

Interview with Melvin Cousineau

No date nor name of interviewer given

Melvin Cousineau (MC): Okay. "Shh." Joe Cousineau family. Joe Cousineau was born in Garden Peninsula and worked on farms and after he married he run the company farm in Cooks, Michigan. And he lived there with some of the family. And then my Uncle, John Cousineau, was working at the Ford Motor Company in Iron Mountain making Model-Ts. And he said, "Joe, why don't you come to the city and make some big money?" So my father, Joe Cousineau moved to Kingsford, Michigan and took some chickens and one cow with the family and moved to Kingsford, to work at the Ford, Ford Motor Company in Kingsford. And then the depression came and they were down to one day a week. Well he had bought a lot to build a house, but was just renting at the time of the Depression. So on one day a week and with ten kids in the family, he could not make a living and live in town. So during the Depression, Ford, Henry Ford moved people northeast of Hardwood, which is called Fordville now. They moved the Ford houses from Kingsford at no cost to the families, cause they were laid off from Ford. And they homesteaded, the state owned the land, and this land was up for homestead.

Interviewer: Did they give them guys tractors too?

MC: Did they have tractors then?

Int: Or did they give them equipment and stuff _____

MC: They had first, they had mules and some horses. And then they, they then, my father Joe Cousineau, start...there was more homesteads available. So that was in 1935, spring of 1935 when he came up northeast, five miles northeast of Hardwood. And the last mile and a half, there were no roads, as the people that were moved ahead of `em from Ford were working on WPA, making roads. All there was in the last mile and a half from where he homesteaded was just a picket-line to follow. They came, Mr. Buckle and Joe Cousineau came and they stayed at Wimpy's lodge, an old logging camp that was in the early 1900s still. They stayed there and from there they, Mr. Buckle homesteaded, him and his wife were eligible for two forties, eighty acres. My father, Joe Cousineau, got four forties. It was a hundred and sixty acres homesteaded. At forty cents an acre, paid to the state, and they had to live on the land for ten years, and clear land and stay on there and farm it. After ten years, the land was theirs. So there was no fields, there was mostly hardwood maple timber on these forties, which we started to clear by hand and after getting horses and dynamite, cut the logs and sell the logs for mostly for tie-cuts for railroad. Hardwood ties.

Int: Who bought them? Who would you sell them to?

MC: Well they were hauled to Hardwood, George Thoun, that was a homesteader about a mile and a half down the road had a sawmill in Hardwood. He sawed the hardwood logs and made ties, and they went out on the railroad to Escanaba. And a lot of the homesteaders, most of them went back. Henry Ford was making Model A's in the Depression, after the Depression picked up. And a lot of the homesteaders went back to work at Henry Ford in Kingsford until Henry Ford moved out of Kingsford. Then they all came back and started farming too.

Int: Is that when the plant changed over to a chemical plant, after he left?

MC: No, that was a quite a while later. And then...there were other people that, most of the other people that were laid off when Ford Motor Company pulled out of Kingsford, of making cars, most of `em went to work in the woods logging, hauling. Kingsford briquettes that are sold today from down south, are still the Kingsford briquettes that were made at Kingsford Ford Motor Plant. At that time, they were in Kingsford. Kingsford charcoal briquettes. That's what the Ford Plant was turned over into. And after, we cleared some land, and after the chemical plant, a lot of the smaller hardwoods went to Kingsford Chemical Plant. And that's when we'd have cleared, and that's where we sold most of the wood as we cleared our land. We were, in 1950, we got a bulldozer, instead of clearing by hand and with horses, which was an International T-6. We had built a barn out of the stones from the land. The stone wall is two foot thick, eight foot high. And another homesteader by the name of Joe Thoune was the mason who mortared the stones and that's' what they made the walls with.

Int: When you cut in the woods, what kind of saws did you have to cut with?

MC: Oh, in...when we worked, in the early days in the big hardwoods we had the cross-cut saws and skidded the logs out with horses to a landing. And there was a fellow by the name of Joe Simpson, from Hardwood, came with an old truck that hauled about two and a half cords on a load. And they were loaded with the back to the landing. The landing was always where a dock was, along the road, about a three foot dock where they could roll the logs from the landing onto the, onto the truck with poles. And after, at the Kingsford Chemical Plant most of the timber was cut with Finn saws, that's a round saw with about an inch, real thin blade. And that way the trees didn't pinch too much, they...

Int: [inaudible]

CM: So you didn't need a wedge that was, you know. And a fellow by the name of Matt Keevey from Foster City used to take our blades on Sunday on the way to church and leave a couple of blades, the next week when we went back to church we'd pick up the blades that were sharpened by him and brought back, bring back the sharp ones and leave a couple of the dull ones. The cedar, most of the balsam, and spruce, a lot of that was cut with pull saws. And then later on...about 1950 we had our first power saw, gas-driven. I don't know what else...

Int: How'd that, how'd that saw work? __ _____?

CM: Yeah, the first was a Mall and the saw, the handle would, you'd flip a lever and the blade would tip for sawing down and it would tip back up for, you got to tip it back up for cutting up. Most of the saws were real heavy so most of the limbs were still cut with an axe at that time, until the power saws got lighter and they went in with the power saw. The first, that first...if you cut cedar, cedar posts, they all wanted that trimmed with an axe because with the power saws, the knots were left too long and hard to peel the post because all the posts were peeled with draw knives.

SKIP IN TAPE

Int: Okay.

MC: After, when we, when my father, Joe Cousineau came and had stayed at Wimpy's Lodge, Mr. Buckle the neighbor and him each built a one-room cabin. It was about sixteen by sixteen. And I myself, Melvin Cousineau was born in 1936 in Iron Mountain hospital. It was one year after my father lived,

moved out here and we were living in a one-room cabin. And there was...there was nine of us. My oldest sister was married and my one other sister stayed in Kingsford, and would not move out here.

SKIP IN TAPE

MC: Along with my father, Joe Cousineau, and Mr. Roy Buckle, my oldest sister, Camilla's husband, Hank Troyer had came with them to homestead land as he worked at Henry Ford. And stayed two days at Wimpy's Lodge with Joe Cousineau and Roy Buckle. And at night there was something chewing on the logs, Hank Troyer asked his father-in-law what that was, and Joe Cousineau told Henry Troyer that, "It was just a bear, go back to bed." So after two days, two nights at Wimpy's Lodge he left, went back to Kingsford and never homesteaded any land. That's all he lasted up in the woods. Then there was, so there was nine, nine kids in the family that stayed in a one-room log cabin. And finally, the next summer Joe Cousineau, my father, built another sixteen by sixteen logs on a ____ ____ and that would have been the bedroom. We lived in there for about five years and during the WPA, was making the roads, they finished making the roads. Then they started helping the families build houses. So all the neighbors were working WPA instead of building roads, they started building houses. And my father built a house. The lumber was sawed from the land on George Thoune's sawmill in Hardwood.

Int: Did you have, wasn't there a [Inaudible]

[both talking over eachother]

CM: So then George Thoune, after his mill in Hardwood got done he put a sawmill right in front of our farm, right along the road. And he sawed lumber there for a number of years. One thing I remember as a kid, we had a dog named Buster and Mr. Buckle had a dog named Pal. And under the slab-pile there was woodchucks. And one day I got there with a stick and I got the woodchuck out of the slab-pile and one dog grabbed the front and one the back, and they kept pulling and pulling till they took the woodchuck in half. And then, after, when the WPA finished the roads the first couple of years we had to walk a mile and a half to catch the bus, my older sisters and brothers. Then when they finished the road up, they, then the bus turned around in front of the log cabin. And when George Thoune's sawmill was running in front of our house, and in the sawdust pile, in the wintertime we made chunks of ice and buried that in the sawdust pile and used that chunks of ice all summer long to put in, in our icebox. They put ice in that icebox and kept some food in there to keep. It would keep a long time. But my mother, we had a big garden, lots of venison, and canned lots, a lotta food.

Int: [Inaudible]

MC: raised, yeah. We raised pigs every day, every year. We made salt pork, we had our own milk, and my mother made a batch of bread every week. And with the can, canning from the garden, and our own beef, or venison and pork, we survived real good. And then we came along when they started peeling some wood, they used to peel basswood. And when we'd peeling basswood, being the oldest one, there was called a Diamond-T Man that used to come around with a small van with groceries, once every two weeks. And there was no traffic at that time, so we knew the day the Diamond-T Man was coming so when the Diamond-T Man, we would listen for it and if we would hear him coming, the rest of the sisters and brothers in the woods would send me home to get us a treat. So we had our treat, sometime once every two weeks. And a lot of, after the roads were in decent shape, we had company just about every weekend in the summer time. And we had a big table outside, so we had a picnic every

weekend and we didn't know who the next week would be our guest. The people from Kingsford, where my mother and father lived had a lot of friends where they played cards, played the piano, and sang songs. So we all had a good time. When we built the house, there was a cousin of ours that had a piano in Kingsford. They brought that up there and the piano was in the house for about twenty years. So every time we had friends come over, the piano was always jumpin'. And a lot of songs were sung. And my dad, Joe Cousineau, had fourteen brothers and sisters. And they, some of the younger ones which were still living, used to come in the summer time. And we would all get together and we would have a real good time. And when we first started farming we had a few cows, and there was a canning factory in Norway, Michigan that took canning beans, mostly what my father grew was wax beans, which were yellow and the green beans. So in the summer time when it was hot, in July, we had to pick beans for the canning factory which was a very hard job when it was real warm. But they liked our beans because we had good hardwood land and we grew good, even beans, and we picked them early so that they wouldn't get tough. And it was, we would get a premium, at that time, for our beans. And then after one picking, the second and third picking, my father would generally have to hire help if we had the right moisture rain, and after the beans would grow too fast for our family to pick.

Int: How many acres were there?

MC: At that time we had about four acres of beans. It was a big job of hoeing, the family had to keep the weeds out. And the harvesting, that was a big job at that time with four acres of beans. So along with the, mostly the, of the bigger logging was done in the winter. And the cleaning up was done in the summer, to clear more land and burning brush, and we had used a lot of, we could, we could get dynamite at that time real easy, for blowing up bigger stumps. Otherwise, it would take too long before the stumps would rot. So most of the bigger stumps were dynamited and grubbed and then hoed with horses. And then, after we had got a small bulldozer, we still dynamited the bigger stumps. It made it much easier and'd do a better job of clearing the land. Then when we first started clearing land, burning brush, by hand we would always burn after, in the evening hours when the dew would come and there wasn't that much chance of fire spreading, and then later at night we'd all roast potatoes in the ashes or in the coals. So that was a big treat, the roast potatoes out of the coals from the brush fires with homemade butter with a butter churn on our baked potato.

Int: But why did, why didn't they start planting potato or when did they start?

MC: Well, we planted potatoes, when my father lived in Cooks, he ran the company farm, and from Cooks, Michigan to Manistique, that was in the, in the late 20s. Used to go, he'd run the company farm and they had vegetables and potatoes, and they used to go, one day from Cooks to Manistique with a team and deliver his potatoes, and would come back the next day. So our father knew how to grow potatoes from the company farm when he was younger. And, and he grew potatoes here for the family and a lot of the neighbor's land homesteaded, where land where it had frost in the first of June and early in the fall. But my father, when he homesteaded, he looked for good, high land, lots of maple trees, and we were higher up, we very seldom got frost here so he could raise a good garden and sell sweet corn, beans, and potatoes around the neighborhood and down to the loggers in Foster City and the Hardwood area. Because a lot of the gardens in that area along the river froze and most time they just didn't get too good a crop unless they planted late, and then it would be way late in the summer if they got anything at all. So my father was real successful in growing the potatoes and milk cows and that. And then around 1960 we, we didn't have enough land. We had to buy machinery for potatoes

and cows and milk cows, it kept getting, costs more costly. And we were doing better with the potatoes than the cows because we were only, the highest we got for milk was \$2.75 a hundred. And we would get up to four and five dollars a hundred for potatoes

Int: What's a hundred? A hundred pounds?

MC: A hundred pounds of milk, \$2.75. And at that time, the price of milk, after that time the price of milk has gone as high as fourteen dollars for a hundred pounds of milk. And we changed over from, we put all our land in clover, had farming that we cleared, and then we could plant every other year, potatoes with clover. And then besides potatoes, when we first started, we did a lot of forestry working for Kimberly Clark, had land east of the farm. We used to cut pulp: balsam spruce mostly, and some popple, and haul to the Niagara paper mill. That was around, mostly, mostly started about 19, almost in 1955 when we had bought a new ford truck, and we hauled forestry products to Niagara, from, mostly from 1955 to the present time. We, by cutting on Kimberly Clark's land, which is now land which Champion International took over. By cutting for them in the woods and the potatoes, we made a better living on that than with milk cows.

Int: Did, did you sell potatoes too?

MC: When we got bigger in potatoes then we had to go to bigger markets and we built our, we used to keep the potatoes in two basements. But then after we got bigger we built a warehouse thirty-six by sixty. And we went through a broker, that's Gene Kat's broker, and _____ [Mizocks'?] from Iron Mountain. And our potatoes then went out by semi-load in hundred pound bags. They were first went out dirty, over a grater, took the number twos and the B-size out, and sold or graded them. And that went on for about five years and then they came along and we had to have washers. So they had to wash the potatoes. They went through a washer with brushes that cleaned the dirt off with water spraying on them. And we picked out, take the Bs and the twos out and they went in hundred pound bags. And then about...1965 they wanted a more smaller package. Twenty pounders, fifty pounders, and hundred pounders, so we had to buy more grading equipment in order to pack these into smaller packages. That would eliminate the work in the bigger areas where the truckloads of hundreds went, they would repack them in smaller packages. Now they changed the work because of the higher labor costs, they switched it back to the farm.

Int: _____ when first plant _____

MC: Well the first planter, when my father first moved here and grew about two acres of potatoes and planted, we check-rowed the field with a horse, and by check rowing is you make a, you take a post and you drill holes in the post and you drill holes and you make two fills, goes along one on each side of the horse that would pull this post and you'd put about a three foot stake down every three feet on the post, and that would make a mark in the field and you would go both ways so you could check row your potatoes in. So at every check, that's where you planted a seed-piece by hand, have it, just by hand. You'd put it in a little cup with a handle on it and you'd pushed the planter down in the ground and push forward, that seed piece would go underground, and then you would step on it. And after you, the potatoes, when they're coming up you cultivated them. And after they were about six inches high you hilled them, and if there was any weeds left you had to pull them by hand. And then we powdered them with, for bugs and that. And if the regular potato, Colorado potato beetle was on you'd have to go along with a stick and a coffee can and knock the bugs in the coffee can and then put some kerosene in

the can and set a match, and that way you burned the bugs. And then after we had got an International Potato Planter, 2-row, we planted the potatoes with the planter, picked tight, and put fertilizer, 3-12-12 analysis, in the row. About 300 pounds to the acre, and at that time that was a lot of fertilizer. Plus the cow manure from our manure pile that was by the barn. And then we dug these potatoes, we had a one row digger and picked these by hand. We had this one row digger up to about ten acres of potatoes.

Int: _____

MC: No, by then we had got a tractor. The earlier potatoes were always, when we had horses, were always dug by hand. We didn't have no horse-drawn digger. Then when we had a tractor then we got a one row digger and were dug and put in picnic baskets and put in bags and brought to the warehouse. When my father, when we build our warehouse 36 by 60 we had went to a two row digger and tractor. And we had about ten acres then and we dug those and we had people come and help pick for ten cents a bushel. And they would pick, a real good person, some of them would pick up to a hundred and twenty five bushel a day. It was \$12.50 they made and that was big wages at that time. And then after 1965 we went to a two row, self-propelled harvester which eliminated the picking by hand. And in the warehouse we had a bin piler and trucks with boxes on that the potatoes went up the harvester in the box, were unloaded in the warehouse up an elevator and in the pile. Then we had people picking off the elevator grains, stones, or dirt and vines and things that were left on, that went up in the truck from the harvester.

SKIP IN TAPE

Int: How many families were homesteading in the area. What did they do? What kind of work did they do?

MC: Okay. In that last, when my father, Joe Cousineau came from Kingsford to our farm it's a mile north and mile east of the road. My father lived one mile north and about three-quarters of a mile east and a mile and the road went, this past one, one quarter of a mile. And then at this T in this mile north there's a road one and a half miles west. And then at the start of this when my father came and had to walk in, there was a road going straight east, that was a mile and a quarter. And on these, the four roads, the one going straight east, the one coming up north to a T, the one west, and the one going east, where my father left. At one time there was twenty-one families homesteaded on these forties. That homesteaded and got land from the state at that time. Some of these families moved back out, some went back to work at Ford. And at one time to pick up their kids, there was two school buses that used to come up these roads, and one at the T went our way and one went to the west to pick up the children who had had bigger families. They went to the school in Foster City, a Longfellow School that was built in Foster City. And then some of these, some of these families worked in the woods after Ford left, some of them just moved away, and at the present time...out of all these homesteads, I myself, Melvin Cousineau, the youngest son of Joe Cousineau, is the only one left in his family. We are farming about two hundred acres of potatoes, farming about two hundred acres of land which grows to about a hundred acres of potatoes each year. And out of the, out of the families homesteaded, some of this land I have boughten up and are now growing potatoes. I plan to clear more land to grow potatoes on.

Int: _____ or he's dead?

MC: And out of these people that homesteaded this land, there is Mrs. Strauss that is living in, at Cunard. Mr and Mrs. Bing Peterson are living in Iron Mountain, and Allen Carey, Mrs. Carey is living in Hardwood. There, this, out of all the homesteaders that are the only people that are living.

Int: _____

MC: Oh. I forgot Mrs. Tichlear. She is still living in a home in Iron Mountain.

Int: Uh, what about _____ what did they do, the WPA?

MC: Oh, the WPA? Well they helped, they made the roads when we came here, and then after the roads were built they helped the families build their homes until the WPA quit and everyone was on their own. As times got better, the families were on their own working the wood or selling. Some people moved away and went back to work in town. Some moved, Milwaukee. Some of the older people passed away.

Int: Did you ever have any problems with the DNR _____

MC: Well there was a...When we were first living up here, there was a Game Warden called One Armed Brown. And he used to come every once and a while and myself, Melvin Cousineau, and my older brother Jim, which is two years older than I am, he came one day and he asked, he asked us, "Where is your father?" And my older brother, Jim, told him, "He's down at the lick." And his response was, he said, "I'm staying for supper." So as a young fellow I went in and my mother was real afraid, Mabel Cousineau was my mother's name. And she said, "How come that Game Warden is still sticking around here?" She says, "You know, your dad is going to come home with some venison." And I told my mother that he said he was staying for his summer because my mother was a good cook, so that he would have a good supper. So he stayed with us and we had venison.

Int: He did?!

MC: And supper with us.

Int: He ate venison?

MC: Yeah.

Int: He didn't say nothing?

MC: No. The Game Warden was very happy, and said, when he left he said, "Thanks for the supper." At that time with a big family, and there's not much they could do unless they'd put everybody in jail and feed us. Which, at that time they didn't want to do, as long as we didn't waste the meat.

END OF TAPE SIDE A

START OF TAPE SIDE B

MC: When I was young, about eight years old this one homesteader...

Int: _____

MC: Ed Einerson a homesteader who had came with a Model T to the farm, he lived about a mile down the road west, west of the T. About a mile and a half down the road from our farm, west of the T. We

found him one morning out by the fence posts, he had put a shotgun in his mouth and blew his head off. Next, that was one homesteader, that's how he died. And later on there was a homesteader, his wife left by the name of Joe Thoune, the one that built our, was a mason around here, that built our barn out of stone. The barn walls out of stone. He was found in his house the same way as the fellow across the road Ed Einerson was found, that was dead, and he had used a twelve gauge shotgun and blew his head off. And this fellow homesteader, Art Thoune was coming, had lived at the end of the west end of the road, from the T, the last homesteader on that road. He was coming from town and every time you went to town you had to stop at the tavern before you got home and drink beer. And just a half a mile before with his Model A he ran off the road and hit a tree and rolled over and his wife was left, Anna Thoune, was left with the rest of the children, when he died in that car accident. And his son, Joe-Joe Thoune was, Art Thoune's son, Joe-Joe Thoune had been in the Second World War and he came home after the war, and saw a lot of action, and he came and at the T, right at the T, turn left to the west. And he come home from the sandwich bar in Hardwood and hit a maple tree and he burnt, his car started on fire and he burnt up. That was right next, right at the T, to the right by Verna Tichlear's house. And by the time, we heard the noise of the accident. We got, looked out the window and didn't see anything. Then after a while, in the window he saw a flash like a flame. So he got up and went out there and the car was on fire and Joe-Joe Thoune was pinned behind the steering wheel and couldn't get him out. So on that road, there was a father and son, Art Thoune and Joe-Joe Thoune that were killed on that road, and two homesteaders. Joe Thoune...

Int: _____

MC: Huh?

Int: Einer's?

MC: Ed Einerson shot himself. At this time, there is nobody living on that mile and a half of road, that land is either owned by relative or by people from Chicago or out-of-town people that own the land now.

SKIP IN TAPE

MC: At the present time, I, Melvin Cousineau, own the land of Joe Thoune, the one that shot himself, and farm, grow potatoes on the land that he cleared, and I rent the land that was cleared by Art Thoune and his dad, the ones that, father and son were killed in a car accident. I grow potatoes on that land also.

TEN SECOND SKIP IN TAPE

MC: Okay, turned'er on? Recreation and that in the summer time with all the families with kids would go down to the river, the Sturgeon River, which is located one forty from Art Thoune's farm. Used to go there when it was real hot days or generally on a Saturday, that's where we would take our Saturday bath. And then we would have, in the pastures, some cleared land by the houses, we would have baseball games, choose up sides and the parents would play with...with the, would choose sides, and we'd all play together, the parents and the kids. And then in the winter time we done a lot of skiing which was located, the ski hill was located two forties from the road from Joe Cousineau's farm. Straight south. And it joined another homesteader, Frank Strauss's Homestead, and it was a steep hill and we'd put a jump that we made out of snow and we'd come down the hill and we'd jump as high as

sixty-five feet on this hill. So we would, on Sundays we would make a fire and that's where we spent our day on Sunday afternoon, after church. So there was always something to do and then, early on, when we had horses, families would take, hitch up a horse and sleigh and we'd go for horse-sleigh rides. And when you'd come to the T at Bernard Tichlear's place going west there was a hill, the land goes west. And it's a big hill and back south there's a hill, so we had a lot of sleigh riding in the wintertime along with the skiing. We didn't have any electricity in the early days, we had no T.V. so I guess we went to bed early after our chores were done. We'd get up in the morning and we'd hurry up and go to the barn with our lantern, as the house was cold. There was no insulation in the homes, and the walls were mostly made out lumber and on the outside would be tar paper, and on the inside all there was was Celotex and most of the time the Celotex was wallpapered. And we, all the families burnt wood, and you would stand by the stove early in the morning and your front would burn, you would almost burn yourself, and your back was cool. So you'd have to keep turning around every once and a while to keep warm. So us on the farm, we would hurry up and you could see your breath, get out of bed, and run to the barn and start milking the cows by hand. We had about twelve cows at this time to milk. So before we went to school my dad and Jim, myself, Melvin milked each, four cows. Then my dad finished with the feeding as we'd come home from the barn. By that time the house was warmer and the girls and tat had our breakfast ready. And we went out to school. And when we came home from school at night we went and canned, homecooker canister, that my mother used for canning, where she kept her homemade bread. And when we got off the bus we would hurry up, get in the house, and make a peanut butter sandwich and then we'd have to do our chores. Our first chores were to cut and split wood for the house, and haul that to fill our wood boxes. And then we would eat our supper and after supper we liked to listen to Tom ___ - or the Lone Ranger once in a while on the radio. And then we went to the barn, my dad would always say,. "C'mon now, we gotta milk the cows and do our chores." Then we would go to the barn and do our milking. By the time we got done with chores and washed up a little bit, we were ready for bed. So we didn't have much time for recreation outside of the farm. Except, on Sundays in the winter or on, in the summertime when the days were longer, when we didn't have electricity. And my mother... with a big family, in the summertime we used to, had a drilled well with a pump, they'd pump the water for the cows, and plus we had a big platform bank with a wringer and tubs and a, my mother would wash the clothes right outside. And heat, heat the water for washing clothes on a little fireplace made of stone, and we would burn wood to warm the water on a boiler. Then in wintertime, the water was heating on the woodstove with a reservoir on it and pans that were on the stove for washing in the winter. And we had eaves in the summer on the house and the rain water would go down the eave-troughs and in the basement of the house we had a cistern. That was about a twelve by twelve cement that collect water in the basement. And we used to have a little cistern pump up on the cupboard that would collect the water when it rained, and we would have, that way we would have soft water. My mother liked the soft water much better than the hard water from the well for washing dishes and clothes. And especially washing our barn hands when we came in, that cistern water was much better. That rain water was much better to get the manure off our hands. And, I guess my mother used to iron with the old, the old hot ironers that were warmed up on the stove. And a lot more things were ironed in those days than there are today, and we have electric irons to do them with.

Int: _____

FIFTEEN SECOND SKIP IN TAPE

MC: Okay getting back to the Ford Motor Company in Kingsford, Michigan, where my father came from and worked. He worked on Model As, they were out about 1928. And then they came out with the Model Bs, and then after the Model B car, Ford in Iron Mountain made station wagon bodies, because Ford owned a lot of land, hardwoods, maple logs from in the sawmill up in Champion, Michigan in the U.P. that sawed the lumber and brought'em down to the Kingsford Ford Plant. The station wagon bodies were then made for station wagons, just the bodies. And they were delivered to the plants in Detroit area. Then in the start of 1940 the Ford Plant, Henry Ford and the Ford Plant in Kingsford made gliders. And that's where a lot of homesteaders that came in the early 30s went back to Ford to work as, during the war, as there was a shortage of men. And they worked on these station wagon bodies and then they worked real steady on these gliders that were for the government. They worked on these gliders till about, till the war ended in 1944. And then after the Ford Plant lasted till about 1947 and when the chemical plant took over in 1948. From the time of the gliders after the war, most of what the Ford, Henry Ford did in Iron Mountain was saw lumber and shipped out. And a lot of the lumber went for the station wagon bodies down in Detroit. So after, after the sawmills, some of these homesteaders that went back to the Ford Plant, that was the end of Ford. And they either, Ford will transfer'em down to Detroit area or most, I don't know of any homesteader that went down to Detroit. The rest all quit, and most of the men worked in the woods, sold kiln wood to the chemical plant and logs and pulpwood to the paper mills.

END OF INTERVIEW