

INTERVIEW WITH GRANDPA (NEIL) STORE  
GREEN, MICHIGAN  
AUGUST 23, 1998

NS: I am grandpa Neil Store age 82 and we are located at the very beginning of the "Old Cranberry Road" The reason it was called the cranberry road it's situated between two cranberry rivers. The big cranberry and the little cranberry and right at the mouth was a very big cranberry marsh years and years ago when everybody was allowed to pick cranberries by the bushels. Thank you.

KH: Yes my name is Kevin Hollands. I am interviewing grandpa Store. Neil Store on the making of this road. And how it got its name, how it got two names.

NS: How it got two names. A ?? named the cranberry road because it being situated between the two cranberry rivers but 1986 this was nothing but a brush very poor road. In 1986 a Mr. Lawrence Welch who was our prosecuting attorney got busy and he promoted and got the new road because the White Pine mine had a shaft up here about 14 miles up the road so now we have a nice blacktop road. Thank you

NS: And the very first house on the right hand side is occupied, was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kekke. They are both diseased now the house is owned by their son Robert who is a school teacher in Alaska. And now at the very left hand side of us there is a memorial plaques which was promoted by the county reading "At this cranberry marsh and this cranberry river this route was used by the first settlers in the area in 1900. It became know as the cranberry road and needed and useful to the community." And the first property on the right hand side was owned by grandma and grandma Isaac Fiscar years and years ago when I was a child. And the property on the left hand side is owned by the Fiscal family which consisted of 80 acres.

KH: Grandpa, that sign, did you have anything to do with that sign?

NS: I sure did.

KH: Tell me about that would you please/

NS: We got after the county to do something and the least we could do they made a plaque for us on both ends of the road stating what it is all about. Thank you

And this home on the right hand side which was owned by grandma and Fiscar years and years ago is now owned by Donna Majurn and it's a brand new home. Which consists of 20 acres only.

And this trail that is going to our right her now is supposed to be a county road which they don't maintain because there is nobody living there. Then the driveway on our left hand side is the driveway to our residence by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Ruttilla.



KH: And when did they stop maintaining that road?

NS: At least 40 years ago

KH: Now is it still a country road do they say

NS: It's a county road yea. Now the property to our left is owned the grandson Ted Ruttilla who is also diseased. They were the very first people to move on this road 1900 about. And Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Ruttilla moved here in 1903. And their farm consisted of 80 acres and they were very very nice neighbors. Years ago neighbors were neighbors but now days out here they are different.

Ted Ruttilla was your best friend right

NS: Yes that's right

Now the property on the right hand side is the place where I was born in 1916 and when my folks moved here the road was so bad that you had to bring all of you belongings in a horse and wagon you had to unload part of them at the road crossing which was really really rough and my dad and mother didn't even have a place to put their belongings when they moved in they just put it outside. And this was nothing but brush completely brush. No roads no nothing and that's where they started. And my dad cleared the land he raised 10 of us kids and did a wonderful job of doing that. Thank you And the next property is part of our old property which is our daughter now Vicki and Mike built their brand new beautiful log cabin. It's a beautiful sight.

KH: What were your parents names?

NS: Henry and Sofia Store

KH: Were they born here or did they come over

NS: They came from Finland.

KH: What about grandpa Stores leg

NS: Grandpa store lost his leg in a mining accident when he was a very young man. He was about 25 at the very least. Now the property on our left hand side. Property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kangas. They came her about 1925 probably. And the property on the right hand side owned by a family named Mr. and Mrs Robert Keviola. Which they raised 4 children. They were all so wonderful neighbors. Years ago everybody was neighbor.

The property on our left hand side is owned by a couple from Chicago area which I recently removed revealing the teh ? Teh property on our right hand side was owned by also by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heala and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas from the Chicago area. Teh whole area is changing completely there are no more people living except myself.

KH: You were born and raised in the house?



NS: I was born in a log cabin across the creek and the property we are crossing right now is Mr. and Mrs. Kekke they came here late 20s also and they raised a big family but there is nobody here by that name. And the property on the left now I bought for \$100 for 20 acres in 1930s.

KH: Do you still own this?

NS: No. The property on the right hand side is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold ? my niece and teh very next property on the right hand side was is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Maki way way back in the 1900s and maybe 8 or so. But none of these old buildings are existing anymore there all down.

KH: What's this here now do you know? a radio tower?

NS: that's a radio tower been there about two years, tv tower, the property on the left hand side now was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Field in the 1920s there all gone too there is only one child left.

KH: This a barn how old do you think that barn is?

NS: That's the ordinal barn which is still standing which is amazing that its still there but its getting kind of bent out of shape

KH: It was made out of virgin timber?

NS: No it was just made out of boards and two by fours. The next property on our left hand side was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Grammar they had a family of three and there all deceased also the property on the right hand side was owned by my sister, amber which they farmed it and started right from scratch also but now the family ? are the owners of it.

KH: You say your parents came over on a ship?

NS: Right, right. The property on the right hand side was there's a county road which goes a half a mile there's nobody living on the end so they don't maintain that either next property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Malent that was way way back in the early years their all gone too. The property on the left is part of the Grammar residence a completely new owner there and a beautiful log cabin. The next piece of property is going to be very interesting a piece of land this is where the old school was built we were all a mile and half two miles away from there we all had to walk to school and the old school building is still standing there which has pleasant memories. This Cranberry road consists of approximately three miles then joins a town line road which continues up to Tall Creek

KH: Now did you help build this road?

NS: Yes I did.



KH: Can you explain to me a little about that what you did.

NS: I helped build the roadway back in the Wta days when everything was done some wagon but when they built the black top road I also worked on it. The property on the left hand side now is owned by the Lindstrom family.

KH: now where you born in that house where you born on that land

NS: Oh yeah definitely now the property right hand side now was owned by Mr and Mrs Richard Drawbridge they were really friendly old people but now the property is owned by a family Lindstrom the property on the left hand side now was Mr and Mrs Donald Oclberry that's very very (now slow down) long time ago, and the property on the very right hand side was owned by Mr and Mrs Page we tried to we call them anymore. The property on the left hand side was owned by the Mr and Mrs Fred Fuller there old old people long gone the property on the right hand side was owned by Mr and Mrs Coltz which their very very long gone also everything has changed here completely now we are coming to the end of Cranberry road which turns to the right and will connect with Townline road and there on it will connect with the Tall tree road which goes all the way to 64 white pine

KH: Did you help build that too?

NS: Yes

KH: Do you remember which year?

NS: No I don't, just keep on going a little bit here, and the property on the very right hand corner was owned by Mr and Mrs Duras there long gone. now we are coming to the end of Cranberry road and heres are historical mark saying the historic Cranberry road ended here and from here on the road continues White Pine. Most of the people that came to this area in fact 85% were finnish people and my dad had no schooling yet he learned to read and write and he used to be acting as an interpreter at different occasions he was a very very out spoken man

KH: Do you remember what year he came over?

NS: I think about 1896 I would say. He lived in the ? city area for a few years and then they came to Green Bay

KH: What brought them to this area

NS: The land was cheap and plentiful of it that was about the only thing that brought them here and when they came they had absolutely nothing what so ever. The man that brought them here on a horse a wagon was from Mass city said Henry don't stay here all bring you back to Mass City for the same charge, There's absolute nothing here. And when he got here they unloaded there belongings at the end of the road some at the building site and the neighbors had



some kind of a cabin a short time to they got a shack built and that's where they started there life,

KH: What was the name of the ordinal Arootas name?

NS: Arootala yeah that was grandpa Ruttila and grandma grandpa Ruttila there first and their son and daughter wife came their I was the fourth generation to live on the farm now we are coming back to the old school house again we had a Cranberry school reunion about fourteen years ago which most of us put together beautiful beautiful memory we had our first picture there by the name of Mrs. Macandan and also I put on a party we had one remaining teacher that taught at the school her name was Mrs. Pelcher, who was a Mrs. Aluttly back at the time but she's the only living teacher left and she's in her late 80's already that's the place where they had the store and the kids middle cooked window froze. I forgot to mention when we were coming up on that place on the right owned by the Malits it developed into a chicken farm thousands and thousands of chickens, one day the electricity went off and thousand and thousand of chickens died

KH: Do you remember when they got electricity out here?

NS: 1938, I remember when I came home form a troop that was the first thing I done was put the switch on and off oh was that beautiful

KH: What else did you help do do you help that sign back there did you help with that sign?

NS: well i was one of the instigators of it yes, we put ? and the only reason we have cable tv on this road is they put cable station here and it goes right by our house so that's the only reason why we got tv or that's been here about now maybe three years

KH: So that;s how long you had cable tv?

NS: Yeah right, this is a very very bad area to get good water we have bad salt, when I was a little boy my folks had nothing to give me no spending money whatsoever so I used to take odd jobs one time I took a job I milked 13 cows twice a day separated the milk took care of everything and I got lots of money for it I got a dollar a day, that's how I made my spending money, I also used to pick up fishing after I used to go to old dance halls pick up old moonshine bottles and sold them to the bootleggers and so that's how I made my spending money when I was a little boy it was all honest.

KH: Anything else you want to look at?

NS: No you can drive down the end yet

Girl: What was your fathers mottos about being honest?

NS: My dad said lots of funny sayings I wouldn't say funny but their honest he said if you live honestly and somebody knocks on your door you say come right in you don't have to hide under the bed and another thing you said if you have a good neighbor and a good credit rating then your a rich man. Which is very true and I found that to. Now we are coming back to the end of the cranberry road again.

KH: so is there anything else you want to tell me about this road? That you can remember

NS: Well the only thing I want to remind you of about these roads is that first of all it was nothing but a trail and in fact when we went to school it was nothing but a trail and they only plowed it maybe with horse and maybe once or twice a year and that was it. So we just had to walk over the snow banks and that was pretty rough going I would say.

KH: What's the name of the road now did they change it?

NS: It's called the L.P. Walsh road now. They changed it in 1986. I made a mistake when I said the road was changed in 1986 it was 1916 instead but anyway I am the only original settler living on the homeplace in the green area and it was also the firesteel area and there might be one in the woodspur area that it still living on the origianl homeplace. Other than that they are all just new people living around here. Then when the wife and I got married. Oh my dad had the honor he had the only 40 acres of land in the area that didn't have a stump on it. Other than 14 apple trees it was all cleared. It had to be all cleared for haying because every inch had to be a hayfield in those days. Then when the wife and I got married in 1945 there was no trees there whatsoever. So in 1951 the wife and I started planting trees now were living in what I would say is a beautiful plantation. We got trees all around us all kinds of species of trees. And I would say that we have a pretty nice place here.