

Interview with Gertrude Bailey

Drummond Island

November 9, 2010

Tape 1/2: Side A

Russell Magnaghi (RM): Okay call you Gertrude? Gert?

Gertrude Bailey (GB): Gert

RM: Gert, okay. Gert my first question for you is your birthday.

GB: 5-31-18, July(?) 31, 1918

RM: 1918 okay good. The interview today is going to be on the, your family history the history of Drummond Island and the things that happened here through the, a good chunk of the 20th Century. Could you tell us a little about your family, how they came to Drummond Island.

GB: Okay, my dad came from Finland. My dad went to Calumet because he had a brother there who worked in the mine.

RM: Okay could you tell us your dad's name?

GB: Joe Kempainen. He dropped the, it used to have two P's but he dropped the one P off.

RM: Okay, and then he settled in Calumet?

GB: Well he worked in the mine for a year with his brother and he didn't like it. And there was a Maggie Walsh, I don't know if you [mumbles really bad]. She was, she wanted people to come to Drummond because lumbering was the thing here. So dad thought to, he wanted to come to Drummond, I think it was 1905. He decided to come and this Maggie Walsh, is a woman, and she came and she settled in Drummond, over at _____, the turkey farm. I don't

know if you know where the turkey farm is. She built a colony of Finish people who came. My grandmother and grandfather came from Finland, but they came to Sault Ste. Marie and settled there. But they found out about Drummond and said they wanted to come here and homestead a, and grandpa worked for Finland's _____ Company.

RM: Okay, wait a minute, what were their names?

GB: Pomrose (sp?)

RM: Pomrose.

GB: He was born in Sweden and my grandmother was Finnish.

RM: And what were their first names?

GB: Charles Pomrose and Matilda Pomrose.

RM: Okay and so they, and when they established this Finish colony, it was it for farming or for working in the woods?

GB: Well they had to cut timber and that was for money for the mill the _____ company that was in Johnswood and then of course they could homestead a piece of property and they didn't have to pay for it, you know. From there they farmed, they had cars, they had horses, chickens but they were thinking they weren't. I don't know how to explain it.

RM: Okay and then how long did they—then they worked in the woods and there was a mill down there?

GB: Yeah, _____ I'm surprised that you don't know anything about that. That was oh before Mr. Woods _____ from the mill and people cut the timber and then they brought it to the mill and it was shipped to Buffalo.

RM: And wasn't there also the Johnson...

GB: The Johnson and Woods and that's how Johnswood got its name.

RM: So, the first company was the...

GB: _____ company, that's what they called it.

RM: And how do you spell _____.

GB: _____.

Diane Kordich (DK): It's okay she was young, she wasn't born then.

GB: Well, I guess _____ hearing Dad talk, you know. And then he picked up a piece of property, 80 acres on Johnswood Road and you turn left and you go from _____ _____ and that's where I was born in 1918.

RM: Now, was that in that area where we passed earlier today where the...

GB: Chuck's Bar.

RM: Chuck's Bar was.

GB: Yeah, Chuck's Bar is a little store. It was my dad's but he had log cabin, we lived in with one room (?).

RM: A log house?

DK: Log cabin?

RM: And did he build it himself?

GB: He built it himself and the first thing _____ had helped. You know what I mean, if somebody needed help they were there to help. They didn't have money to pay to pay anybody but that's how he _____ his land and these people, these Finnish people all homesteaded and someone way off _____ Grandmother and Grandfather, I think they're a mile

off of _____ Road but that's where they built their house, barns, horses and cows and all that.

RM: And so, they were producing food more...

GB: For themselves.

RM: For subsistence, they weren't shipping it out.

GB: No, no.

RM: Okay and then they all worked at the mill or worked in the woods?

GB: Yeah, worked in the woods cutting logs for the mill.

RM: Okay and then I learned yesterday, the mill burned around 1919 and then many of the Finn's left at that time or did they?

GB: I don't remember very much, some did. Some did but not a lot of them. There was a big 200- 300 Finnish people that were settled...

RM: In the area.

GB: In the area. But I say the _____ went on for jobs, it was all Finnish people.

RM: And did they find the farming conditions, the land and so on good or?

GB: Stone. Evidently, it was like it was in Finland or something I don't know but they were my god, to clear those fields. They all had stone fences.

RM: And was the main crop then potatoes?

GB: Potatoes, yup but then they'd have half they butchered pigs, the potatoes. But now they have vegetables, carrots and beets.

RM: Yeah, okay. Turnips or anything?

GB: Oh, yes.

RM: Oh, so all root crops and cabbages probably?

GB: Yeah, cabbage but then everyone had a root cellar. That's where you preserved and kept your stuff.

RM: Now, how long did the—those farmers stay you know, stay down there farming? Or did they—did the young people then move out? You know, the parents...

GB: It's the young people that moved out. My grandpa and grandma Pomrose stayed, they were in their 80's when they passed away and they're still here on Drummond. They didn't farm anymore. The oldest son planted the potatoes and you know what I'm saying.

RM: Yeah, so the farm then would pass to the oldest son and so he...

GB: Yeah, he lived with them.

RM: Yeah but then the rest of the family, the children had to find other employment.

GB: Well, they all left and moved to the Soo, most of them and got jobs.

RM: Okay so if you were to look for the descendants that they would be up in Sault St. Marie. The descendants of these Finnish farmers.

GB: Yes.

RM: Did any of these farmers get into commercial fishing or fishing of any kind?

GB: There was one family that was a fisherman but then there wasn't fishing on Drummond so he went to St. Ignace and there was no commercial fishing on Drummond.

RM: So, was it just before—the Finn's might fish for their own subsistence to keep them going.

GB: That's right.

RM: And what was the family of fisherman?

GB: Jarvinen. J-A-R-V-I-N-E-N.

RM: Okay and they were the fisherman. Okay but they were another group that moved out...

GB: That's right.

RM: To fish.

GB: He'd move out and fish then he'd move back to Drummond and was...

RM: He'd spend the winter here then?

GB: No, it'd be a year that he'd _____ leave for a year or two then he'd decide of course, their homestead was here. Their house was here so, they'd come back and the youngsters grew up, went to school. We had to pay to go the Finn school because it was all Finnish kindergarten to eighth grade and its right where you turn—my grandma's house _____ is to the left.

Woman: By me _____?

GB: You down the road (?) yeah. Yeah right there and there's a log cabin there. The school was there and we...

RM: So, it was a one room school?

GB: One room school, kindergarten through 8th grade and then when I was past 8th grade then they bussed us to Drummond. The settlement had a school, the school was where the town hall is.

RM: And that was high school?

GB: No, no, yes it was because 8th grade. I have a picture of my grade diploma.

Woman: We want to see that, that's a good one.

GB: And then they head to 9th and 10th grade on Drummond and then after 10th grade I went to the Soo, to Soo High.

RM: Oh, okay. Not over to Drummond, not over to _____?

GB: No.

RM: And then what'd you do? Stay with relatives up there?

GB: No, I found a place to room and board, yeah.

RM: Oh, on your own?

GB: On my own, no. I had an aunt that lived there. She _____ her house. You know where the _____ Stadium is? Okay, she owned that and it was the coast guard were stationed, you know and she put _____ to the coast guard.

Woman: I didn't know that your aunt owned that? I'll be darned.

GB: One aunt, the oldest aunt. There was—my grandma had ten children, six girls and four boys. And it was _____ but had _____ house. Then, that's what she retired with. Then her sister took over and they rented the rooms and...

DK: You were with the Coast Guard guys?

GB: I wasn't with the coast guard guys. _____ and I stayed there. Oh, is this where I stayed, I stayed in _____ house, for god sakes. Okay, so I went to high school and I stayed with my aunt at the _____ House but the coast guard, they came in and they went and I don't think I even had to wash dishes.

RM: Oh, they came there for their meals?

GB: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

RM: Oh, okay and then they lived at the coast guard station?

GB: The coast guard station that's right there.

RM: But then they didn't have food so they came to your house.

GB: That's right.

RM: Now, what was your aunt's name?

GB: Hella, who was she married to? Lahgi. L-A-H-G-I.

RM: And her first name?

GB: H-E-L-L-A, okay. All my grandmother's children are with an "H." Hella, Helma, Hilma, Heikki, _____, Haino (?), Hilti, Helta, Helen.

DK: That's very good.

GB: I stuttered a little bit.

DK: That's great.

RM: So, then you were—you spent two years at the Soo in high school.

GB: I did, I only spent one year.

RM: One year, oh.

GB: Got married my senior year. I met Glenn (?) Bailey, of course the Bailey's lived in Drummond. They were in Drummond when the _____ you know, in Johnswood. But there was always Saturday night dances, there at the _____ Hall or _____. You know, you danced slow. I dated Glenn. So, I got married. I didn't finish my 12th grade and Glenn worked for the _____ in the Soo. It was a _____. He got laid off a with the tannery when we were married and he moved in with his parents.

RM: Up at the Soo?

GB: Up at the Soo. Oh god, his father was a carpenter and he worked—put him outside.

Woman: _____ sent someone over here to do something.

RM: The tannery?

GB: The tannery in the Soo?

DK: Yeah.

RM: Was it Northwestern Tannery?

GB: I think so. There was the _____, that was on the river there and the tannery was in Algonquin.

RM: And then you had the _____ Mill, that was the other big industry there.

GB: Yes. Well, anyways...

RM: Wait, so you were married what year then?

GB: 1935.

DK: At the Soo?

GB: In the Soo.

RM: 1935, what impact did the depression have in your life?

GB: We didn't have any money, you know.

RM: You mean, before the depression?

GB: Before the depression and with Glen working at the tannery he had to paint and re-board (?) for us.

RM: Could you talk a little about, you met your husband at the dance here on Drummond island...

GB: Yes.

RM: And then you—he courted you and you got married?

GB: Yes.

RM: Okay, 1935.

DK: And you lived in the Soo?

GB: Then we—yes, because that's where Glenn worked at the Tannery. And we didn't have money, he didn't make enough money to rent an apartment so we lived with his parents and he paid and I helped them, clean house and whatever.

DK: And then he got...

GB: And then he got laid off at the tannery.

DK: What year was that? Was that a year after? Two years?

GB: Maybe about the same year. So, on Drummond Island there was the _____ and the Seamen family who was—Glenn's mother was a Seamen and his father _____. And his grandpa Bailey had a grocery store and then they had this, they _____ up the lodge. They had rooms, a mining room. Fisherman and hunters came from down in Detroit and they stayed there and went fishing and...

RM: We were talking about the—they had the lodge and where they stayed and the mining room.

GB: Yeah and they had the grocery store where all of Drummond Island came and did their shopping. I cooked coffee and there was sugar and you know, just the basics.

DK: So, that was in 1930. So, you came back to Drummond during...

GB: No, these people came to Drummond, the fishermen and the hunters and so on and so forth. And they always—Ford Motor Company would hire people. They'd hire in the winter (?) so a lot of the young men went to Detroit and worked for Ford Motor Company and then they wanted them they'd come back in the spring. So, Glenn went down. He didn't get a job with

Ford but he had met someone and this couple worked for Tastee Bread and the gal said they needed salesmen so Glenn said, "I'll take anything. I need a job." So, he went down. He got a job with Tastee Bread and he went down and I stayed back for maybe three months and then went down. He had a living apartment and I think he was making 50 dollars a week. It pays your rent, he had a car payment and when we did have money he'd ask let's go to a show, once in a while. Oh today, I guess I better go back a little bit. I got pregnant and I had Jo, our oldest daughter. And so, we have this baby now and when I moved to Detroit I took the train from the Soo with my baby and she was 2 months old and this had to be in '36. Anyway, Glenn had an apartment and he went to work. He had to get up at 5:00 every morning and be at the Tastee Bread to load his truck and he was a good salesmen but it was rough too. He made it. And then my dad who had, in the meantime, _____ beer came and he wanted to sell this _____ beer. You had to have a little store with some groceries and a desktop to get the slices and that's how he got the slices for _____. So, he didn't work in the woods anymore, he didn't work in Johnswood. So, that's how he started his business and he made it. It was amazing, he didn't go into debt. He had good credit. I imagine when he first started, you have to wait until I get money to pay this but he got groceries and _____ and _____ sold meat, you know. So then, things were working good for him but it was too much for Dad so he wanted Glenn to come back to Drummond and work for him. That's all he needed to come back to Drummond, okay. So, we came back to Drummond in '39. So there was all this, we spent three years—four years in Detroit and so Glenn worked for my dad. He was awful to work for. He could've worked 24 hours and Dad still wasn't happy. I was always in the middle, he'd come in and preach to me. I said what are you preaching to me for? If you have a problem talk to

Glenn, you know. So anyway, Glenn ran his little store and in the back of the store then was where you had you beer. You had tables and people could have a bottle of beer. So in—that was in '39 and then of course you know where the old house was across from the Town Hall? That was where Glenn was raised in that house. That house is his parents house right there so we went in and we fixed it up, you know, woodstove, kerosene lamps, outside _____. We were happy and of course, the first thing Glenn did was did a garden and planted potatoes and carrots and beets. So, we always had something to eat and he hunted of course. And he wasn't a fisherman, he guided fishermen but he didn't fish for...

RM: Was that kind of a separate business that he kind of got into? Guiding fishermen?

GB: Yes, guiding fishermen.

RM: Were there many guides like that on the island?

GB: No, there were 2 or 3 of his cousins but not as a business, you know what I mean? If somebody wanted to go to _____, you know. But Glenn made it work and then of course I got pregnant and then I had Patty then we had two. My two girls are 74 and 73.

RM: Now and so he worked then—he was still working for your father?

GB: He said I got to get out of here so he went to _____ _____. The Bailey's had a mill _____ and the Seaman's had given them a 99 year lease but the mill closed and there wasn't anymore lodge that they brought in shipped out. So, Glenn went to _____ because people were coming in who had boats and they were never clean. So Glenn said I'm going to build a couple of row boats, flat row boats and go to the Old Mill Dock and build a place to rent and so that's how we started. And we had these clean—I cleaned the row boats. I scrubbed them every night and mopped them.

DK: So, you're part of the project.

GB: Oh, it's hilarious.

Woman: Lot's of hard work, very hard working family.

GB: It was great and I asked the girls, okay then Glenn took up to duck hunters and he took deer hunters. So, you know, we lived out there but there was some...

RM: So, then you went from working for you father then into more the resort hunting? Tourist kind?

GB: Tourist. But and then the right by Denny's Corner (?) there was one of the Seaman's. He owned that property and he came to Drummond and he said, "Glenn, I'm selling the hundred foot lots for 50 dollars."

TAPE ONE: SIDE B

DK: I have these hundred foot lots...

RM: And so, he was selling the hundred foot lots for 50 dollars.

GB: Yeah, so Glenn said okay and I think he took two. And maybe he paid 50 dollars for them, whatever but we got them paid and they were ours. And then more fishermen and more hunters and Oldsmobile was a big—we had a lot of, made a lot of rims. And so they said, Glenn you should build a cabin. His father was a carpenter. So, Glenn went to Rock City (?), I don't know if _____ you know. He graduate with Jack Moran (?) and he said, "Jack, I don't have any money but I want to build a cabin. If you'll give me the lumber and I'll pay as I can you know, for a loan." And that's how we got our first two cabins and they're number 8 and 9 back here and that's how we got started in the business.

RM: Sort of a resort, in a sense?

GB: Yeah and it just kind of grew. Glenn was a tremendous personality. Oh and then there was _____, _____ and Mr. Clem (?) and Mr. Chester (?) only drove Fire Island. Judge Holmes owned Quarry and somebody had—and then there was a group of men that owned property of cabins and they all had boats and they had to take them to Cedarville to store. So, Glenn went to them and said if you pay me 5 years in advance for storage, I can get the lumber and build storage and _____ shop _____ first big building, that's how he got the money for that.

Woman: Now, at the same time, weren't you—you had one of the cabins that you sold sandwiches or hot dogs or somethings.

GB: Oh, dinner bar (?). Okay, okay. Now, we got these plans (?), we're still living in this old house outside the _____. And Glenn had the property where Denny's now—there's ten acre chunk. And he had bought somewhere on the _____ he had made a deal with somebody and we had a piece of property. So, he went to Walter Partridge and he said "Walter, if the property I have on the channel road (?) would you take that for this ten acres here?" And he said, "yes." So, okay, that's how we go that property. No money had to be exchanged. So then we're living in this old house and Glenn says, "My god, we've got to build a house." Okay, we had the two girls and then Judy is 64. So anyway, when Glenn guided fishermen or whoever _____ were 10 and 11 and he taught them how to make change, he taught them how to count those minnows. So, _____. And so, the kids took their little store, they sold a gallon of gas and there was a minnows room or whatever. And then in the summer time, there was two pursers, Jennings from Chicago—I think he owned the

newspaper or something. He used to come and cruise the north channel and he had _____ 60 or 80 foot boat and he came and spent a few nights, not a whole week and he'd gas up and when he took 100 gallons of gas, Glenn taught the girls, you put a stone—you know where you have the gas pump and have to fill the tank by hand and he said every time anybody fills their tanks put a stone down. And then when their _____, and that's how they learned to sell gas. The people trusted them with their Mackinac races. We have a couple of customers that they love to come to Drummond and they'd spend a couple of nights, you know. And it's wonderful for the girls, they love all these people. Then Judy was born and they _____. I took care of the cabin and I took care of the house and kids and I always had to go home and cook lunch.

RM: I have a question about the 1930s. During the 1930s—during the Depression, were there a lot of fishermen and hunters, you know, people that came up to Drummond Island to fish and hunt during that time.

GB: Not a whole lot but there were a few.

RM: There were a few.

GB: There was like Chippewa Point out there, that was Dick Cot (?). He was a car dealer from Detroit. He came up and there was just a few people like that that came up.

RM: And did they kind of help the economy?

GB: Oh yes, oh yes. _____ bought that property from aunt. The Seaman's owned all of this, I guess from the mouth of the river. And they first sold it _____ Johnson, _____ Motor, Johnson _____ Motor. He and his brother _____. He came by boat and he bought—I'm sure they sold it for... if she got 500 dollars for it, she was lucky. But

_____ money. I don't remember how the school teachers from Chicago started coming up here, them raisers (?), the fishers, the _____. And they stayed at the lodge but they wanted a piece of property so they bought.... So anyways, then they sell 100 _____. And that's how—that was income.

Woman: I have a question here, when did pure oil start where the Monahan resort—what it became, when did pure oil come up? Do you remember that, the initial?

GB: _____ it was oh gosh, Glenn didn't buy them. One of his cousins, Buster Bailey, was a guy, I'm trying to think, 1930? No, I don't remember dates.

Woman: That's fine. We're thinking about it anyway, what's the concern?

GB: But Wiggen's (?) was there and then...

DK: Well, it was probably in the early 40's because you were 3 years in Detroit and Glenn was working for your father, so we're kind of going into the 40's, 50's. Right.

GB: Yeah, I don't know.

DK : That's okay, your doing fine.

GB: But I mean Wiggen's, like I said, were hunters that came up and see they all loved Drummond. They came here and they wanted a piece of property. They were lucky.

DK: So was it true you only got electricity in 1956?

GB: I think so, yes. But I might have to go back, we were in the old house, Glenn said we had to build a house. So, he lumbered for three years and then he had the logs milled. That's how we built our house. We didn't have money to buy the finishing and that stuff and that's where _____ helped us. But he lumbered three years and then that's how we built the house.

DK: And that's house we're in today.

GB: No, Denny's.

Woman: I'll show it to you, it's a pretty, pretty house.

GB: And I picked the plants for those. Its three bedroom, nice big kitchen, nice big living room.

DK: Did you _____ for the plants or did you just make it up?

GB: No, I didn't. _____.

DK: From Sears?

GB: No, I don't know where I got it but that's what I picked out.

RM: And then a local contractor built the house?

GB: Glenn's father and Glenn and a cousin, Jim McClellan (?). There's a real big farm in the Denny area, Glenn hunted with him. So, they built the house and I never paid them a thing, we'd give them something when we had something.

RM: Could you—do you want to talk about the coming of Monahan and that kind of phase in the history of Drummond Island?

GB: That was the most wonderful thing that happened to Drummond, Monahan coming here and he _____ and next to those things, I don't remember. Monahan came here by boat, drove around the island, he bought property.

RM: Was there a Reinhart (?) that owned some property?

GB: My yard was next to him. This is from when _____ might be able to help you because she's in _____.

RM: How did the—you mentioned Monahan. What were some of the good things that he brought to the island?

GB: He put people to work and the tragic—I should say that, the people that he hired weren't

the best. I mean, they looked out for themselves but always a clique. They would hire their friends and that.

RM: So, not everybody on the island benefited or was employed, it was just the friends of the workers—the people that got in and had the jobs.

GB: That's right.

Woman: The roads improved.

GB: Yes. Glenn was the Supervisor for Drummond township when he moved from Detroit. And Glenn, when he was the Supervisor, he went to the Soo, you know. And he'd see these pieces of property that were there for _____. He got the golf course property for putting _____ homes for the township. He got the park property for the township. And then there was something that was for Drummond. He didn't give it away (?). That's how Drummond got the little golf course, airport. _____ the golf course the first _____ grass and then _____. And the park.

DK: So, that all was Glenn's doing?

GB: Yes.

RM: And all of that was for—had nothing to do with Monahan. It was for the people of the island.

GB: This is before Monahan.

RM: Oh, it was before Monahan? Oh, okay.

GB: Yes, sorry I'm jumping.

RM: Okay, so all of that was before Monahan. So, you got married, you had an airport, you had a golf course, that became the airport.

GB: Yes.

RM: And then was that Monahan's airport or that was just?

GB: Monahan used it. And then when Monahan came, he built the—improved the runway, you know, it was nothing soft before, just a short grass. And then Monahan _____ and built the model runway because he had an airplane and built it so that he could fly in and fly out and that's how we got our airport through Monahan, yes. But before that, Glenn had bought that property for the township.

RM: So then what is the—how is the economy of the island now? Has it continued to grow and develop?

GB: It has but this colony is taking a toll. We all have—we don't have big cruises coming in and coming in and stay a week and _____. Now, it's mostly sailboats. Cottages _____ have money and I was one of the first families that had inside plumbing, electric lights and the 20 _____ now during deer season, we used to be full. We have one cottage gone for this deer season, so it's rough.

DK: Are the cabins open in the winter?

GB: They can be, yeah. We used to _____, we'd turn the water on and turn the heat on for anybody that wants to come.

Woman: And they're really nice, they're nice. Jo and I have been here with the kids in summer and winter and they're clean and anything you want is there.

GB: So anyway, the economy is awful. Denny is having a rough time. Construction, you know, people come to Drummond and maybe they wanted a cottage built and we build it but now there is so much competition. Every other, you know...

Woman: But the advantage that Denny had had, I think, is with the yacht haven. If someone wanted something done on an island, Denny and Glenn had the ability to put it on a boat and get the materials to the island.

GB: That's right.

Woman: So they had a real advantage.

GB: Yeah and that's the thing when Little Trout, Dr. Henn____, we call him Dr. _____.

They came to Drummond, they were doctors from Ann Arbor and Dr. Collin (?) and they were here a weekend early. One bought _____, one bought Little Trout, one bought _____ and those were all by the _____. We didn't own any islands but then Glenn got the job at building the cottages and the docks, so that's why we were very, very lucky and that's all. Now, there is so much competition. Employing is _____ if you're successful, people start to hate you. It's awfully hard to live like that.

DK: So, your legacy really is that you started _____ of the tourist industry on Drummond Island, which you should be more than proud and seems that Glenn is quite an entrepreneur. He kind of started this and started that.

GB: Yeah, he had _____.

DK: Yes he did.

GB: And we lived together for a time and it was just the way it was.

DK: So, you were Finnish and he was...

GB: The Baileys are...

DK: Everything? Swedish?

GB: English.

DK: Oh, English.

GB: The Seamans were Scot.

RM: Now, were the Seamans from Beaver Island originally?

GB: The Seaman's came from Manitoua.

RM: Oh, Canada.

GB: And _____. And Daniel Murray and Betsy Seaman, we have a little memorial in the museum. It's Betsy Seaman, that's...

DK: Audrey's _____.

GB: Yeah and Diane _____ had been married to _____ and she died and left their six children and they're Seaman's. Then she married, Daniel Murray and they had six children but those two families _____. And they live on Drummond and that _____, it's awful to say but that's people.

RM: So then Drummond Island was and I ask this because they're going to put on a display on the Canadian influence in the Upper Peninsula. Not just French Canadian but English Canadian and other _____ stuff _____ and so on. So Drummond Island was really the founders of the people that established things on Drummond Island were Canadians from English Canadians that came over here from _____ and Manitoua and got things going.

GB: Yes.

RM: Okay.

GB: It was Betsy Seamen and she was—she raised all these children and then her husband died and after she had them right there where the museum is and she had all these boys. So, during the fall, I don't know when, she took _____ kids in the sailboat and sent them to the Soo to

get flour and sugar and supplies, you know. And they were little kids, I mean, they were in their teens.

DK: Well, that was kind of how it was in those days. They were kind of adults at 13 and 14.

GB: I wish _____.

RM: You are, it's all _____ down. The memories stay.

DK: And so when you didn't have electricity, how did you iron and...

GB: Gasoline. Gas iron, there was a gas heater. Do you know what that is?

DK: I heard about it yesterday and this seems to be very dangerous to me. Did you also have a gasoline washer?

GB: Yes.

DK: Oh lord.

GB: That was always out on the porch. It wasn't in the house but I had the iron and two little kids and they wore dresses and I got my stuff from _____ and

_____.

DK: So, they had catalogues even then?

GB: Oh yes and my kids had little wool skirts. You know, when school was indoors. And believe it or not, JC Penny's, I used to stop in the Soo. And I was always complimented on the way on dressed because I had a skirt and blouse and sweater, you know.

Woman: And knowing her like I know her, everything was perfectly pressed I'm sure and I don't know when you found time to do that.

GB: At night when the youngsters were in bed. _____ and the living room and then the dining room area and the stairs and upstairs and kitchen. So I'd stay awake and on the stairs I'd put the hangers you know.

RM: And a lot of this was done with the gasoline irons?

GB: Yes, we didn't have electricity until—then we got okay, we had those cabins down there.

You'd buy a coal or light plant, _____ that's what we called them, light plant because they gave electricity to the cabins.

DK: Can you describe the light plant again?

GB: It's run by a—

RM: Generator.

GB: Generator, I guess and it generated electricity and you'd run the wires to the cabin and then the _____ were built, they ran the wires there. So, I had electricity. Glenn would never buy anything new, always had to go with a secondhand washer. Oh God bless America. You know? You had lots of laundry.

DK: Yes, with three kids.

GB: Down in the basement, we had five kids. Yes and of course, I could see. I had that stationary tubs and I would wring the clothes then when the wind started _____ and I _____ the dumb thing. So that was that.

DK: And how about telephone service to the island? Do you know when that came in?

GB: Okay, those were—all my kids graduated from Soo High. Glenn would all send them to _____.

DK: All the girls went to Soo High.

GB: And they went—I found the family. She was a nurse that worked nights and then Joe worked for the Dyer's (?) and she'd get the girls ready for school in the morning when she came home and then she had to come home and get their lunch. Then Mrs.

END OF TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO: SIDE A

RM: Gertrude Bailey, November 9th, 2010. Take two.

GB: Well anyway, that's Joe. Patty worked for _____'s. She was a nurse also but she didn't have to—she more or less babysat. So anyway, it was much easier. And they walked to Soo High one would go down Cherry Street and the other one was on Maple and you know. So and then, Judy, five years later was going to Soo High. We were better off, she told us _____, who was a teacher from _____. _____ move stuff for her and she stayed at the _____ and Glenn and Denny and Gabe (?) came along and things were so much better. We paid for their—they didn't have to work for very long.

DK: And so, they went to college and...

GB: Yeah, they all went to college.

DK: And where'd they go to college?

GB: Michigan State. Joe _____ and Gabe (?) _____ they'd say, Judy was a _____.

Well, then she went to...

DK: Lake Superior?

GB: No, did she go to Lake Superior? She kind of had all the schools.

RM: Central?

GB: Central. She didn't like it there so she went to Grand Rapids and went to...

RM: Grand Valley State?

GB: No.

DK: Kendall Art School.?

GB: No.

RM: Aquinas? Calvin?

DK: Calvin College?

GB: No, no. Oh my gosh.

Woman: Western?

GB: No, she was right downtown.

RM: Kendall Art School? School of Art?

GB: No, no.

RM: Was it kind of a women's finishing something school? No?

Woman: You'll think of it.

DK: At any rate, she ended up at Michigan State.

GB: She couldn't get into Michigan State, her grades were not good enough.

DK: Because she had traveled far and wide.

GB: So then she finally dropped out and she went to Boston and got a job worked in Boston and when Patty got married she came home. Of course, she was going to be in the weather (?). So, she came home and she had a job there and _____. She left college in the fall and she didn't go back.

DK: So, then your two boys went?

GB: One boy went to Ferris.

DK: Oh and so the phone, we have to the phone. They were in college, when did Drummond have the phone?

GB: What we had was a car phone, mobile work phones and we had these mobile—we had to go to a certain spot up on _____ Hill to be able to talk to the girls or get good reception. Then they got phone booths here as well at Simmons. _____. There was a phone booth out there. I don't know, there was two phones and _____.

RM: Oh, that was it. If you wanted to call out you had to go to the phones, that place and make the phone call.

DK: And when did each house actually get a phone? Do you remember? Was it in the sixties?

GB: When it comes to the sixties, seventies or nineties I don't—I don't know.

DK: Did you have party lines?

GB: No. Okay, when I was a kid, when we'd get home we had telephones. We had a thing on the wall, three rings for so and so and you could call Drummond, different people that had those phones on Drummond. I don't know how my dad got that.

Woman: It must've just been like on the island all the way.

DK: And you probably only need to know four digits, right?

GB: Four digits? No, rings.

DK: Oh, rings.

GB: Okay, some rings are maybe three short or two long or a long and a short. And then people would listen, you know.

DK: And listen in on your calls? Nice.

RM: Now, you mentioned your daughter. She married a DuPaul (?)?

GB: Yeah, Charlie DuPaul.

RM: And they were the movie people from the Soo.

GB: Sault St. Marie. She married Charlie and they have three children. They had Stephanie, Joe and Denise. Joseph works for Denny here at the _____ Haven. Stephanie lives in Connecticut, she married—she went out east and worked for Martha Stuart for a little while. Then she went—Carey (sp?) is the one that worked for 8 years for Martha Stuart.

DK: Oh my word, she ought to get a medal for working for Martha Stuart.

GB: _____ was the girl and then Judy had 3 children, they live in the Soo. Charlie was the lower level in whatever business he had. We had to bail him out (?).

RM: Did he run the theater up there?

GB: No, his sister did. They only kept him busy (?), his father knew enough to. He was spoiled I guess.

RM: Now did the father run the theater in the 1980's?

GB: I think it's his sister, JoAnne. There was two girls, JoAnne and Sarah.

RM: Because originally those DePauls had a saloon up there in the Soo.

GB: That was the grandfather, way out. And they were making _____ the saloon and then they had the first theater. People _____.

RM: Going back to the earlier history, was there, in the 1920's, was there any liquor trade or illegal liquor trade during prohibition on Drummond Island or through Drummond Island?

GB: Not that I was aware of. I mean, they made moonshine on Drummond. Oh yeah, it was two men and that's all they did was make moonshine.

RM: For people on the island?

GB: Two people.

RM: Yeah. No but I mean they made it for local consumption?

GB: Yes, that's right. Oh yes.

DK: And those men's names are?

GB: Andrew Kangas.

RM: Kangas?

GB: Kangas. K-A-N-G-A-S.

RM: Oh okay, Finn's. And then the other one?

GB: And the other one was _____ Jarvainen.

RM: Jarvainen, oh okay.

GB: And he was the grandfather, they made moonshine and there was always that. And Saturday night was you went to the—there was a dance you know. And of course, guys always had their pint of moonshine

RM: Instant party.

DK: What other kinds of social, entertaining kinds of things happened you know, like in the 30's, 40's, 50's? What was there to do on the island?

GB: There was dances Saturday night, those were always the big deal. Then there was, later on, after the kids were in school, they had Box Socials you know and you went to the Grange Hall and ate and then you would design this or decorate this box and you had sandwiches and salad and stuff like that.

DK: Was there any kind of craft activity or churches activities?

GB: Well, I'm sure the church had something. We were Lutheran and we were Finnish but there was no church so Grandma Pomrose, she tried to carry on but it just didn't work.

DK: Was there any kind of Finnish customs?

GB: And it didn't work, you know. She had ten kids so they gave up and they didn't go to church. Of course, Drummond was always a church, a congregational church and there was always a minister _____ and that's where you went to Sunday School and went to church, where you were baptized.

RM: So, in the beginning the major church was a congregational church?

GB: Yes.

RM: And then what was the other church then?

Woman: Catholic church?

GB: Yes, the priest used to come here and they'd have church in somebody's home because they didn't have a church and then some former people eventually, as I recall she works in the dentist's office and _____, her grandmother built the first of the Catholic churches. So, they had church but they always used to have it in someone's home.

RM: And then when did the Lutheran church—I noticed there's a Missouri city church on the road.

GB: Yeah, just a few years back.

RM: Oh, so there wasn't any kind of a Lutheran church?

GB: No.

RM: Oh, so the Finn's were...

GB: They're Lutheran.

RM: Yeah, so the 300 people there never brought a minister in?

GB: No.