remember, rice puddings and pies and good grief. And all of that, there was a lot of baking, much more baking, of course, than there is today.

BL: And venison.

KL: Oh, yes. Occasionally there was venison also. Always during hunting times, there was always venison. And there was, I even remember some illegal venison being served. Very, very hush hush. Very, very quiet. [Laughing]

MTA: Okay, before we get Uncle Bill in anymore trouble here... [Laughing] What about, while we're on the subject of food, a special occasion meal? Like Christmas dinner, Easter dinner, what would that typically be, what would that consist of?

KL: Holiday meals are I think very much the same as they are today. I think we had turkey or chicken, a big chicken, I remember having a large roasting chicken more than a turkey. And I think we had hams. So, there was probably more things served with the Christmas dinner or the Thanksgiving dinner. And I think the meals are very much as they are today, except today, of course, we have more salads, more vegetables, and of course the meals are changing. We do not have... We had the potatoes and where now it would be more vegetables, more salads than we had then.

MTA: With holiday meals, were there traditional special deserts, or any of that kind of thing, that were only made for Christmas, any special Finnish dishes or anything like that?

BL: There's the lutefisk.

KL: I remember preparing lutefisk for, which I believe at that time had to be soaked. If I remember correctly.

BL: Oh, it's soak. I remember soak. We didn't do it many times, though.

KL: Yes, but, we used to prepare that and prepare a meat sauce, a white sauce for that and serve it that way. But as far as, there used to be probably, I can't remember cooking any special deserts, really. That apple pie perhaps, which was Bill's favorite pie, and it's still one of his favorite pies. But I remember making, I didn't start making fruit cake for instance until much later. I can't remember beyond anything else.

MTA: There was another unique resource in your family in terms of food and helping to make ends meet with your parents' farm. Can you tell me about that a little bit and how that helped with stretching the grocery budget a little bit? And this is when your kids were growing up.

KL: A big help for us was getting potatoes, vegetables, turnips, and I think cabbages, probably eggs also from the farm, from my parents' farm. Especially when the children were little. Of course, we would frequently be out there helping, helping mother and father perhaps during the summer time when the hay making was on. In the fall, digging up potatoes, bringing in the turnips and getting everything, whatever else they had, and then remember taking things, bringing things home, having my parents offer us, and bringing things home like potatoes and whatever else they had from there. And that of course was a big help.

MTA: Those times when the haying was being done and potatoes were being harvested, was that like a big extended family get together? Can you describe one of those days to me a little bit?

KL: Many times we would go up to my parents' home. There were, we were, that would be a family get together. Perhaps it would be cutting wood. Which always, everyone would be there in the fall and we would... The saw rig was, there was a saw rig for cutting wood. The men would cut wood. We, the women I think helped pile the wood in piles. Some of us helped, mother would be inside cooking, I think my mother enjoyed these more than anything else. Having us all be out there together. And she would always prepare food for all of us and sometimes we would help her with the food, also. But we would be there when the potatoes needed to be picked and we would all be there as we could be, we weren't always all there together. But haymaking time we would be there. And father had a strawberry field, too, in the nineteen fifties? Sixties. Nineteen sixties, probably. We used to be there picking strawberries and strawberries and he would sell these strawberries, of course, downtown. And these were fun. I think, even getting together and putting the storm windows on the house. I remember many times the men would put the ladders out and bring the storm windows up and put them on. And that was always a lot of fun. Always enjoyable. And the children then would enjoy these too, I think, they would play together. It was enjoyable, these were enjoyable periods. I think for all of us.

MTA: Extended family I want to continue with for just a little bit longer because the, your gatherings of all of the siblings and spouses and grandchildren didn't just happen for haymaking and harvesting, was there weekly...? Tell me about the Saturday sauna routine.

KL: Oh. Always mother, for my mother especially and, well, father, too, of course. He liked, he wanted us to come over on Saturdays to visit and to go sauna. And I think we always did and we, it was, it became a routine that we would, this was one thing we wanted to do. Except that finally the day came when I, my family doctor told me not to go because every time I went to the sauna I always, the following day I would have a headache. Very, very serious headache and he told me finally to stop it. Apparently the heat of the sauna caused a headache and so I stopped going to the sauna, which I remember made my mother very unhappy. She could not understand why I could not, I think she felt that I would never be clean again if I didn't go sauna. So, I always remember how upset she was about that. But we enjoyed going to the sauna. We enjoyed going there for coffee and talking and having a good time. We used to have fun.

MTA: Okay, let's take another leap back away from extended family and talk about the kids and school. Where did they go to elementary school and high school and how did they get there?

KL: We had a school when the children were, started school we had a school in the location, the West Ishpeming School, and all the children attended this school and then until I believe they also went to the North Lake School in the older grades. But then the high school was the Ishpeming High School and I think these I don't think any of them were bussed to the national mine school at that time, like they are now, no. They were just West Ishpeming School, the North Lake School and the Ishpeming High School.

MTA: Did all of your children graduate from high school and did any of them continue with education after that?

KL: Paul of course did not. Pat graduated from high school and went on to take one year and became an LPN. Paul, of course, never finished high school, he was, Paul was mentally ill. And he did not go on to school. Carolyn finished high school and she did attend school and she took, I think, probably a secretarial course or a book keeping class. And Eric of course came on much later of course and he then attended college and got his degree.

MTA: Alright, we're going to back track a little bit again to the time the kids were growing up. We talked about where you shopped for groceries. But what about other things? Clothing and shoes and things like that? What, during the fifties, let's talk about during the fifties? How readily accessible were things like that? Did you shop from catalogues, did you shop in Ishpeming and Marquette? How did that work?

KL: Shopping, getting clothes for the children. We had catalogues, of course. The Montgomery. I had both the Montgomery and Sears catalogues. And I sent away for a great, not shoes, never shoes. But always other clothes. And we had a wonderful Pennies store in town, in the city of Ishpeming. Which was, I think everybody's, the place where everybody went to get clothes. We also, there were other stores in Ishpeming. Dubinsky's, I believe, was in Ishpeming and I would get perhaps once in a while, not too often. Dubinsky's was probably a more expensive store. And I would get some of their, occasionally get clothes from there. And this I cannot remember, never going beyond Ishpeming to get clothes. This was, Ishpeming was the furthest we went.

MTA: And what about household goods like dishes, pots and pans, curtains, fabrics, where would you get things like that?

KL: Again, Pennies in Ishpeming was the place to get household goods. The sheets, blankets. And of course the catalogues, again, both Sears and Montgomery's. I also remember we had a Montgomery Ward store in Marquette and I would occasionally go to the Montgomery Ward Store in Marquette and get some things from there.

MTA: While the kids were growing up, I'll say again, during the fifties, what kinds of things would constitute a really special treat? As a break from that weekly routine, did you take them like for a root beer or any of that kind of stuff? What kind of thing would be, that would be a special treat for them that you can think of?

KL: Oh, we'd once in a while I would take the children to the movies when the children's movies began to come out. We took the children to the movies. I also remember there was a series, a nature series at

the Ishpeming High School and I remember taking the children to see these nature... we used to go and see these nature series at the high school and these were interesting. These were really, really interesting for them and I think for us, too. But I think all the children saw all the movies that came out at that time the, I cannot remember when the Walt Disney movies started coming out, but they saw, we would bring them to town, I think, occasionally on Saturdays, to see movies. I also brought the kids to the library I wanted them to know the library. And I remember taking them down to the library, this wasn't too often, though. But, I did do this once in a while.

MTA: Do you consider yourself to be a do-it-yourselfer and if so in what ways?

KL: Am I a do-it-yourselfer?

MTA: Do you sew, do you do crafts?

KL: Oh, we used to sew. We sewed, I sewed a great deal for the children. Their pajamas especially. Pajamas. Some of their school clothes. And I remember, of, oh, in fact, a lot of their school clothes. In fact, some of their coats even. Knitting. I remember knitting mittens and I can't, but a lot of things I did, made at home. We purchased the fabrics of course at Pennies. Occasionally we'd send away for a [inaudible]

MTA: Wat about haircuts, home permanents, any of that kind of thing?

KL: I think, haircuts. I cut the children's air. I think Pat had her hair in braids, if I remember correctly. And if they needed to be, they would never go in to town to have their hair done. I think we would put it up in curlers or put it up in to something to get it curly. Otherwise I think they had haircuts too as, but I would give the haircuts.

TAPE 2 SIDE B

MTA: We talked about, a little bit earlier, about religious life while you were growing up. How important was that when your kids were growing up, how important is it as you continue now in your life?

KL: Religion was very important in my home when I was small, especially as far as my mother was concerned. Religion played a very important part in her life. She believed in God very, very firmly. Very firm belief in God and in Jesus Christ and the whole, everything about her life seemed to be based on her belief in God. She was very, how should I say she, so many things were [inaudible] She was always... She wanted us to be very good. She wanted us to grow up to be good people. And this was her way of saying that this is a simple thing to do and that is a simple thing to do, she didn't want us to do it as women, as girls. She wanted us to be, to grow up to be very proper, very proper women. There were certain things that women did not do. Women behaved properly. They did not run around. And I guess, what my mother wanted for all of us was to get married and marry someone and to have children. And this was what she had been brought up to believe and I think this was what she wanted us to believe, but religion was so important for her. And after father's death even, she said for her she wanted to also die and she wanted also to go to heaven to see my father again, to see the two little girls. Religion was

very, very important for her. For myself, we all went to Sunday school, and of course we were confirmed in our church, in the Bethel Lutheran Church. An important part of our life when we were growing up were, in the summer times we would have church services at the farm. And people would come in, this was when the roads were better and people had cars. I believe it didn't start until the people had cars. There would always be a large group of people at the house on one certain Sunday in the summer. Mother would bake and there would be coffee and this was very important to my mother to have church services at least once during the summer at the farm. We were confirmed of course, we went to Sunday school which was held at the different homes around where the, around where we lived. And we were confirmed in the church and for myself after we were married we attended church and the children belonged to Sunday school, went to, our children went to Sunday school in the same church. And they were confirmed. But religion, now I do not attend church as frequently as I should. And I am at times a skeptic about a great many things and about religion, now. And I question more, my poor mother would really turn over in her grave if she knew how questioning I am about a great many things concerning religion. But I do not believe as my mother did. I do not have the firm belief that my mother had, I don't think.

MTA: Do you remember at those summer church services at the farm was there ever any mention of Juhannus or John the Baptist Day in connection with those services?

KL: I heard a great deal about Juhannus, about Midsummer's Day. It was, it had been, of course, a big tradition in Finland. And it was tradition in many areas of Upper Michigan. Many people would have a special, there would be a special, it was a special holiday. June 24th, I believe. And it was a time of bonfires. Many people had bonfires. And I believe there were also special church services during that period, special Finnish celebrations during that time and there still are to this day. But I cannot remember, we may have attended, but I can't remember. I cannot remember attending.

MTA: Okay. I want to talk a little bit about Christmas. During the time that the kids were growing up, can you describe a typical Christmas for me?

KL: We had, we would always have a tree, of course. And it was always decorated with the trimmings. I remember we had some that lasted for many, many years. We always received one gift. At least one gift. I remember one, especially receiving a doll. I think all the girls received at least one doll that they remember. I remember one, this beautiful little girl doll. And I remember opening the package and looking at it. I still remember that to this day. But I have no memory as to what happened to that doll. We also had school programs at the little local school that was about two miles, two and a half miles away. About a week before Christmas there was always a school play. And people would, all the neighbors would attend. And we always had parts, poems, we used to sing songs. I always remember as a child going outside the stoop on the school steps and trying to hear, seeing if I could hear Santa's sleigh bells on a clear, clear cold night. This was before cars, so we would go with horses and sleighs and there would be a pile of hay in the back to keep us warm or blankets, whatever, because sometimes the nights were cold. And this is the way we went to see a play. And the teachers did all the work, of course, and we'd have a little stage with white sheets. And this was a lot of work for the teachers to put on a play like this. And those times were always fun, a lot of fun.

MTA: Can you describe the sleigh? Was it more like a working type sleigh or was it fancier like a cutter?

KL: The sleighs that we used in those days were a working type sleigh. There was four runners, two in the front and two in the back. And of course there was a team of horses pulling it. There was a seat thing in the front of it. And in the box, there was a box in the back, we would usually be in the box on hay and blankets on top of us.

MTA: Were there ever bells on the horses?

KL: Yes, there were, there were pickretly [phonetically spelled] bells on, I remember the bells on the horses. I remember the harness having bells on them.

MTA: What about Christmas while your own kids were small? What would a typical Christmas be like after you were married, maybe like during the fifties when the kids were, when they believed in Santa Claus, what kinds of things would they ask for? Were there any kinds of things you would have to do to provide extra money for Christmas or was it ever a problem providing?

KL: When the children were growing up, Christmas. We always had a Christmas tree, of course. We used to, if I remember, there was the Christmas catalogues. Did that? I remember they were already the Sears and Montgomery Wards, and there was one other, I remember, was it Spiegels or whatever? But there was always two of them and these were, these would come early in the fall. And they were of course very popular things for the kids to look at. We always tried to have toys for the kids, we would try and get them some of the things that they wanted. And they would have books and maybe coloring material or coloring books. And the girls would have dolls. And I remember there were somethings that we had to put together, but I can't remember exactly what they were, but staying up late and putting those things together. So they had some other things that they wanted, but they couldn't have everything, but of course with the catalogue there would be something from every page. But they would have some toys and some clothes, too, I believe. But I can't, I remember the girls always had dolls and the boys of course had their trucks. Paul had his trucks. Eric of course, since he came so much later, we were bringing him up there where the toys, of course, were very different then.

MTA: Did they have stockings, and if so, were they the same stocking every year and what kinds of things would go into stockings?

KL: The kids had stockings. But they were different. They were not specially made stockings just for that. They were probably Bill's work socks, and they were, I think, I can't remember where we would put those up, we had them hung somewhere. And we would, I put things in them. Little things, whatever. Until Eric, of course, had his own sock, and in fact he still has that little stocking that he came home in from Marquette General North with he was put in to a, since he was born just before Christmas he was put into a big, red stocking and that's the way we brought him home, he still has that.

MTA: If Uncle Bill worked shift work during Christmas, what impact would that have on Christmas?

KL: I can't remember, I know that Bill worked during Christmas sometimes, but I cannot remember it making that much of a difference. We just had to change things around and try and make do because it was important for him to go to work, that was considered, that was the most important thing there was, working. And we would just change the Christmas dinner around and the children would open their gifts as always. We had to work around his working.

MTA: How about a typical birthday party when the kids were growing up. What would a typical birthday party be like, who would be invited, how many kids would there be, were there any games that you can remember, birthday party games or anything like that?

KL: I remember birthday parties. All the children, we used to have birthday parties and the relatives would all get together, they'd be all invited. And we would invite some of the neighbor children, I remember, from down the street and some of, this included of course their cousins from both sides of the family that were around. And there would be a birthday cake, and there would be pop, ice cream, I believe, and pop. And I cannot remember, there were games but I can't remember exactly what kind of games we played. I can't, but they were always, we always, they were always good events for the birthday parties, were always special.

MTA: Were there any favorite kinds of cake that were requested for birthdays, or did it not matter?

KL: I don't think it mattered, as far as, just a birthday cake. Just having, I can't remember ever having, it was just a birthday cake, having a birthday cake, was, that was... there was never, at least I can't remember any special cake.

MTA: When the kids were growing up, what would you do during the time Bill had off from work, vacation time, what would you do for family vacation?

KL: We, occasionally we had a car, finally had a better car, we would take trips around the upper Michigan, more than anything else. Maybe not, we would go to a fair, once in a while. And we would perhaps take a ride up to, as far the copper country perhaps to Fort Wilkins, I remember we drove once up there. And usually we went to the camp, though. We would go there during vacation time and stay there during that period, during his vacation.

MTA: I want to ask you a question about camp. Tell me about the summer kitchen.

KL: At the camp there were two separate buildings, there was the main camp which had a kitchen, but we also had a separate building called a summer kitchen. Which a great many Finnish homes had in Finland had a separate building to do the cooking especially in the warm summer time and do the canning perhaps. So we had a small summer kitchen, we had a table in there with benches on both sides. A small stove, and we would use that in summertime to make coffee and make the meals and to keep the main camp cool, especially during the warmer weather.

MTA: What kinds of stuff stoves did you have in the camp and in the summer kitchen?

KL: We had the wood stoves in both the buildings, both camps.

MTA: What about your hobbies, your personal interests, what do you like to do for fun? With leisure time, whatever. Reading, any hobby things that you like to do, anything like that.

KL: I like to read and I used to get books from the library and I used to sew. And I can't remember having any specific hobbies beyond that. Just that. I think we were just too busy raising, you know, taking care, working with the family. Just, since we didn't have all the electrical appliances we have today sometimes it took, like washing clothes, for instance, took a long time and it took a little longer to do all the household chores than it does now.

MTA: How about now? You mentioned that you like to read a lot, what kinds of things do you like to read and are there things that you do differently now with leisure time than you did when your kids were growing up?

KL: Are there things, do I do things differently? I like, I still like to read, and I like to read mysterious. And I like certain biographies. And I like to read books that are good, that are good books. I like to go shopping. And I always say that when I die I will be cremated and my ashes will be sprinkled over the biggest mall there is. And we do not, I watch television, of course, we do not go, I used, we used to go to the movies, we do not do that, of course, now. We occasionally go out visiting. We visit, especially the relatives. As far as trips are concerned, we don't, we occasionally will take a trip to another city, but not perhaps, as far as Escanaba and we visit Bill's sister in Rapid River. But as far as trips farther, we don't do that. I've only been on one trip and that's to California, once, during that time to visit a daughter, to visit Pat. And that's the only one that I've been on.

MTA: As you think about people that you're acquainted with who are your age who may or may not have been married to a person involved in mining, are there any things other than the special handling of laundry or things like that that were peculiarities of being the wife of a miner that were different from other people's lives that you are aware of?

KL: Hm. I think our life was probably the same, any other person they were working, and they were employed, regardless of what they were doing, I think the role of the wife was very much the same in the beginning, we were homemakers and then perhaps if there was a job change or a job loss then the woman would go out and find work, but I think it was the roles were the same. Taking care of a home, bringing up the children, and working around the husband's employment, it was the same.

MTA: I think we may have already talked about this, a little bit. If there was ever a strike or a layoff, how did you cope with that, how did you, you mentioned that you had started to work at one point, were there any special things that you did to make ends meet or to do without or things like that?

KL: During a strike we always, one of the things we always planned on is we had to have money, of course, saved up and it was odd to save money specifically for a period when there would be a strike, but we would, we would prepare, we would try to be prepared for that, always. We would then live off savings. So this was the only, this was the way we always, sometimes the strikes were long, sometimes

they were short, but we always seemed to make it through those periods of time. Sometimes it was hard. And I do think we did get some commodity at times, we were able to get that, but this, this didn't happen too frequently. But we always did seem to come through alright.

MTA: How about, especially during the time that the kids were growing up, is there anything in particular that you remember about good or bad, medical or dental care, or good or bad benefits for covering medical or dental care? How was that paid for, how expensive was it, how accessible was it?

KL: Medical care was not that expensive, I remember when Pat was born, I think I still have her hospital bill and I think it's below a hundred dollars. Then when Paul was born it was probably a couple hundred dollars because he was a C section, but he wasn't, considering all the time I spent in the hospital, it wasn't that much. Its dental care, and we always of course did not have dental insurance but I considered that very important that we take care of their teeth and so we bought, and it wasn't, and you sort of saved for that, too. And we always made sure that there was money ahead to make sure their teeth were taken care of. But as far as going to the doctor it was not, even having a child was not that expensive. It wasn't, the cost did not start rising until we had medical insurance that was one of a benefits that came with after the strike. Then of course the hospitalization took care of that. But we continued to take care of our dental work. And you just saved up for it, you had to provide for that. And then if they needed glasses you had to save up for that too. It was, I cannot remember ever having, these were things that were expected, they were a part of having children and you just did it, you provided for it. And I cannot remember ever being, having a hardship taking care of the children would be in the hospital once in a while either to have their tonsils out and it was never, you could pay for it, just go in take care of it little by little and that was accepted. In fact, that was once of the things I remember at the hospital the doctors did not have their own offices, we would go to the emergency room, it was nothing unusual to have four doctors in the same emergency room at the same time and to be separated only by curtains from the other patients, from the other groups, and this is the way we saw the doctors. And the medical care, of course, the hospital at that time belonged to the company, belonged to CCI and the doctors essentially, I guess were, you could say they were employed by CCI, and they also had, we paid our bills, also. So, that was a good thing about the company in the beginning, of having, they had medical care for the people so that was, and of course that's been, when insurance, medical insurance, then of course, things changed. And continues to change to this day, a great deal.

MTA: Well, I'm at the point where I want to ask you if there is anything else that I should have asked you that I didn't or given the things that you have seen and experienced in your lifetime, what wisdom could you offer to someone who might be raising a family now or whose work situation might be different, what would you like to say to somebody that's younger?

KL: I think one of the most important things, if you are raising a family, to plan your family. I think it's good to plan, to do some family planning to begin with. Secondly, if you have children, I believe it is very important to send those children to college or not only, not just to college, if you can't send them to college to try and provide some vocational training of some type. Either one year course or two year course, but if they want to go to college and try and help them with college. I think education is very, very important. But I think it's important to have family planning also to try and plan the number of children that you can possibly afford with the way things are changing in the country now and with

health insurance and with all the other changing and then the inability of children to find work. I believe it's, even with the college education and training, it's going to be difficult for a lot of children to find work, but I think it's the most important thing to have training of some sort. And I think education is the most important thing. The days of girls finishing high school and being saying 'well, now you can get married and have a husband support you' those days are over with. I think it is very important for girls, especially girls, to be educated to be able to take care of themselves, they have to take care of themselves. And I think education is more important than anything, as far as raising family is, but I think family planning is important to save, you should try and, perhaps just raise the amount of children that you feel that you can afford. Even if you want a large family, just to have what you can afford and then give them a good education as much as good an education as they want and as you can afford to give them. But I think it's an important part of parents providing the education. Not to say that if the child gets through high school and they want to go to college that that child then has to then go, it's important for them to work, but it's important for the parents also to help with the child's college education.

END OF INTERVIEW