

Interview with: Dawn Tippet Smail

April 14, 1994

Location: Ishpeming, Michigan 100 Marble Street

Interview by: Mary Tippet Andys

Start of interview:

(Mary Tippet) Let's start by having you give me your full name, including your middle name, maiden name, married name, and date of birth.

(Dawn Tippet) My name is Dawn Barbara Tippet Smail born March 20, 1924 in the Ishpeming hospital my twin and I Dixie were the only babies my mother had in a hospital setting. And at that time she suffered with Toxemia of Pregnancy, Albumin Poisoning they called it then, and she nearly died. Various members of the family offered to take the babies and if she wasn't going to survive but my father said absolutely not the babies will stay together and fortunately my mother survived.

(M) Alright can you give me your parents full names and if you know them, their dates of birth and their nationalities?

(D) My father was Walter Tippet no middle initial no middle name born in Iron River or Iron... I can't remember in Wisconsin December 7, 1884.

(M) We can check that later couldn't you?

(D) Fine. And my mother name Marian Edith Bangry and she was born May 7, 1885.

(M) In addition to your twin Dixie can you give me the names and approximant birth dates of your other siblings?

(D) My mother and father's had their first child named Vivien San Cado Tippet and she was born in June of oh 19... mmm 15 or 16 she died of Tubercular Meningitis when she was three. Their second baby was Van Standton Tippet he lived for three weeks I don't remember his birth date right off hand but he lived for three weeks and died as an infant in the in 1918 in the epidemic of Spanish Flu during World War I. Then their third child was my brother Dewey Bangry Tippet born January 24, 1921 and then my twin and I were born in 1924 and I have an older sister by adoption named Irene Tippet now Irene Tippet Lorry Vickory she was widowed when she was had been married to Tom, John Lorry and then she married Berner Vickory. She was born February 16, 19... oh I can't tell you right off hand.

(M) We can fill that in later.

(D) Fine. Well uh no! She had to have been born in 1914 because she is ten years older than I am!

(M) What were your parent's occupations?

(D) My mother was a housewife my father worked as a policeman a patrol man on the Marquette City police force from there he went to the Marquette branch prison and worked as a security guard for a short time and then he came back to Ishpeming to work in the Barns and Hecker mine where his brother William was a mining captain, he offered him a job. He had gone to the North Lake mine to ask his brother Tom for a job but because the Barns and Hecker property was closer at the time he stopped to ask uncle Billy and he had a chance to go to work. Went to work on Friday because he didn't want granddad my mother's father to think he was lazy and would not go to work right away. That was the day the mine had a cave in and it was flooded and fifty two men died and he was never recovered. At one time too he worked for the highway department and he built some steel bridges here in the U.P and I think my brother Dewy would be able to give you more details on that.

(M) Um I don't think we talked about the nationality of your parents.

(D) My father was English decent um Cornwell there were Tippetts over there, family members have gone over and looked them up and my mother is English uh Welsh and Scotch.

(M) Just to establish also after your father died your mother eventually remarried and can you give me her second spouse's name?

(D) I was only two years old when my father was killed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1926 and when I was six years old my mother remarried Russell Harris Hill and his birthday was May 2<sup>nd</sup> and he was born in 18... let's see he was eleven years older than mamma she was 95' he had to have been born do my calculations Mary. Eleven years before 1885 would have been 74'?

(M) Yeah.

(D) Ok.

(M) Um alright I'd like to just basically establish your education is and your, just a barebones work history and then I want to get into a little more on your young adulthood after that.

(D) I graduated from the Ishpeming High School when I had just turned seventeen Dixie and I started kindergarten when we were just only over four. Which is way too early I think and so we graduated from Ishpeming High School in June of 41' and we... I worked for a while and when my daughters were in college in the 60s I decided that I would go back to school and I did I went back to Northern and finished as an LPN and in about three four years later I finished as an RN graduating from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Marquette.

(M) Can you give me the approximant year that you graduated as an RN just so we can place that?

(D) Um... well I have to say oh 1972 or 3 somewhere in there.

(M) Now let's backtrack to the time that you met your husband and can you tell me how you met and kind of the course of your courtship and how you got married and where you got married?

(D) Well its interesting one day Dixie and I and a friend were bicycling down to Ishpeming because we live in the Township which is a about a mile out of the city limits and this car pulled

up a long side of us with some young fellows and they struck up a conversation with my twin and she immediately thought the driver was pretty cute because he had curly hair and blue eyes and a big line of blarney. So he was nineteen years old and from Negaunee so he would come up to date Dixie and my mother wouldn't allow her to be alone with him unless I was along I had to chaperon and if you think going on a date is fun, try chaperoning your twin and having to sit in the back seat of a car with any number of different guys that he brought out to keep me entertained while he courted my sister. But we were, as I say we were only sixteen and still seniors in high schools and so she wasn't allowed to go with him, if she went to a movie she could be alone with him. Otherwise I had to chaperon, very fun time. So one day Dixie said to me um Hue has a cute younger brother, he's got long legs and he is cute well bring him up and I'll look him over. So Hue came out the next time and brought his kid brother with him and I looked him over and I wasn't too impressed because I didn't really care for boys anyway I'd rather read but I had to go out with Dixie anyway so sometimes I'd go out with a book, my hair in pin curls and Lowell would sit on the other side of the backseat and looked out the window because I wasn't interested but he had to be there because I had to be there. But one night in the Fall and Dixie and Hue met in the spring we were down at a camp near Gwen where his sister and husband lived Abe Wolf was married to Lowell's sister for a while and it was evening and sunset and Lowell was in the CCs in uniform and there is nothing cuter than a man in a uniform and as he stood by the lake, and all of a sudden he just looked as cute as all get out and I thought well say that's kind of nice I kind of like him so. Then at Christmas time when the boys were up the wanted to give us gifts and I didn't want a gift but they brought out handbags and gloves for each of his. Now Hue had a job so I'm sure he paid for everything because Lowell didn't have a job he was only, let's see I was seventeen and Lowell was eighteen and he was working part time so he didn't have any extra money. But he gave me the purse and the gloves and then as we were standing in my mother's front hall and it was time for him to leave he wanted to give me a kiss and I didn't want to kiss him, I hadn't kiss him up till that time but I had been going out with him all summer but I thought gee I owe him something so I let him kiss me and it really wasn't anything spectacular no stars no pinwheels but that was my first kiss from my husband see. Years later when he came back from overseas and he had been gone for two and half years and I hadn't seen him we've been making up and doing an awful lot of kissing in the last forty years. We are not caught up yet.

(M) Um can you tell me where you got married and what was happening just briefly in your life at that time?

(D) Well my mother didn't like the idea that I was going with Lowell, she thought we were too young and he didn't have a steady job and we were too young really. But uncle Percy Bangery had come up from Lansing on vacation and so my mother had talked to him and said how would it be alright if Dawn went down to Lansing and stayed with you and got a job and this way she thought aw awesome split this romance. So she was a little surprised that I was so willing to go along with it, what she didn't know Lowell already had a job at the Ypsilanti Willow Run Bomber plant and Ypsi not too far from Lansing so we can, she kind of played into our hands and I saw Lowell a few times while we were down in Ypsi and Lansing but one day I had a telegram from my mother or a phone call from my mother saying my brother Dewey's ship had

landed and it was in poor time and he was in a lot of action. He was on the USS Boise so we decided we would be coming home, I was going to come home but we planned on getting married and had set up the date at the Episcopal Chapel but when I heard from my mother that my brother was coming home I said I'm not getting married! I'm going home my brother is coming home! And Lowell said you can't go home because we are going to get married! I said no I am going home I'm seeing my brother! And so we changed our plans and went to the Methodist Parsonage and the minister married us at 10:30 in the morning, he was in a smoking jacket and slippers and his housekeeper and his wife was our attendance. And we were married and headed for home and it was November 25, 1942 the weather was terrible I think it was the day before Thanksgiving and by the time we got up to the streets of St. Ignace it was stormy and it was so cold and we had to take a hotel room and we slept in our clothes, I slept in my snowsuit because it was bitterly cold in there so all we did was hold hands and kiss on the night that we were married. But we made up for that since too. Then we headed for home the next day, got as far as Negaunee, what happened to your car Lowell?

(Lowell) I don't know.

(D) We had, we couldn't come any farther so we called here, no Hue, Hue was home in Negaunee and he give us a ride back up here. He said you crazy fools what are you doing out in weather like this? I left Ishpeming and missed out on Thanksgiving dinner because the weather was so bad and you are driving in from downstate! So we came back up, we were married a month before we told our parents that we were married and my mother was angry with me because one night Lowell came up to see me and I was sitting on one end of the couch and he laid on it with his head in my lap. And it was 10:30 at night which was her idea of curfew and she said it's time you went to bed and I said yes and she saw him laying there with his head in my lap and she said is that anyway for a decent girl to behave?! And off she stormed upstairs and we decided we'd have to tell our parents. So the next day was Sunday morning and my mother was baking and baking pies and she was still angry with my because I wasn't behaving like a lady and she said if you are going to behave that way I think the best thing for you to do is be married! I said I am. And she said when did this all happen?! And I said last month. And she said well why didn't you come home to get married? And I said because you'd stop us and she said yes your right I would have. And it's lasted fifty one years.

(M) Alright what I'd like to do is fast forward a little bit to the time that Lowell started working at the mine and I'd like to kind of get the feeling for what kind of place you lived in and whether you had children then, just give me a little rough sketch what life was like at that point?

(D) After Lowell came home from overseas we had an apartment on the street over from where we live now and he had worked in the woods for a jobber until he could get into the mine but I had no qualms about him going into the mine or going underground, after all we had a mining family history! Um all the extended family were miners and worked and the mines gave you steady work, they gave you the best pay of any of the employers, the best coverage for medical benefits and all. So when he had a chance to go underground or work for the mines we were all just pleased because it meant a good income and steady income. I never, I listened to so much talk about underground mining and the various terminology that they used, I had no reason to be

worried about it. Even though my father had been killed we all understood that was a cave in due hitting an underground body of water but that was twenty some years before... Lowell went into and the technology had made us feel that it was a safe place to be. But what was the rest of your question?

(M) Um I wanted to get a feeling for what the rest, what your lifestyle would have been like at that time?

(D) Well we lived from paycheck to paycheck really because we were just starting off, we had no savings. When Lowell was discharged from the service we had what was called a fifty two twenty. Fifty two weeks of twenty dollars a week was what the veterans were given and so we lived with that and then the moneys that he earned and we lived literally lived from payday to payday. Um making do with the bare minimums in our apartment, we had a bedroom set, we had a kitchen set, we had stove, we had an icebox because after the war there were no appliances that were so in stock that we had to wait, we had our name on a waiting list for a refrigerator and until then we got an icebox. Later on we could even buy the motor and the freezing unit to go into the icebox and converted that into a refrigerator.

(M) Can you describe what the icebox, how the icebox worked?

(D) We had to buy ice and there was still an icehouse in Ishpeming where because there was still enough iceboxes the icebox was like a refrigerator but on the top was a compartment where you put in a block of ice and that just kept your food cool. The water drained down a pipe down into a drainage tray on the bottom and then you empty that and watch out for it and that's what we had to take our food cool. We didn't think it was a hardship we were just glad that we were able to get that to keep food fresh.

(M) Can you tell me what the icebox was made out of and how frequently you'd have to change the ice?

(D) It looked like a refrigerator today the old ones used to be made out of oak and wood and had a zinc, not zinc um a metal box that would hold the ice. The ice would last us maybe every three or four days, then we'd have to buy a new block of ice but ice was cheap. I don't recall how much it cost um but that was ok.

(M) Do you recall um at that time that Lowell first started working in the mine approximately his take-home pay would have been and how frequently payday was?

(D) Payday as I remember was every two weeks and I don't remember what we made. Lowell what did you make?

(Lowell) What?

(D) What did you earn when you first worked in the mine? Payday was every two weeks.

(Lowell) Two something. Two forty five an hour.

(D) For an eight hour day?

(Lowell) Yeah.

(D) Well twenty dollars a day then. Yeah well about twenty dollars a day two forty five an hour for an eight hour day is what he said. Ok, right. And then we would have to go down to what we called the big office to pick up the checks. They weren't mailed to you, you had to pick up your own checks and those of us who were well known enough or known at the office the wives could go and pick up the men's checks. Otherwise the men had to pick up their own checks.

(M) And where was the big office?

(D) The big office was downtown here in Ishpeming um on the corner of Euclid and I don't know Spruce? No it couldn't have been Spruce. Euclid and Barnum I think, the building is there today, it has other uses.

(M) Um and who handled the money in the household? Was it you or was it Lowell?

(D) Well it was kind of a joint thing but I paid all the bills um it got so I picked up his check and I signed the check and we had a joke about his signature being invalid anymore because... but it was a joint thing. I could handle the money and I could account for the money but we budgeted. We budgeted right down to meter money and stamps, postage stamps and I had a ledger and sometimes we broke the rules and splurged a little, Dixie and I. If we happened to buy something on a sale we managed to hang it in the closet until one day when we took it out our husbands would say well when did you get that. And we'd say oh it's been in the closet a while but we didn't tell them it was brand new. They weren't really fooled.

(M) What kinds of things, this is before your children were born, what kinds of things would you consider other than a little clothing item to have been a real splurge?

(D) When our children were born Roxy was born a year after Lowell got back from the China-Burma-India theater and right after he had his job and he got his job at the mine, he decided to build. And from then on we were so budgeted so tightly that the only splurge that I can ever say that we went to is a couple times we went to a carnival. And that's when I when I learned to never gamble again because we gambled on some of these stupid win a plush toy things and of course the game was rigged and we lost nine dollars! And that was painful! So we didn't play those games anymore and we haven't gambled since, I don't even buy lottery tickets. But we didn't splurge a whole lot we never went on vacations um it was always something to do for the house. Always a bill at the lumber yard, after the kids were home, the kids were born, then it was glasses, shoes, dentists.

(M) Suppose I should backtrack a little bit too um I'm unclear I need to have all from me name and birth dates of the kids and um when they were born relative to uncle starting work at the mine. Were the kids, did you already have one of the kids before he started at the mine or how did that put together?

(D) Lowell came home in April of 1940... He came home in April of 1946 and Roxy was born in May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1947. Melony was born that's Roxy Dawn Smail was born May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1947 Melody Louis Smail was born in July 16, 1949. We were living in an apartment when Roxy was born,

Lowell gave me a dozen roses the day that the baby was born. He was still working in the woods as a... cutting pulp. We couldn't afford a dozen roses but let me tell you I was thrilled to have them. And then we began to build our house and my mother had given us each a lot to build homes on and that was money that was from our father. Walter Tippet's death when the company had given them some kind of settlement, she wanted us to have something from our father so we each had a lot to build on and I remember being PG and helping Lowell put tar paper on the subflooring to close in the basement and I could hardly bend over my belly because I was PG and having Melony. But we were in the house before Melony was born and we lived on subflooring and cheap linoleum and it was all part of the game if you didn't have the money. We were lucky he had the ambition to do it because by the time Melony was born Lowell was working at CCI and we had a steady income. We would order what we needed from the lumber yard for the next phase and after that was paid off then we would order some more and so we kind of had a running bill but it was always paid up before we went on to the next phase. Eventually we had to go to the bank and borrow \$3000 which we thought was the national debt but that really helped us finish off the house to a little more, to our satisfaction and then over the years we just worked at it and remodeled it and taken care of it and... But always we were budgeted, always.

(M) We just talked about um mortgage and I take it that you have lived in the same house, this is the only home that you've lived in?

(D) This is the only home that Lowell and I have lived in since we have been married. Other than the summer home we had out on the lake.

(M) We will talk about that in a little bit but um I just want to establish approximately what the size of your house is and is your house typical of other people who are mining families that you are aware of?

(D) I think our home is pretty typically, it's not very big um I think we are thirty five by twenty eight Lowell? Dimensions of your house, twenty five by thirty eight? We added a porch onto it at one time and decided to enclose that completely and convert that into an additional room but we do have an originally our attic space had to be converted then into living space because in 1955 we adopted Michel Keith Smail. And needed his, we needed a bedroom just for him to comply with the courts and so the girls then moved upstairs and each had an end of the attic space. We put in um carpeting and flooring and made it livable so ultimately that we wound up with three bedrooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs and a bathroom, a living dining area, kitchen area and then our front porch became our fireside room. Full basement, outdoor garage and nice yard.

(M) Um do most houses in this area have basements?

(D) Yes. I don't know of anybody who doesn't have a basement.

(M) Ok does the basement under the house have, or does the climate in the area have a lot to do with why there is a basement under the house do you think?

(D) I suppose so, every house that I ever knew of had a basement. My mother's home had a basement with the foundation in the walls were of stone put together with mortar and I remember half the basement being sand floor. Which at one time was used for storing garden vegetables, beets and potatoes and carrots and things were putting in that sand and buried and preserved that way. We had a coal bin in this house because we had a wood-coal furnace to start off with. It was cheaper, Lowell felt and in later years we converted to oil but initially we didn't have the money to go into an oil furnace so we started off with wood and coal. And of course down in the basement are my washer and my dryer now. Should have had a dryer when the children were little but we didn't have the money, now once the kids were grown and bigger and there were no diapers and no wash and wear fabrics, why I have all the conveniences that I could have used then.

(M) Let's talk about that a little bit more, that's a question I wanted to ask you anyway. What can you think of other kinds of conveniences other than your dryer that you have now that you didn't have then or weren't available then or that weren't affordable? And I'm talking then maybe then 50s which is about the time the kids were in grade school and just growing up?

(D) Well now we have a freezer and we could stock a whole lot more foods that would have been nice. We have today television and VCR and the other oh... microwave and all that of course we didn't have then. But... umm...

(M) Let me ask you another question um you would have had a radio and probably like a record play maybe when the kids were smaller, do you remember approximately when it was you acquired a television set and what kinds of things did the kids do for recreation or entertainment when they were growing up? What were the typical kinds of games or things that they enjoyed? Or the kinds of activities that they enjoyed?

(D) Well it must have been let's see about forty years ago before we had TV maybe even less than that because Dixie and Hue had a television and we used to go up there and watch it even watching the snow but at least the sound came through. But oh we thought that was great but we couldn't afford one, we had three children with each one of them two of them wearing glasses all three in corrective shoes we couldn't afford them. We did have radios, the kids had their own little record players for music because they enjoyed music and we played a lot of games. Every Christmas Santa Claus brought games and what I did with our kids was put the toys that they played the most with I left out at Christmas time and those that they didn't seem too interested in we would put away. And of course parents buy what they would like as well so then we would put them away. And then along about January, February, March, April when sickness struck, then when the kids in bed I would take out one of their Christmas games and it looked new to them and it was new to them and then we play and we'd retire them for a while and we kind of rotated things but the kids always had games and music. And books always books.

(M) Do you remember specifically what any of the games were or what particular types of books they liked or what records what songs they liked a lot that would have been popular at that time?

(D) Mmm they were mostly the children songs, the Golden Books we read, they liked the children's records that Golden put out. It wasn't so much popular music as it were the little



ditties that the kids could play and um they played Monopoly they played what was that game Candy Land! Oh Melony loved Candy Land she nearly wore it out. And Michel always played with his trucks, Roxy always had to have boy things more than girl things, she liked she always wanted to be an Appalachian warrior or Prince Valiant. So there were always swords and bows and arrows and horses and figurines. And Melony like always having dolls so that was her happiness, dolls and dishes and um Michel always liked his trucks. They had bicycles, they had card games that they liked to play.

(M) What about during the winter time? What were the activities that the kids like in the winter time?

(D) Well in the winter they just liked being out in the snow. Um sledding they didn't do too well on skis although I did when I was growing up we played with skis and they never skated a whole lot because they were in corrective shoes. Building forts and sledding and tobogganing, sliding down the Tippett's terraces and tobogganing. Sometimes we would go to the winter sports area here in Ishpeming and toboggan and that what was always a fun thing going down on that shoot.

(M) Winter sports area being the Al Quaal recreation area?

(D) Al Quaal recreational area.

(M) Now the clothing that the kids wore to play outdoors was at that time somewhat different than it is now. Can you describes what kind of winter clothing the kids would wear and the routine was when they would go out to play?

(D) When they were little it was always dressing them in snow pants. Heavy lined quilted pants made of wool and oar or if was poplin at least they were lined with quilted fabric to keep them extra warm. Socks, boots, shoes when into overshoes or galoshes or overshoes.

(M) What were the overshoes made of?

(D) Rubber. Rubber and then they wore mittens.

(M) How many pairs of mittens?

(D) Usually one pair of mittens with strings on them and run through the sleeves and around the necks so they wouldn't lose them. Good warm jacket or coat, scarfs, woolen knitted woolen helmets or warm hats and when the weather was real cold we wrapped our mufflers around their noses and mouths so they could stay out in the air and inevitably when you get your little one out and then they wouldn't be out for two minutes before they had to come in and go to the bathroom. So they had to go through that whole procedure of taking it all off, going to the bathroom, putting it all back on and then the next one had to come in! So it got to be a little tedious until they got a little older and could manage. But they loved being outdoors and making snow angles in the snow, laying on your back and fan your arms and make an angle figure in the snow and forts. But they were dressed warmly and it's different today because um the young people seem to run around in their Adidas and don't seem, and bare legs. Some of the girls go to school in short skirts and bare legs and dress slippers and I can't see how they can tolerate it but they do.

(M) Do you have, can you remember um approximately what children's clothing would have cost or what the cost of a typical weeks trip to the grocery store would have been when the kids were growing up in the 50s?

(D) Cost of groceries, we charged some of our groceries at a neighborhood store, the Culet's Market and then we switched to another local neighborhood store, Linquest Market and eventually we decided that but you see you could buy an awful lot of things, it's like charge cards today. If you weren't careful before you knew it your credit slip was more than really you could handle and the grocers would be kind enough to say alright you can pay so much on your bill and they would except your credit but we wanted to get away from that and it was in the early 50s that we converted into going strictly cash at one of the supermarkets downtown. Um what was the other part of your question?

(M) Approximant cost of, a weekly cost of groceries and if there is a typical clothing item that you can remember that you would have had to purchase a lot? What would you have? Could you give me some kind of an idea? Maybe like the cost of undershirts or something like that?

(D) I think we spend about twenty, twenty five dollars a week on groceries. Clothing, undershirts... ohh under a dollar but I did a lot of sewing, there were certain garments that I would buy for the family, panties, bras, slips, socks, Lowell's underwear but when it came to other items of clothing I sewed and I made them all! I made Lowell a suit one year and to the great sense of pride in sewing because my mother had sewed for us and it was not only cheaper but it gave you a sense of being creative and productive and I still sew.

(M) Now any idea what the price per yard say for 100% cotton or a typical fabric to make a dress or shirt or something like that? Do you have any idea how the cost compared with what a ready to wear item of similar, a similar type of ready to wear item would cost?

(D) Well we were always accustom to buying fabric and it seemed to me that if we got cotton and percales and all for just under a dollar or just a little over a dollar that that was really all that you should have to pay for them. And it astonishes me now to go down and find that I cannot buy fabric comparably for less then maybe four dollars a yard! Unless it's on sale and but when you make your own things you save, you can save, it might have to sale for maybe two or three times what you paid for it if not more depending I suppose on what kind of work you did. if you did inferior kinds of construction then it wouldn't cost very much. Today I have a you know a sewing machine that will do fancy stitches and a serger that will do edging and everything else and that would have been ideal then but I made slip covers, I made curtains, I made draperies, bedspreads and clothing items and I felt that was what we had to do to make ends meat. Because we only had Lowell's salary to live on.

(M) In your circle of family and acquaintances um was it real typical for the women to do a lot of sewing and things like that to stretch money?

(D) Yes. On my sister and I, my brother and his wife we all lived within our incomes we never um we never did go into stores and buy ready-made clothing, coats we think we did! But not coats even for the children we made our children snowsuits and coats but around here yeah.

There were a few people that I knew whose husbands worked in the mines who went to the style shop and bought clothing but all I can think is that they must have lived on credit because we were pay as you go and my husband's philosophy was if you can't pay cash for it then you can't afford it! It killed him to even charge lumber at the lumber yard so between the only things that we ever charged were groceries for a few years and then charging supplies at the lumber yard but beyond that if we couldn't pay cash for it we couldn't afford it.

(M) Um was there a lot of clothing handed down among your family or among your extended family and was that a big part of it?

(D) Yes and it was kind of a fun thing because the Tippett girls were living next door and when would have some pretty dresses they were Kate Greenaway dresses and Kate Greenaway dress had a pocket now they had been given to me by a women who could afford to buy these kinds of name things and so when Roxy finished then they went up to Tippetts and when Trenia was finished they came back and when Melony was finished they went back to Tippetts and they were never ever worn out because when you had a good dress or a Sunday dresses or Sunday clothes and school clothes, you took care of them. And when the children came home they immediately changed into either little dungarees or slacks that we made for them and little blouses and shirts and you had play clothes and you had good clothes. And we stretched and they would go back and forth and back and forth and finally I remember giving all these things away to a another women whose children needed things and they went on and on. But we swapped all the time, we didn't ever swap shoes um nobody ever wore somebody else's shoes.

(M) Um can you describe what the outfit types of things would be if there was like for church or for Christmas or something like that? What would a special item of clothing or a special outfit consist of?

(D) Well see Easter because that was always something we waited for. It meant new shoes, new anklets unless it was cold then the girls would wear their long white stockings. They always wear little harnesses that we made for them we called them garter belts and they were little oh let me see like a camisole and we could fasten the garters to the bottom of that little camisole and the garters of course reached to the top of their stocking kept them up nice and snug so that they didn't bag at the knees. And then they wore a pretty dress and I would make the dresses, some of them I remember one year making them out of kind of a seersucker organdy in tears with lace around the little puff sleeves and white lace around the neck lines and a sash and oh the girls thought they were great. Then they wore white gloves and carried little purses to church and always wore little white hats with turned up rims and flowers and off we marched to church. And if it were Christmas it would be another outfit for Christmas but fabrics that were warmer than Easter. We took care of our clothing and they wore them until they grew out of them which maybe could get two seasons.

(M) Let's talk about church a little bit. Did you attend church regularly if so what church was it?

(D) Lowell was raised a Methodist and when we were married we were married in the Methodist Parsonage because like as I say we headed for home and Dewey's ship and docked. But I had grown up in the Episcopal Church in Ishpeming, the Grace Episcopal Church and was baptized

there and grew up there, sang in the choir and then when my children were born they were baptized there. And baptized by the same priest who had baptized which made it rather a need to experience. And then we attended church um regularly and we still do. God is important in our lives, we feel blessed and we thank him for our blessings. I am an active person in church as a yooperistic minister a lay person, a lay reader. Been on the Vestry, Lowell has been on the Vestry he still spends a lot of time at the church doing whatever might need to be done as far as maintenance and that kind of thing.

(M) Um did most of the people that you associated with, family and friends and so forth belong to a church? Was that a pretty essential part of life?

(D) Yes. Um my brother and his family were and are active Lutherans because it was always important to them. My sister and her husband attend Grace Episcopal Church same we do. Most of our friends had church affiliations some were not... did not attend church regularly although they attended church on Christmas and Easter and that kind of thing. But yes most of us had church ties.

(M) Let's get into the neighborhood a little bit. In some parts of the country people lived in rural houses and cities or on farms, the nearest neighbor may be two or three miles away. Can you give me a little, can you paint me a little picture of the neighborhood that you've lived in your entire married life. How big it is how many houses it is um how well the neighbors knew each other? How long any of the neighbors would have lived here? Were there a lot of people in and out? Was there pretty much a steady population of the same people that you'd get to know over the years? Just paint me a little picture if you can?

(D) When we build our homes after, when the war was over there were many of the GIs that came back who wanted to locate in the area and who built homes in this little plat West Ishpeming, this is the original plat of West Ishpeming. And the school was just you know, were like two blocks deep and five blocks long and the school was in the center and so our children just had to walk up the street to the top of the hill and there and then in the next block was the school.

(M) I want to stop on the school for a second. How large was the school and how many grades would the school accommodate and did it have an auditorium or a gym or how many floors was it? Can you give me a little rough description of what you recall of the school?

(D) Well this school was built, it's a brick building and it was built in 1916. It had in the basement level a gym, it had another room that was a woodshop workshop for the boys and it had a furnace room and restrooms. And then on the main floor there were, there was a classroom to the right as you entered and there was a classroom to the right and I think that was first and second grades and in the auditorium they had a kindergarten class. In the room to the left across the hall were grades, I believe seven and eight. That's when I was there, I think when my children were going there it was up to grade five and six. Five and as you enter the school there was the entry and two stairways going down to the basement, one on the right and one on the left. And then there were these two classrooms and the auditorium and then you went up a wide staircase to the second level and there was a classroom on the right and left there and restrooms.

And I can't tell you which grades would have been in those classes but there was also a small room up there that was the principal's office and we were impressed with that because I had been sent there a few times in my day.

(M) I won't ask what for. Um school routine a little bit, the school was close enough that the kids could walk to school. Did they come home for lunch?

(D) They came home for lunch every day and would climb the hill and go to school and then come home from lunch. They had one hour and they would come home and have sandwiches or a bowl of soup and they always wore the little aprons that I had made for them and even when Michel came to live with us, he just loved having his own aprons and putting on his apron. And we always made his apron look like a boy's apron and not a girl's apron. And yeah and when they came home from school then they changed their clothing and went out to play and their good clothes were put away and were in play clothes.

(M) Was it very typical in a small neighborhood this size to have a school? A local school that the kids could walk to?

(D) Um yes it was then because there was a school in North Lake that had a school for the lower grades and ultimately um our students arrived here from West Ishpeming went to North Lake School for grades seven and eight. And they were bused, they were picked up by a bus at the school entrance and off they went. Speaking of coming home for lunch and all, I remember when Melony brought home some little girls that lived out by the gold mine and she said I don't like that little girl and she named her. And I said why don't you like her? And I thought she was going to say because she is dirty or her hair is matted. But she didn't she said oh I don't like her because she looked at my paper but these were little girls that lived in a terrible, windowless building out near the gold mine. With rag stuff in the windows and they slept on old coats and sometimes came in cast off clothing so that it was so ragged and torn. And sometimes she would bring them home for lunch and I would feed them and I remember buying each a jump rope for ten cents at the store because Melony had a new jump rope and the teachers then called and asked me if I had given them these jump ropes because they want to be sure that hadn't gone to the store and stolen them. Eventually those children were taken away from the parents and put into some kind of custody because they were not fed properly.

(M) While I was switching types she mentioned that she would like to talk a little bit more about food and stretching the available grocery budget.

(D) When we were involved in one of the mine layoffs and maybe it was during Honey-do-week I'm not quite sure but surplus foods were available. Government surplus food and we were never on welfare, we never saved money at that time, in savings but we didn't go in debt either. We managed to squeak by and pay our bills but we would have surplus foods and they were good. There was cornmeal, there was powdered milk, um and butter and we felt fortunate that we had these to supplement what we could buy and what we could grow in the garden. And it kept us afloat.

(M) Let's talk a little bit more about layoffs um do you recall how many times Lowell would have been laid off? And for how long?

(D) I remember when he, there was a layoff, oh I can't tell you... in the 50s and it was not long after we had adopted Michel and in church we met a family who were living in a motel and needed to find a place to rent for the summer. They wanted to get out of the cramped motel, they had three kids. And so we came home and we talked about and Lowell said Dawn why don't we rent the house. So we rented out house furnished and so we moved out to camp, it was unfinished just subflooring and no insulation in the walls or anything up but there was four walls and roof and a floor. And an outhouse. So we moved out there and the deal was then he would give Lowell a job and he said what do you do Lowell? I'll do common labor and we did we rented that summer and by fall they had found a house which happened to be the home of a cousin of ours who wanted to rent. So they were satisfied and we were satisfied and that's when Lowell worked as a common laborer up at the Republic Mine project as they were building. And the following summer Lowell still was not back at the mines and doing what he could in construction or whatever and we rented our home a second time to family and survived again that year which we meant we had money then to make house payments. And they were some of the nicest summer those two summer were the most wonderful summer we had at camp. The kids were young enough to be in the water like seals all day long and the Tippetts kids would be that their camp so we'd come back and forth and play and it was, it worked both ways. It was the Republic Mine was close to where Lowell to us, I think twelve miles by dirt road. So he could drive back and forth and come home and he'd work on the camp. Again you know he had to do all the work, he'd work his eight hours, come home do either work on the house to finish the house or work on the camp to finish the camp wherever we happen to be. But that's how we got by during those layoffs.

(M) If it had not been for renting the house what would you have done?

(D) I don't know there again I think it was divine providence that's why we believe so firmly that the Lord is with us because whenever we were in a tight spot um somehow we came through. We believe in prayer.

(M) I'd like to talk about camp a little bit um for those people who grew up in the U.P, camp is a very familiar term but for those who have not grown up here, there is one perception that might be a little bit different than what the U.P definition of camp is. Um I'd like you to define it for me if you can and then describe for me the circumstances in which you acquired the property and was there an already a structure on it or how that all progressed.

(D) When the men came home from service, property opened up on Casey Lake and initially it could have been purchased for maybe four or five thousand dollars all the properties around the lake. But who had five thousand dollars? We didn't.

(M) That's the whole lake for five thousand dollars?

(D) The whole lake as I understand it. My father said that the jobber that was his chum who gave Lowell work when Lowell first came home from service was offered it but he thought it was so

far out and such god for saken who would want to be there? Then the property opened up and it was sold for hundred and fifty dollars for a hundred foot lot of lake frontage. Well grandpa Hill offered us the money but we thought how we ever going to pay back hundred and fifty dollars?

(M) Grandpa Hill is?

(D) My father my father the children's grandpa, Russell Hill and so we turned him down and he said well I got it but we didn't. And about a year after we adopted Michel in 50... what did I say, 57', 1957 we built a camp because one of the man who bought one of the original lots on the lake decided, his wife decided she wanted to live at lake that was much closer off of a paved highway at Little Perch. And when my brother Dewey heard about it and he said if you want to get some property here is a lot of sale. We imminently called this man and he wanted five hundred dollars, he made three hundred and fifty dollars profit which my husband thought was oh astronomical. But we bought the property for five hundred and today the property is worth upwards of thirty five to five thousand, you know lake frontage is premium and then we hired and my uncle said to us if you are going to build, build while the kids are little so that they can enjoy it because once they are gone or get jobs in the summer when they are teenagers you'll never get out there. So that's what we did and we did the same there as we did with the house. We built and paid for what we could and waited until we had enough money to add on and the camp still isn't finished but today it's not a camp it's a retirement home really. Its carpeted and electricity we initially we had um a pump to pump water, a hand pump and we had Kerosene lamps and later when the electricity was finally put out there our girls said you can't do that we like the Kerosene lamps! And I said I like the conveniences and flipping a switch but when you are out there you can light the lamps if you wish. But we called them camps in the U.P. other people call them cottages and I suppose it's just a matter of semantics um for us it's a retreat and now that Lowell and I are retired we plan on spending a whole lot more but here we are both of us just seventy years old and this is the first time that we feel free enough of other obligations to be able to go out and just stay. Because we have Dixie Lease Smail living with us for the past fourteen years, she's a niece her mother was my twin, her daddy was Hue Smail, Lowell's brother and when he mom and dad were dead why she lived with granny and when granny Hill died Dixie has lived with us for fourteen years. But she now has retired from the shelter workshop and the Special Olympics and all the practices and involvements that I had involvement in. Now we are free to go to camp and stay there and Dixie now in the mid-stage of Alzheimers and so we are going to go out there and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

(M) Ok you mentioned honey do, what is honey do?

(D) Honey-do was a time when the man worked three week and had one week off and by that time we had a list of things that the men could go do. And because so many of our husbands were do it yourselfers that how we stretched out pay is our own labor and then they would do all the all the odd jobs that we wanted done and we called it Honey do week. It was a kind of an efficient term.

(M) As in honey do this honey do that?

(D) As in honey do this and honey do that.

(M) You mentioned gardening did most of your family and acquaintances have gardens I presume vegetable gardens? If so approximately how big and approximately what kinds of things would you grow? Would you can or freeze or eat the produce in the summertime only? How did that go?

(D) When I was growing up we had our own chickens, geese, turkeys, cows, pigs, sheep for wool and a big garden space. In fact we are built right on smack dab in my grandfather's big potato garden um Dewey's house is up in the, what used to be the sheep pen. Dixie's house on the corner was another garden because they would alternate to get their crops well when we were married and built here then, our lot being hundred by seventy we didn't have that much space. And so we didn't raise a whole lot, Dewey's the one with the beautiful garden you'll have to talk to him about that. But we did some freezing of food when the time came that we had a freezer, prior to that I didn't do as much canning, my mother did a lot of canning and preparation of foods and I got so sick of it then that I didn't do any when I was married. [Laughs]

(M) I want to follow up on something now, you just outlined that on the same block are, were your mother, your sister who was married to your husband's brother and your brother there's a whole block. Is there, are there any other family members living on this block and is it very typical in your experience, that there were many families who would spread out and then occupy the same part of a neighborhood?

(D) There were some, my grandfather owned most of one block, a good two thirds I would think. And so my uncle built his home on one side of granddad and we built on the lower corner of Marble and what's now North Lake Road, they changed the name so many times. And then Dixie and Hue built their house on Copper and North Lake Road at 105 Copper. Dewey um... Irene had a lot that was between Hue and Dewey and subsequently she sold it to Dewey but um... we built on these pieces of property because it was uh granddad wouldn't sell to anyone except family. And he said to my mother if you want to give them to your children ok and then across the road from my brother was another forty acers that granddad leased from the CCI but when he died it was a ninety nine year lease but when he died it was no longer valid, it didn't carry on to the rest of us. We felt badly about that because that was our cow pastor and sheep pastor and we used to love to roam through the woods and play in there. But there was other families out here whose children bought lots next to them but not as many we were kind of a real cluster here.

(M) So your situation was quite unique then it wasn't typical?

(D) Yeah we were unique right we were unique.

(M) Um let's talk about extended families for a little bit. Obviously there was some real close ties with your extended family um was it typical for there to be large extended families in the same community? That being like in Ishpeming or Negaunee or the combination of the two? And if there were extend families in pretty close proximity are you aware that people would spend a lot of time with their extended families? Or would they spend more of their social time with friends instead or was it a combination?



(D) We spent a lot more time with extended family and friends, playing cards at night, once a week my sister Irene and Venor and the Bangre's and or we would have times were we would all get together and visit, especially the birthday parties of the children. We always were at each other's homes to celebrate the birthdays. We still do, we still do we get all get together for a birthday coffee that's one thing that we have never given up on! At one time when the children were little we always exchanged gifts but and we handmade gifts to be able to do it but when we began building homes um it got to be a little more than we could handle. And so we decided that we would cut out giving each other's children gifts because they were well provided for anyway. Amongst friends, um in the communities yeah we would we would, we didn't have TV early on and so it was a lot more social and some of the social organizations we were involved in were Job's Daughters and Eastern Star and um Lowell for a while belonged to the Lion's Club. But later one we got too busy as the kids got bigger and they had involvement and we kind of let ours go by the board and we didn't belong. But now that there is TV I live next door to my brother and to my uncle and except for birthdays and stepping outside on the backyard and talking over the back fence or the gardens, checking on each other's gardens, we don't see have the time anymore to just go and visit the way we did forty years ago.

(M) Birthdays was something I wanted to ask about. You mentioned birthday coffee um is birthday coffee a common term? Is that something that's done in the community or is that a family thing?

(D) I guess it might be just family or but... well mankind has always enjoyed sitting over food and sharing. If you have someone and they come to your home to visit you offer them something to eat. It used to be that we would have a birthday coffee, and there was cake and ice cream and sometimes we would make pizzas and sometimes we would um provide a whole variety of foods. But as we all are in our 70s and early 80s and cholesterol conscious our menus have really changed and we don't really mind because we still like getting together and we all realize that we are the top generation now because our parents are gone. Um we are the old generation and we appreciate the times that we get together when we are just happy, not gathering because somebody died or there's been a dreadful illness or some other kind of not too happy time.

(M) Let's talk a little bit also about birthday parties when the kids were smaller. What was the typical birthday party like?

(D) It meant that for us it meant that the Linna [Spelled phonetically] boys two little boys came, that the Tippett girls came down from next door and Roxy and Melony and then depending on their schools friends, when they got older and were going to the lower grades. They would come over and it was cake and ice cream and pop and balloons and paper hats.

(M) Paper hats made out of what kind of paper?

(D) Paper hats made out of crate paper. And we made our own and that was part of the preparation, we liked that. And of course you came dressed up, the little boys came in pants and shirts and little ties of some such. The little girls always wore their pretty dresses, now and days people go everywhere in blue jeans and if they have holes in the knees that's even better I guess. But birthdays were dress up, that was a special time and we had a special party one year where

we had a circus party. And it was Roxy's party and the snow was gone, no it was Melony's party! It was in July and so we had a little cages and put cats and dogs the various pets were in cages, and they were the lions and the tigers. And we had rabbits and we had popcorn stand and we had a Kool-Aid stand and we had circus records and marches and we played games outdoors in the backyards. It was one of the most fun parties that we had, that circus party and it was great.

(M) What would a typical birthday present be? As a gift from parents to kids or from kids to other kids? Do you remember and also were there typical birthday party games? That were pretty much done that we done at all the birthday parties?

(D) Oh yes always pin the tail on the donkey and then some little inexpensive prizes, balloons, pencils, erasers, maybe tablets, maybe a coloring book. But and then for the children for our children we usually gave them something that they wanted or needed. I remember one year Melony wanted a table and chairs and that's what she had for her birthday or it could be another dolly. For Roxy it was a globe or another horse statue, for Michel it was always another car. Things didn't always last too long so it was, or a new tricycle or a bicycle. According to what we could afford as well.

(M) One of the things we didn't talk about is the availability of stores in which to purchase other things than groceries. Most people now in the 80s and 90s especially if you live in an urban area the mall is the place to shop. Where did you shop for other things than groceries during the time the kids were growing up say in the 50s?

(D) We never shopped for anything beyond Ishpeming because there were enough stores here, there was a JC Penny, a Sears, um...

(M) Was the Sears a retail store or a catalog store?

(D) It was retail and catalog, Montgomery Wards was retail and catalog, there was a Quaal's Furniture Store, there were hardware stores, Jackson's Hardware. There was another hardware, I can't think of this name, there was Curkish Shoe Store, and there was the Style Shop which was more expensive ready-made clothing that I didn't shop in because I couldn't afford it unless it was a sale. I bought everything on sale, I still buy on sale because the mark up is too much and I have too much Scotch background to allow myself to spend that much money on something that I can get later on. There were hat shops, there were, millinery shops I'm talking about, there was one I think and um... there was the Gossard Factory and I worked in there while Lowell was in service off and on because I kept going to visit him while he was overseas, well he was in the state at various bases. But there was, there was an FW Walrus store and then there was a JJ Newberry store um which were five and dimes so we didn't have to go out of Ishpeming, I could have bought anything I wanted right here in Ishpeming.

(M) Now your mention of the Walrus store and the Newberry store um what kinds of things would you buy there and specifically were there household goods, like maybe dishes that you would have purchased there? And was that, what kinds of dishes and cooking utensils and things like that would people use typically?

(D) Well they would have sold, they would have sold dishes, I don't remember where I bought my first set of dishes or dishes for.... I think I bought dishes at... from Wards when Lowell came home from overseas and utensils I bought at Jackson's Hardware. Not too many because we couldn't afford it, as long as we had a tea kettle, had to have a tea pot because we are English and we always have tea, did have a coffee pot, um a mixer and I think Lowell bought that at Wards, gave that to me for a Christmas gift one year. And um... JJ Newberry carried yard goods, so you could go there and buy yard goods and thread. JC Penny carried yard goods and I bought a lot of yard goods there, it was only after the eras of malls and when malls came into Marquette that the other stores gradually closed out and moved away until we have no stores with yard goods and I don't know of anyone in Ishpeming that sells hats. The Style Shop is still here but JC Penny is gone, Wards is gone, Sears is gone and the small local hardware's are struggling to stay alive.

(M) What about catalogs? Did you ever rely much on catalogs, now there is specialty catalogs and things out but where did catalogs fit in to purchasing things when the kids were growing up?

(D) Montgomery Wards and Sears put out catalogs, we always got them, Christmas time we might send for Christmas things, they always put out special Christmas catalogs and we might buy things from them. But mainly we bought locally, Quall's always had a wonderful selection of toys, their whole second floor would go into a toys and Christmas games and I would go there and sometimes I bought for what the kids would enjoy but sometimes I bought things that I knew I would enjoy. But we used catalogs and ultimately you know they were relegated to the outhouses because the standing joke was you never use the shiny paper. And we didn't get too involved in that except that, you know we never had an outhouse except out at camp and then we didn't really use the catalogs anymore either. But we didn't buy, we didn't buy anything from specialty catalogs it was just Wards and Sears and most of that if there was an appliance then we would maybe go there and buy a large appliance but they carry them into retail. And if they didn't have it then of course they would send for it and bring it in and we would get it.

(M) When you say send for were you talking about placing an order by phone was it a pencil and paper order blank that you mailed?

(D) No they would order it by phone, most of the business on appliance that we would buy the stores, the retail store would say we don't have it but we will get it for you and then they would.

(M) And do you remember how long it would take if something were special ordered like an appliance how long it would take to get to the store and then to your home?

(D) It usually was a week or ten days, maybe two weeks.

(M) Um one of the things that we haven't really talked about that I really want to get into in a little bit of depth is um the mining related daily routine, the preparation of lunch boxes, what went in it, who did it? And also mine clothing and how it was laundered and how frequently?

(D) Lowell described his lunchbox to you and it held a thermos and a compartment for his sandwiches, he carried two sandwiches, peanut butter and jam. Didn't matter if it was strawberry or raspberry or whatever but he loved peanut butter and jam and a banana and Twinkie. I would

prepare his lunch in the morning while I was giving him his breakfast and his breakfast was usually a cup of tea and either toast or oatmeal.

(M) And he would get up at what time in the morning, you would get up at what time in the morning and he would leave at what time about?

(D) He would get up at six or a quarter to six, I would get up a quarter he would get up at six and he would leave the home at six thirty and drive to work.

(M) Let's talk about the mining laundry. He described having to um change into his mining clothes once he got to work and taking them home every week or two. What peculiarities were there about laundering mining clothes and did he do that or did you do that?

(D) I did the laundry most of the time sometimes Lowell would wash his own digging clothes but because iron ore is hematite and hema is red and the ore was red um you did the hematite clothes in a separate washer because you could never get your other washer clean enough to do whites and sheets and that kind of thing. So we had two washing machines, we our kids grew up when we had Speed Queens, I remember we had a Speed Queen Ringer Washer, oh that was great! And it was electric as opposed to my mother ever having to use one you know turning it by hand and we also had an old Maytag washer that we acquired from a neighbor and that's what we washed his digging clothes in.

(M) That was also a ringer washer?

(D) That was a ringer washer and of course Maytags go on forever and ever and so he would bring his clothes home every week. When he got to work that's when he was underground, I washed them every week and then the mine, the water would be so red that you'd have to rinse and rinse two or three times in order to get them clean enough. They'd still be stained red but at least the dirt was out because mine ore kind of has an oily consistency so it was hard to get them clean. And then um we'd hang them out on the line because we didn't have any dryers and Lowell used to wear a skullcap under his in his hard helmet and a skullcap is just oh just exactly that, it was a cloth hat that I made. Um if you look at a man's build, a baseball cap, take the bill off and make the crown into cloth and that was a skullcap and that kept their hair clean and their scalps clean from the dirt and the redness because you'd have to scrub too hard to get all that out of your hair and out of your scalp. And so we always had two washing machines, one for the family use and one for just digging clothes. After he began working in the engine house which was a spotlessly clean area, you couldn't see any red anywhere, it was so clean and painted gray and his clothes didn't get dirty, although we washed them separately because there was always dust enough around sometimes or if you walked outside. But that was what we had to do with mine clothes.

(M) And then did most people have a separate washing machine and was it a new washing machine or would you get them used somewhere? How would you be able to afford two washing machines?

(D) Well we couldn't afford two new ones no, when somebody wanted to upgrade and get classy they bought a new washing machine and they'd advertise the old one or say I'm getting rid of

one or even some of them even would throw them in the dump and men would go there and salvage perfectly good equipment. But um we needed two machines to keep up with dealing with jobs working in the mines. What was the other half of that question?

(M) I think you answered it. Um the other question is um I really need you to specifically describe what this red is. Is it a cherry red, an apple red, what color red is it?

(D) No no. It's a dull red, a brick red and if you were to take standard brick red and pulverize it that's what iron ore dust looks like. It's a deep stain it covers everything and when I was a girl growing up we always knew when the men, the shift was going to change by looking at Carp River! Because they discharged the waste water from their dries and all into the rivers and when you know the men were washing up all of a sudden you'd see all this red come floating down and you know that was another thing. Then you didn't want to go swimming, we swam in Carp River but then you didn't want to swim in it.

(M) And this would have been when you a child?

(D) When I was girl mm when I was a kid.

(M) Um I'm going to talk about shift work just a little bit, I imagine some of the idiosyncrasies of shift work are common to anybody who's done it but what impact was there on the home life when there was a shift change from day to afternoon and then to midnight shift?

(D) When daddy was midnight shift if the kids were home they had to keep quite daddy needed to sleep and they knew that and they were good. They either played outdoors even if they played outdoors you didn't play underneath dad's window or in the yard yelling, that's when they could go over to the school yard and play with other kids and that kind of thing. But for years Lowell did work shift work but for years he worked midnights because not too many men wanted midnights and he was willing to work them. It meant extra pay, to work that grave yard shift and so that was another way that Lowell made money, he would work seven days a week and weeks and weeks and weeks on end just because we needed the money to get by and build a home and keep up with the needs of the family. And we adapted to the shifts, ultimately Lowell had enough time in and when he finally worked down at the Empire mine in the open pit area and worked in driving trucker in the garage, he worked day shift and that was nice but by that time kids were gone. And shift work when the holidays rolled around if it were Christmas and Lowell had to work Christmas day, we just got up earlier, course the kids were ready to get up before the crack of dawn to see what Santa Claus brought but we could get up early, they'd open their things to see what Santa brought. I would give Lowell his breakfast, Lowell would go to work they would play with their Christmas things all day and then we had our Christmas dinner when he came home at 4:00 and so it was no inconvenient, it was just you adapted to the routines of his work schedule and worked around it because that what kept us alive and kept us going. We were, we grew up in mining communities, in mining family and this was so familiar to us that there was nothing unusual.

(M) Um can we talk a little bit about I know there is only a couple more things that I want to cover and then see what other comments you have. If you would comment on the do it yourself,

um... philosophy or how common was the do it yourself concept and how important was it? And also does that tie in any concept that you have of stoicism, was there a perception or do you have a perception that there was any stoicism involved in the way that people worked during the time when the underground mines were flourishing?

(D) I don't know about stoicism I never thought of that but we grew up with an English grandfather, my mother came home to take care of her stepmother when she was ill, came home for a few days and stayed for the rest of her life. Which is why my father then left his job in Marquette at the prison and came home to a job closer and we grew up with grandad and he was English um old English, there was a frequent saying you know they not worth their salt. Which meant um you had to work for what you had, we grew up with a strong work ethic and we grew up with the philosophy that if you want it you have to work for it. If you want it you have to have the money to pay for it, we were... working gave you self-esteem. Achieving and being of value I guess, depended on whether or not you were willing to roll up your sleeves and pitch in and do and then of course that meant that we had to be do it yourselfers because we didn't have the money. Coming back from service and fifty two twenty was certainly not anything surplus, it carried us through while Lowell was trying to find a job and getting settled. But um Lowell takes a great sense of pride in building and creating and making for himself um brother felt the same way, my uncle the same way, if you wanted it you built it, you made it. Um for me sewing and running the house depended on how thrifty I could be and being thrifty is not being stingy, it's a challenge to be able to create and to acquire with ingenuity and skill and talent. And we are proud of that fact that we live in a house that Lowell built, we live in a camp that Lowell built and um other people seem to admire it in us. We are do it yourselfers by with pride.

(M) Um just a couple more topics. You and your contemporaries were pretty much the generation of women who were at home when their children were younger um were homemakers at least until the kids were at some point in their older school years. Do you have any sense or perception of things that were engrained in women of that generation? Women's traditions or things that the women did consciously as a group to get by? Or to help each other out or to support each other or to listen to each other? Or to share responsibilities for children? Any kinds of things that would fit in those ideas that were peculiar to the women? That are of your contemporary?

(D) Well my friends were all women who stayed at home and raised their children. We babysat for each other to give each other to give each other the freedom to do some of the extra things where it would take you away from home or some of my friends had part time jobs. But the majority of the women who worked for instance at the Gossard Garment Factory, worked by necessity either their husbands were dead or had lost their jobs or the women were single but most of those women worked, you know at a sewing machine and some of the women worked as clerks. A few of them worked in some office work but none of them ever paid very much money. I went back to school when the girls went, when the girls were both in college, Melony was at St. Joseph School of Nursing in Hancock and Roxy was going to Northern and she finished her degree out in the University of San Francisco. But when the girls went to college then I decided that I wanted to go back to school and I did and I had always wanted to be a nurse and so I

ultimately became a nurse and worked and went to school while I was still an LPN I worked and finished as an RN. And then it became easy for us because we lived on one income, we lived on my income and put Lowell's income away and I had moneys put away into um a sheltered annuity program and we then become comfortable. But other women who didn't get into that kind, you know go back to school had to get by on the little pits that they paid women in those days to supplement whatever their husbands made. Or maybe for their own pin money. But my mother said she wished that there had been jobs for women or opportunities for women when she was growing up where she could have supplemented the income because they were economics are like cycles there is ups and down and when you are on the down side... one of the things my mother taught me when things are looking really good be careful because they are going to bust. And put something away so we learned to put something away, to tide us over on the tough times. Did I answer your question?

(M) Mmhm. You touched on another topic that I wanted to talk a little bit more too and that is the education of your children. How that was financed and what each of them is doing as an adult and whether any of them has children and briefly where they live and what they do.

(D) Well Roxy was always an exceptional student, she's brilliant and which is not unusual for brilliant people, sometimes school was hard for her because she and one of her friends were so um quick that it was hard to wait for the others to catch up. Ultimately Roxy became um an anthropologist um she laughs and calls herself an austiologist because she's become a bones specialist in that she can read the bones of mummies and determined illnesses and injuries and that kind of thing. And today she's in Egyptologist living in Switzerland and Kyro involved in digs in Peru, the southwest Kampsville excavations in Illinois. She's an interesting person, but she went through college on scholarships. Now Melony is very bright person and a good student and always had good grades but she always wanted to be a nurse and so she went to St. Joes School of Nursing in Hancock but we paid for that because there was no nursing scholarship that she could dig up and so...

(M) Do you recall what her tuition per semester or per year would have been?

(D) At the end of three years she it cost us forty five hundred dollars because she gave her dad her cap with the black band and her school pin and she said well daddy here's what your forty five hundred dollars bought. But later on in a couple of years she was married and then while living in Minneapolis, went into a school of anesthesia and put in another eighteen months and is now... certified nurse a anesthetist and she specialized in pediatric anesthesia so she is a very highly skilled person and working in St. Louis. She has two boys, one is Miles, Miles Michel Anderson who is seventeen, will be seventeen on June second this year and the other boy is Jared Reed and he is twelve going to be thirteen.

(M) Jared Reed Anderson?

(D) Jared Reed Anderson yes. And I don't know what they are doing. Jared said says he is going to be an actor and I think he just might because he has the personality. Miles is undecided he's finding his way I think.

(M) And what is Michel doing now?

(D) Michel Smail? Michel Keith Smail lives in Temple City, California a he is married to Donna Anderson, Donna Smail and he is a self-employed carpenter, he is very happy there. He is a fine young man, well he is in his forties now but that is young to me and has two step children. He is a grandfather, a proud grandfather of two little girls. Interestingly he is six, about six four, six five, and three hundred pounds and he does the most beautiful needle work that you'd like to see. He can do needle point and he makes things for his grandchildren and enjoys being creative that way.

(M) What about medical care, we haven't talked about medical care at all um did your kids require a lot of medical? Was it readily available? Was it covered by insurance? Was it affordable?

(D) When Lowell first started with the CCI the CCI still had Belmond Memorial Hospital in Ishpeming was just the Ishpeming Hospital. They had two dollars a month taken out of their paychecks and that gave you free services at the hospital, you just went to the doctor it didn't cost you anything. They had a pharmacy there, you were given your prescriptions, when it came to the penicillin and your other antibiotics then you paid money. I don't remember off hand what they would have cost but it was a tremendous benefits that was given to us. Later on as the unions became more powerful, gained us more benefits then we had even more benefits, eye glasses and dental and that kind of thing. Prior to that we paid for our own eye glasses at our own doctor, we paid for our own dental bills, which was not terribly expensive then either. But early one when the company owned the hospital and provided and had their own doctors, the men had their annual exams and so their physical needs were taken care of. And when Roxy was born I think it cost us um fifty dollars, I had to stay in the hospital like ten days, but she was born with anemia and wound up down in at the Cousin's Clinic in Marquette which is a been absorbed by Marquette General but um and she was transfused at eleven days. And we used to have to go back and forth for checkups for her. When Melony was born two years later it cost a whole hundred and fifty dollars because we had to pay for um her stay in the nursery and I had a tubal ligation after the second baby so that because I was having cardiac problems during pregnancy so and so those were the only two children that I was allowed to have. But it was by far cheaper, covered by the hospital and as I remember we had to then pay two dollars and had this coverage

(M) And even then the hundred and fifty dollar charge for Melony's birth was the entire hospital bill?

(D) Exactly! That was my stay, nursery stay, surgery and foods for the baby, well the babies were breast fed but it covered all the expenses for mother and infant. Food.

(M) During the time that Lowell worked at the mine was there ever a strike that effect the family at all?

(D) Yes there was a strike. I believe it was in the 60s um mmmm but Lowell continued to go to work and they called him a scab and they tried stoning his car but he said I have to put bread on the table, I have a wife and kids to feed. I can get by on what I make, I don't know what you are



striking for. Which didn't make him very popular there, it got pretty violent because just over three blocks down there was a family where the people would gather out in mobs and shout and carry on. It was kind of freighting and even across the street from us right here they mistook the old couple's house that was there and somebody put a burning rags in the door between the outside door and the inner door to start a fire. But they had the wrong house, but they would have been willing to burn that house down to get back at the other family.

(M) And you suspect that they thought this was your house?

(D) No they weren't looking for our house they were looking for the family that lived three blocks down from us. And that was a scary time but Lowell he is a bit Scotch he not only thrifty but he gets pretty firm when he has an idea and he was not going to let anybody keep him from going to work. He felt I have bills to pay, I must go.

(M) Do you remember how long that strike lasted? Approximately?

(D) I think um four, five six weeks I'm thinking.

(M) Was Lowell the only one that crossed the picket line that you are aware of?

(D) No. there were others, Lowell was working in the engine house at the time, there were others who felt the same way um, and there was never any a lot of hostility turned toward us. It never carried over from just the picket line at the properties. I'd like to finish by saying that Lowell and I had eighty dollars when we were married and now that we are retired by being thrifty and making do and being careful with our money and investing it in a sheltered annuity and in bonds and CDS and all that we are at a point in our life where we are in our golden years. Taxes come around, we don't worry about paying them, we can buy anything we wish um but our wants are few, um our needs are nothing! We need for nothing I should say! And our wants are few. We are blessed. Thrift is what I have to underline, save and prepare for your golden years because social security is not the answer by far. Thank you for listening!

End of interview