

Interview with Pauline S. Wolf and Anna Hayson

Powers, Michigan

June 8 1988

START OF INTERVIEW

Transcribers Note: The following interview had many unintelligible areas because of the subject's thick accent, the fact that all speakers talked over each other, as well as the poor audio quality. The unknown speaker appears to be a younger local woman that came as a sort of translator.

Interviewer (I): Interview with Pauline Stimac Wolf, and Anna Grasha (spelled phonetically) Hayson. Powers, Michigan. June eighth, 1988. Okay, I'll start with- I'll start with you Pauline. Could you tell me first, your birthdate? When were you born?

Pauline S. Wolf (PW): When I was born- 1901.

I: And-

PW: I am just one year behind...

I: When did you- When did you come to the United States?

PW: 1914 and...

Unknown Speaker (US): November

PW: November 27th.

I: I see. What town were you born in Yugoslavia?

US: Gorski, G-O-R-S-K-I, Gorski Kotar.

PW: Gorski Kotar.

US: Gorski, and then K-O-T-A-R.

PW: And there was a parish Garabo (Spelled Phonetically). Garabo that was our church.

US: Parish church.

PW: Yeah, and everybody moved there.

US: Garabo, yeah.

I: Oh, okay. Now that's on the coast? On the sea coast, isn't it?

PW: It's a couple hours from Rijeka. Yeah, you can go about an hour and a half, and you are in Rijeka.

I: Now why did your- Why did- Did you come over with your family?

PW: No, I come over with my father, and two sisters, and one brother, and my father was here before.

I: Okay, and what was his name?

PW: Bartol Stimac.

I: Barto?

US: Bartol.

I: And where did he settle, in-?

PW: He settled in Shingleton, that's [Unintelligible].

US: Shingleton.

I: Oh Shingleton.

PW: Yeah.

I: And what did he do there? [PW talks over most of the question]

PW: He was there for two years, then we moved to Ensign.

I: Oh. What did he do at Shingleton?

PW: They worked in the woods. My dad worked in the woods, you know, and my ma, she came here a few [Unintelligible], and then it was hard time, you know, 1915. The guy- The boss he says to my dad "Why don't you leave, and go far" because there was no work, no place, you know? It was a very hard time. So he go[Unintelligible] we won't be back, no house, and after that we make- build another one, and our people they come one after other, and my brother, and my brother-in-law, so hard, you know? They come and hope that things are [Unintelligible].

US: Liberation shifting.

I: Oh, so quite a few Croatians living-

PW: Yeah, oh yeah, the Mohars, the [Unintelligible], the Pineleebbs (spelled phonetically) the Stimac's. Oh yeah there were quite a few.

I: Oh. I didn't know that.

PW: Oh yeah, several.

I: So, how many people do you think are there now?

PW: Huh?

I: How many people are there now?

PW: How many people? Oh gracious [Unintelligible] two generations. Quite a few because- Maybe twenty?

I: Families?

PW: Yeah, there were- there was Mohars (SP), there was his brother Tomnimo (SP), there was his son, there was one other [Unintelligible]-

US: [Unintelligible]

PW: There was Frank [Unintelligible], and there was another Stimac that had nothing to us, there was [Unintelligible], there was quite a few.

I: How do you spell some of these names now, the people there?

US: Mohar is M-O-H-A-R, Majestic is like you would say majestic, and the Pajnich-

PW: Pajnich. P-A-J-N-I-C-H, Pajnich.

I: P-A-J?

US: N-I-C-H. Rushky? (SP)

PW: Let's see... They were from, but they are gone, you know? They died like Bukovac, young, and all the [Unintelligible], they all died, all young, it was horrible, now it's only young generation, you know?

US: [Talking over PW after Bukovac is mentioned] B-U-K-O-V-A-C.

I: What did they farm out there? What kind of farming did they do?

PW: It's five miles from [Unintelligible] east. Some of it is right on the home [Unintelligible]. We are about three quarters of a mile [Unintelligible] five [Unintelligible].

US: Dairy farming.

PW: Yeah [Unintelligible]

US: Dairy farming, and some crops.

PW: We had some years got about thirty cows. Selling milk.

I: Did the men work in the woods?

PW: Not after they come to the farms, a few years they went in the winter time, but after that, they just stayed home and [Unintelligible]. [Unintelligible] by then there was nothing but the brush.

US: [Unintelligible]

PW: I used to help pull out the stumps and everything.

US: You worked hard.

PW: But now we got [Unintelligible], and we got a home.

I: What was the- Were there Croatians working in Shingleton?

PW: Yeah there were from Croatia, they were all over. They worked in Shingleton. Shingleton was [Unintelligible] I says maybe there were ten houses. But they went into the woods, you know? Couple months. There was a camp, they stayed at the camp.

US: Logging camp.

PW: [Unintelligible]

US: Logging camp, yeah, uh-huh, yeah.

I: Did the- Did some of these people from Shingleton settle at Traunik?

PW: No, there was, there was farm there, but there was nobody settled there- they all go to the woods.

I: But there were Croatians at Traunik?

PW: Yeah.

US: They had the- Traunik, yeah. [Unintelligible] Trenary.

PW: Yeah, oh yeah, Trenary, there was Slovenians.

US: Slovenians.

I: Oh wonderful.

PW: There were lots of them.

I: Oh that's a Slovenian community.

PW: Yeah.

US: Slovenian community, yeah.

I: Not Croatian.

PW: No.

US: But, they did talk with each other didn't they? I think. Similar, similar, similar language.

I: Did those people work at Shingleton?

PW: Yeah. There was nothing but the woods. [Unintelligible]

US: Woods-workers.

PW: I would say about thirty years, there was nothing but the woods. They making posts, and ties, and oh...

I: So then, what year did you move to Ensign?

PW: 1915.

I: And that started the-

PW: May, 1915.

I: And that started the community there.

PW: That started our settlement, yeah. You know how it is, one founded, my brother-in-law here bought a piece of land next to. My sister, she wanted [Unintelligible], they wanted [Unintelligible], you know?

I: Now what has happened to the community? Did the young people leave then?

PW: Well, they stopped working in the mine, because our people die in there. My dad, my mother, people, they're all gone.

US: The younger generation has pretty much taken over, most of these farms.

I: So they haven't been abandoned?

US: They haven't left.

PW: No, no, they keep on.

I: Okay. Did you- Did the people at Ensign then, visit with other Croatians, like at Wells and Hermansville?

PW: Oh, oh yeah, we knew lots of them in Escanaba. Oh yeah, lots of friends. Yeah.

US: Very much- They stuck together very much.

I: So even though your distance from between the communities you would get together?

US: Still get together, and then-

PW: Oh yeah, Escanaba it's only twenty miles that shopping center for us. And Gladstone is...thirteen miles. There is my son, [Unintelligible] my other son. Oh yeah.

US: You had how many children?

PW: There was [Unintelligible], and then my daughter is here just [Unintelligible] fifty meters across the highway, she live here with [Unintelligible].

US: [Unintelligible], her husband lives [Unintelligible].

I: Oh that's right.

US: How many do you have together? Six?

PW: Eight. Six boys and two girls. Then one is in Russia [Unintelligible] for thirty- forty years, and now he was just [Unintelligible] because [Unintelligible]. And then my daughter is in Saginaw, Michigan. She's ready to [Unintelligible].

US: [Unintelligible]. You almost forgot.

PW: [Unintelligible] is at home always, and another one is just [Unintelligible].

I: Did the community of Ensign- Did you have special celebrations?

PW: Oh yeah, like [Unintelligible], or sometimes we had a house party, or something like that.

US: House gatherings.

PW: Where we would get together. Oh yeah.

US: And-

PW: And we visit each other, you know, same thing like back home.

US: And musicians, and lyric- and that group too.

PW: Oh yeah.

US: Accordion players-

PW: Oh yeah, there's Zar.

US: Zar's yeah.

PW: [Unintelligible] played.

US: Yes. So they had the [Unintelligible] own music.

I: What is this- The name of-

PW: Victor Zar.

US: Zar, yeah.

PW: Ah yeah, he was not really good, but he was, he made sound.

US: For parties.

I: How do you spell that Zar? Z-A-R?

US: I think it's Z-A-R, yeah.

PW: We used to celebrate fifty, anniversary, thirty, thirty five.

US: Anniversary parties.

I: Everybody would get together in celebration.

US: Yeah.

PW: Oh yeah.

I: Did the-

PW: And on Sunday we go to each other [Unintelligible] and all that, you know? We don't work on Sunday, we never worked on Sunday, and now...

US: Now it's different.

PW: Now its Sunday and Monday.

I: Was there- Did you- On Sunday did you go to church?

PW: Oh yeah, we got a five miles. So, I tell you the first year I had come we walked, but six miles round trip to church. There was four or five ladies of us, and we would Sunday go to church, but now they got a really nice new church, and we go every Sunday. My son he goes every Sunday.

I: That's still in Rapid River though?

PW: At Rapid River St. Charles Parish

I: Okay

PW: We got nice church I think-

US: Religion played a big part in all these people's lives.

I: Did you have- In the community there, did you cook the old Croatian foods?

PW: Yeah.

I: So did life change very much for you at- in your community there?

PW: Oh, I don't know. In our [Unintelligible] you know?

US: He wanted a real American, but you still kept your Euro-

PW: Back home because, you know, how to in those villages, but here there was more openly, you know, more the kids going to school, they go to high school, they go to other kind of activities, you know, and we go [Unintelligible], oh yeah.

US: So you learned a little bit from that?

PW: Oh yeah.

I: Even in- Being in the-

PW: We got no school, but four or five years old, just three miles from my place. Yeah. It's a big house of [Unintelligible] all the race they going to go together.

US: How much did you go to school?

PW: I went a month here when I come from our country. Month here, and I did know nothing. But I talked, we say by Croatian, I and my brother we talking. "Don't talk in Croatian, talk English"! How am I going to talk when I don't know- I don't know! That's all I says "I don't know". But, you know there was that girl I had, my friend, she was Croatian too. She wrote the teacher, then we wrote each other. That's how I learned. More read than write, because if I can write some words then I look for another, and I find that word then I write down like that, you know? Now I can read and write pretty good.

I: So you learned, just learned on your own?

US: By herself.

PW: Yeah, and then my kids. When my kids went to school they didn't know nothing... English.

US: See? They knew Croatian, but-

PW: Croatian but- The last one that was able- The last one that went to school, he didn't know [Unintelligible] Croatian, but the rest of them, they all know Croatian, but they don't know English.

US: That's what you talked at home. They use Croatian at home

PW: They all went to school, they all went to...college. They all got college, yeah. Some of it, you know, they got [Unintelligible] by army, and then was in army or navy. The other one [Unintelligible] we helped them a little bit. They didn't [Unintelligible] like now, they had [Unintelligible] money. If they had fifty cents to pay to go to dance, you know? At school.

US: That was good, yeah.

PW: It was- That was one thing you can get [Unintelligible] no place! It was hard to be a true- I guess true hard times, '18, and '14 and '15, yeah

US: Two depressions.

I: '18?

US: 1918

PW: I think 1918, that was a hard time.

US: That was the worst one.

PW: Yeah. You can't get no plate, no food.

I: Did you make- Did the people there at Ensign make wine?

PW: We make- I make it a couple of times, the dandelion wine. That's all.

I: But you didn't make-

PW: But we didn't make, like, some of it in Copper Country, they make, you know...

US: Barrels.

PW: Yeah.

US: Yeah, and us too.

PW: And there was a truck-load of grapes from a lot of Michigan, but we didn't do that.

US: We didn't do that. See they were a little bit different, we didn't have some of that.

PW: My dad was [Unintelligible] and he bought, you know, that little bottle of whiskey for me. That was lots. I had a bushel of- bushel of apples, so [Unintelligible] orange for Christmas for everyone that was great for us kids. But not now, today they have no [Unintelligible], none. My kids they have much today too, I have better than my ma. My ma had clementine, but I have better, and my kids too have better, and their kids...Don't talk about it. [I Laughs] They're spoiled.

US: Yeah.

I: Now I don't know if I asked you, what was your father's name?

PW: Bartol.

US: Bartol Stimac, you got it earlier.

I: Oh yeah, okay, yeah I got it, okay. And how did they get to- How did your father get to Shingleton?

PW: Well, back home they, they was half-fed too, they didn't have no one. They worked in the winter time they went to other states, and working in the wood, but then in the summertime there was no work there. There was a [Unintelligible] and [Unintelligible], some of the neighbors they went- they go to America. [Unintelligible] went too. He went twice to America. He went there, he was but a little seat on the back. Then he went again, come back, then the third time he says "I'm going, and I'm gonna come back" and he just skipped before the war. They talk- My brother-in-law, my brother, he says "I'm [Unintelligible] they gonna be wounded, and we never see him" so we come in November thirty-seven, and it all start in June '14, I guess. We just skipped the war.

I: You came in 1913?

PW: Yeah, 1913.

I: 1913.

PW: We come on a boat that held the titan. What's the...?

US: Like the Titanic?

I: Lusitania?

PW: No, not the Lusitania, the one- The first boat- They told us, when we were on the boat, that they was first ones to help, to [Unintelligible]

US: [Something about the Titanic, talked over by I]

I: Oh, oh, oh, Carpathia?

PW: I got picture of it, because I wanted a picture, I got it down-

I: Is it the Carpathia?

PW: Carpathia, Carpathia.

US: Carpathia? Yeah.

I: Okay, oh that's interesting.

US: Yeah.

PW: It was the first boat that found- That saved the Titanic.

I: Do you remember the trip?

PW: Trip? Oh yeah.

I: Could you tell us about it? What did you think? What was it like?

PW: We come here- We first come to Rijeka, you know, we come from home. On the first November I left, the guy he had coaches that- They took us for a ride, the horses. There was another two ladies, we had Bojan, [Unintelligible] they went to the [Unintelligible] too. So we was together. And there was all cooperation on that boat. So we go to Rijeka on [Unintelligible] November, 1913. Then Sunday morning we come back to the- We called it American House that was [Unintelligible], you know? It's like- Today I was there in 1968, it's seventy years old by now. Then we stayed there for two days, and on Tuesday evening we start to go to the [Unintelligible] you know.

I: Tremesky? (Spelled phonetically)

PW: [Unintelligible] and take us to [Mumbles]. And we missed a train in Montreal- We go through Canada.

I: Oh.

PW: And we missed the train, and then we come to Shingleton in 1920s.

US: 1915, but the 26th of [Unintelligible].

PW: Yeah, 19- Yeah.

US: All month. We were travelling all month.

PW: The 27th of November we came to Shingleton.

I: So you came via- You came to the United States, you entered the United States from Sault St. Marie?

PW: Yeah, yeah.

I: You didn't go through New York.

PW: No. Other than- It was different than now.

AH: You could leave and go.

PW: I remember when we went through Long Island, you know, but the Bay, that place is now no more. They don't go to Quebec no more. In that time, when we come on the boat, then we had to go because it was a [Unintelligible] then we had a place to anchor. So we had to stay outside in the weather, and they come in and [Unintelligible] Long Island, you know? Then on the boat, there was 250 on the boat. Yeah we had friend then they visit us, you know? [Unintelligible] and tickets, and everything. And from there we went on another boat. In the evening there was about 250 of us, and men went out, all of them were out. Women, [Unintelligible] child, she was mad. She had to wait. I says "Maybe she's going back". Then when we come, we went back. I said "Mom, maybe they're going to send us home" "Oh Mama don't be scared there's something [Unintelligible]." Then when everybody went out of the boat they go to transfer [Unintelligible] and we went to depot for track, and my ma says "I bet you people on the train [Unintelligible]" that's what happened. And then on the train [Unintelligible], but some people don't like them, they hate them.

US: For some reason.

I: This was in what city?

US: Huh?

I: What city?

PW: New York.

I: Oh, New York.

PW: Oh yeah, we come to New York.

I: Oh so you landed at New York?

PW: Yeah we landed at New York.

I: Okay. And then where did you go? To Canada?

PW: Then we went to Michigan- To Canada yeah, I don't know why. Then in Montreal, you know, [Disruption in background makes long segment unintelligible] supposed to go eight o'clock on a train. And we had to wait till eleven because the train was gone.

AH: And because...to go sleep, you know? And he's gonna come to wake us [Unintelligible] he would sleep for nothing. [Unintelligible] Bartol. Because he was tired, you know? He would go to sleep like that. Then [Unintelligible] in Montreal.

PW: Then when I start to walk down stairs all of them down there. Five steps, they was long ones. And he come down there, and he was a truck named Shingleton, and he says [PW feigns American accent] "Ma you want to be somebody today" because [Unintelligible] Shingleton on the truck. Then when the guys start to go off again and we were just like chickens [Unintelligible] you know? And we stayed out there, and he told us to stay there, and if we wanted he could- This week he was gonna come for us. He says- On the watch he says he's gonna come and get us, you know? That was [Unintelligible] But we didn't speak to no one. And then- I guess seven o'clock he comes to [Unintelligible] home, then he come to the Stimacs. You know that family across the freeway, the [Unintelligible]?

US: Yeah.

PW: Oh, he's in the nursing home.

US: Yeah.

[I, US, and PW all talk simultaneously]

PW: He doesn't [Unintelligible] great grandma. She gave us the coffee, you know, she had foreigners. We were not much to them. She did not [Unintelligible] eleven o'clock to start to walk to the camp at eleven o'clock at night. Ma- Ma and- Ma, and two sisters, and my brother. And you were off to the camp. And we stayed there [Unintelligible] We have to come [Unintelligible] cabin on the ones nearest to [Unintelligible]. But then in '15 we went to the farm, and then we stayed there.

I: What did you- What did your mother do in the logging camp?

PW: Huh?

I: What did your mother do in the logging camp?

PW: She- She had the boarders. The [Unintelligible] of them worked in the woods, and she boarded them. Then they paid her by the month. It was 17, 18 dollars a month for the boarding.

US: Not bad, and John Adams said he'd pay [Unintelligible] dollars.

PW: And now you pay hundred dollars! [I laughs] And there was a dollar for washing clothes for them. Nothing!

US: You've got to repeat again.

PW: They made 2 and-a-half dollars a day [Unintelligible] and it was lots. It was lots.

I: Now was everybody in the lumber camp Croatian?

PW: Yeah, they was mostly Croatian. You know how people of [Unintelligible] together. [Unintelligible] they were there. There was other people.

US: Yeah I think that some of us were a little bit, you know, like cousins, and yeah. They was all Croatian.

I: Now did- Your father had- He knew about the job before he left Croatia?

PW: He worked there.

I: He had worked there?

PW: He worked there five years.

I: Oh, okay. So he was just going back to the job.

PW: Yeah

I: I see it was [Unintelligible]. Did he work anyplace else?

PW: Oh yeah, he worked in Doska (spelled phonetically) years before he went back home, and back again, then he was down in the South in Louisiana, and [Unintelligible]. That's where he worked. You know the staples for the barrels?

I: Yeah.

PW: That's what they were [Unintelligible] seven people, you know?

US: Some of them were skilled in this barrel making. They learned that trade in Europe. [I and US talk over each other] they worked on them, they made the barrels, [US and PW talk over each other]

PW: -he did the work down South, you know? Those years there was lots of sickness, so he moved to Shingleton. And Shingleton was just right here, you know, a little healthy place.

I: Where did he live down South, do you remember?

PW: I don't remember, I [Unintelligible] because he went twice, you know?

I: Oh, that's interesting. Hmm okay. Now let's stop with you and let's hear what Anna has to say.

US: Yeah [Speaks Croatian]

AH: We'll have to start when Mama [Unintelligible].

US: When she was three years old her parents- Her mother took her to Europe. Born in the United States, she took her-

AH: No father, no mother, teaching me, strangers taught me.

US: She was around strangers then. That- to care for her. Because her father stayed in this country.

AH: No school, no go school, no school.

US: [Unintelligible]

AH: [Speaking Croatian]

US: When she came back I was a baby.

AH: [Speaks Croatian]

US: She remembers her mother carrying her as a baby. She came back, you were 21 years old when-

AH: Huh?

PW: That's what she says.

US: 21 years old she came back to this country.

I: Oh back here.

US: Yes. Came back.

AH: And I have a father, a father...

US: In Hermansville. In Hermansville.

AH: [Unintelligible] donkey- donkey man.

US: He was a man who drank a lot- [AH interrupts in Croatian] so she had a brother living in rural Mississippi. And she went to live down there.

AH: He paid my ticket.

US: Paid her ticket, to come here

AH: Brother paid my ticket come, on a boat. On a boat- On a boat [Unintelligible] you know? [Unintelligible] and we come sleep in the flotilla lost at my-

I: Oh really? Oh, I see.

AH: Yeah, yeah, a big three years old.

I: This is went they went back, first went back?

US: Yeah.

AH: [Unintelligible] three years old, my [Unintelligible] my old country. Twenty years old I coming back, brother paid my ticket.

US: And her brother had a cotton plantation in Mississippi.

I: Oh!

US: And he had workers, so she worked there, and his wife was Swedish. Married a Swedish woman, and when her brother was younger my folks had to raise him.

AH: My brother never go to old country, none of that.

US: No, no, never.

I: Oh, he stayed.

AH: Born over here and later he died over here.

I: Now old are you?

US: [Asks question in Croatian]

AH: 88.

US: 88.

I: Where were you born?

US: In Hermansville.

I: Oh, oh here, that's right. Okay.

US: And then when she got married- [AH interrupts in Croatian] –she got married and lived in [Unintelligible] all her married life.

AH: And...I got three daughters, and my sons two, and my husband died of a heart attack so...

US: Her husband died, and her two sons- and she has three daughters one lives-

AH: [Unintelligible] youngest one [Unintelligible]

US: -lives at Lake Black (SP), one lives in California. Yeah.

AH: Two daughters in California.

US: Two daughters in California.

AH: Now and then they...They call me lots of times, in Sunday morning. They love me.

US: Yes they do, yes, yeah. But-

AH: [On the verge of tears] And- And- [Unintelligible] by myself on the house. No used to go stay in house. Like a big family. By myself.

US: That's why she had to come here, even though she could get around, she had no one at home still. That's why she's a patient here. So she feels like she's had a very rough life.

AH: So sorry...My family...

US: And in Europe she went out and worked on the vineyards, you know, the harvest-

AH: I have [Unintelligible] nobody there.

US: Yeah.

AH: [Unintelligible]

US: [Asks question in Croatian to AH]

AH: [Answers in Croatian]

US: [Unintelligible] and what else?

AH: [Speaks in Croatian]

US: Yeah, [Asks same question again in Croatian] I asked her if any year she lived in Wells, see, she doesn't know her dates that well.

I: Did she live with Croatians down there?

US: There was a Croatian settlement, and they all worked at the I. Stephenson's Company-

AH: [Unintelligible] that was all Croatian!

US: And that was Escanaba, yeah, and they worked at the lumber company there, the I. Stephenson's Company.

AH: Lumber yard, became lumber yard there, and there was-

US: All Croatians. That was a big- big settlement in Wells, and North Escanaba.

PW: My husband, he worked on the [Unintelligible] boat, you know. They- They [Unintelligible] docks.

US: Docks. He worked there then?

PW: He worked there.

US: Yeah, that was our, kind of a, boom project. And he- He came all the way from Ensign to work there, eh?

PW: Yeah, yeah, every day.

US: Every day.

I: Now was your husband Croatian?

PW: Yeah, he was Croatian.

I: And his name was Wolf?

PW: He was, but my [Unintelligible]

I: From the old country.

PW: Yeah

I: Oh, okay.

PW: And here, you know, they come to the camp, and he had the- my- [Unintelligible] there, and that's how-

US: How you got to meet him.

I: At the- In- In the lumber camp?

US: At the lumber camp, yeah.

I: I see, I see. How many- [PW starts to talk] Go on, go on.

PW: He was in a mine in Copper Country for nine years, too. When he [Unintelligible] country, he was about fourteen years old.

US: He stayed up in the Copper Country.

PW: Yeah, he was in the Copper Country with his brother, and his brother's [Unintelligible], and when he come here [Unintelligible] he says "I'm gonna send you back, because- to school, - because you can't get job." He says "I'm going to school [Unintelligible] not school" because back home there was a place for teacher and he was-

US: [Unintelligible] yeah, yeah.

PW: He says "I got enough school I want-"

US: Go back.

PW: He says "Am I gonna send you home?" He says "Don't send me home!", because there was nothing left for him. He wanted- [US talks over her]

US: [Unintelligible] wanted to go back too.

PW: -brothers [Unintelligible] he didn't get no opportunity to- for the mine. So [Unintelligible] told him, he says "Joe you better go to America" [Loud crashing (train going by?) makes segment unintelligible]

I: Oh, now were there-

PW: Nineteen-nine.

I: He came in 1919?

US: Nineteen-nine?

PW: Nine.

US: 1909.

I: Oh, 1909?

US: He pulled her out, he was before her.

I: Oh, and his name was Josef?

PW: Josef, yeah.

I: Now were there-

PW: And, you know, our name was- our name was V-O-L-F, but when he took his citizen paper, then the guy [Unintelligible]. He come to Escanaba and he says "Why don't you put just little mark, to make it W, so it will be easier for the kids to pronounce?" I am sorry today. Too bad, too bad.

US: You did your change name-

PW: V-O-L-F yeah. So now the [Unintelligible] an E on our last- I don't like it.

US: And added an E see? They changed the V to a W and added an E.

I: And added an E huh?

US: So the name has changed a lot.

I: Yeah, yeah. Now were there quite a few people from... from your husband's village that settled up in Calumet?

PW: In Copper Country or what?

US: Yeah.

PW: Oh yeah, there was- In the Copper Country there was Croatian, Italian, that's all. Lots of Croatian up there, in the mine, oh yes.

I: But were-

PW: And he went to work in the mine, and he didn't know how to work...so he says "How am he's gonna work, when he don't understand nothing" and there was a, an old guy, I guess [Unintelligible] and

he says "Give that boy to me, and he's gonna work with me here". They built the [Unintelligible] for the mine. He says "Let me have him, and we're gonna work good together" he says "I want to learn", that's how he got job, that old man and-

US: He taught him.

PW: Yeah, and he [Unintelligible] to talk, and...yeah.

US: That helped him.

PW: Yeah. Hard time.

US: Very hard.

I: Now why did he- Why did he leave the mines?

PW: Huh?

I: Why did he leave the mines? Why did your husband leave the mines?

PW: The mine?

I: Yeah.

PW: Because, it was strike, and everything was come out.

I: Oh, he left during the strike.

PW: It was the year-

I: 1913, '13

PW: Yeah. It was strike, and everything was shut down. No work. So they went to Northern Michigan, with their cousins. And the cousins they worked [Unintelligible] down in Muskegon.

I: What town?

US: Muskegon.

PW: And he went back to Copper Country, and from Copper Country he had somebody in the woods. They say they work in the woods, that they make better than- He went to Shingleton in the woods, and that's...still in Shingleton to Ensign.

I: Now when did you meet your husband? And what- when did you meet him and get married?

PW: Oh that was-

US: What year you got married?

PW: The year... '18 or '20. He was working in woods, you know?

US: Yeah. [Unintelligible]

PW: Yeah, then he come in the spring when it was warmer in the woods.

US: Yeah.

PW: Then he come to the town, and stayed for a month with us.

I: Oh.

PW: Then he went back, when the [Unintelligible] was dry, then he went back in the woods and worked again and that's how we meet

I: Oh, I see.

PW: But my father, and his father, they was really good friends back home. But we don't know each other [Unintelligible] too. But I remember it, with him before-

US: They had something special.

PW: We got married in '22.

US: 1922?

PW: Yeah. 1922 [The train seems to be going by again, making another section unintelligible]

US: See, a lot of those marriages were arranged too. By the parents. That was the case in my folks. My mother came over here, and her dad says "I got a man for you".

PW: If you write everything different, you're gonna be [Unintelligible]. [I and US laugh]

US: But not you, eh?

PW: But, [Unintelligible] I says to my kids, I says "I don't [Unintelligible]". You know how they are, they got their own work. So one time, he goes "I am the [Unintelligible]", he goes "Lini, today you are gonna wash no clothes, or nothing. Today I gonna talk to you and you're [Unintelligible]" how I come, so you want to know how I come here, and how we live, and everything. Here comes my daughter, Alejandra, that was-

US: But in the [Unintelligible].

I: Oh.

US: You know, so many kids are sorry today, that they didn't ask more when they had the chance.

PW: I said, I said-

US: Because after you lose all that, you can't find out...

PW: I says, my grandchildren, they should know, maybe 20 years from now they can read in the library. I says, just like- I like to find out about something.

US: Yeah, yeah. That's why- That's why he's doing this.

I: Yes. So this would be a year ago for-

[US and PW speak over him]

US: You're glad, so- That he's doing this.

PW: I went down to...where my Daughter is in...

US: Saginaw.

PW: Saginaw. That's a [Unintelligible] that's when I found out that- What they know. She give us the picture that we got here. It was couple weeks of [Unintelligible] and I like to know how they was, you know? They are big stories too.

[US and PW talk over each other]

PW: [Unintelligible] -we find it

US: [Unintelligible] -the government, yeah.

PW: We find it then.

I: Because you remember hearing about them, when you were growing up?

PW: Huh?

US: Yeah.

I: You remember hearing about them?

PW: Oh yeah, I remember!

US: Now you like to see, and read on that.

PW: Yeah.

US: She's interested in it.

PW: I wish I could still talk to my kids, and they could write down, you know? So...[Unintelligible] find out how we was. Because it's a big family of ours.

I: Okay. So is there anything I forgot here, or something that you think I should ask?

US: [Speaks Croatian]

PW: Yeah, yeah.

US: Yeah, [More Croatian]

PW: Yeah, oh yeah. I make lots of bobakitsa (spelled phonetically), and doughnuts, and pies. Oh yeah.

US: Cooking is similar, yeah.

PW: Cookies, and...now they go to store. [I and US laugh] When my [Unintelligible] was low, I bake bread about 150 pounds of flour.

US: Flour. Bought in 100 pound bags

PW: I didn't like that. I never liked-

US: They didn't know that bread was available in the stores. They baked it at home. They didn't know-

PW: I bake bread, and povochichza (spelled phonetically)-

US: The ladies never-

PW: [Unintelligible]

I: [Speaking to someone who has just come into the room] We're just doing interviews.

US: Interviews, yeah.

Nurse: Is it okay if I sit in here if I'm very quiet?

I: Oh, for sure!

US: They- The men went to the store and did the grocery shopping. The ladies couldn't speak enough. The men learned at the mills, you were able to speak, so they did the shopping, and the ladies didn't even know it was available at the store, yeah. They did get all the grocery shopping.

I: Now, at Ensign, was there a- Did any of the Croatians have a- have a store?

PW: No, no, no, there was already one eh...more like a...there was...How I should say? They had everything in the store. There was only one. One store and one post office

I: And was that owned by a Croatian?

PW: Yeah- No, no, no, that was a Swede, people worked there.

I: Were there Swedish people living in-

PW: Yeah, they [Unintelligible]. Yeah, but they was good people. They was good people [Unintelligible]. We never had nothing wrong with that- with our bread. [Unintelligible]. We had old lady next us, she come, when my kids were small, she always bring something in a bag. Apples, or candy, or she baked cookies, and she bring all those, she was really good. And there family just [Unintelligible] wiped out now, and there is only one son there left.

US: See?

I: Oh...

PW: They had nice house...Oh well.

I: Okay, well that's pretty much it.

US: Pretty much, pretty much I guess.

I: Okay, well thank you.

PW: If you- If you ever go to Ensign, you know, from Rapid River. Then you come [Unintelligible] Scott cabins, and that is a whole [Unintelligible] buildings they [Unintelligible]. They got so many, you know? But, two miles in, they're building their big house for office. Yeah, [Unintelligible] we are about a half a mile.

I: Oh, I see, okay.

PW: From the U.S. 2.

I: They didn't have a Tamboura band at Ensign?

US: There's was accordions-

I: Just accordions.

US: -as different instruments.

[PW and US talk over each other]

PW: -the train- train went across the [Unintelligible] in the morning and in the afternoon, and there was a guy who figured out that he carried around a thermos. [Unintelligible] because, the snow was so deep, and now they got car.

US: Oh yeah, Cars move in.

PW: And we have mail right by our house.

US: Mailbox right there, the convenience, yeah. [Asks AH a question in Croatian]

AH: Huh?

US: [Repeats question]

AH: Oh yeah.

US: I said did she correspond, quite a bit, to Europe, and she said yes, she did. They used to in the beginning, but then, I don't know what happened, and then they kind of just dwindled right off.

PW: I even got letters now, but I can't really see.

US: She [Unintelligible] a visit to her, and she had a big three-page letter from Europe.

I: Oh.

US: Alberta brought it to her, and she was reading it over.

PW: I just wanted to, once more, you know, to see my birthplace, I don't know...

US: Again? Yeah, she's been there two times now, not in [Unintelligible] but she still wanted to go a third time.

PW: I says I wanted to, and my husband, last time he's seen his parents when he was 14 years old, when he came to this country.

US: He never went back.

PW: No, he went in '68.

US: Oh, he went in '68?

PW: Yeah.

US: Oh, he did. Oh, oh. I thought he never-

PW: And my youngest son [Unintelligible], and he stayed three months over there.

US: Oh boy!

[PW and US talk over each other]

PW: -but I tell you, I like my birthplace. I went all over when I went, but I was [Unintelligible]. I walk all over, but to stay there...no. [I laughs] Because I got everything here.

I and US: Yeah, yeah.

PW: But, that was my wish, to see it.

US: To see the birthplace.

PW: Yeah.

US: Yeah, just like when I went. I went to see my mother's and father's birthplace, because I heard them talk about it. They were dead then, so I couldn't tell them that I saw it. That's the only bad part.

PW: In '73 then [Unintelligible]

US: Same year as-

PW: -my husband was dead already, he died '72, and then in '73 I went back again, and I stayed three months again.

US: Again?

PW: Oh, I really enjoyed it.

US: One month was enough for me. [I and US laugh]

PW: To stay there- I stayed in the summer, but not in the winter. Oh, in the winter they have to [Unintelligible], they have to shovel that snow, of course now they got, [Unintelligible] they got snow plows, yeah, and maybe better roads.

US: Maybe when you were there, I was- it still was- to go with a car and stuff like that, still couldn't-

PW: Now, that you [Unintelligible] mine, through the highway-

US: Going for your lunch break? [Addressing the Nurse]

N: No, we're taking a couple patients [Unintelligible].

US: Oh are you? Oh...

PW: Oh, I enjoy every minute, and I-

US: You liked the visit, eh? See, she enjoyed herself.

PW: -I will [Unintelligible]

US: Just the visit, eh?

I: Okay well good. Alrighty, well, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW