

UPPER PENINSULA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEWEE CONTENTSNARRATOR'S NAME: LEO DOUCETTETAPE NO: 1

TIME	SUBJECTS
<u>0</u> to <u>7</u>	1- <u>FAMILY BACKGROUND</u>
<u>7</u> to <u>15</u>	2- <u>SCHOOL</u>
<u>15</u> to <u>17</u>	3- <u>TEENS</u>
<u>17</u> to <u>24</u>	4- <u>BUILDING HENRY FORD'S HOME</u>
<u>24</u> to <u>29</u>	5- <u>VARIOUS OTHER JOBS</u>
<u>29</u> to <u>32</u>	6- <u>FORD MILL</u>
<u>32</u> to <u>34</u>	7- <u>THE INFLUENCE OF FORD ON BIG BAY</u>
<u>34</u> to _____	8- <u>EMPLOYMENT AWAY FROM BIG BAY</u>
_____ to <u>41</u>	9- <u>SAILING</u>
<u>41</u> to <u>44</u>	10- <u>PROKSCH CONSTRUCTION</u>
<u>44</u> to _____	11- <u>GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF FORD</u>
_____ to <u>60</u>	12- <u>THE "HYDRO PLANT" THE "CANAL"</u>

Leo Doucette w/m Age 68 Date of Birth 11-5-1912
 Residence: Beach Rd. Big Bay.

Born in Canada
 Moved to Big Bay with family.
 Brothers None Sisters 1
 Father worked for Lake Independence Lumber Company

Leo went to school in Big Bay to the 10th Grade. He then traveled to Marquette to attend the J.D. Pierce School. This was the arrangement in the early thirties. The students traveled by bus. Leo attended for 1 year and was then asked to leave. -----Why?

He did odd jobs for awhile due to the fact that work was hard to find.

- Jobs:
- #1. Worked for a company building Henry Ford's home Spring to Fall of 31 or 32.
 - #2. Laid off during the winter of 31 or 32.
 - #3. Employed by the Huron Mountain Club building Senator Reed's home. Spring to Fall of 32 or 33.
 - #4. Went to work in the Curry & Hanson Mill in Big Bay. 34-35-36-37
 - #5. Went out to California for one year. 35-36-37 SUMMER
 - #6. Came back to work in Curry Hanson Mill 38-42
 Mill closed due to Union wanting to come in. GAGON
 - #7. Worked in the woods. Winter of 42.
 - #8. First of 4 workers to go to work for Ford in 42-43.
 Was asked by Superintendent Schneider to work for Ford. Drove truck for about one year, however due to lack of a license was taken off the road and then quit.
 - #9. Worked for Anderson putting in sewer line at Huron Mountain Club in 43-44. 37-38
 - #10. Worked for Proksch: On school
 on Plant Boilers
 On Hydro Plant
 Told his job was done the day Ford died, worked that day.

#11. SAILED 51-58

RELATED INFORMATION

Received \$5.75 a day when working on Ford's Home. The logs for Ford's Home were brought by tug, log raft, from Pequaming. They arrived one evening. Leo remembers working late to pull them up on shore by horse, due to an incoming storm. He remembers being paided overtime for this. He remembers the logs being headed by hand and fit together like a puzzle.

Leo's main job was that of a stone masons assistant who was responsible for building the fireplaces.

THIS HAD
 TO BE CHANGED
 DUE TO ERROR

He remembers the old man coming around but did not say anything to him or the other men.

Stated he did not know the cost of the home, but it was done by contract.

It was built under a Costs - Plus factor and he remembers being told to hid underneath the house when big shots came around.

When working for the HMC he meant Ford on the path coming from Pine Lake and asked him if he could shake his hand, Ford said "Do you have one" They shook.

Misc:

The power lines ran from the mill to the dam at the time Ford died. The ditch was in the process of being dug.

There was talk of a canal running from Lake Independence to Lake Superior for shipping.

In the old mill, that ^{was} owned by Curry & Hanson there were 4 smoke stacks. They blew down on a New Years day in (Unsure) because of a storm.

INTERVIEW OUTLINE
LEO DOUCETTE

#1. Family Background

- A. You were born in what part of Canada?
 - B. When did you move to Big Bay and why?
 - C. How long have you lived in Big Bay?
 - D. Your father worked for what company?
 - E. How many brothers and sisters did you have
- #1. What can you tell me about them!

#2. School

- A. You attend school where?
- B. What was school like...the establishment?
- C. In what ways did you like or dislike school?

#3. Teens

- A. What did you do when you left school?
- B. What was Big Bay like when you were growing up?

#4. Employment

- A. Your first part-time employment?
- B. Your first full-time employment?
- C. #1. What was it like?
- C. You worked for many years in Big Bay, some of your employers.
 - #1. Building Henry Ford's Home.
 - A. The logs coming in from Pequaming.
 - B. Being paid overtime due to incoming storm.
 - C. Logs headed by hand and fit together.
 - D. The rate of pay.
 - E. Stone masons assistant.
 - F. Henry Ford coming around.
 - G. Cost of home - done by contract - Costs-Plus factor
 - #1. Hidding under the porch.
 - #2. Huron Mountain Club
 - A. Building Senator's Reeds home.

NOTE CHANGE
IN SEQUENCE OF
EMPLOYMENT

- #3. Curry & Hanson Mill
 - A. What was it like?
 - B. The smoke stacks blowing down.
- #4. California.
- #5. Curry & Hanson Mill
- #6. Ford Mill
 - A. One of first 4 to begin work
 - B. Drove truck - no license - quit
- #7. Anderson - Huron Mountain Club
 - A. On what project.
- #8. Proksch Construction
 - A. Big Bay school
 - B. Plant Boilers
 - C. Hydro Plant

#5. General Impressions/Information.

- A. Did you ever meet Mr. Ford and what was it like?
- B. What was the highlight of your life while working for Ford?
- C. What do you think the people of Big Bay thought of Ford as a businessman?
- D. How do you think they felt toward him as a person?
- E. What was your thoughts about Ford's home at the Huron Mountain Club?
- F. What can you tell me about a "Ford Canal" from Lake Superior to Lake Independence.
- G. How do you remember Mr. Ford?
- H. How do YOU think he should be remembered?
- I. The "Powerlines".
- J. The "Ditch".

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Marquette, MI 49855

Listed below are:

- #1. Passages hard to understand.
- #2. Passages confidential.
- "3. Passages to be treated in a special way.

TAPE No. 1 -

INTERVIEWERS' - NOTES AND WORD LIST

HIS BIRTH PLACE

Petit-Rocher, New Brunswick, CANADA.

NO OTHER NOTES NEEDED.