

3-30-81: checked on people who worked in the mines

3-31-81: checked with Florence (Shalijoe) Amsitalo on the Keweenaw Indian Reservation. She is a full blooded Chippewa. She agreed to do the interview.

4-1-81: did some research at library

4-3-81: did more research

4-4-81: got notes together and organized and made an outline of what I wanted to talk with her about.

4-6-81: mailed the outline to her so she would have time to think about what she wanted to say before I got there.

4-11-81: we were suppose to meet for the interview, but it was cancelled due to sickness in the family

4-20-81: called again for convenient time to do interview, since family member was ~~not~~^{going} out

of the hospital

4-24-81: did interview, wrote out full length and reviewed them with her to make sure everything was correct before leaving.

Interview Outline

page one: about self and family

page two: family, childhood + village

page three: village, school + recreation

page four: recreation and chores

page five: jobs, life now for her and
her family (children) + food

page six: food and stories.

Personal interview

I am now fifty seven (57) years of age and live on the Keweenaw Bay Indian Reservation in a little town called Assissins, which is now the place where the tribal center is located along with our mission church, The Most Holy Name of Jesus. I was born and raised here for the full 57 years.

I married my first husband when I was 21 years old and had six children. Their ages now are ① 35 and lives in Illinois, a daughter ② a son 33 and lives in Montana ③ a son 30 lives in Marquette, ④ a son 27 lives in White Pine ⑤+⑥ two daughters in Marquette, ages

25 and 21. These children were all born here in Baraga County.

My first husband died when the youngest girl was six months old. I was then married a second time, with two girls born of that marriage. One age 19 and one 15 years of age.

My home life as a child was the same as others in the time of the depression. The family had no recreation but to visit other families who lived in the area.

Our little town or village consisted of about 25 homes, with a lot of love and consideration for each other. I

guess I could be safe in saying most of the people around were related as near cousins and our neighbors were so close friends they considered each other as relatives.

There was one store which everyone went, to buy food or to visit.

We went to school in the catholic school with nuns as our teachers. It was a one room school house, and the grades were from kindergarten to eighth grade.

Much of the recreation was gliding in winter on home made sleds and swimming in the summer time in Keweenaw Bay.

we also used to hollow out acorns
and make ~~at~~ pipes out of them.
also we had apple fights and
used to catch frogs.

In the summer there was
a lot of fishing by the men
and berry picking by the
ladies and children. I guess
the clothes were made by the
mothers with whatever material
they could afford.

~~Our~~ Our chores were doing
the dishes (which were tin),
cutting and hauling wood to
keep warm, Help care for the
smaller children in the family,
If you can call fishing

with nets and thru the ice for survival, I guess that was all the careers around. Some ladies did sewing and quilting.

Our life now is much better now, most people ~~to~~ have nice homes, furniture and cars. Our children go to school and collage. They in turn (some) return to the reservation to make their homes here and work at what ever is available.

Our games were the same as other children and the Indian songs I can not remember.

Our foods were the cheapest

to eat, and made the simplest way, a bread called lug (baking powder bread). We also made it into blueberry bread when fresh blueberries were in season, and cooked over hot coals. One time when making it, a bear was at the door so it is sometimes called bear tongue bread.

The stories and legends were told to us by the older men about WINEBA HOO. Mostly fairy tales and about the mail run my grandfather used to make from Marquette to Ontonagon by sled.

Interview's comments

(Florance Uusitalo memoir)
(Narrator's name)

(Mrs Uusitalo) lives in a log house, inside is dry wall, with her husband and two youngest girls. But the rest of the family visits often. The interview took place in her living room. It is a traditional living room with two couches, two chairs and many end tables and plants stands with vases and wiy on and family pictures. On the TV is a picture of her newest grandson who is now six weeks old. (Mrs Uusitalo) was sitting on one of the sofas during the interview. Even though ~~to~~ she was interested + wanted to do the interview, she tired easily and did not want to go into too ~~more~~ much detail. The two weeks that her grandson had been in the hospital were hard on her.

Their nearest neighbors live about a half a mile away. (They are the care takers of the reservation trailer park/camp ground) The park accomidates about 40 campers and is on the lake shore. There are all kinds of pine trees around the house and park.

(Mrs Uusitalo) is in good health and likes to ~~take~~ talk about her family. She always wants someone at home.

She asked that all names remain ~~of~~ confidential.