

PAULSON, MARVIN

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INTERVIEWERS: WIL SHAPTON, STATE HISTORIAN
BRIAN HODUSKI, MUSEUM CURATOR
KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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SHAPTON: Alright, so, let me give a little introduction here. This is Wil Shapton, twenty-first of July, the CLK School Reunion. We're going to be talking to Marv Paulson first thing this morning. He's currently living in Eveleth, Minnesota, and worked thirty-eight years with LTV steel, and is currently retired over in Minnesota. And you graduated Calumet what year?

PAULSON: Nineteen fifty-one.

SHAPTON: Class of fifty-one. Born in nineteen thirty-two. Parents were Ellen and Emil Paulson. Born right here in Laurium, right?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Okay. So let's get some stuff out of the way. I know you have a particular story you want to tell us about. You were what, nineteen years old?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: And working at the Seneca Mine in Mohawk.

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Why don't you go ahead and tell us a little bit about what happened.

PAULSON: Right. Upon graduating, I went into the copper mine which, of course, was the immediate future for a lot of individuals graduating, and anyway I was with the scraper crew as a laborer, and on this one particular day, I was actually operating the air tucker, which would pull the scraper, which had a vertical scraper blade on the steel frame, which had arms both in the front of it and the back of it where cable, there were two cables, of course one would pull the scraper down into the so-called chutehole where we had timbers across that chutehole blocking off any loose dirt that was being run by the crew up above, and in operating the scraper, after pulling material down to the chutehole, within reason, which eventually a tram car operator would come along and then load that material that was right there in the chutehole area into the small cars which would be taken out the shaft. Well, in this particular incident, the chutehole timbers were in place so no ore would come out and anyway, the crew up above was running dirt down and here a good-sized rock had jammed between the scraper and the wall of the chutehole, thereby binding the scraper and so I couldn't move it. And so I barred that small boulder out of there and of course, after calling up to the crew, 'stop running the dirt,' and of course, they had stopped, I removed the rock, and just as that happened, I heard 'tick...tick...tick' and as a new hiree, when you joined the

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

mining crew, whatever your status is, you're told about that, that there's a rock coming down the footing from how far up one doesn't know, it just happened, I suppose loosened in a blast at some time, and I was working on the twenty-first level, and it's hard to say just how high up that, like I say, that boulder had released from. So I heard that 'tick...tick...tick' and boom, there's one coming down, so I immediately thought, 'do I crawl over the chute poles and down to the track? do I run up ahead and to the side behind one of the big pillars, support pillars that they leave in there?' and I said 'nope' and I dove behind the scraper. And just as I did with my left leg trailing behind slightly, that boulder ticked my pant leg and smashed through those birch poles like matchsticks. And about ten minutes later, the foreman was making one of his normal rounds and he said 'whoa, what happened?' and I said 'well, there's a boulder down there, and it's about this size,' and he said 'yeah, that'll happen.' He said, 'although, that one wouldn't hurt you.'

SHAPTON: Wouldn't hurt you?

PAULSON: And he gave that to me for food for thought, because you'd be dead.

SHAPTON: Yeah.

PAULSON: Not hurt. So that was my close call in the mine.

SHAPTON: Right. What did you do after that? I mean, when the splinters went by, you just got up and went back to work right away, or?

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

PAULSON: Well, of course, there had to be clean-up down there, and needless to say, I wasn't shaky at first, but then when a person thinks about it immediately afterwards, then you get a little shaky, so I'm quite sure that at that time, a crew came down and cleaned up the debris, and of course readied for people to come along and there again replace those chute poles.

SHAPTON: Yeah. You call them shoopholes?

PAULSON: Chute. This was a chute.

SHAPTON: Chute, yeah. C-H-U-T-E.

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Okay, chute poles. That's right. Now were you still living at home with your parents?

PAULSON: Yes.

SHAPTON: So did you go home and tell your mom about what happened?

PAULSON: Well, sure, and it just so happened that she was a nurse in the C&H hospital, or, excuse me, not a nurse, a dietician.

SHAPTON: Okay.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

PAULSON: And she related to me how she was in the hospital on the day that they brought in, we'll say the corpse of a young, eighteen-year-old, I believe, and um, see on these levels, they have to check the overhead rock, because if there's any loose, they have to bar it down.

SHAPTON: Barring being just use a crowbar, or?

PAULSON: Correct. Especially if there's any small rock on the rails. Where if there's any indication, you look up, and here in that particular incident, this young fellow didn't look up and he proceeded to go ahead and probably a piece maybe four times as big as this desk (noise and presumed hand movement to indicate action).

SHAPTON: On top of him.

PAULSON: Right on top and that was it.

SHAPTON: Was this, especially since your mom worked in the hospital, was this something you were sort of, familiar with, I mean, did you hear a lot about injuries?

PAULSON: No, not prior to –

SHAPTON: Wasn't that common?

PAULSON: This only was brought to her mind with my incident.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: Yeah. So how did she feel about you working in the mines after that?

PAULSON: Knowing what you're supposed to do, there was no problem.

SHAPTON: Yeah, okay. And so you were just nineteen?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: At the time. And you had just begun. You hadn't been working there very long. About how long had you been there?

PAULSON: Oh, I'd say, maybe a matter of a few months.

SHAPTON: Just a few months. And you said the foreman, kind of, I don't know.

PAULSON: He made light of it, but yet I think in a professional way, because he didn't want to upset me any more than I was. And again, I thought of that factor after the fact.

SHAPTON: So they kind of downplayed the danger a little bit, you think, because you don't want people to dwell on it. Or be concerned overly.

PAULSON: Right.

SHAPTON: Okay. Now, so your mom was working at the C&H hospital.

PAULSON: That's correct.

SHAPTON: She worked as a dietician. So this was, I'm not that familiar, this was a hospital owned and operated by the mine, then?

PAULSON: By the company. Calumet and Hecla Mining Company.

SHAPTON: And your father, what did he do?

PAULSON: He was a carpenter in the carpenter's shop for Calumet and Hecla.

SHAPTON: For C&H.

PAULSON: Oh, and he had an incident, too. A horrendous one, but yet a little comical at one stage. He was a very good carpenter and he was operating a wood bit, and somehow or another maybe his fault, he possibly had his sleeve down too far, and anyway his sleeve got caught in that drill bit, I don't know if his attention was distracted to have caused that or not, but it started winding up on his sleeve and it brought his head down towards the drill bit, and he was hollering for help and no one heard, and finally he managed to get the other hand up just high enough to click it off.

SHAPTON: Turn it off.

PAULSON: And of course no one had heard him.

SHAPTON: Was this like a drill press kind of thing? Is that what we're talking about?

PAULSON: Yes.

SHAPTON: Okay.

PAULSON: And here it went into his wrist on the inside, went into his wrist and of course he popped it back out. And of course that was also the cause for wrapping up that sleeve, too, you know, the combination of the two.

SHAPTON: Is that –

PAULSON: There's more to it.

SHAPTON: Okay.

PAULSON: So anyway, they called the ambulance. They had a fellow employee be with him to make sure he didn't pass out, and he was a snuff chewer, and he could take the cover off of the snuff can with one hand, take his chew, and put the cap back on with the same hand.

SHAPTON: This was your father?

PAULSON: Right. Anyway, he did that right in front of this fellow who was standing with him, watching over him, and that fellow just about hit the ground because he

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

was fainting, and anyway, they had to of course operate and make sure everything was tied to the right finger.

SHAPTON: Was there any permanent damage to him, did it affect his work at all?

PAULSON: Undoubtedly for a little bit of time, but eventually –

SHAPTON: He continued to do the same job?

PAULSON: Yeah. And then it just so happened, too, for history's sake, there was a strike at Calumet and Hecla and especially the miners and also the shop, and in nineteen forty-one, we had gone to Jerome, Arizona because they had a copper mine there, and they had advertised in the Calumet area for miners, so a lot of the fathers went down at that time and sent for their families which they did in our case, too, and we had lived there, oh, I'd say a couple years, and then we came back to Michigan.

SHAPTON: So they were specifically advertising in the Calumet area?

PAULSON: Sure.

SHAPTON: Attracting miners. What year was that in?

PAULSON: We went down there in nineteen forty-one, I suppose they may have advertised in nineteen forty, or close to it.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: Right. The accident with you that you were relating about that almost hit your leg, that was in fifty-one or something, right?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: But you weren't hurt, it just grazed your leg, it didn't actually hit it?

PAULSON: No, that's right. Well, it didn't even graze the leg. I felt it hit the pant leg as I was diving in (laughs).

SHAPTON: (laughs) Yes, very close. So now your father, when he was working as a carpenter, what exactly, what kind of jobs did he do? Was this in the shop over there? In the pattern shop?

PAULSON: Oh yes, and he was a saw sharpener. Matter of fact, he sharpened saws at home even in the basement.

SHAPTON: For other people? Was there like a business or ?

PAULSON: For other people and possibly even for some mine equipment. And there were people who could be three, four states away and they'd send their saws up to him.

SHAPTON: So he was pretty good. He had a reputation.

PAULSON: That's right.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: Yeah, it's not a job that everybody knows how to do. So when he working in the shop for the mines, do you remember any specific projects or jobs they had him doing?

PAULSON: Probably, he wasn't a welder, but was a jack of all trades involving carpentry and saw work.

SHAPTON: Yeah. Did you have any brothers and sisters?

PAULSON: Yes.

SHAPTON: How many?

PAULSON: As a matter of fact, one brother and one sister. Excuse me, two sisters.

SHAPTON: Did they end up working at all for the mines, too, or?

PAULSON: No.

SHAPTON: No? What kind of jobs did they do, if they had any?

PAULSON: Let's see. The two girls had furthered their education and my brother also was a salesman for a while, and I was a salesman also.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: With you, especially with both of your parents working for jobs associated with C&H, were you in company housing?

PAULSON: Original houses, although they were sold to employees for a very minimal amount, and this was like a half a house, as they called them.

SHAPTON: A duplex? One side –

PAULSON: We lived in one side and another family in the other. Yeah.

SHAPTON: So originally your family was leasing it from C&H, and then eventually ended up buying it?

PAULSON: I think the contract was just so much each month.

SHAPTON: So you continued to – did your father ever own it, or just continued leasing it?

PAULSON: Boy, I don't recall.

SHAPTON: You're not sure.

PAULSON: But it seems as if it was in an ownership manner.

SHAPTON: Can you describe it a little more, the housing? Where was it located, first of all?

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

PAULSON: It was on the corner of Mine Street and Pine Street.

SHAPTON: Corner of Mine and Pine.

PAULSON: Yeah.

SHAPTON: Okay.

PAULSON: The address at this point in time I have forgot.

SHAPTON: Sure. You say it was a duplex so there was another family living in the other half of it.

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: What else can you tell us about it? How many bedrooms were there?

PAULSON: There were two bedrooms.

SHAPTON: Two bedrooms, upstairs?

PAULSON: Yes, um hmm.

SHAPTON: And downstairs?

PAULSON: None downstairs.

SHAPTON: Right, but what rooms were downstairs, what was it like?

PAULSON: Kitchen, living room, excuse me, like a little dining room, living room.

SHAPTON: What was the yard like?

PAULSON: It was large enough to have a lawn space. I think there used to be a barn in the back, which was no more at the time that we had moved in, and there was a victory garden there, and you know, all the homes were that way along that area, especially this Mine Street, with the exception of possibly maybe some foremen at the time would have had a single family house.

SHAPTON: What kind of stuff did you grow in the garden?

PAULSON: Oh, just about everything.

SHAPTON: Vegetables?

PAULSON: Oh yeah.

SHAPTON: And they were just for your own use? You'd eat them, you didn't sell them or anything.

PAULSON: Correct.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: Did you have to work out in the gardens yourself, was that a chore?

PAULSON: Oh yes, that was a jointly –

SHAPTON: The whole family all worked out there?

PAULSON: Family concern.

SHAPTON: So like potatoes and rutabagas?

PAULSON: Yes. And especially come Halloween time there was the soft stuff that were throwable.

SHAPTON: What, like tomatoes and stuff like that?

PAULSON: I wouldn't really know (laughs).

SHAPTON: You wouldn't really know. (laughs)

PAULSON: I won't elaborate on that.

SHAPTON: Any flowers at all, did your family grow?

PAULSON: Not much.

SHAPTON: It was all vegetables?

PAULSON: Yes.

SHAPTON: Brian, anything else you wanted to know, you were talking about the housing some, was there some specific questions you had about that?

HODUSKI: Well, one of the things we're interested in is how the community or that particular neighborhood, your location, how things worked in that location as far as neighborhood activities, how people got along, was it ethnic in nature, your location or community, or was it pretty mixed by the time you lived there, those type of things.

PAULSON: It was a little mixed as far as the nationality of the individuals, but very jointly, we visited back and forth with a few of the neighbors.

HODUSKI: Do you remember the nationalities that were in that neighborhood?

PAULSON: Let's see. I don't recall, no, at this point in time.

SHAPTON: Your own family is primarily Swedish, I'm guessing?

PAULSON: Finnish.

SHAPTON: Finnish?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Okay. Now let me go back a little bit. You were saying that you worked on the scraper crew, and you described that a little bit, but I want to make sure we understand. This scraper business, is that working horizontally or vertically?

PAULSON: It would go from the low point of the stope, like where the chute hole was, that I spoke of, which was a narrowed-down space, and then of course, with the scraper up above that, you would pull dirt down, so it's a build-up of material that the scraper pulls.

SHAPTON: So it's just dragging along the base of the stope. And the stope is running diagonally, right?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: So it's just dragging along there, scraping up dirt which collects at the bottom of the stope and has to be collected and taken to the surface?

PAULSON: Correct. For which the operator of the tram car would come and with the scraper after those chute poles are taken off, and then that material is scraped into the small tram cars which are then taken out to the main shaft and dumped into the main ore car and –

SHAPTON: Taken to the surface, yeah. You called it an air scraper, is that because it was powered pneumatically, or --?

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

PAULSON: Right. There was an air tugger as they called it.

SHAPTON: Air tugger.

PAULSON: And of course we had pulley blocks that had to be installed at various drill points for these pins to attach the pulley to the ceiling, we'll say.

SHAPTON: And the pulley, just to run the cables that are pulling the scraper.

PAULSON: Back and forth, yes.

SHAPTON: Okay. So how long did you work for C&H? You started when you were nineteen.

PAULSON: Oh, it must have been close to a year.

SHAPTON: About a year. And then after that?

PAULSON: I became, a little better occupation, a salesman.

SHAPTON: Salesman. Was that here locally then?

PAULSON: That was up here, for a firm in Houghton, which was Holland Furnace Company and I was a service salesman and it just so happened that an uncle had managed the place, so I guess that's how I got on, but I did cover three counties door-to-door, maybe not exclusively three counties, but I would say

in the effort of as many as I could, and it just so happened that we had a “sell-abration,” S-E-L-L-abration, between the Holland Furnace offices in northern Wisconsin, part of Minnesota, and of course, upper Michigan, and it just so happened that as a service salesman, I had won the championship service salesman award and in the process, matter of fact, I was head service salesman in the United States for two weeks.

SHAPTON: Really?

PAULSON: So that made my manager some pretty good money.

SHAPTON: Okay. Now you wrote down in here, you were proud of being a husband and father, it's one of your great accomplishments. Where did you meet your wife?

PAULSON: Well, matter of fact, she was also here in Michigan and anyway, that part of it, I don't think –

SHAPTON: Don't remember that too much? Okay, that's fine. And going back again, to you were born in the thirties, you mentioned having a victory garden and stuff when you were growing up here, whatever affects did you think the war years living here, how did that affect your life? What kinds of things were going on?

PAULSON: Well, there was a lot of activity at the local hockey rink. Which, by the way, of course, you know what saunas are. You've had saunas?

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

SHAPTON: I have.

PAULSON: Okay. My parents had owned the public steam bath on Pine Street.

SHAPTON: Okay.

PAULSON: And across from the sauna there was a small lake, we'll say, but on dry land, there was a public skating rink down there, where hockey used to be played, and casual skating and it had music and so forth.

SHAPTON: Yeah, skating and hockey was very important, wasn't it?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Everybody we've talked to has mentioned that.

PAULSON: Right.

SHAPTON: Was that one of the main social events, do you think? One of the activities that everybody did?

PAULSON: To some degree, yeah.

SHAPTON: What other kind of things did people do?

PAULSON: Umm, well.

SHAPTON: Especially your age group, what did you do?

PAULSON: As a matter of fact, there was a lot of camping, fishing, fishing, fishing, speckled trout fishing, oh yes, splake fishing, and --

SHAPTON: And the sauna, I mean, that was kind of a social point, too, wasn't it?

PAULSON: Yeah, yeah right.

SHAPTON: Everybody, well not everybody, but a lot of folks would come there?

PAULSON: We had four private rooms and a large women's public room and an extra large men's public room.

SHAPTON: Most people came on Saturday, is that right?

PAULSON: Oh yeah, Wednesday and Saturdays. And when I got home from school, I'd be hanging towels or folding towels and I must have folded ten thousand towels during that period.

SHAPTON: Were you involved in helping – you had to get a lot of wood, too, I would imagine, was this a wood fire?

PAULSON: This was coal-fired.

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

SHAPTON: It was coal-fired.

PAULSON: And of course the delivery people would have it on their back, bringing it up.

SHAPTON: And this was owned by your parents, you said?

PAULSON: Correct, yes.

SHAPTON: Your parents, do you know anything, do you know any stories recalling anything they ever talked about when their families came to America?

PAULSON: Yes. About the sickness that the relatives had on the boat because of conditions. And they certainly were glad to have got to the U.S. when they got here.

SHAPTON: Got off the boat. Was it your parents or your grandparents, that came over?

PAULSON: Grandparents.

SHAPTON: They came over, both sides from Finland?

PAULSON: Yes.

SHAPTON: Do you know any approximate years?

PAULSON: That I don't know.

SHAPTON: 1800s? Don't know.

PAULSON: And had I been prepared, I would have had that, especially on one side of the family because it's all spelled out.

SHAPTON: Okay. And certainly Brian can give you one of his cards when we're done here and you know, if you have something you want to send later, that would be fine, too, if you've got something written down. But you remember hearing about the seasickness on the boat? I mean, they're probably in steerage class, cramped conditions, all that below deck stuff?

PAULSON: Oh yes, yes.

SHAPTON: So you especially remember hearing about that? And then your grandparents came, they came directly to Michigan, do you know?

PAULSON: Yes, they, of course, people coming in previously and of course there were cards being sent back and forth so their primary aim was coming up, either here or I suppose, Minnesota.

SHAPTON: Because they already knew people that were here?

PAULSON: Yeah.

SHAPTON: Yeah. Alright. And your family was Lutheran?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Did they attend church here in Calumet?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: Which one?

PAULSON: I think it's Apostolic Lutheran Church, Pine Street church.

SHAPTON: Was that an important part of your life, do you remember?

PAULSON: I was confirmed there.

SHAPTON: Was it sort of, another social center of life here, did they have special events?

PAULSON: It was, yeah.

HODUSKI: Did your grandparents speak Finnish to you often? Did you have Finnish language in the home or by the time --?

PAULSON: Matter of fact us kids did not have the Finnish, no. Maybe that was purposely done by our parents in order to get into the mold of the English speaking, and to stick with that. I did have a cousin who lived a short distance from me on Mine Street and by gosh, he spoke Finnish right up until the time that he went

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

to school, so it had to have been somewhat of a disadvantage for him, at least for a while. Very intelligent individual.

SHAPTON: Tell us some more about when you were going to school here. Any memories you have?

PAULSON: Good or bad?

SHAPTON: Either (laughs). Whatever pops into your head.

PAULSON: Oh, I suppose back then even now, you have the bullies, and there was a bully who just wouldn't let kids alone, you know, so this friend of mine and I, we were smaller, and we saw what he would do with others, you know. So we prepared ourselves intelligently. We had made a little round stock, metal stock, and had it in our fists, and sure enough, it just so happened he came at us this one day. Well, he didn't come at us after that, though. One of the teachers slapped us on the hand with a ruler.

SHAPTON: Was that a common punishment, to get slapped with a ruler?

PAULSON: Oh yes.

SHAPTON: What about your friends, what kind of games did you play, or sports at recess, things like that?

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

PAULSON: Oh I suppose some racing, just chit chat as to well, what garden did you raid
(laughs) and so forth.

SHAPTON: Were most of your friends also predominantly Finnish or it didn't matter?

PAULSON: It didn't matter. Didn't matter, no.

SHAPTON: Was there any friend in particular, do you remember?

PAULSON: Yes, a fellow friend who is a professor at Northern.

SHAPTON: Okay. What's his name?

PAULSON: Kenneth Holmstrom.

SHAPTON: Okay. And what kind of stuff did you guys do?

PAULSON: Oh, not out-of-the-way things. Generally good things.

SHAPTON: Yeah, so we're talking about fishing, stuff like that?

PAULSON: Yeah, he wasn't that much of a fisherman.

SHAPTON: Not an outdoorsman.

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

PAULSON: But we would go down to his grandparents' place in Portage Lake and matter of fact, we'd go down in one car, two families, and there'd be about ten of us in the car, and we'd make the trip down there to actually, his grandmother's place and there was a sauna in there, too, and a boathouse and of course, take the sauna, dive in the lake and –

SHAPTON: You went down in a car, just family cars? Your family had one, did you ever have one of your own?

PAULSON: Eventually, we did, yes.

SHAPTON: How did you get around most of the time when you were a kid?

PAULSON: Oh, walked.

SHAPTON: Just walked around.

PAULSON: And of course in this climate and all the snow and blizzards we used to have, you walked that trail between the fields to the school and –

SHAPTON: Everybody walked the same path.

PAULSON: hope you stay on that part of the path.

SHAPTON: Yeah, fall in and sink in.

PAULSON: Right.

SHAPTON: Okay. So when your father was working, were either your mother or father Union members at all?

PAULSON: Um, my father may have been and I'll put it this way, I'm quite sure he would have been, because as then and even now, it's important not only for hourly but it's becoming more important I believe from my experience that salaried people should also be. To some extent.

SHAPTON: Sure. What effect did it have on your life then, if any, that you remember?

PAULSON: It didn't have.

SHAPTON: It gave some security, though, to your family, job wise?

PAULSON: He didn't say one way or the other.

SHAPTON: He didn't talk much about it then.

PAULSON: No.

SHAPTON: Okay. Was there often discussions of politics or issues around your family or your father with his friends, stuff like that?

PAULSON: No, that would just be with his friends you know. He didn't bring it home.

SHAPTON: Okay. I think we covered here a lot of the stuff that we wanted to talk about. Is there anything else that you wanted to say that we haven't got to or anything that's on your mind at all?

PAULSON: As far as historically, I can't think of anything else, with the exception of the closeness of we'll say neighborhood.

SHAPTON: Sure.

PAULSON: As far as fishing time, speckled trout, not only boys but girls.

SHAPTON: Really.

PAULSON: If in a walking mode, we'd walk, oh, five miles to get to the stream and other times which undoubtedly must have come about when having enough finances to have been able to buy a bike, and we would then bicycle down to the crick and then maybe even the lower end of that stream which we had never seen probably when walking.

SHAPTON: Did you have a favorite stream, was there one you always went to?

PAULSON: Yeah, it was Brewery Crick.

SHAPTON: Brewery Creek, sure.

PAULSON / 21JULY2000

PAULSON: And there used to be a brewery there.

SHAPTON: Yeah, I know it. So all the boys and girls would just all go?

PAULSON: Yeah. And no, when we about that high and no hanky-panky between boys and girls, and it was true and honest and we were there for fishing.

SHAPTON: Fishing, yeah.

PAULSON: And a snack that we took along.

SHAPTON: But no adults either. I mean, the kids could just go off whenever they wanted to, I mean you just, you had a lot of freedom.

PAULSON: Yeah, correct.

SHAPTON: And the neighborhood, being close like you said. And so you knew everybody that lived around here?

PAULSON: Correct.

SHAPTON: So they kind of watched out for each other.

PAULSON: Um hmm, yes.

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

SHAPTON: So when you had snacks, you mentioned the snacks being important when you go fishing and all that, you get your meal. What kinds of things did you eat? What was your favorite?

PAULSON: Oh, we had fruit and possibly the parent would fix a sandwich and I can recall a 7-Up sign because, no, not 7-Up, it was Orange Crush, Orange Crush, that sign, it might still be there on the highway going down to Calumet Waterworks.

SHAPTON: Did your mother do the cooking at home all the time even though she was working?

PAULSON: Oh yes. And I remember her pasties. She was in my estimation a professional pasty maker. She would take all this dough and roll it out and cut it and her purpose was to make twelve pasties, and of course she'd mix everything, nothing measured, she'd end up with just a real small smidgen of a ball of crust left and all of the vegetable mixings and meat were used up. Boy, she had an art in doing that. And I would classify them as being the best pasties.

SHAPTON: Sure. I believe you. Too bad I can't try one.

PAULSON: But aside from that, have you gotten them from Toni's?

SHAPTON: I have, yeah. I like those, too.

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

PAULSON: Oh, okay. As a matter of fact, he brings them down to the hunting camp that I hunt out of when I come here to Michigan.

SHAPTON: You still come back and visit often?

PAULSON: Usually reunions as well as deer hunting because the cabin is on Lake Medora.

SHAPTON: Do you have, how would you sort of describe, of all the places you've been and lived, you know, what sort of separates this place do you think from the rest? What kind of thing makes this place special to you?

PAULSON: Memories. Memories are a draw. Of course, because of the work mode which created changes of location, yes, I'm in Minnesota now, but I even visualize myself possibly someday coming back up here.

SHAPTON: Yeah, you want to come back? Because this is where your roots are, has a lot to do with it?

PAULSON: In fact, if there's any change in my life, I'm going to be back up here.

SHAPTON: Back up here. You mentioned Lake Medora. You know, I've been looking lately, it was known as Mosquito Lake for a long, long time.

PAULSON: Mosquito Lake, yes.

PAULSON / 21 JULY 2000

SHAPTON: Do you know when or why they changed the name to Medora?

PAULSON: That I don't know. I probably, I might have been in Minnesota by that time.
Maybe in the service.

SHAPTON: Apparently in the nineteen fifties they changed the name but I haven't been
able to find out why, I've been trying to track that down.

PAULSON: Maybe because of the crick?

SHAPTON: Well, the creek is named Medora and apparently there was a Medora Mine
there in the eighteen hundreds, but –

PAULSON: More than likely, yes.

SHAPTON: I still don't know what it means, was it a person or what, you know, I'm not
sure, I don't know. Well, anything else? I think we've covered quite a bit.

PAULSON: I can't think of anything else.

SHAPTON: Okay, I'm going to shut this off, then.

(end of tape)

Index – Marvin Paulson

Apostolic Lutheran Church: 24

Brewery Creek: 29

C&H Carpentry Shop: 7-10

C&H Hospital: 6-7

C&H Housing: 11-12

Eveleth, Minnesota: 1

Holland Furnace Company: 18

Holmstrom, Kenneth: 26

Jerome, Arizona: 9

Lake Medora: 32-33

Laurium: 1

LTV Steel: 1

Lutheran religion: 23, 24

Mine Street: 13

Mohawk: 2

Mosquito Lake: 32-33

Northern Michigan University: 26

Orange Crush: 31

Pine Street: 13, 20, 24

Portage Lake: 27

Seneca Mine: 2

Toni's Pasties: 31

Wisconsin: 19