

Interview with Lilian Coldren Wasmuth
Ishpeming, Michigan 06/21/1994

Tape 1 - Side A

Russ Magnaghi (RM): Can I call you Lilian?

Lilian Wasmuth (LW): Sure, sure.

RM: Could you give me your date of birth?

LW: April 16, 1900.

RM: That makes you 94 years old, ok.

LW: Yes.

RM: What I would like to do this morning is to talk about something of your background, growing up in Negaunee, we can talk about your days at Northern. So, could you tell me a little about your family and growing up in Negaunee? Let's start with your father.

LW: He was a land clerk. He graduated from Hillsdale College in [18]94 and there was a panic in the country at the time and jobs were very scarce. And there was nothing to do in Hillsdale and a bosom friend of his had been made superintendent of schools in Negaunee at that time, I think it was about 1893. He wrote to my dad. They kept in touch. At the time my dad was a night clerk at the hotel, that was the best that he could do. He came up thinking all the mines and everything and it would be a very good place to be. But as it happened there was a strike on at the time and he had a hard time. But Mr. Davis sent for him and he came up and that was the only job he could get. But he was trained as a land clerk and after a few years he got that position with the Cleveland Cliffs and he had that until he was retired. My father was very intelligent. That isn't wrong to tell you that. He was very intelligent, a very fine person. There was an epidemic of tyhoid fever at the time and my dad got it and he could not stay at the hotel. He had no place to go, no hotel and it happened he was a friend of one of my uncles. So this friend said I bet my mother would take care of you, so he went to granma and she took him in and gave up her bedroom to put him in there and take care of him. In the meantime my mother was bringing in trays and what not and a love match occurred. When he got up and around they were married and they lived at home until I was born, three or four years later I guess. The first child was a girl but she didn't live. So I was the first one in the family to live. Needless to say, with a lot of aunts and uncles in the house I was very spoiled. Then I had a sister. When I was five my dad bought a house. He paid \$16 a month on it if you know what rents are today? It was \$16 a

month. He was very handy and he did a lot of things to improve the house. They kept until they moved the cemetery. You knowe they moved the old cemetery around? It wasn't the cemetery at that time and the land cave in, they were mining under it and the land began to cave in and so they had to remove the bodies. Land owners got what they figured was My father got \$5,000 for his house and he thought he got a lot. Well now my son got \$150,000 for his. (Laugh) That's just the difference.

RM: What was your father's name?

LW: Ora Mansfield Coldren. He never liked that Mansfield. He always gave his initial.

RM: And your mother's name?

LW: Anna Willman. A Swedish name.

RM: And your grandmother?

LW: She was, on my mother's side, she was Swedish. She was Anna Christina Lindburgh. I think they were distantly related to the flyer.

RM: Tell us what Negaunee was like when you were growing up in Negaunee?

LW: Well, they only had horses and buggies and the groceries were only delivered in wagons with a horse. One of the grocers, his teamster would take your order one morning and bring it the next. There was no telephone. The ordinary person didn't have a telephone. What else can I say? Our pleasures were simple. We went to Sunday school. We had a minister. It varied. Sometimes we went to the Swedish church, sometimes to the My father was really a Baptist. He had a brother who was a missionary to India for 30 years. But he was Baptist. My dad was baptized in a river. He became a Presbyterian when he came to Negaunee. There was no Baptist church. So he went to the Presbyterian and before long they folded up. They couldn't As I said they called it a panic; it was a depression really and everybody had a hard time getting along. What was I going to say about him? See that's the way my mind goes these days. Its right there and then its gone. Oh, about the church. When the Presbyterian church folded most of the Presbyterians went to the Episcopal church. That's where we went and that's what I still am, an Episcopalian. Our church in Negaunee was built in 1875, the Episcopal church. This has nothing to do with the fact but it might be interesting to you. There is a window in the Episcopal church in Negaunee that has national acclaim. Its stained glass and it is out of this world. When I went to chuch I just looked at that window

LW: instead of listening to the minister. Oh, the colors; it is still there and it is really beautiful. I don't know who the artist was but there was a Kaufmann, a Jewish There are Kaufmanns yet around. But he was the original settler, I guess and there weren't many men and women there and he fell in love with an Irish girl. They went to the priest and the priest would not marry them because the Jew would not turn Catholic. So they went to one of the other ministers and they were married. I think they had seven children. I think that's it. But he was so thankful to the Episcopal minister for marrying them, that when they decided to go to church he made a huge donation. He also asked if he could have a stained glass made in his name. It is a picture of the Lord sitting there and he is holding a small child and there are six other little children around. One for each of the Kaufmann children. The different colors. It's the colors that get you. They are magnificent. And as I say they've gotten national recognition. Its considered one of the finest stained glass windows in the world right now. If you want to see it all you have to do is walk into the church any time. Its a gorgeous thing. How did I get off on stained glass windows? I think that it is such an interesting thing. Even a lot of the Episcopal don't know it. I was fortunate in having to look up the history of it at one time and that's how I discovered it. But I always loved that window.

RM: Now let's turn to as you got older and your life at Northern> What prompted you to go into teaching and then eventually to down to Northern?

LW: My father wanted me to. I wanted to be a secretary and he said no. He worked in the office and there were two women in the office at that time. You know women didn't work after they got married. If you were a school teacher and if you got married you were through teaching, you couldn't teach anymore. Now what was I going to say? They had these two women in the office and my mother wanted him to get her a job there. That's what she wanted. He said absolutely not, would he ever allow a daughter to work in an office where there were men. He said you know they are not careful with their language. You know old prisms, in those days womens' position was nothing. She had to stay home and keep house. No matter how brilliant she was she couldn't use her mind for anything but housekeeping. So he wouldn't let me. So he said you go to Marquette and go to Northern and be a teacher. In those days your parents' word was the law. So there was a teacher from Marquette who had taught in Negaunee and she boarded at my grandmother's. So she told us all about enrolling and all of that sort of thing. You had to enroll a little ahead. I think there were about 300 students all together.

RM: How did you get down there?

LW: On the train. We went down Sunday night and came home Friday night. It cost 75¢. (Laugh) Your ticket was 75¢. There were a few girls who had parents who worked for the railroad and they had passes. So they went back and forth evryday. But that was strenuous. They had to be down there by 8 o'clock. Most classes started at 8. Our tuition at that time, I tell you, instead of having two terms a year we had three. The tuition was \$12 a term. I tell the kids that now and they are paying what? A hundred and some thing.

RM: Now it's \$83 a credit. So it is several hundreds a course.

LW: They can't believe it. My room was \$5.00 a month. I shared it with another girl. Our room was \$5.00 a month and then we, and it was 6 or 7 blocks away, a boarding house where we went for our meals. They were a dollar a day and of course I was only there five days during the week. I went home Friday night. My room and board all together was \$25 a month. Look at what it is today?

RM: Did you the the street car from the train depot?

LW: No we walked and did we walk. We boarded on Ohio, if you know where that is? There was an old Baptist church on the corner. It wasn't far from the green house, Lutey's Green house. It was several blocks but on that street. We walked to breakfast. We had to go in about four blocks from Third Street, the street we took to school. We had to take those blocks into breakfast and out again. And then on to Northern. And very often our once physical education teacher, I'm sure, I don't know what you would call her today, but she liked pretty girls, if you know what I mean. She always had two pretty girls with her. And she was so masculine-looking (goes into a deep voice) and so crabby oh she was terrible, I don't know where they ever got her? We'd be all dressed up for our classes for the day, she'd make us go in and take a shower. Get undressed and take a shower, get dressed again and then go to our class. Now that was terrible. And then she'd pull the curtain aside while we were batheing. She shouldn't have been there at all. And she always had two pretty girls with her. Fortunately I wasn't pretty, she didn't want me. (laugh. I didn't like her.

We had some very good instructors. Mr. Hull; Mr. this one was, oh what was his name, he lived across the street from me? Oh, isn't that awful. My first math teacher out there. What in the heck was his name? Well it doesn't make any difference. There was Mr. Magers he was the science teacher. Mr. Hull, I think, was a geography and that sort of thing, I never happened to have him as a teacher. And of course, they had a rather nice library and they had a librarian or two who were very nice.

RM: We had critic teachers. See one end of the building was a training school.

RM: Let's

LW: There is so much that I could

RM: Did you ever have Lew Allen Chase?

LW: Oh Dr. Chase? Oh, God do I remember him! Laugh. If he started talking he never stopped. I remember one night we went to a Masonic party, it was on George Washington's [birthday] . . . The Masons always celebrated George Washington's birthday because that was his birthday. They would have a dinner and then we would have a speech by somebody and they foolishly asked professor Chase. He was blind. He got up and he talked on and on and on. He even was telling us that George Washington had wooden teeth. All of those things that were very interesting to him but we were young and just waiting to get to the dance. But he went on and on. He'd walk to the edge of the platform and we'd hold our breathe because we figured he'd fall off. And secretly hoping he would. That was one of things we liked down there but Professor Chase um.

RM: Did you every have him for class?

LW: I never happened to get his class. I was fortunate in that. Mr. Brown was the psychology teacher. And I had two terms of psychology so I had him two terms. You had to outline the lesson on the blackboard. You did it at home. Then he'd pick somebody to put it on the blackboard and he was always picking me. I said, "Why do you pick me all the time?" Because he says you're the best one at it. (Laughter). I said I don't want to be. He had quite a sense of humor. We always suspected him a little. His complexion, we just figured there might be some color there. I guess, I don't know. He had a great sense of humor. Then there was Miss Hill. We had Miss Spalding, the art teacher.

RM: You were talking about Miss Hill?

LW: Yes, she was a local girl. We all loved her. She was very, very nice and a very good teach. Eventually she took a trip to Europe and she met a Spaniard and married him. I don't know what became of her. But she had a brother who was one of the first casualties of the war [World War I] in Marquette. And you know Sugar Loaf Mountain? Well that was named originally for him for "Bar Hill". I guess it is still in existence, although it has been ruined several times. My son from lower Michigan when he brings the children up they always go to Sugar Loaf. It is a beautiful, worthwhile site when you make it to the top.

RM: Then who was the other person you were talking about? Spalding.

LW: Oh, Spalding, Miss Spalding. *she teach?*

RM: Was that Grace? *In the student teachers' training school. I*

LW: Grace, yes, did you know her? *she kept us from*

RM: Yeh, I've seen some of her paintings. *to take a walk in high school or college, my*

LW: Oh they were beautiful and she was a lovely lady. Very much a lady and of course she was unmarried. But I don't know why somebody hadn't grabbed her because she was beautiful and a real artist and a real lovely lady. Her manner of teaching was very good. Actually, I got an excellent mark so she must have been good. *was really a student. I*

RM: How many courses did you take from her? *There was a lot of interaction between the teachers and the*

LW: Well we had to take just one. It was art. We had to be able to teach the kids how to draw and that sort of thing. I'd say she was outstanding as a teacher and as a person. And then we had another, a Mr. Lautnier. We liked him because when you got into class; our text book was about like a great big old dictionary, it was so full of stuff. We'd have to get our lessons at home of course and then in the morning somebody would . . . they got wise to the fact that if they asked a question he answered it for the rest of the period and we got out of reciting. (Laughter) And as it happened I got a real high mark in his class. I didn't do it justice. I know I didn't. But it was interesting. He had an old home across from Northern, maybe it is still there?

RM: Yes, it is still there. *raillery at that time. The great old*

LW: And his wife was an artist. They had a little art gathering, not as a society really, but just a little group of people that were interested in drawing and arting. Mrs. Lautner had been an artist. They had a beautiful old home, you know, a lot of antiques there. The time we had a meeting at her house we were all anxious to go and see the house and all. So that was one high spot in my two years, that is going to Lautner's. *And let of*

RM: What did they have a social or get together? *about her glassy*

LW: We just talked about art and that sort of thing. The students left and then the teachers who belonged and they had a lunch but the students, we didn't get anything. And here we were starving and we had to walk out to Northern twice that day and then way out there at night to go to that meeting and we were all hungry and everything. We could smell the coffee and everything and we didnt get anything. We didn't get anything *so they did that*

when we went to Miss Swan's either.

RM: You said Miss Swan, what did she teach?

LW: Art in the grades. In the student teachers' training school. I hate that woman. I'll hate her till I die. She kept me from getting the Phi Epsilon. I never, I don't mean to brag, but I never had to take an exam in high school or college, my average was always just under 100. I was really a student. I should thank my parents for that I suppose. It was just easy for me to learn and I was interested. So I make a very good student. I couldn't do it now, but I did then. I have a son who is just like that. You just ask him any question and he knows the answer. And he went to Northern a term and then he had to go in the war [World War II].

RM: Was there a lot of interaction between the teachers and the students?

LW: Well not entirely, I don't think? No. Mr Spooner, that's the name I was trying to remember. He taught math my first term. He was one of my classes. I had Mr. Spooner, Mrs. Rushmore, but I remember those two because they It was very difficult to be in his class because he had a habit of twisting his nose around and it was the funnest thing you ever saw. We had to sit there and watch that and try and recite. He was a nice old fella but he wasn't college calibre by any means. He was the funny end of the building. I think that is all the instructors we had.

RM: What about a dean of students? Or dean of women that regulated what students did on campus?

LW: Of sure, they had a dormitory at that time. The great old wooden structure. It should have been condemned. And lot of girls from away stayed there. They didn't know about this home business. Miss Linton and the other mannish teacher, she taught history. I say Williams, but I know that's not the right name. I can't think of her name. I never had her class thank God. She was a tyrant. She and Miss Linton were the house mothers, I guess that's what you'd call them. They were far from mothers. I discovered after I left Northern that Miss Linton was taking dope. I used to wonder about her glassy eyes. But I heard later that she took dope. So they did that even in those days.

Mr. Magers was very nice. He was real gentleman and very good scholar, very likeable person. I think he was about the nicest male teacher out there. He taught science. Like nature study and he took us hikes to see different things. He had a whole collection of stuffed birds and we had to copy those. We had to buy a book and it had the outlines and we had to put in the

colors. And we had to go in and look at those birds to get the right colors for our paintings. It was interesting. He taught a lot of other things too, but I always remember that about the birds cause I am scared to death of birds.

RM: Did they have classes that would take you out in the woods to look at the environment?

LW: Oh, yes the science teacher did. Miss, the old bat that liked girls, he used to take us on the railroad track out to Piqua [by the present Marquette Senior High School]. He used to walk us out there. But the others, no we didn't take nature study walks very much. We didn't have enough time for all our classes.

RM: How did the classes work? What was a typical class day?

LW: We started with that hike with the physical training teacher, one term. We didn't have it every term. And I think we were allow to carry four subjects, it seems to me. That was while we were in the college proper. Of course, after we started out training in the training school we had more. There were three floors. We'd get in at 8 o'clock and we have to be up in that third floor after taking our shower and all we had to be up there at nine o'clock. Some were on the third floor, Miss Spalding was on the third floor.

RM: Was that in Longyear Hall?

LW: It was in the center. Kaye Hall. Classes were on either side at the end. Mr. Magers had one whole wing for his science. Darn, I wish I could think of that other teacher's name. She was another masculine looking thing. She taught American history. They had to subscribe for the . . . what was that magazine at the time? Oh, it was a news magazine. They had. The she would give them assignments from this magazine. I never got into her class, thank goodness. I never liked history very much.

Tape 1- Side B

LW: They had a time scrapping enough boys for a football team.

RM: So most of the students were women?

LW: Oh, there weren't many [male] students at all. They took manual training teaching. They had a manual training teacher. That they studied a lot and one studied newspaper work. I don't know what class he went to. He got to be something with the Mining Journal eventually. There were very few men there. Like I say it takes eleven for a football team and they had trouble scrapping up eleven, I'm telling you. We had one famous one,

LW: Gusty Sonnanberg. Did you ever hear of Gusty Sonnanberg? He became a nationally known wrestler. He was short and very husky and he had a style of wrestling, he'd butt them with his head and knock them out that way. He got national [recognition]. He became a national figure.

RM: The original reason for contacting you. Could you teel me a little about that heart-shaped mound tht was on the campus?

LW: I don't remember about it, except that we loved to sit on it and there was lot's of romance there. People fell in love there, not me but some of them did. It was beautiful.

RM: It was heart-shaped?

LW: It was huge of course. It was heart-shaped and raised, you see. It wasn't level with the rest of the grass. It was up. It was like a scultpure. The campus was always very well kept. But there was always a race to see who was going to get to the heart. Because everybody wanted to sit on it or to have their picture taken on it or something.

RM: About how big was it?

LW: You're asking a woman something like that?

RM: How many people could stand on it?

LW: Oh, I'd say, maybe. I really have no idea. I must have been at least 20 feet wide. I'm not sure. I would say it wasn't huge by any means but it wasn't small either.

RM: The top of the heart faced the buildings?

LW: No it faced the Lake.

RM: So the bottom of the heart? The point was facing . . .?

LW: Faced east. The heart faced the Lake, the east. The other, the back of the heart was to the building to Kaye Hall.

RM: Do you know why they put it up?

LW: No. I don't know that.

RM: Was it surrounded by flowers or anything?

LW: No just the general grounds. It wasn't too far from the driveway or the walkway.

RM: Was there a wall around it?

- LW: See I haven't been out there for probably 30-40 years. It is a different place. So many of the things that I saw are long gone.
- RM: What's left of the heart is a small part of it. It is still there.
- LW: It is the heart of the school they always said it was the heart of Northern. It was beautiful.
- RM: Was it a romantic area?
- LW: Well that is a lot of couples met there. And fell in love. There were no weddings performed or anything like that. I'm going back so far . . . 1900. Of course I went out there in 1916 to 18. The war was on. That made some difference. Some of the boys were drafted. That made our male population even less.
- RM: I want to finish up on the heart. Were there any trees growing up on it?
- LW: Yes, there were trees on it. There were three tall pines, I think they were. I'm not sure about that. I think there were three trees probably on each logo and on the point. You know made a sort of triangle. As I remember it. Yes, they were Norways [pines], you know, the real tall ones with no low greenery, you know the limbs start up quite high on pines. There are a lot of them on the Island [Presque Isle Park].
- RM: Tell us a little about what the feeling was like on campus when World War I began?
- LW: Yes people were concerned. Yes we had a chorus, a male chorus from one of the camps a lower Michigan camp. There was a leader, what was the leader's name? Eventually he married a girl from Marquette. It was the result of that chorus that they had. I remember they sang "Over There." That was one of the first times that we heard that. The boys. I don't think any of them enlisted, I think that they were drafted. I know my son was drafted, he was at Michigan State [goes into World War II]. He was drafted. He could have been exempt, you know, because his brother was in the air corps, but no his friends were over in Iwo Jima and he should be fighting too. So of course my son went to Michigan State instead of Northern. It was mostly teachers at Northern.
- RM: What were some of the other things that happened at Northern and World War I?
- LW: That was so long ago. I know that we used to have a gang of us, when a train load of draftees came into Marquette we all went

down and sang for them ad things like that. And also we had a theatre in Marquette at that time and road companies would come with light operas. Of course it was expensive but we students could get a cut for 25¢ you could get a ticket and you could sit in the gallery. We would practically go without supper to get down there early so we could get a good seat in the gallery. I remember one we saw was "Princess Pat." I can't remember, but there was several really good shows that came and we got in there on our 25¢ pass and got to see those and hear those real nice light operas as we were.

RM: Was that at the Opera House?

LW: The Opera House, the one that burned later. We would get up in the balcony. We couldn't sit downstairs on a 25¢ ticket. Sometimes it was hard to scarp up 25¢ in those days. That strike was still on in the Copper Country and Marquette [??]

RM: Were there any special places where students would go?

LW: Oh, yes, Doncker's, Doncker's downtown. Yes, that was something.

RM: What was the place like?

LW: It is still there. It was just an ordinary store. They had booths in the back and counters in the front. They made their own fudge. I don't know whether they still make fudge or not? But they used to make Doncker's Fudge. You had a date, lot's of times you paid your own money. The fellow didn't have it. But they had delicious ice cream and then there was a drug store around the corner, Johnson's Drugstore. I don't know what it is now? They used to have a fountain. You could get the best chocolate sodas there. They were 15¢. And my roommate, I'd say after school, "let's go down and have a soda." "Well I haven't any money?" I'd say I can pay for it. I can get some more this weekend. She pulled that she didn't have any money and at the end of the week she had enough money to buy herself a nice pair of stockings. (Laughter) She was a thought. But we were friends all our life, I'm not sure that she is still alive. She was in Florida in a home and she had Alzheimers. I wanted to inquire about her but they said she wouldn't know you. She would be about 96 if she was living. We kept in touch all these years until lately.

RM: So the students would just walk around getting from place to place just walking around town?

LW: Oh yeh. Walking around town. We didn't have much time. You had to study. When we got home we usually had chores or something or we might have to shop, get tooth paste or something, somewhere. But usually we had to study. We had long

assignments. We had to do a lot of studying at night. We didn't get to do much funning. Of course they had two literary societies they called them. It was Ygdrazyl? and I can't think of the other Greek name. I was assigned to Ygdrazyl and they had a very stupid president and all and I only went to one or two meeting. They weren't worth going to. The other group was better, but I was unfortunte enough to get Ygdrazyl. I don't know if they met one night a week or? No I think it was less than that. After all walking out there a couple times, and downtown and everything and then to walk out to Northern again to listen to a silly old talker it just wasn't worth it.

RM: What did Ygdrazyl do?

LW: It was a literary society. TRhey studied plays and things like that. I didn't go to enough meetings to really know what was going on because my leader, she was just picked out of a group and she didn't have anything. It was very boring.\

RM: Did you have to belong to the organization?

LW: No you didn't have to belong.

RM: Was there another organization known as Osiris?

LW: That's right. That was the better one but I didn't get into that one. They seemed to have more activity at least. Ours was a very dead organization.

RM: Did students go to the games and give cheers?

LW: Yes there were cheers. I can't remember them now. There was a big organ in the theater room. There was a great big organ there in the front of the auditorium. And there was a fellow that used to play it all the time. He'd get there early and would be playing it when we would arrive there for our music session.

RM: Did they used to have Christmas parties and activities in the lobby or foyer?

LW: Everybody went home for Christmas. They did not have any special festivities, not that I remember.

RM: Do you remember a society the Sons of Thor?

LW: That was a men's organization. I remember that they had one but I don't remember much about it.

RM: Ther was a group after your time called the Federal Men?

RM: These were veterans - but that would have been after your time. And then there was a Manual Arts Club?

LW: No, I don't remember that - that was after me.

RM: Did you take any home economics?

LW: No, I didn't. See, I was going to be a kindergarten teacher. And that's what I was.

RM: How about plays, do you remember the plays that the students put on?

LW: I just remember one, but I don't remember what it was. My girlfriend got awfully mad at her boyfriend during that play. He began running around with somebody else and she got pretty mad. But I don't remember the play.

RM: How about things like the Glee Club, was that an active group when you were there?

LW: I don't think they had a Glee Club.

RM: Here's one the Hiker's Club. Was there anything like that when you were there?

LW: No. We had to study.

RM: Here's some things that they mentioned in the yearbook - it was called the Normal Eat Shops, 246 Alger Street. Does that ring a bell. It was kind of, I think, a boarding house.

LW: Yes, I think that was - oh what was her name - she kept a lot of students.

RM: Eggers? Or Dausch's Place.

LW: Dutch - yes. She was the one who had a lot of students. They ate their meals there.

RM: That's where you would go for your meals.

LW: No, I went to a Swedish woman - Engstrom and that was on East Park Street. And this ugly woman teacher - physical training teacher - she ate there and she was at our table. And, of course, she was at the head. And this Mrs. Engstrom always gave her the platter first and so she got all the choice bits before we ever had a chance at it. She was a dandy. She had two big tables full of people and she charged only a dollar a day and her meals were wonderful. I don't think she made any money. It meant extra walking for us - same way with those that ate at Dutch's. They had a long walk.

audience and went up the stage at one end and got our diploma, walked across the stage, walked back, and went back to our seat. That was all there was. Our parents were there.

RM: What did you do afterwards then?

LW: I went home.

RM: After you graduated.

LW: I got a job at the Soo right away. Of course, I was home that summer. But I was hired right away for the Soo. It was a magnificent sum of \$62.50 a month was my salary. And Ms. Base who was its critic teacher for kindergarten - she said, "my, my I've been working for pretty near all my life and I don't make much more than that." When I got to the Soo I found out I was a pauper by the time I paid room and board. And I taught at Algonquin - we had to take a street car, we had to pay our own streetcar and that was \$1.50 a month. Boy, I just barely made it. We ate at the restaurant.

RM: Would you live in a boarding house?

LW: No, I had a room with a couple - they had one room and we had that. I never thought of going to the dormitory or a boarding house. People that came from Ironwood or the Copper Country or someplace like that - they went to those places mostly.

RM: No, I meant now when you went to Sault Ste. Marie when you were working.

LW: NO, I was in a private home. Oh, that was a dandy. The girl that was going to teach at the Soo, too, she had been there one year. She was a Baptist and the Baptist minister and his wife fixed up a room to rent to us. So we could stay there. We'd open a dresser drawer and out would pop a mouse. We used to reach in the clothes closet for something and down your dress would be running a mouse. Oh, it was terrible. And all the comfort, in our supposed living room, was my trunk and a couple of these round black church chairs. That was our comfortable room that she was going to fix up for us. And, we were cold half of the time and we had to go downtown to eat, of course. And, my roommate was a Baptist so it was all right for her, but not for my who was an Episcopalian. When she'd go she'd say, "Oh, Minnie, I wonder if you'd get us a couple of sandwiches tonight. We'll pay you later." She never got a penny, they were so darn poor and they wanted these club sandwiches; the most expensive thing on the menu. I said, "Minnie, you're crazy; we should get out of here." So we went looking so we left there when we went home for Christmas. We had to tell them that we wouldn't be back, and they were quite disappointed as they were depending on that \$10.00 a month from each of us - \$20.00. But, we couldn't put up with that, there was

mice all over your clothes, and all over you, and everything. But we had found a real nice apartment. We even had a fireplace and it was very, very nice and we had it the rest of the year. But, she wouldn't keep it for us for the next fall because the Navy had a station there at the Locks and they had a lot of free rooms around and these two men had rented our apartment while we were gone, and, of course she couldn't hold it for us. So when we came back we had to find another place, but we got a very nice place - we were lucky.

RM: Do you remember then in the fall of 1918, the flu epidemic? The Spanish Influenza.

LW: Do I remember the flu! Schools were closed for a few days and a lot of them went out to those little school house - where we taught was out - you know where the factory was at the Soo -

RM: The tannery?

LW: The tannery, yeah. Well, that's where the school was that we taught at. We had to go out there to teach. The teachers, some of them volunteered to go and nurse in those places. I went out one night and I was scared to death. They took a picture of me laying on a bed sound asleep. I couldn't make it. So I didn't do much nursing, but the minister had the flu so she said if I would take care of him, she would go down to the anchor mission and work. They had a lot of broken sailors and what not there, and she went down there. She did some good cause she was a nurse - I was no good to them. I said, well, I'll get him water and things like that - so I took care of him for a couple of days.

RM: You didn't get sick, yourself.

LW: No, I didn't get sick, but the next year I did. I took sick. There was a little girl came to school with a high temperature, and I held her and tried to comfort her. Her mother was dead, she had a brother and - oh, here's another one I must tell you. She had a brother in school, so I called him at noon and had him take her home. The next afternoon, I broke out with it and I was terribly sick for a few days.

RM: Now, was this the flu?

LW: The flu. Here's a funny one. I was thinking of it while I was talking to you and now it's gone - what was it.

RM: About the flu?

LW: No, oh, what was it. It was really funny and I can't remember. Something that happened. Now it's gone - that cell is missing.

RM: Do you have any sort of humorous stories that you remember from Northern. Things that happened, pranks, jokes? When you were going to school at Northern - do you have any sort of stories that students told - jokes that they told, or something? Or humorous stories about the faculty?

LW: I can't think of anything right now. One thing was kind of funny. My roommate and I were standing in the hall at Kaye Hall - in front of the big staircase there. And we were waiting, there was a lad going to Northern - he just went afternoons as he was still in highschool, but he used to come at Northern's and take a few classes. He lived just a couple doors from us so he's said if you girls will wait, I'll pick you up and give you a ride home. So we was standing there waiting for him. President Kaye came along and he said, "well, well, a couple of twins here." I said, no, we're not twins, we're just friends. "Oh, how would you like a bite of my chocolate bar." He had a Hersey bar - he holds it out for us to bit. I said the President of the college offering me a bite of a chocolate bar. That was a funny one.

RM: Did you see much of the President - was he a friendly person?

LW: No, we didn't see too much of him. I don't know where he hide himself. I suppose he had an office somewhere. But, when you did see him, he was very friendly. He was a nice, old fellow. But, I don't know how efficient he was.

What was the superintendent of the training school - I thought of his name a little while ago. Now, that's gone. Tomorrow I'll think of it.

END OF FIRST TAPE - SIDE B

BEGIN SECOND TAPE - SIDE A: Interview June 21, 1994

LW: I don't know if I can think of anyone that really reached me in that two years. Several of the boys were killed of course. We'd have a memorial service for them.

RM: Did they have some special service for the men that were in the service, or were killed.

LW: No, I don't think. See, they just went one at a time like - when they were called. I know one of them - I knew his family. He was from Marquette, but he was going to Northern. I know he died - he had four sisters and he was the only brother and he was killed. They took that pretty hard. We had quite a few casulties.

I remember we used to go down to the train when a troop train would be going through. And, we'd go down a sing a few songs or something. I remember one fellow - I think he was drunk - but the tears were running down his cheeks. He was saying, "Oh, I'll never

see you again." That was rough - that war was so pointless. Didn't solve anything and we lost all those nice young men - what a shame. I had both of my sons in the second world war - both in the air force. Thank God they both got home.

RM: Were there any other stories that you remember or want to comment on about Northern - anything that comes to mind like the one you told about President Kaye. Some of the faculty -

LW: Well Mr. Spooner, the one with the wiggly nose - he had a crazy wife. They lived across the street from us. She wouldn't let anybody in her house, and she wore gloves herself. She couldn't touch anything, she had to wear gloves. And her cleaning woman came and worked all day. She had to bring her own lunch with her, her own dishes to eat off of. Mrs. Spooner wouldn't let her eat off of their dishes. And in the winter when it was cold, of course, she couldn't cook much, he had a sleigh and he had to pull her on a sleigh downtown to the Bon Ton Restaurant for their meal - their Sunday dinner. Pulling a woman like that on a sleigh - imagine it. She was nuttier than a fruitcake - maybe she got like that from watching his twisty nose.

RM: Now his nose just twisted when he was talking or he did - did he do something to his nose?

LW: No, he held an office in the Masonic Lodge I understand - my husband belonged. He said he wiggled his nose up there too. He couldn't help it, I guess, but it was really funny. I had all I could do to keep from laughing. That was only one term fortunately. Most of our classes were only one term.

RM: Did you have classes then in the fall and the winter. Also did they run classes in the summertime.

LW: Fall, winter, and spring.

RM: Was that like more of a summer -

LW: Twelve weeks.

RM: Each one was twelve weeks.

LW: Then we'd have a week - well, I don't know if we'd have vacation between terms - I think just long enough to shift our textbooks and all that sort of thing. The terms followed each other consecutively right along. Some of them didn't make it to first term, of course, then they didn't come back. As I say, I was fortunate I never had to take an exam and I had all S's and E's when I got through except that one M from that teacher and she used to love eloquion, and it was my first time away from home and everything was strange. And I was very bashful and backward

anyway. She marked me down because I wouldn't stand up and rave and throw my arms out and all that eloquion stuff. I could do all the book learning, and taught the children how to read, that I could do, but that stand up and make a fool of myself, I couldn't do. And, so she didn't like that, so she just gave me a M - that's the only M I ever had in my life.

RM: What did those grades stand for then - M was . . .

LW: Well, M was medium, E was excellent, and S was superior. E was the best and superior and excellent - that's all I got all the way through Northern except for that one class. Oh, I hated her - she was an old fool in my estimation.

RM: Who was the teacher?

LW: Mrs. Rushmore and she had a boyfriend called Mr. Tucker. They had something in one of the books about her - they said, "poor Mrs. Rusher, on Monday she's all 'tuckered' out. Now, how do I remember that and when it was something I wanted to remember that I can't. My mind is getting jumbled up.

RM: So, it was poor Mrs. Rushmore - on Monday she's all tuckered out.

LW: She's all tuckered out - she'd been with him all weekend.

RM: Now did Tucker - did he teach?

LW: No, I don't know what he was - not much. He had a son who was an attorney. I don't think Mr. Tucker whether he had an agency for something or what. I really didn't know the local people, we just knew the people at Northern. We didn't know unless you happened to know them from before.

RM: When you were living there and all, you didn't stay through the weekend - you always went home?

LW: I think so - I wouldn't know.

RM: You spent most of your weekends at home?

LW: In Negaunee - oh yes. I went home all the time. And it was nothing going on at the college on Saturdays, unless there was a football game or something. But, as I say they had trouble scaping up 11 men to play football. They just played - who did they play - I can't think. They didn't have many games. We did have a cheerleader, I can't remember the cheer though. I had a song - old something rather - well, it isn't important, I guess. I don't remember the words. But, we'd have a cheer meeting in the

auditorium before the game and then we were all supposed to go to the game on Saturday and cheer for the team. But I was always home, I didn't stay down for the games.

RM: Where did they play the games?

LW: I suppose on the highschool field. I don't know if they had their own field or not. Maybe they did - they didn't have many games. I think if they had one or two that would be it. Bill Morrison - did you ever that name? He was the college cupid - very handsome - he was a football player. There were two Morrison brothers.

RM: You talked about this fellow, Bill Morrison, the football player.

LW: He didn't get anywhere, but the other - the wrestler did. Gussy Soninberg (check spelling) - he was a wrestler.

RM: Would he come back to Marquette?

LW: Oh, just as - I think his parents were there - I think he came once in awhile. I don't think he ever had a wrestling match in Marquette. I wouldn't know cause I wasn't interested in those things. But, he was nationally known. He'd kind of rush at them with his head - like a mad bull. I think he scared them to death. He wasn't real tall but he was big around - like a barrel - if you know what I mean - with legs on it.

RM: Now, just getting to the end here - what do you sort of - how would you sum up your years at Northern and what did you think of your education at Northern when you went there?

LW: Well, I think it could have been better, but in those days, of course, education is so changed from what it used to be. But, I felt I liked the teachers - most of them were good I thought. I learned a lot there. What else would I say about it - they could of had better teachers, that's for sure. Of course, maybe people didn't go into the teaching profession like they do now. I wouldn't want to be a teacher now with the insubordination that goes on with the kids - you can't reprimand them or anything. I wouldn't want it. Oh, I don't know exactly what to say. I think that the class that I was in was good. Like I say, now that I'm older I can see things that might have been better, but at the time I was satisfied. I got a job and I finally ended up at my fourth - no my third and fourth year - I taught back in Negaunee. My mother became ill and my dad said I had to come home to teach whether I got a job or not. In those days you obeyed your parents, and as it happened the kindergarten teacher had retired so I got her job. So I taught two years and I was married and I did some substitute teaching that was all.

RM: If you could, would you have continued teaching?

LW: I suppose I would - I wouldn't know what else to do. But, I really was a mathematician - I was very, very good in maths and I love anything like bookkeeping and that sort of thing. I loved that. My dad wouldn't let me be one, but I think I could have done very well in that profession. As it was I did all right in teaching, I was promoted - they were satisfied with me and gave me more money and everything. I didn't enjoy it especially.

RM: You taught kindergarten the whole time.

LW: At the Soo I liked it. The second half year, you taught reading - first grade reading to your kindergartener and they were well capable of it. Negaunee they don't do anything - it's just a regular old kindergarten - fold paper, and cut pictures and draw and march around the room and things like that. I liked the Soo system better where they had a half year of that, which was plenty and then they taught reading for a half of year. Two years there and I enjoyed that. But, I wouldn't chose to be a teacher, no, not now. Of course, I would have been fired a long time ago because you can't teach after you get married. Of course, that's changed now too. Now they keep on teaching til they die and nobody gets a chance at their job - they don't retire. And the way - the money they get today - it's really unheard of. And, they don't teach anything. They get ready to graduate and they can't read. What kind of teachers do they got. I can't understand how they get by with that. It's terrible. . . . of course, if I had it to do over, I wouldn't have been a teacher - I would have loved to had a business job of some kind - a secretary or something like that - keeping books or something like that. That was really what I liked. Oh, teaching was all right, and I loved the kids - they were adorable.

RM: Did most of the students then that graduated, say in your class of 1918 - most of them went into teaching?

LW: Yes, most of them got jobs. A lot of them had to take country schools, but I guess they placed everybody. In those days, if you just went to summer school you could teach in a country school. You didn't have to have much of an education to teach in a country school cause if those kids weren't just as bright and eager to learn - they sure had some funny ideas.

RM: Now, the country schools, were just one room school house - when you say country school - that's a one room

LW: That's a one room school - in those days. You had all grades - they had a couple in Negaunee in the outskirts of town - out in the mining area they had small one room schools. I used to sub there once in awhile, and this one - it shows what kind of a teacher she was - she was out - she never impressed me anyway - but

she wasn't there - this one little girl - cute little girl - I called on her to read and they said "oh, you ain't supposed to call on her, she don't know nothing." I'll never forget that as long as I live - she don't know nothing. And, I thought, no and she never will know anything. But, can you imagine a teacher telling a child that she didn't know anything. But, she was pretty great because she asked him to get her a sewing machine and she would teach the girls to sew. She got a sewing machine and she did all her personal sewing on it - she didn't teach the kids anything. That's not good - but that actually happened. It's the truth, I was there, I saw it happen. That was my roommate out here in this institution - they have roommates. Everybody thought she was something great - she'd been a teacher, she was a retired teacher, 88 years old and I discovered she was a drinker. Well, I never said anything - she kept her job til she died.

RM: You've kind of mentioned this - there were a lot of - back at that time, we always think that things were better - but, you've pointed out things out that people had their flaws and some of the women teachers liked the female students, and there were people taking drugs

LW: Well, that wasn't common - I think she was the only one I heard of.

RM: But, these things were going on . . .

LW: Oh, yes, they went on. The one physical training teacher, she always had a couple pretty girls with her. I don't think anything went on but it just looked funny to me. And the fact that she'd come and peek in our little dressing room when we'd had our showers, she come and peek in there. She was unhealthy.

RM: You've given us some good memories here. Would you mind when we're gone, and in the future, would you have any objection - you wouldn't mind if we published parts of this.

LW: As long as you don't sign my name.

RM: Okay - unanimous.

LW: You could say a student - but I wouldn't want my name. Of course, most anybody that knew me at that time is long gone. I'm an old woman, but even so I don't want to smear anybodies reputation or do anything that would hurt anybody, even if they are dead.

RM: No, we'd tone some of that down for you.

LW: Wouldn't they be interested in the fact that there were three tunes (?) instead of two and that the tuition was only \$12.00. A textbook was 50 and 75 cents, now instead it's \$50.00. Terrible -

just a difference in the price. Poor kids have to borrow money to go to school now and then pay it - a lot of them never pay it back.

I liked the two years I spent there - I think I learned a lot. And, I liked a lot of the teachers - I thought they were excellent. Professor Laughtner (?) was very good only when he starting talking he didn't quite until the bell rang. And we didn't have to resite. He was a fine person and I did see his house - that - it seems to me it was a special antique of some kind. It's still there, I think.

RM: I think it was especially built.

LW: Isn't the yard full of trees.

RM: You mentioned that they had an art group - was that just a - did it have a name or was it just something some people put together - this art group?

LW: It was just local at Northern - they had it every year. They had appointed somebody to it every year.

RM: It was not - it wasn't a group of people from Marquette, but it was the Northern arts club.

LW: Just students at Northern. Mrs. Laughtner came into it through her husband. She wasn't very active in it, but she was an artist and she had been to Europe and things like that. And, she gave us stories like that that were interesting - things that she had done. She was a good artist - I forget her name - Volda something. We only went there once - that is the year I happened to belong. I think it was called Hobotechto (?) - Miami was the head of it and her sister was the librarian there. She's still living, but I think the librarian's long gone.

RM: Lydia Olsen?

LW: Yes, she was the librarian. Miami was her sister and I think she had a sister that was a librarian in lower Michigan until she retired - I think that was Alma Olsen.

RM: And then Miami Olsen was her sister - Lydia's sister.

LW: Yes, she was younger.

RM: Did she teach at Northern?

LW: No. She married Herman Olsen from the bank - I don't remember if she ever taught. See, after I left Marquette, I lost track of most of those people. Cause I went to the Soo - I was a long way from Marquette. And a lot of their teachers came from lower

Michigan schools - from Ypsilanti and places like that.

RM: So you didn't have alot of contact with Northern graduates - at the Soo.

LW: No, the girl I was with, of course, was from Northern - the girl I roomed with, and quite a few of the teachers there had graduated from Northern but they were a lot older than - see, I was only 18 when I went there to teach. A lot of the women were in their 30's and they don't bother with 18 year olds. We had to entertain ourselves.

It was a good experience - two years of my life that weren't worthless.

RM: Thank you.

LW: I don't know if I answered you those things that you wanted to know.