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"The Charlie" - Early L.S.& I. Locomotive. - Cover photo courtesy of Bleau Family Collection.

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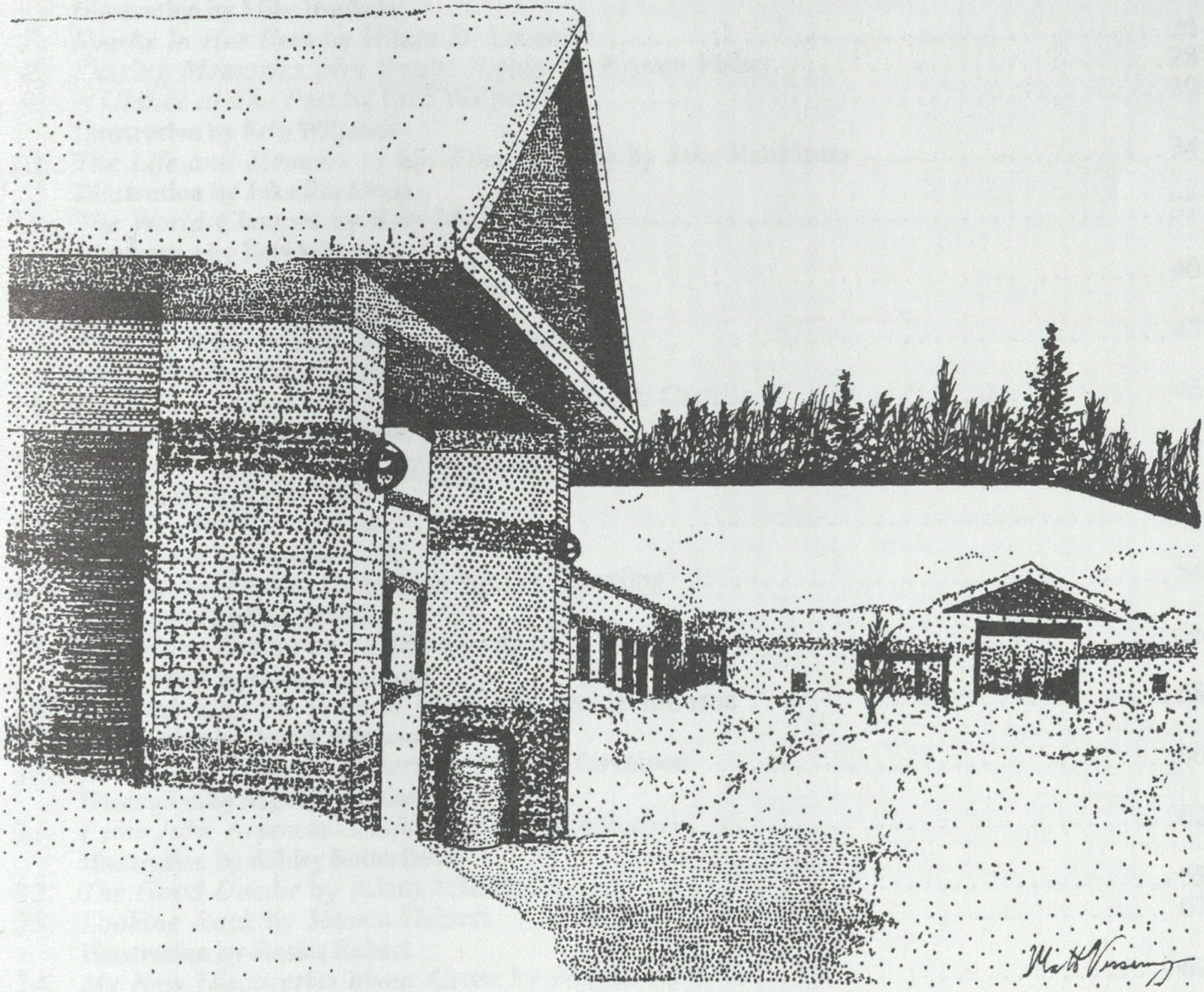

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Jill (Morcotte) Lucarilli 1963, feeding "Lisa," Ishpeming, Michigan

PREFACE

"What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

- Plato

Dr. June Schaefer

This quote from Plato represents what the Red Dust Project has developed as a mission through the years as oral history has become a vehicle for highlighting the historical perspectives of the local people in this region of the Upper Peninsula. These stories gathered by the students at the Aspen Ridge Middle School each year revive so many memories regarding changes which have occurred in the lives of the persons interviewed–and provide a wealth of learning for all who read the Red Dust publications. This annual publication becomes a "living history" for all who are fortunate enough to get a copy. (Personally I love to buy copies and give as gifts because they represent such valuable insights into the lives of so many local people.)

Cultivating what is being honored through Red Dust has also become a major learning initiative for the students at Aspen Ridge. This initiative which demonstrates integrating learning through their language arts, social studies, the arts and technology classes has launched a major threshold of attention throughout the state of Michigan and will impact learners in many other states as well. The process which the teachers are implementing, commonly known as "teaming," has become a significant area of study in Michigan through a research project focused on "Collaborative Sites of Practice and Inquiry." Through the leadership of Maxine Honkala, Aspen Ridge Middle School Principal, the best practices of integrating curriculum and teaming of teachers exemplified through Red Dust is resulting in high levels of student achievement and providing state models for performance-based learning outcomes. This thematic learning project cultivates not only the values which are honored in the local communities, but lifelong learning attributes exemplified in Aristotle's premise, "Excellence is not an act but a habit."

It has been an honor for me to serve as a "critical friend" in this collaborative site of practice and inquiry at Aspen Ridge where creativity abounds in every classroom and within each child. As the noted educator Marva Collins asserts, "Creativity is leaping ahead with a vision and then looking back later to uncover why it happened and what steps were taken to get there. The more a child learns to create, the greater his/her confidence becomes." Aspen Ridge Middle School is a hotbed of creativity, nurturing every student to mature to a level of excellence with habits that will grow for a lifetime–with Red Dust as a legacy of what can be cultivated when educators and community members combine their talents.

June M. Schaefer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Marquette Alger Intermediate School District

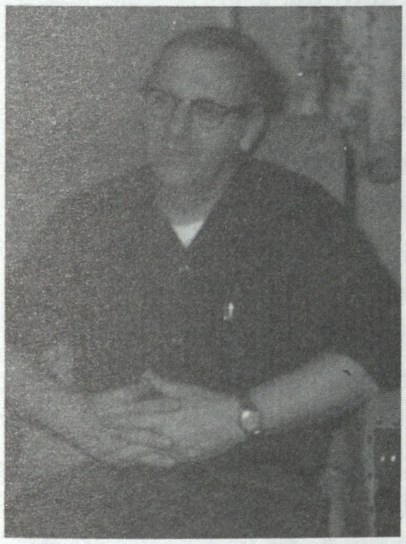
LIFETIME CHANGES

As I entered the beautiful house of Bernie Johnson, I knew this would be a great interview and memory for me. Getting ready to start talking, I felt very welcome and at home. As Bernie answered my first question, I could not wait to hear his entire story.

"I was born May 4, 1923, in Negaunee, Michigan," said Bernie. Bernie's full name is Bernard Fred Johnson. While he grew up, he had many nicknames. The one he recalled most vividly is Brogie. Bernie figures they took it from a boy whom they also called Brogie. Bernie's baptized name, Fredrick Bernart, somehow got changed around and Bernard became his first name. He explained to me how his teacher called the name Fredrick and no one answered. The teacher complained to Bernie's mother about this. "Well that's the reason, because we call him by his second name and you call him by his first name," Bernie laughed as he recalled his mother's explanation to the teacher.

Bernie's boyhood days were spent in Negaunee and he reminisced about those years. Bernie recalled that his family had cows and were like many other farmers who were immigrants from Finland or Sweden. As a young boy, it was his job to retrieve the family's cows from the pasture and bring them home. "Sometimes it was quite a job, when the cow was kind of stubborn and they wouldn't come home," Bernie said laughing. Bernie recalled cows wandering all over town. The city had a cow pound, or that is what the townspeople called it, and if a cow was caught wandering, the police took it to the pound. The people had to pay a dollar if they wanted their cow back. Bernie chuckled as he told me about the cow pound. Bernie also recalled that in the early days before public health laws, everybody threw their garbage right out into the alley. By the end of the winter, people could barely walk through the alleys because it was so full of garbage. "It was awful," stated Bernie.

Bernie shared with me a very humorous story about Negaunee's unusual entertainer called "Jimmy the Crow." Jimmy was a real, live crow that actually could talk and hung around the town and followed kids around the neighborhoods. Sometimes Jimmy teased by calling out, "Don't fall", and it was humorous to watch the person look around and see no one in sight and then wonder who was talking. In a tree sat Jimmy the Crow! Jimmy the Crow was also a pest. During those years, people got milk from a milkman. The milkman placed the bottles on the porch of a house and Jimmy the Crow was often there pecking off the cap helping himself to the milk!



Bernie Johnson as a young man.

Recalling the days of his childhood, Bernie explained that children did not have toys and bicycles like today's children. With few toys, Bernie recalled having to make do with what he had. " We would make our own, we would find an old bike frame someplace and old wheels. You couldn't pedal the thing, the only way you could ride it was ride it down hill and push it back up," Bernie explained. For other amusement, Bernie and his friends made their own entertainment. In the winter they built ski hills and jumps and spent the days skiing or skating. The city flooded a field every winter to make a skating rink.

One of the schools that Bernie attended was the Case Street School. It was a two-story building with creaking stairs and a rat-infested

Bernie and Esther on their wedding day, October 20, 1956

basement. He remembered the principal of the school was a very strict old maid. If a student got into trouble and was sent to her, she got a tight hold of them and handled them very roughly. "Which now-a-days if you did that to a child you would get arrested," Bernie commented. Bernie walked about five blocks to get to school and the school district bused kids from outlying areas and from Palmer, Michigan. Palmer had an elementary and high school, but the high school eventually closed and students attended Negaunee High School.

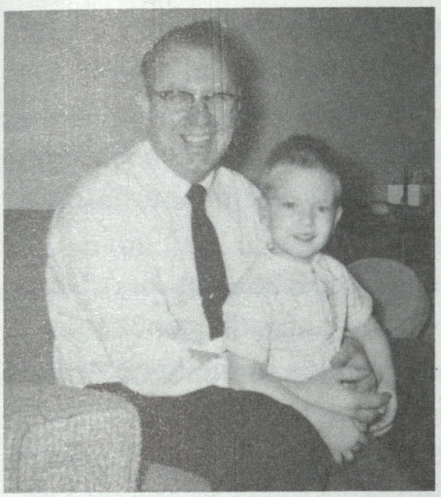
Bernie did not recall having a favorite teacher. He remembered his kindergarten teacher who was kind and pleasant to all the children. Thinking back to his first days of school, Bernie explained, "My mother didn't bring me there. I know the first day I went to school, my oldest brother took me by the hand and took me to the kindergarten teacher and that was my introduction to school." During Bernie's elementary years, he attended two different schools. When the class enrollments got too large, school officials sent children to the other school. "I remember one time I had to be moved from one school to another, so they gave me a wagon to put my supplies and books in and I pulled the wagon to the other school," smiled Bernie. In his school days, Bernie looked the same as other kids because money was scarce and most children wore clothing provided by the government.

The Stock Market crashed in 1929 and the years of the Great Depression followed. Bernie recalled the hard times that people experienced. His father had a job but only worked two days a week in the mine. Bernie mentioned that his family did not have a car until the Depression years ended. "It was neat to have our own automobile and travel to neighboring towns," recalled Bernie.

There have been many inventions during Bernie's lifetime. He remembers that people had iceboxes. In the winter, people harvested blocks of ice from lakes and put them in a large barn to store them until they were needed in the iceboxes. In the summer, the iceman delivered chunks of ice to families. These ice chunks were packed with layers of sawdust between each block of ice. He recalled his family getting their first new electric refrigerator from the Montgomery Ward Store in Marquette. Food and storage was easier with the refrigerator except that the early models had no freezer.

In his teenage years, Bernie read some, but he mostly loved to listen to the radio. Bernie's wife, Esther, teases him that they have a radio in every room, because he listens to the radio a lot and has learned a lot from it.

In his high school days, Bernie was interested in the industrial arts program offered at Negaunee High School. Bernie especially remembers being influenced by his industrial arts teacher, Mr. John Wilson. He explained that Mr. Wilson was a real craftsman and an expert blacksmith, coppersmith, and tinsmith. He was hired because of his abilities in these areas, not because of his schooling,



Bernie laughs while holding one of his four sons.

because he did not even have a high school diploma. Although he was not an exceptional student, Bernie followed a vocational program and graduated in the upper third of his graduating class in 1941.

As a student, Bernie never thought about a future career. When he finished high school, he got a job working at a gasoline station where he pumped gas and washed cars. He earned forty cents an hour, and a whole day's pay totaled three dollars and twenty cents. Following that job, he joined the service and got a job from "Uncle Sam." During Bernie's lifetime, World War Two, Korean, Vietnam and the Gulf war were all fought. He felt that WWII had to be fought because the Germans had taken over most of Europe and enslaved those people. "England would have been overtaken if the United States hadn't gotten into it," he exclaimed. Bernie was in the Army Air Corp. That was a branch of the United States Army for volunteers. He believes they should not have accepted him into the service because of a heart condition. Bernie took a very rigorous physical exam for flight training and the Army doctors wondered how he even passed the physical to get into the army. They decided to discharge him to serve his country in the defense industry. Bernie worked in the defense industry where he built B-24 bombers and worked in different plants building parts for different war machines. Many of his friends joined the war and many died. At times he still meets the few that are left and they go out and do things. He has fun visiting. "So then we have a fun time visiting and remembering the old days," he said thoughtfully.

Later, Bernie worked in the orthopedic field and received training for this by using the GI Bill. In the orthopedic field, Bernie made braces for victims of the polio epidemic that occurred in the forties. Polio crippled the children he made the braces for; they could not walk because their limbs were atrophied and their muscles wasted away by the disease. The braces he made helped the crippled children to walk.

In Bernie's work life, one big change he made was leaving the orthopedic field after twelve years of employment. He spent the remainder of his career working in the post office. Bernie and his wife are now retired and have good retirement benefits. Remembering about the hard choices he made in his lifetime he wondered if the choices were the right things to do. He felt that perhaps he should have stayed in the area of orthopedics. "Well, what I suppose I should have done was gone to a different area and continued with that field. But I guess it was meant to be that I stay here in Marquette," he stated.

Bernie met his future wife, Esther, when a friend called and asked him to give Esther a ride to church. Esther was a young woman attending Northern Michigan University and Bernie agreed to provide the ride. He went to the dorm where she was staying and asked the housemother for Miss Anttila. "So that's the first time I met her. She came bouncing up the steps with her blond hair flying," chuckled Bernie.

Bernie and his wife knew each other for five years before they married. One day, he just popped the question and she answered yes. They were married on October 20, 1956, in Ishpeming. Their wedding was a simple one. "She had her beautiful wedding gown, and I had just a navy suit and we

walked up the aisle hand in hand," Bernie described. Bernie and his wife have been married for forty-two years. She has taken care of him and he has taken care of her. Still today, they are taking care of each other, and Bernie feels very fortunate to have her. "She's still the one and only as far as that goes," he proclaimed. Bernie's advice to those who get married is advice from Ecclesiastics. "You welcome the most difficult days and it comes to days that the only thing left is your mutual faith," he acknowledged.

Bernie and Esther have five children. Their names are Walter, Ken, Ron, Kathleen, and Dan. While their children were still young, they did many interesting things. For instance, they once found a seat that had been ejected from an Air Force plane. It was found in the woods in the back of the family home. The seat was still attached with explosives and the Air Force was trying to locate it. A special tour of the KI Sawyer Air Force Base was their reward for finding the seat. Bernie's youngest son, Dan, once found the body of an escaped prisoner. Recalling some funny things said by their children, Bernie related a comment made by his son Ron. The family was in church and the organ was playing. Bernie said his children always listened to records and listened to them repeatedly. Therefore, after the organ was done playing, Ron yelled aloud, "Put another record on!"

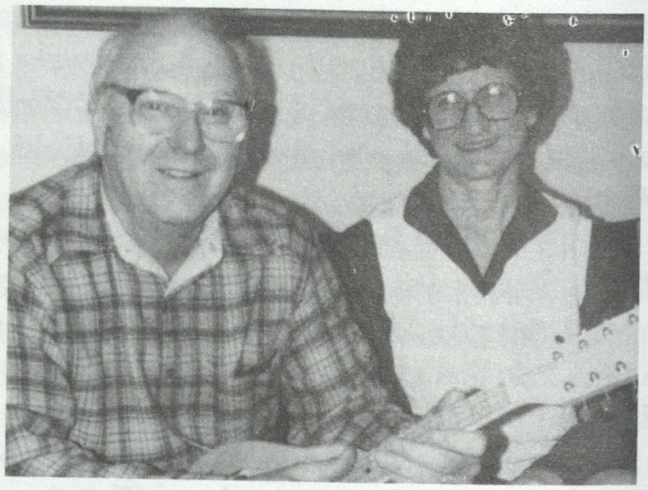
Bernie's advice to people raising families is that teaching begins at home and that is the teaching of right from wrong. The most important thing for children to learn is the fear and love of God. Reading, talking and learning to communicate is important, too. The most rewarding thing is just having kids around. Also, having their love and a parent's opportunity to love them is a great reward.

Bernie is grateful that he was raised in a Christian home and his faith is very important to him. He remembers many visitors coming to his family home and he always enjoyed the older people. As a young adult, he was able to bring them to church and services since they did not have automobiles. This part of his life is very dear to him.

In his retirement years, Bernie has several hobbies. He likes to work with wood and has a woodshop of his own where he makes furniture. His most recent creation was a special table for his wife's sewing machine. Bernie has also made a really attractive cabinet for one of his sons. His other hobbies are reading Christian literature and listening to music.

Bernie finds that music is relaxing and satisfies him. He believes that playing hymns soothes the spirit, and he also plays folk songs, patriotic songs, and classical music.

Bernie plays several different instruments, the autoharp, piano, mandolin, and the keyboard. The autoharp is a stringed instrument. Bernie got his auto harp about fifty years ago. He became quite accomplished at it, and he also play the mandolin quite well. The keyboard is another instrument Bernie likes. It is a pastime of his and he plays it a lot when there is no one around. "I really don't like to play with an audience or people around," he laughed.



Bernie with his wife Esther, with his mandolin.

Bernie also loves to listen to music, especially with his large collection of CD's and his high quality system. He feels that when people are feeling down and they listen to songs and hymns, it soothes them and eases their spirit. Bernie regrets that he did not have a chance to study music in greater depth, but says he learned some of what he knows in school but he mostly learned on his own.

Bernie worked for forty-seven years in his various occupations, and his wife worked for thirty years in the field of education. His wife, Esther, was an elementary teacher and principal as well as assistant superintendent for the Marquette Public Schools until she retired two years ago. She took off a few years to care for their children. Bernie retired at the age of sixty. Today, they both enjoy living in their home in Marquette.

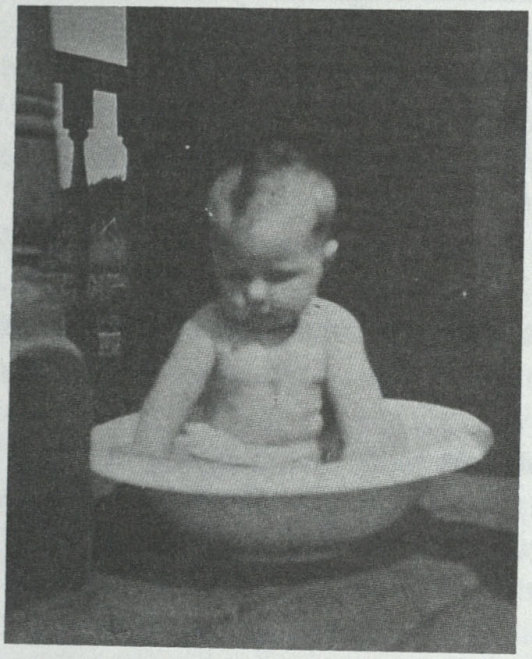
Bernie's advice to kids today is to do their best in school and to realize that their whole life is going to depend on those school days. Also, he says to love God completely and to learn to serve Him when he calls on us to serve Him.

I would like to thank Bernie for his advice, and I will try to take it to heart. I learned many new and interesting things from him and his life experiences. Bernie gave me a new way to approach and go through life, for which I am very grateful.

Jodi Lampi

Bernie Johnson relaxing outdoors, c. 1987

GROWING UP ON THE DECAIRE FARM



Rose enjoying a bath c. 1917

On November 19, 1998, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to interview my great-aunt Rose Rosa. When I arrived there, I was surprised at how great her memory was. Although she is now eighty-two, she has a clear memory of her childhood and life.

The DeCaire children were born and raised on the DeCaire farm, in the small town of Clarksburg, Michigan. " The farm was remembered by the sheep roaming the hills back of the farm," explained Rose. They built in 1867 and occupied the farm until 1985.

In March 1916, John and Jesse DeCaire gave birth to Rose. Her father helped deliver her into this world. She was one of eight children. Margaret, Leo, Pauline, Mark, Jean, Clifford, and Marcella were all her brothers and sisters. Her parents named her to honor a Clarksburg school teacher who rented a room at her home. " I was named after Rose LaForge," explained Rose. In later years Rose LaForge moved to Marquette.

Rose LaForge was not the only special person in Rose's life as she was growing up. She had many others but one was Katherine Herbert. After Rose was born, her father was in the hospital and her mother had to run the farm. So Katherine babysat for Rose while selling tickets at the train station. She also took her to her home and stayed with her. Katherine and her husband never had any children, and they wanted to adopt Rose. Nevertheless, Rose's mother refused. When Rose turned twenty-one, Katherine wanted Rose to change her last name to Herbert. Though Rose refused, Katherine was always a friend to Rose.

Rose's parents were both very hard workers. They worked all day on the farm. A typical day for her father was a little different then her mother's day. Sometimes her dad's day on the farm was a little longer than he expected. After a long day of doing all the farm work, he sometimes had to bring in loads of hay and he did not usually finish until the moon was shining. When he was not on the farm working, he worked at the mine driving a team of horses. Rose's mother was also a very busy person. She did all her farm work, sat playing a game of cards and still had enough energy to get up and continue working some more.

Every Sunday Rose and her family went on picnics with relatives. She shared a story with me about her uncle who was a blacksmith. He had bought a new Chevrolet car and his son had taken it out one evening and did not get back until four or five o'clock in the morning. Her uncle let her dad know that he could not go to the picnic the next day because the car had to have a rest!

As she was growing up, Rose found many ways to entertain herself. "When I was younger, we used to have a bonfire up on the hill and we would roast potatoes," added Rose. Even during the Depression Rose and her siblings found something to do "We would slide down the hill in Champion.

We all had a good time doing it, and it did not cost any money. It was during the Depression and we did not feel deprived because we were all in the same situation," laughed Rose.

Though she did have her share of fun, life was not always fun and games. Of course, she had her daily chores, but once they were done there were always more chores to do. Piling wood was a chore done daily. Someone always had to turn the separator once a day after they milked the cows. When that was finally done, they had to wash out all the equipment every time they used it. Every Saturday they had to clean all the kerosene lights and the glass chimneys on them. When they were finished cleaning, they filled the lamps with kerosene.

Rose considered her home very special because of the wonderful parents she had while growing up. "I thank God every day for my mother and dad. They really taught us a lot of patience and right from wrong" explained Rose. During the summer her house was always full of family members from out of town. "We'd sleep across the living room floor, and the over flow would sleep up in the hay barn" stated Rose. Rose characterized her house as Grand Central Station because there was a cot in the kitchen, and in the morning they never knew who might be sleeping there.

For a holiday meal the specialties included a milk pig. They fed the pig with milk, because the milk was supposed to make the meat more tender. When her mother cooked the pig, she put it on a platter with an apple in its mouth.

The best gift Rose ever received was flowers. "Wild flowers and roses were my favorite" added Rose. It's hard to believe that flowers were once considered such a great gift.

When Rose was a child she and her siblings were on her way home from the field and decided to stop at their neighbor's house for some buckwheat pancakes. When they were finished eating pancakes, they were late getting home. Their mother did not like that they had stopped at the neighbors for pancakes; she tied a string to all of them and to the leg of the table, "We did not dare break that string," continued Rose. From that day on they were never late again.

One pleasure of Rose's childhood was the train rides she took between Marquette and Champion and sometimes Baraga. Nevertheless, that was not all she enjoyed, "I loved to dance and square dance" added Rose. She also enjoyed Saturday nights when her mother and father chaperoned parties for them. She also recalled the enjoyment she experienced when her cousins took her to the World's Fair in Chicago.

When Rose was younger, a visit to the doctors was completely different from a doctor's visit today. Though they did not go to the doctor much, when a person needed surgery done the doctor did not charge a fee. Instead when he was on his way out to camp he stopped and got a couple of chickens for his pay.

Rose went to school in Clarksburg until eighth grade, and continued her education at Champion High School where she graduated.

Decaire Farm, Clarksburg, Michigan

Rose's father bought a Chevrolet car the year before she started high school and they drove themselves to school. " When I graduated, they gave me a little tiny car. They said that was because my car always started and I was always helping other ones to get their car started," laughed Rose. Nevertheless, that was not all about school that was different, the equipment was different too. The desk tops were on hinges and the students could raise them to put their books and papers inside the desk. The top right corner of the desk had an ink well. The teacher Rose thought she owed a lot to was her sister, Margaret DeCaire, "She was my sister and she was the nicest person I ever met. She had taught us so much and she had so many new ideas" replied Rose. Not only was Margaret her sister she was also her Godmother. " She was a good example to everything in my life" added Rose.

Rose's first job was the summer when she was sixteen years old. Her acquaintance asked her to go to Chicago to be a companion to three little girls. After she accepted, Rose ended up doing all of the house work besides babysitting. She did the washing, ironing and house keeping. For all this work she earned a salary of only four dollars a week.

When Rose was sixteen, she decided to make a quilt. She washed the wool from the sheep, carted it with carters by pulling the wool back and forth getting rid of all the dirt and making it nice and fluffy. Next she piled it about a foot high until it was the size of a comforter and laid it out on the living room floor. After she got it the height of 12 inches, she covered it with cheese cloth to bring the depths down to about six inches. Next a material called sateen, which was a very colorful and strong, was used to cover the quilt. After she assembled the quilt, she tied it about six inches apart with colored yarn that kept the wool in place. "That was my favorite project at the time" added Rose. Today people can find that quilt at the Paulson House Museum at Autrain Lake and the history of the quilt connected to it.

When Rose grew up, she was a caregiver. Once she was taking care of her cousin's husband, who was dying of cancer. He had asked her to make him a cap. He already had many beautiful, expensive hats. However, she looked in the linen closet any ways and made him a beanie with some material she found. He took it off his head and said "I don't want that." She went back to the linen closet again and found a Turkish towel that was bright pink which she used to make the cap for him. It had a round circle about an inch and a half rim. She took it back to him and he told her to put three holes in it. So she put three holes in it and when anyone came to visit they looked at him and said, "Pope John doesn't have anything over on you." He wore that cap until he had passed away.

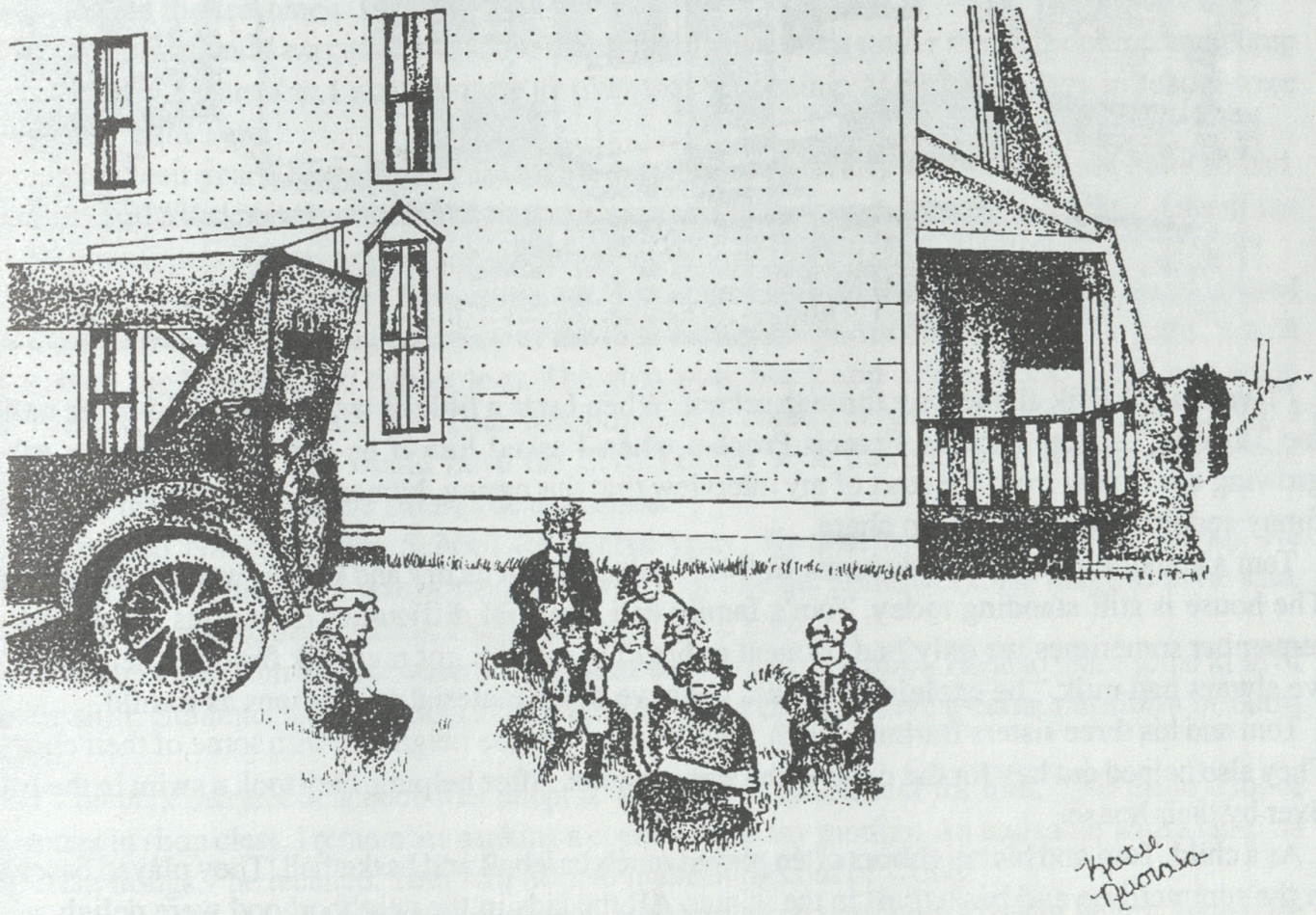
Rose claimed that her most valuable possession was the talent that she had. She had deep feelings for those who took care of her when she was a baby. "I often said that I would like to give them back the love that they gave to me; I was able to do that at the ends of their lives," replied Rose.

The sewing machine was the invention that she considered changed her life the most. The reason for that was that she did a lot of sewing while belonging to the 4H club. At one point in life she made all of her own clothing. When the telephone became available, Rose thought that it was a good thing. The communication with people was much easier, and it saved time. Years ago they did not have communication capabilities to get answers right away. Rose was excited about the radio when it had first come out. She thought it had expanded the knowledge of the world and that was a good thing for all of us. Her reaction to the television was that it was going to be a baby sitter for the children, which

she did not like. She believed that with television children would think that everything was so easy, but real life is so much harder.

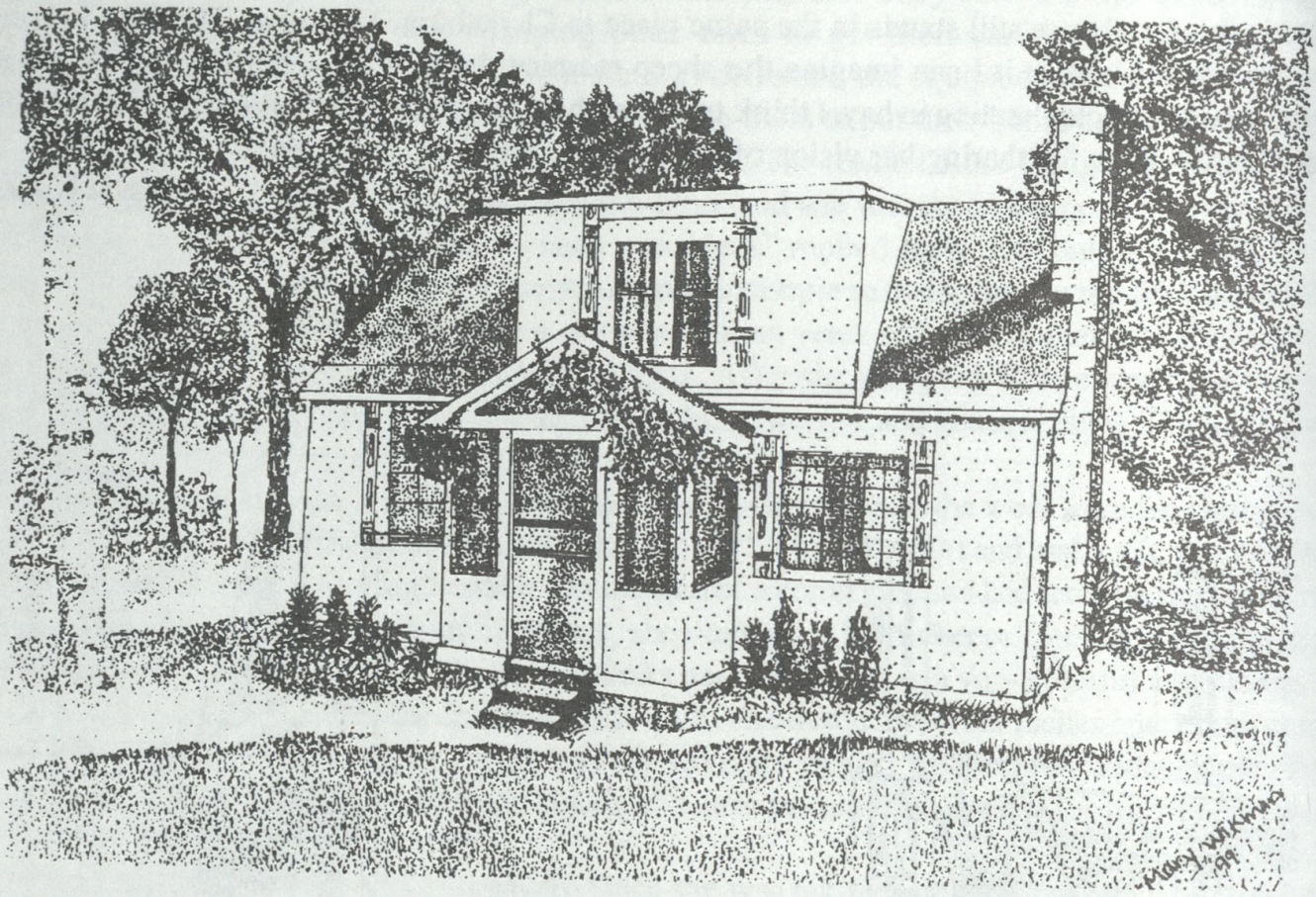
Today the farmhouse still stands in the same place in Clarksburg, Michigan. The farm is vacant now but when I look at it I can imagine the sheep roaming the hills, the children running around playing and the tractor hauling in hay. I think to myself how much she must have loved that beautiful place. I thank Rose for sharing her vision of the past and her wonderful memories with me.

Katie Nuorala



The DeCaire children clockwise: girl in front, Margaret, Clifford, Leo' Pauline, Marcella Center: Rose

TREASURED MEMORIES



"I was called Tuik all the way through school. When I was a little older, an old neighbor, he called me Tupalup," stated Thomas Francis Prophet when I asked him if he had any nicknames while growing up. I knew from the start of my interview that this caring, humorous man would have many funny and interesting stories to share.

Tom's grandfather built a little house for his family. "It kept us dry and kept us warm," stated Tom. The house is still standing today. Tom's family had financial difficulties during his childhood. "I remember sometimes we only had oatmeal or bread to eat. We got raw milk from the neighbors so we always had milk," he explained. He did not have many material possessions as a child.

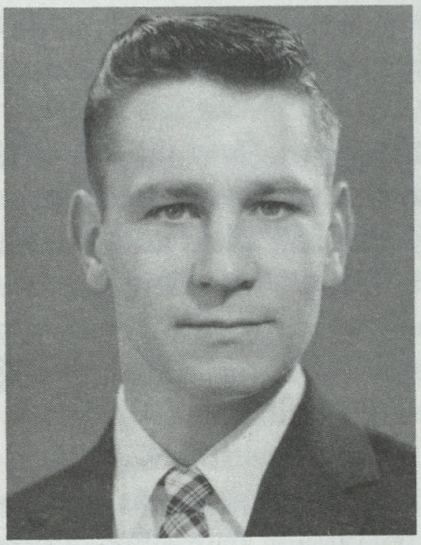
Tom and his three sisters Barbara, Faith, and Phea, helped the neighbors with some of their chores. They also helped cut hay for the cows in the summertime. After helping, they took a swim in the little river by their house.

As a child, Tom and his neighbors often played much baseball and basketball. They played baseball in the summertime and basketball in the winter. All the kids in the neighborhood were delighted to play with each other.

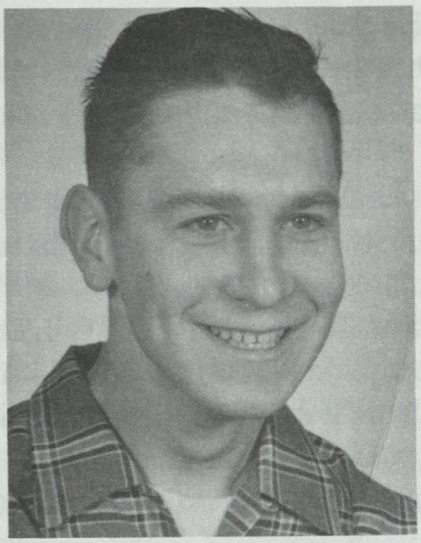
Luckily for Tom, he did not have any major illness or health problems as a child. He had the chicken pox "those aren't major though. I did have my tonsils out in second grade. I was in the hospital. I remember them putting something over my face. I was fighting to get if off and the next

day I was really sick," he stated. When Tom was a senior in high school, he had his appendix out.

Otto Anderson drove a bus and picked up Tom and the neighbor kids. Otto brought them to the National Mine School and took them home. Usually, the ride was about six miles, but it all depended on the route that they took. Sometimes Tom was on the bus for almost an hour.



Graduation picture from National Mine High School



Freshman year at National Mine High School

"I remember when I first started school I was in first grade. I was scared to go because the seniors used to initiate the freshmen. I was only in first grade, and I was afraid because they would drive them under the water pump and pump water on them. I remember I was scared silly over that happening. Most of the days in school were pretty good," said Tom.

During his teen years, life was very much the same, but financially things were not quite so bad. The family had a little bit more because he and his sisters got their own jobs to help a little. One of the items he could spend his money on was clothing.

"Oh! I remember when jeans first came out. I was probably fourteen years old," he answered when I asked him if he remembered any of the fads during his youth. The guys wore jeans, which were low on the hips and had tighter legs. The girls wore black and white shoes. "That was when Elvis Presley hairstyles came out. That was popular. It came out when I was in high school. I remember some of the kids would have the Elvis Presley style haircuts with the zip on the top. Crooked on the tops and on the sides," he explained.

Tom attended National Mine School for twelve years. He was not one that liked school. He chuckled as he told me that it was boring and he did not like the homework. He laughed as he said, "Now that I'm looking back, I think I should have studied hard."

In the wintertime, Tom always wore his galoshes and his cap to school. He also wore some kind of pullover shirt. Students wore whatever they wanted. They did not have a certain uniform or outfit required.

Tom's favorite subject in school was shop; it was always the easiest for him. "We made a lot of little things in shop class. I remember making a cupboard for my mother. An end table with a lamp on it, different things," he recalled. Tom still likes to make things out of wood.

For his first job, he worked at a body shop. In fact, he started two weeks before he graduated. He recalled, "I was looking for a job and I stopped at my cousin's OK Auto Parts and he told me to go to Bartanen's to see if he needed help. I went there and he told me I could start that evening. To this day, I'm still doing bodywork. That was in 1957. I find it kind of exciting to do body work."

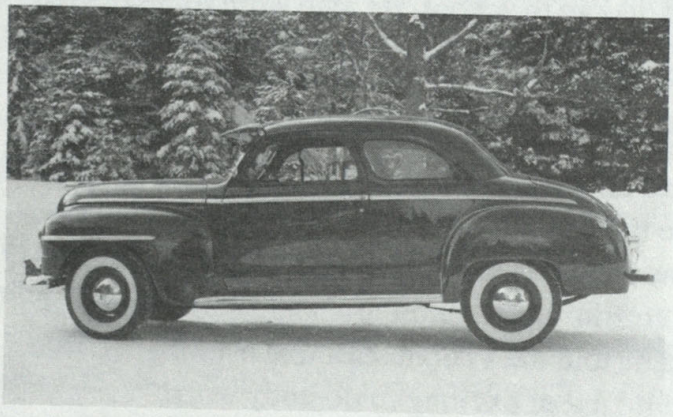
Tom has done mostly bodywork for many years. However, in 1978, he was having back troubles.

He thought he should find something easier on his back, so he bought an insurance agency. He still has the agency, but he works at both the body shop and the insurance agency. Tom is also a caretaker at his church camp each summer.

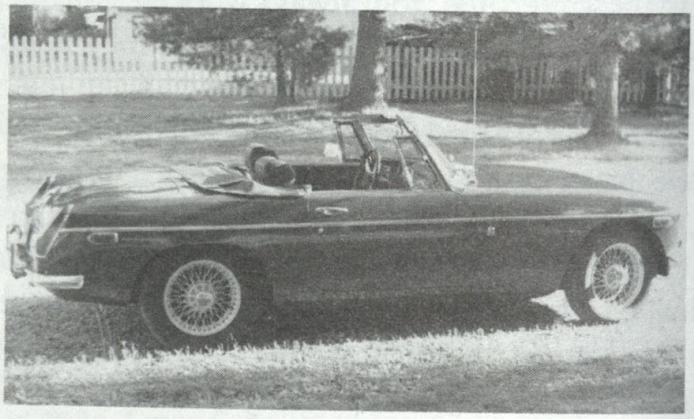
When I asked him how the world is now technologically different, he said, "When I was a child it was a pretty slow pace, the transportation was very poor. Not everybody had automobiles that were trustworthy. The roads were really poor and it was a slow pace. Life was slower and now it's much more hectic and you can do more things." The telephones were much different from our phones now. Tom explained, "Well, I remember when we got our first telephone, there would be about four people on the same line. Four rings is your ring and three rings is the neighbor's ring and if you thought it was four rings and it was three rings and you pick it up the neighbors already talking to someone. So, it was always a four party line. It wasn't always easy to get because someone was always talking on the telephone. You pick it up and they're already talking so you hang up. So, telephones have greatly improved. We've got answering machines and fax machines and ID callers, so they've really changed." I was amazed when Tom told me about the telephones of the past.

Tom never served in the military, but he felt, "whatever the government thought had to be done had to be done. I figure whatever you have to do to protect our freedom, that's what you have to do." Tom told me a very interesting story about his Uncle Roy. He relaxed, "I remember when World War II was going on. I remember my uncle was in the Army. Roy and Ted were in the Army, and I remember when Roy came home." "I used to write letters to the soldiers. I'd hand them to the mailman. I'd be excited because I was sending letters to soldiers. He probably just threw them away." The night Tom's Uncle Roy came home from the army, Tom was sleeping. When he woke up in the night, he was getting out of bed, Roy reached out and grabbed his arm. Roy came home because he had been wounded in the service. Tom recalled the end of World War II, saying, "I remember when the war ended everyone was banging on pots and pans with spoons and everything." Tom also remembers the Korean War of the 1950's as well as the Vietnam War. He vividly remembers the Persian Gulf War.

Tom had so many stories to tell me including funny, scary, and serious ones. Tom said that one of the funniest practical jokes he has played on someone, was his cousin. His cousin was sitting underneath a tree and Tom snuck up on him. He swung a big stick about three or four feet away from him. "He almost jumped out of his skin! He got so mad. He said if I ever do that again I'd shoot you!" Tom



One of the cars that Tom restorea



Another car restored by Tom

exclaimed.

In August of 1953, Tom had a very frightening thing happen to him and his friends. "I was at our hunting camp and an escaped convict was asleep in the camp when we got there. He held us up, and he was using me as a hostage. He took me outside and he made the other guys lay on the floor. He shot two times in the camp then he took me outside and he said he would not do anything to me if I listen to him. He made me stand up against a tree, and he shined a flashlight at me and he pointed a pistol at me. He shot two tires on one car and he stole the other car. So that's the scariest thing that's ever happened," he related

Tom is an avid hunter and fisher. He has so many interesting stories to tell including one about a big buck he had seen during hunting season. "Well, it was the second day of hunting season and there was this big buck in this one area; it was a really cold morning. The snow was crusty so I waited for it to warm up so it would get soft. I started sneaking after him. About three o'clock in the afternoon, I saw another deer. I shot at it and knocked the horn off and fifteen minutes later; I shot the biggest buck I ever did see. I crawled under trees and everything and I finally got him. Not only was it exciting that I got him, but it was that it took me four years to get him. I crawled on my hands and knees, walked in swamps, and I tried to sneak up on him. He was always smarter than I was. So that's the biggest buck I've ever shot. You really have to work on them." Tom advised.

Cars have changed a great deal. Tom's first car was a 1936 Ford. "The brakes on it had a cable running through it and a rod going to the brakes. It's a little newer than having cables running to your brakes," he said. Car makers came out with hydraulic brakes followed by disk brakes. Today, cars stop better with anti lock brakes.

Tom's opinion is that today's cars are much safer. They have padded sun visors, and safer door handles; they have air bags in the front seats, the driver's bag is in the steering wheel and passenger is in the dashboard. Additional safety features include energy-absorbing front bumpers, and manufactures make the frames so they fold. Cars do not explode in accidents and the tires are better. When Tom was younger, he often experienced at least one flat tire a week.

I asked Tom how technology has changed in the car body repair field. When Tom first started fixing cars, it was just metals that he had to fix. Now, if the metal gets wrecked, he has to replace it. Things have really changed throughout the years. Materials are two times better than they were. Even the office has changed, with the computer. Before, he had to look up everything in books. Now he just has to find the part in the computer database. Tom uses pretty much the same tools as when he first started. He still has his first hammer and first metal dolly block. He has replaced all the other things, including new wrenches. Now he has power sanders and heat lamps.

Another car that Tom refurbished

In the past, the typical problem with a car was probably the tires. "A car years ago had 30,000 miles on it and it was a lot. Now you have 100,000

miles and it's not that much." Tom said. They have made the engines, tires, and everything else better on cars. It takes him about eighty hours to do a major job. A major job was something like a front-end collision caused by hitting a tree or another car. Tom calculated out that of the forty-one years he has done bodywork; he has fixed approximately 4,000 cars. Tom laughingly told me, "I always say I'm never going to retire until they throw the dirt on my casket. We'll see as time goes."

Tom lived on County Road 581 from his youth until October 15, 1962, when he married his wife Margie. He moved to Humboldt, and he lived there ever since. Tom has been married for thirty-six years and, they have three boys. The oldest is James, followed by John, and the last son is Jeffery. James and Jeffery live in Ishpeming, and John lives in Appleton, Wisconsin.

In his spare time, Tom likes to make little things out of wood. He uses bird's eye maple and he makes necklaces, little birds, and knives, butter knives, some bigger knives just for cutting things. He keeps them or he gives them as gifts. "I liked to make them and I still am making them," he explained.

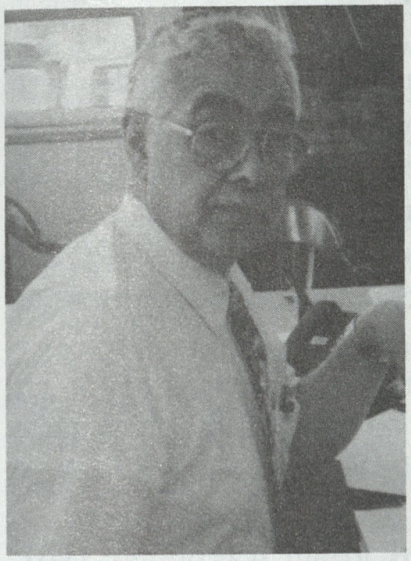
Tom is currently a grandpa. "My youngest boy got married, and he had a first child. I could hardly believe it. I have a grandson. It's kind of exciting."

When Tom reflects back on his past, he states, "I wish I was young enough to be back in school. Start over again. Time flies so we just have to accept it that we're getting older. All in all, life has been pretty good."

It was apparent to me that Tom has enjoyed his full and, active life. I thank him very much for sharing these memories with me. Thank you, Tom!

Mary Wikman

A VERY INTERESTING MAN



Robert Menard at his desk at the Marquette County Road Commision

Robert Menard has contributed much of his time and expertise to Marquette County. He was a member of the NICE Community School Board for twelve years, worked at the Marquette County Road Commission for twenty-five years, and has been a member of the National Guard.

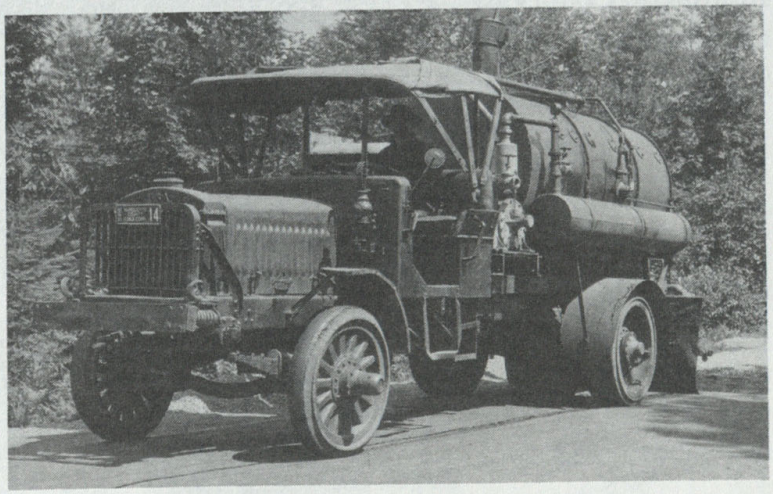
Robert Stanley Menard was born on February 1, 1937, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He has one sister, Mary and one brother, James. His happiest memory as a child was when his sister was born. He thought that it was special because there was eleven years between them.

Robert Menard went to Catholic schools as a child. He attended St. Mary's Grade School and Sault Loretto Catholic High School. He told me that his favorite teacher was Mother St. Williams because she was strict, but she was fair. He also complimented her on the fact that she taught with the best interest of the students in mind. He liked English, but he said he did not really know why he liked it, probably because he did well in it. He related a very interesting school memory. Soo Loretto High School was in a convent. The nuns had a system that the bell rang for prayers at night. Mr. Menard bet a guy five dollars that he could pull the chord one-foot during the school day. He simply just lifted the chord up one foot and let it go down and nothing happened. He remarked, "The teachers kept half of it for the missions," referring to his winnings.

Robert Menard was a member of the National Guard. His service years occurred between the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He graduated from high school in 1955 and that is when the soldiers came back from the Korean War. When I asked him what was the most painful war he replied, "When I look back on the information that I am aware of, the Vietnamese War. I guess that the atrocities are the things that make the war the pitiful thing that it is."

To begin his studies, Robert Menard went to the Sault Ste. Marie branch of Michigan Technological University. He completed the requirements for his bachelor of science degree in Houghton where he majored in civil engineering.

Robert Menard currently works at the Marquette County Road Commission. He acknowledged that he was always interested in road related activities because his uncle, who was a contractor, worked on the roads. As he was growing up, he had opportunities to ride on the trucks. He also worked for his uncle during his college years. He began his career at the Macomb County Road Commission for six years. He also worked at the Michigan Department of



A tar truck from the 1920's

Transportation for seven years and has been working at the Marquette County Road Commission for about twenty-five years. He also enjoys his position of Engineer Manager that he holds now because it poses the greatest challenge and he thinks that it is very fulfilling.

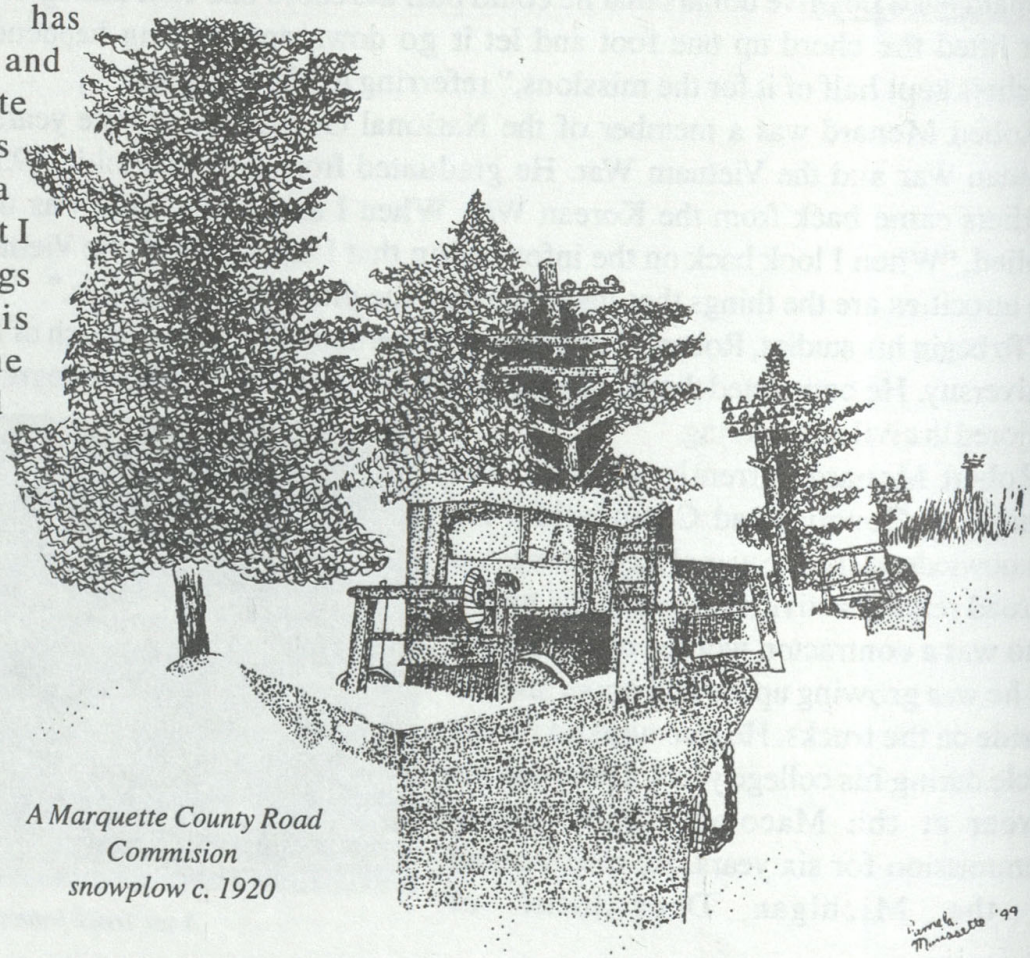
As I asked Robert Menard about how the technology changed throughout his years on the road commission he shared much information. He remarked that previously some surveying was done manually, measuring distances with chains and pins, but today they do it electronically. Cutting grades on a highway is done with a grader using electronic slope controls, but before it was just a man's ability or his talent. He said that calculations that he can do in milliseconds now with computers, he previously did with a slide rule that took a week. He also added that some materials that the Road Commission now uses for patching is more sophisticated.

Robert Menard retired on April 1, 1999. He enjoys the outdoors: he likes to hunt and fish. He stated, "Which I will be doing a lot more once I retire." He likes to draw animals and once he tried to carve decoys and did well at that. He also likes to read mystery books by such authors as Tom Clancey.

Robert Menard has three children, two girls and one boy. His oldest girl, Robin, was born in 1961. She is currently a nursing home administrator. His middle child is a son, Daniel who was born in 1964. He is currently working in the radiology department at Marquette General Hospital. His youngest is a daughter, Margie, born in 1966. She is a registered nurse, and she works for Marquette Mental Health.

Robert Menard has contributed his time and expertise to Marquette County. My dad has worked with him for a long time; I am glad that I got to learn many things about his life and his experiences at the Marquette County Road Commission.

Pam Morissette

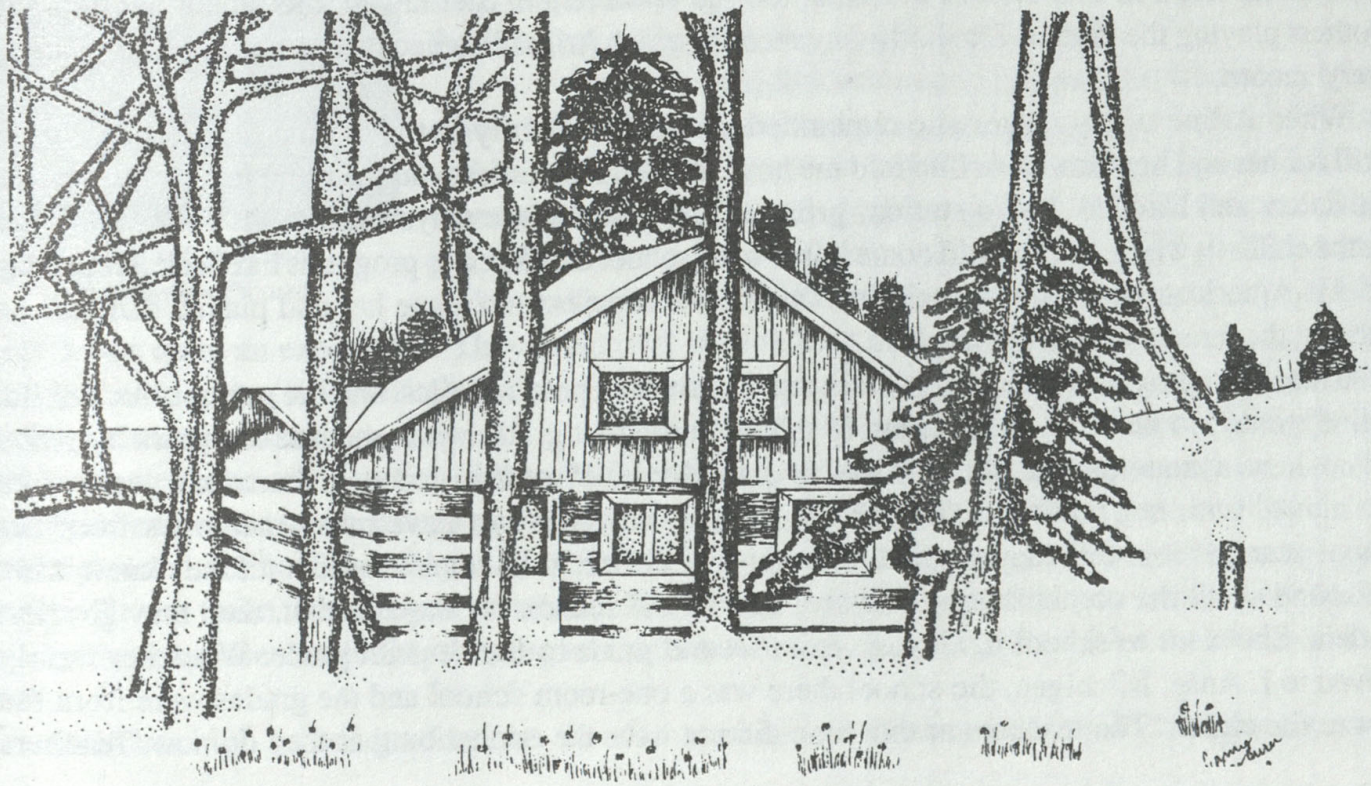


A Marquette County Road Commision snowplow c. 1920

REMINISCING ABOUT THE PAST

"Toys, we didn't really have a lot of them, we used to get dolls, but we used to play with paper dolls which we made ourselves by cutting out of the catalogs. Then we could build whole villages on them or ranches and use our imagination, my sisters and I played with paper dolls by the hour." Arline (McDonald) Van Buren spoke these words. I spent an enjoyable hour talking to Arline about her fascinating and fulfilling life at her snug home in Skanee, Michigan.

Arline was born in Morse, Wisconsin July 1, 1924, at home; she has a twin sister who is twenty minutes older. She also has two brothers and two other sisters. Her brother Raymond was two years old when she was born. " I had a brother who was born and lived five hours, in between those so my mother had four children in two years, because there is two years between my oldest brother and my self and my twin. His name was Kenneth. then there was my sister Katherine and then my brother Archie and my youngest sister Doris," explained Arline. As a child she disliked many chores, such as washing dishes. She absolutely hated if her parents asked her to chase in the cows, because she was afraid of any animals bigger than she was. She also despised weeding the garden. Her family always had lots of dogs because her dad liked dogs, and they also had cats. Arline remembered when they did not have a cat, and she begged her mother to let her get one. When her mother went out at night, there were a couple of half-wild cats that came in from the woods; they had been tame at one time. Arline's mother said if she could catch one she could have it. So Arline went out and caught a cat and brought it in the house. The cat literally erupted, Arline said laughing. It ran up the walls and up the ceiling. Nevertheless, she got hold of it and talked to it and tamed it down. The next day the tom cat came in all by himself, so the family had two cats.



One of the biggest events Arline remembers from childhood was when kidnappers took the Lindbergh baby. It was in the papers and although Arline was a child herself, she remembered that because people discussed it so much and people talked about it.

Cayuga students-Arline top roe 2nd from right

Arline's dad had been in the First World War and he was in a hospital in Milwaukee during the Depression years. The family's hard times were not from the war but from the Depression. Arline's family was fortunate though because they lived on a farm, so they could have lots of groceries. When Arline's mother washed clothes, it was an all-day event because she had to heat the water on the wood stove and then wash with the washboard in the tub. They had to bend over the washboard and washed with a bar of soap and then wring the things out by hand to rinse them. There was a lot of work involved in it. Arline experienced what it was like because when she had her fist child, she was living where they did not have electricity. She had to wash the baby's clothes by hand, "It was certainly a lot more difficult than it is now," Arline exclaimed.

As a child, Arline read many books. She liked the ones by author Jack London, and since she went to a small school, she read every available book . They did not yet have television, and for a time no radio, so reading was her favorite past time.

Arline spent quite a bit of time with her grandmother. Her grandmother did not talk much about her life, but she did tell her that she came from Canada and she was of Scottish heritage. Her grandfather lived in that area at that time too; he was French. She talked a lot about her dad and brothers playing the violins. She had many records which Arline listened to, and she had a story about every record.

When Arline was younger she remembered when her family got their first radio. It was a big thrill for her and her family. Arline told me how people gathered around the radio just like we do the television, and listened. Radio stations broadcast news and some plays and stories. "They had ones for the children where they would come home from school and listen to programs like Jack Armstrong the All-American Boy," she stated. She went to the movies, and since her dad played dad ball on Sunday, the family watched him play.

Arline had many childhood sicknesses such as chicken pox, measles, and the mumps. As a child, Arline wanted to be a singer. She started school in the first grade when she was six years old; they did not have a kindergarten. She started school in Morse, Wisconsin and went there for a year before she moved with her family to Cayuga, Wisconsin. She does not have many memories from her school years, except that they studied phonics; they did not get a book to read until they knew what the sound of all the combinations of words and all the sounds for the alphabet, then they got first readers. She went to school in Cayuga from second grade to the seventh grade. When her family moved to L'Anse, Michigan, the school there was a one-room school and the grades were from the first to the eighth. The teachers at that time did not have the education that they do now. Teachers

often completed high school, and completed a year or two of teacher training. "They had some excellent teachers, and I think we were taught well." said Arline. Arline walked to her school. It was not a long walk, only half a mile and the only time it bothered her was when it was really cold. In the winter she wore wear long underwear, and put on cotton stockings over the long underwear. Girls did not have snow pants and the slacks available today. She wore overshoes, which were rubber overshoes that fit over her shoes; they did not have any other kinds of boots. About wearing slacks she remembered, "The first time I was in the seventh grade in L'Anse and came to school with slacks on. It didn't take long for some of the other girls to come and say your not allowed to wear slacks." It was not allowed at that time in the school, so Arline wore mostly dresses, until slacks were allowed and then most of the girls started wearing them. Some fashion fads that Arline remembers when the pompadour and the Page boys for hairstyles were the style, the dresses were to the knees and then to the calf. She and her friends from Cayuga went swimming everyday when the weather was permissible. They skated in the winter at a skating rink close by her house. At L'Anse she and her friends went to soda joints, where they sold ice cream and pop. They also attended dances when they were available.

Arline's High School Graduation Picture

Her favorite subject in school was English, which involved stories and poems. Her least favorite subject was geography in the lower grades, but chemistry in high school. Her school in Cayuga did not have a girl's basketball team, but the young women got together and played some ball. They played in an old school building with a gymnasium in it. The only school extra curricular activity for the girls was the choir. Arline did well in school, "In fact when I graduated from Pequaming High School in L'Anse, I came third in the class and they put my average in the paper," she related.

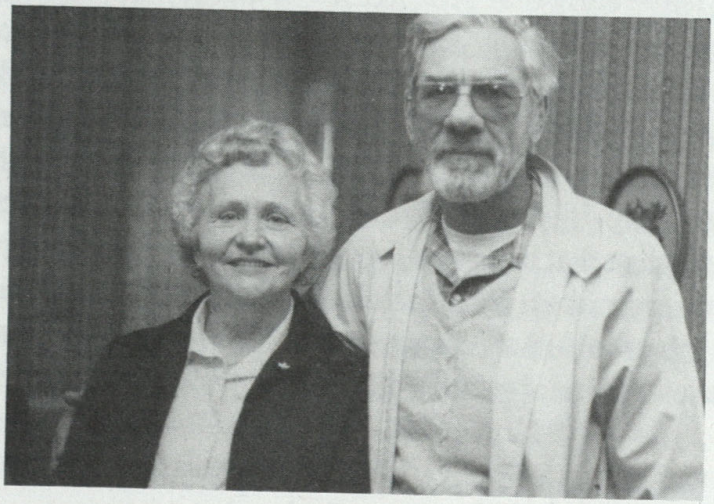
Arline's first job was cooking at a camp on Chambers Island where her dad and his friends were cutting logs. He had hired Arline and her twin sister to come in and do the cooking. They left school when they were in eleventh grade to go and cook for the men. They got permission to leave early that year so they could go; they had to make up their work the following year when they graduated, Arline said it was quite an experience. They went over on a fishing boat. Before they went, Arline asked her mother to let her bake a batch of bread so she knew what it was like to bake bread. When Arline and her sister got over there, they had to cook for eight or nine workers. They cooked on a big wood stove; there was no refrigeration so they had to get many dried fruits like apricots and prunes. Arline baked bread twice a week, using the old-fashioned yeast that had to sit at night. Arline and her sister made pies and, for breakfast they made fried bacon, pancakes, and eggs, and served the fruit. Arline stated, "It was quite a learning experience." The job provided an opportunity to earn money for her graduation expenses, including the ring and pictures. Arline also waited on tables which she did not like.

After her high school graduation, she also worked in a factory in Detroit that manufactured

airplane wings. On the aircraft job Arline started as "Rosie the Riverter." She went to school where she learned how to rivet and other information she needed about the airplanes. She had a class about blueprints and how to read them. While working, they brought an airplane wing that had a crack in it. They wanted the inspector of the class to look and see what was wrong with it. Arline noticed that it had the wrong type of rivet, for there were round head rivets instead of the flat rivets that where supposed to be there. Arline pointed out the error, and that is how the company assigned her inspection instead of being a riveter. She truly regretted this assignment inspecting because it was a very stressful job. The women constructing the wings had material that was a heavy cotton, canvas, which had to be pulled over the form of a wing; it was pinned to a specified tightness. Next they sewed it. Finally it was taken to be painted. Many orders were coming through and the cloth was not getting pulled tight enough. The inspectors had this special instrument to read the tightness of the cloth, and pass inspection. When Arline first went down the whole aisle, not one of the wings passed inspection. None of them were tight enough! The woman inspector on the other side who had been working was passing everyone. This woman was so angry with Arline that she went and got her boss. He came and his readings were the same as Arline. He took readings down the complaining woman's side and none of hers passed inspection either. Of course for the women who were doing this pulling it was very hard work; they became angry because if Arline did not pass their work, they had to try to pull tighter and pin it together. One lady felt sorry for Arline, who was eighteen at the time, and said "Don't feel bad they holler at me too."

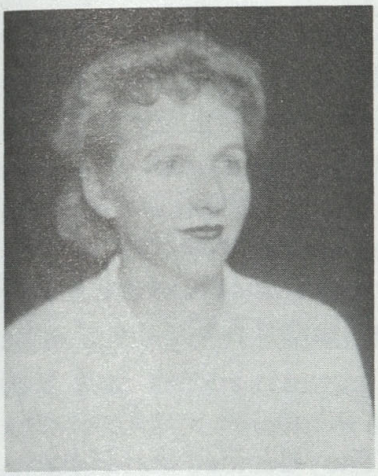
Arline and all her children an Vanessa's wedding day

Everyone was involved in World War II. She had brothers in the service and her first husband was in the service, which is when they got married. The government rationed gas and clothes, and when she was in Detroit there were street cars and buses which lessened traffic because of gas rationing. The worst part of the war was the worrying about all the service men being killed. "Wars don't please anybody and that was a war where many people were frustrated because it really didn't go anywhere." Arline said. If Arline had been old enough, she would have joined the Women's Army Corps, but then the service did not take eighteen year old women, twenty-one was the requirement.



Arline and her husband Ray

Arline met Ray, her current husband, when



Arline as a young woman

she was singing at the Northwoods Bar, and that is how they became aquatinted. She and Ray had a very small wedding by the Justice of the Peace; it will be forty-five years of marriage in July. She and husband now live in Skanee Michigan. Arline has three children from her first marriage, and six from her second. The oldest is Doris May, followed by Wayne, and Jenny, Jenny was born two weeks early. It was a surprise, so she ended being born right at home. Next came Timothy Ray, Clint Charles, Clay in 1958, next Warren, seventh Mark, finally, Vanessa, who was born in 1964. Arline shared with me some funny and unusual things that her children did when they were small. Clay said things that were quite unusual. Once he was at the cemetery and it was wintertime. Laughingly Arline told me that Clay said, "Well it's a cemetery in the summer so it must be a wintitary in the winter." Another time Arline was taking Clay to go skating at her friend Katherine's house, and all the way there Clay was talking about how he was going to skate; he was going to skate on a little cove where the lake is between the docks. It was his first time on skates, and he was very enthusiastic about it. It was not long after he was skating and Arline was talking to Shirley, he came up and said, "My feet were going like windshield wipers," Arline told me laughing. Vanessa "ran away" when she about two years old. She heard Arline saying they were going swimming; Arline turned around and Vanessa was gone. They ended with the whole neighborhood searching for her. She had gone down to the lake by herself! When responding to the question about difficulties in raising children, Arline said, "I don't know what would be the most difficult. I think there were more good times than bad. I think just the care of them, the daily care of them. When they were little watching to see that they don't get hurt or nothing happens to them, and trying to see that they do what they should." Arline found that when the children all graduated from high school, and got work they enjoyed, was the most rewarding part of being a parent. Arline did not find herself a strict parent, but does not think she was the most lenient either.

When I asked Arline what she would change about herself, she said, "Probably quite a few things, there is things a person might want to change about their life, but then if you change that you won't have what you have so it's hard to decide on that." The scariest thing that has happened to Arline was when she was in a truck accident. She and Ray were coming home on the Skanee Road at night after she had played at a dance. Ray went off the road into the woods when she looked up, she saw all those leaves and branches in the windshield instead of the road.

Arline playing at a Jamboree

Arline's has been on trips to San Diego, and has gone to Washington, D.C. She has also been in the Ford Theater where John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln and saw all the things in an exhibit downstairs. She also went across the street and saw the bed Lincoln died on and they still had the bloodstains on it. She does not call those things amazing, but they make an impression.

Arline has been fortunate enough to see a few beautiful places in her life, but she thinks some places in Skanee, Lake Brochaw Mountain, Porcupine Mountain, or Huron Mountains in Skanee are among the most beautiful. She also thinks that Pictured Rocks that she has visited twice are beautiful. "I think your Upper Peninsula compares favorably with any place you can think of for beauty," she stated.

Arlines lifelong love of music grew when she started playing the guitar when she was thirteen. She and her twin sister sang together all the time without an accompanist. They decided that if they got a guitar and played it their music might sound much better. They had a neighbor who lived upstairs who played the guitar and sang. Arline watched how she placed her fingers on the guitar that was her big help and training in learning to play the guitar.

Arline and her sister sang on a radio station for a time also. The Baraga County Heating Company paid them. A neighbor of theirs had this heating company, so they asked Arline and her sister to perform on a fifteen-minute program on WHDF, which is now WCCY-AM. They broadcast the program out of the Douglas House Hotel in Houghton. At Arline's house in L'Anse the sisters decided what songs to sing, and how long it took to sing each song. The timing was necessary so they knew how the songs fit in with the advertising. "I remember one time in particular we got a late start and the drive up there, oh we must have been going ninety to ninety-five miles an hour. We had the radio on and it was some news program coming on just before we did. We just dashed in there in time to do the program," said Arline. They even made a little theme song, "The Baraga County Heating company's on the Air," Arline exclaimed in a sing song voice.

One of the most embarrassing things that has happened to Arline was when she and her twin sister were about fifteen years old. They had gone to their cousin's house at Cheboygan. In the meantime, their aunt Florence had been bragging about the twins being radio singers. However, the only time they had really sung on a radio was on a show up in Calumet. When they came back from their trip, their aunt was busy ironing black skirts and white blouses. She showed them an article that had been put in the paper. The article stated that the McDonald sisters radio singers were going to be singing at a theater in Cheboygan that night. This was sprung on them and they were not experienced entertainers! They liked to sing and had only sung at school affairs. There was not such a thing as saying they were not going to do it, so they put on these clothes and walked over to the theater carrying a guitar. They got up and sang a couple songs. They got out of there as quickly as they could!

Arline has always wanted to sing with the Grand Ol' Opry. When she was in her twenties, the Webb family was touring. In the Webb family two daughters sang together, and a son Ford played the electric guitar. The wife Shirley played the keyboard. The oldest girl was getting married and she was not with them. The Webb family had booked some engagements in a theater in Escanaba, and at the Sault St. Marie in Canada, and on the America side. The Webbs wondered if they could get

somebody who could sing to replace their daughter, so they could fill these engagements. Somebody told them that Arline could sing. Mr.Webb and Shirley came up to her house, and had her sing a few songs. He asked if she would come with them. Arline's mother took care of her three children, while she made this tour with the Webbs. It was different from her other theater experiences because they had their programs all planned, Arline told me laughingly. The group went ahead of time to the theater, tested the acoustics and sang. The Webbs wanted Arline to go to Nashville with them where they were the opening act for Hank Williams and other well known stars. Arline's mother offered to taken care of the children, but Arline just could not bring herself to leave the kids and just take off like that. The Webbs returned to Nashville and opened for Hank Williams. They were in the theater when the announcement came that he would not be appearing because he had been killed in a car accident.

Arline remains involved in music. Arline back row first on left, Zion Luthern Church Choir

When I asked Arline what advice she would give to a grandchild on their wedding day she said, "On their wedding day, I guess it would be to be considerate of each other, above and foremost try to be good friends, and stick through the hard times and it should eventually get easier."

As an adult Arline enjoys activities such as attending the Zion Lutheran Church in Skanee, quilting, and choir.

I learned many astounding details about my grandma's life that surprised me. She has persistently worked hard her whole life through determination and perseverance to live the sound and successful life she lives today. She is a phenomenal, loving, and caring woman, and I am very grateful for the time she spent reminiscing with me about her past.

Jamie Van Buren

JEAN BAGGIORE REMEMBERS

Jean Heard at one year of age

As I entered Jean Baggiore's house, I knew by the warm, "Hel-lo Michael!" I was going to have a great interview filled with interesting facts.

Jean was the last of three children. She was born as Jean Emma Heard on March13, 1916, during a very bad ice storm. Jean's father and the doctor crawled up a hill to get to her childhood home behind the Third Street School.

As Jean grew up, she did not really have to do any chores, she said, "Well when we were young, we had a real good time. I mean…we didn't do very much, but we used to help out in the kitchen cooking, washing clothes." She related the exciting event when her mother bought a Maytag washing machine, "That was a big event when my mother got the Maytag washing machine." She also continued that all cooking during her younger years was done in an oven with a fire box that had to be continually filled with wood to keep the kitchen warm. Another task that Jean did was bringing her father lunch. Her father worked at the Section Sixteen Mine located near Vicary's Store. Jean and her mother rode the street cars to the mine. Once they arrived at the mine, they sat on a pile of timbers and waited for the men to be transported up the shaft in the cage. She described the first time she saw her dad come out of the mine, "I was so scared of him because he was covered from head to foot in red iron ore dust. I didn't know him you know…and I was so scared!" Jean related.

Jean attended Ishpeming Public Schools. She started kindergarten at the High Street School, and then went downtown to what is the Central Grade School on First Street in Ishpeming, which burned down much later. Jean attended grades one through five there and then went on to the Ridge Street School for sixth grade. For seventh and eighth grade she attended the Grammar School. Jean attended her last three years of school at Ishpeming High School. Jean's class was the first to move into the high school, which the district rebuilt because the building burned to the ground. Before the new high school was ready, she said, "We went to all different buildings for our classes." Jean related how

Jean's husband Tony (second from right) at the old Cambria Mine.

Jean (middle of the top row) as a young girl with several family friends.

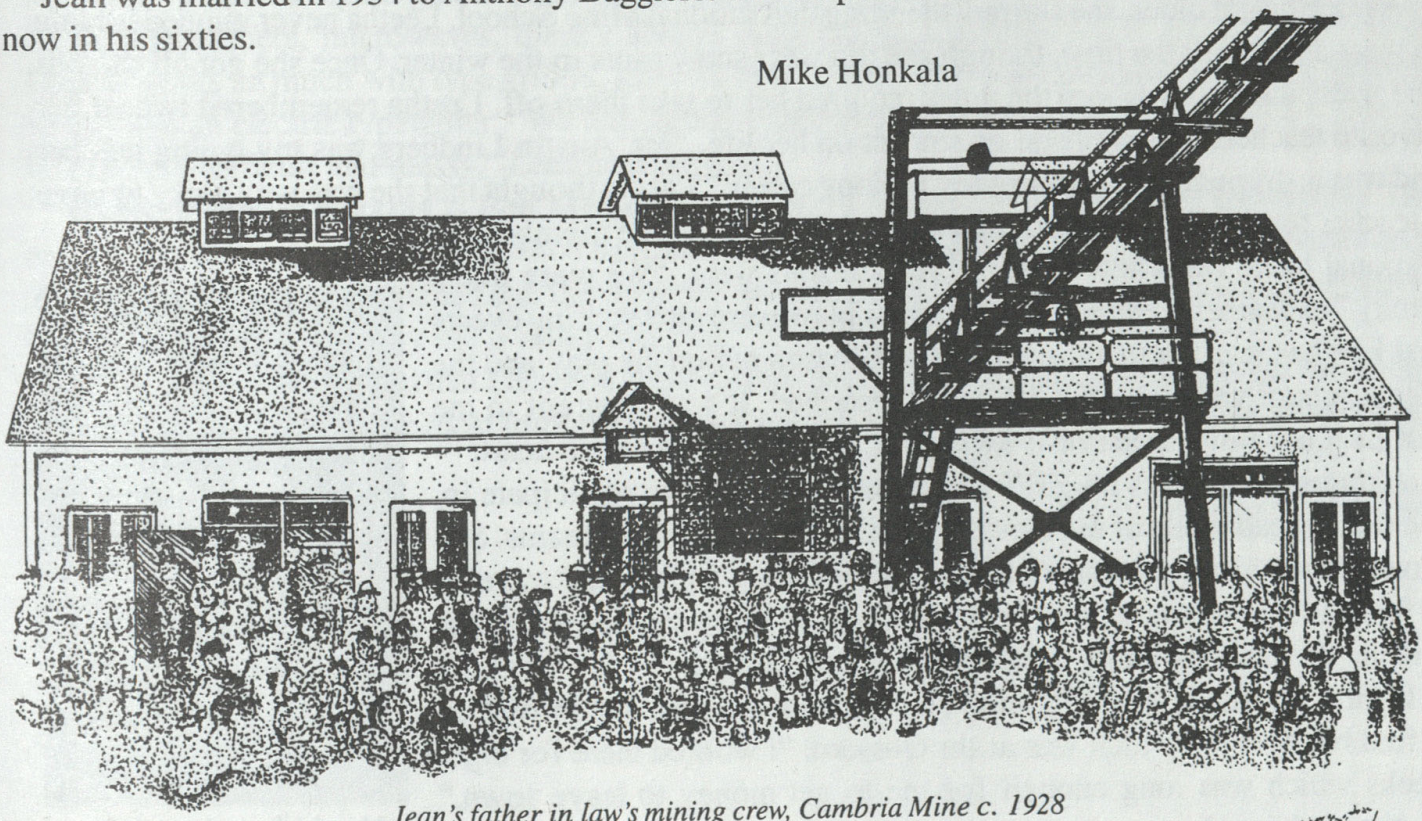
A recent family photo. From L to R, Jean and Tony's son Ron, Jean and her husband Tony.

proud students in her class were in the new high school because their class had lockers. She said, "Our class was the first to go in there, and we thought we were really something when we had lockers because the lower grades…had a cloak room." She sadly added that she never graduated from high school. Jean and her brothers and sisters always walked to school. She says that the only time girls wore anything but dress was when a heavy snow storm hit the area. She borrowed a pair of her brother's pants to wear over her dress. When she got to school, she took the pants off and hung them in the cloakroom.

Life for Jean's family during the Great Depression was not easy. "People were hungry and cold," she explained. Her father had worked for Cleveland Cliffs Mining Company before the Depression. During the bad times the mining company gave small plots of land to its former employees that they laid off because of the Depression. Jean's father's plot was over by Lake Bancroft. Her father planted potatoes and other vegetables, and since the family did not own a car at the time, he walked every day to his plot to tend his garden. When the garden was finally ready to harvest, Jean's father walked the distance to the garden only to find that someone had stolen the food. "Someone had stolen everything in the garden! Did not even leave him so much as a potato," Jean exclaimed. The family never found out who the prankster was.

Jean was married in 1934 to Anthony Baggiore. The couple had a son in 1936 named Ron, who is now in his sixties.

Mike Honkala



Jean's father in law's mining crew, Cambria Mine c. 1928

Michael Honkala 1999

SPARKS IN HER EYES

1944-45 Mrs. Irish, farthest right, having fun with friends

I was very nervous about interviewing Leetha Irish, but when I walked into her house her smile warmed me over as she greeted me. I then felt confident and eager to learn more about this woman. Sitting at her table, her kindness and generosity made it an easy and fun interview.

Leetha Elaine Irish's hard working and exciting life began in 1934. Leetha's only sibling was one brother. She had two loving parents who focused on supporting the family.

Leetha clearly remembered her childhood life in National Mine. "Everybody had a nickname who lived in National Mine, and mine happened to be Tweets," chuckled Leetha, when I asked her if she had a nickname.

Leetha's parents never let their children go without a meal. Everyone in the family put in some work to get the household chores done and get food on the table. Her parents owned a cow that produced their supply of milk and butter. "And it was a farm for us, that's how it was, we didn't sell anything though my mother did sell cream…but it was for a living," explained Leetha. Leetha vividly remembered the work she put in weeding the garden. Leetha's family was very close and they kept their eye out for each other. Although her brother was five years older, they were still very close friends, and also siblings.

As Leetha got older, she started attending the National Mine School. Leetha never minded having to wear dresses all the time, though she did wear snow pants in the winter. Once she got off the bus and walked into the school the rules required her to take them off. Leetha remembered two of her favorite teachers, which made an impact on her life. "Mr. Austin Lindberg was my typing teacher and was instrumental in forming my lifelong career." Leetha thought that she was very lucky to have a teacher for whom one could only hope. Leetha's favorite memories at National Mine were how close all the students were, "We were like a family," exclaimed Leetha. The Christmas plays were also exciting events that Leetha clearly remembered. "Mrs. Gleason put on the play and the whole school was part of it," Leetha described. It was apparent to me that Leetha's time at National Mine was dear and close to her heart.

Although there was no girl's basketball for Leetha to participate in, she was probably one of the most supportive fans of the boys teams. She traveled everywhere to cheer on her school's team. In fact, she traveled as far as L'anse to encourage the boys. National Mine competed in class E then. "It was a big thing then," emphasized Leetha.

Leetha graduated from National Mine School in 1952. She moved on to find her first job which was at thr Gossard. "I worked there for eight weeks which was long enough for me to get money to leave town," Leetha exclaimed.

Mrs. Irish graduation day, May 1952

Left to right, Alice Johnson and Leetha Irish, December 27, 1997

The Gossard was just one of Leetha's many jobs. Once she gathered enough money, she and a girlfriend from high school moved to Milwaukee and got a job typing and office work. Soon she moved onto bigger challenges in Washington, D.C. She worked at the Headquarters Marine Corps and did office work. Leetha explained, "One of the most important classes I took in school was typing." From Washington, D.C. she moved to Detroit where she met the person she later married.

Leetha was married in 1957 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming. She started her family in Dearborn , Michigan. The oldest, Keith is now thirty-eight, Dianne is thirty-seven, and Scott who is thirty-four.

When I asked Leetha about the most important inventions during her lifetime, she had many answers. "I was in eighth grade when we got our phone. The first time I saw a television was in 1952, dishwashers, microwaves, there's always those things everyone takes for granted." Since Leetha works so much with typewriters, she was very happy when they invented the IBM selectric which was an electric typewriter. "We had carbon paper and we had to erase through every carbon. It was very difficult and messy," Leetha expressed.

Today, Leetha is working at Bell Memorial Hospital in Ishpeming as a medical transcriber. The technology changes in medical science have helped Leetha do her job quicker; and more accurately. The hospital stays are shortened and the surgeries are much quicker; many are done on an outpatient basis. "The technology they use is mind-boggling," exclaimed Leetha.

Through the short period that I learned about Leetha and her life, I will never forget the memories of my interview. I think the most important thing I gained out of this interview was, a friend. Thank you Leetha.

Hilary B. Lucarelli

SHARING MEMORIES WITH ERNEST RAJALA

"I was born in Ishpeming February 5, 1925," reported Ernest Rajala. Ernest Rajala was born the oldest of three kids. He has a brother Jimmy, aged sixty-three, and a younger sister Janet.

Ernest walked two blocks every day to the West Ishpeming School. "After eighth grades I went to work," said Ernest. Ernest got good grades in school. "It was strictly like go to school do your work, then come home. That's it. They didn't fool around like they do today," added Carol Erkkila, his daughter.

"In 1938 we had this big snowstorm, mother sent me to the store. I had snowshoes on my feet, and we were walking there. I was walking on top of a car. It was slippery because the car was completely covered, and I did not even know was there. Then people would come to the grocery store and many people did not have snowshoes, so the storeowner gave basket covers. Apple baskets had wooden tops on, then people tied them to their feet, and people used them as snowshoes," related Ernest.

Ernest was on a baseball team that they called the Window Splashers. He started dating at the age of sixteen or seventeen. There was a teen center in Ishpeming where Ernest met his wife Gladys. Ernest and his wife were married fifty years. The couple had five children, named; Karen, Lynn, Eugene, Greg, and Carol. When I asked Ernest what he found difficult about raising children, Carol replied, " Keeping milk in the refrigerator".

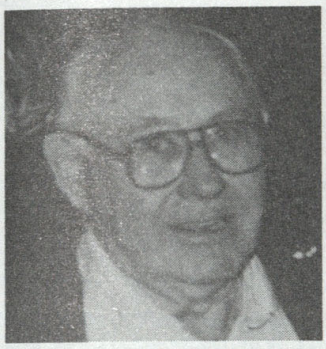
"First job, I used to work out in the woods, cutting pulp" said Ernest. "Careers was more or less decided for him," protested Carol. "Well I'll tell you when I first started out in life. It was really rough. You had to take the first job you could get. There wasn't many," announced Ernest. He never disliked the mines, and worked in them for thirty-nine years. " I worked in the hematite mine first, and then I worked in the Clisch after that; it's a hard ore mine and then from there I went to an open pit mine. Humbolt, then Tilden and I worked in the plant as a plant repair man or they call millwright," said Ernest. He made fifty cents an hour his first job. "That was big money," stated Ernest. He thinks the most stressful experience he lived though was probably, "Looking for a job for one thing, you couldn't buy jobs," he said. Ernest was in World War II based in the South pacific. He retired when he was sixty-two.

Above are Earnest and his wife Gladys holding a fish. It's 34" long and 17 1/2" around its belly.

One of his favorite hobbies is Wood Craving. His best wood cravings are violins.

When I asked Ernest how fashion has changed, Ernest replied, "Well I'll tell you in my day we did not have the best of clothes but always neat, now days it's I don't know different kinds of clothes."

Entertainment and cars have changed throughout Ernest's lifetime. "Television no, we had a radio that is the only thing, television wasn't invented then," said Ernest. "On Saturday nights many years ago we listen to WLS," said Ernest. The first car Ernest had was a Model A Ford



Ernest 1997

which was popular then. "That's probably the only kinds they had up here," laughed Carol.

When I asked Ernest what was the most changed, he answered by saying, "Well, now a days kids got money in their pockets, when I was a teenager there wasn't too many who had even a nickel in their pockets." He continued, " Well one thing, computers now, the big thing is the computer," said Ernest.

I had a good time learning about Ernest Rajala's life. The way it was when he was a little kid. I hope you enjoyed reading about him as much as I did the interview!

Kristen Fisher

A GLANCE AT THE PAST

Martha Wiljanen c. 1950

Whenever I visit my grandma, Martha Johanna (Lampinen) Wiljanen, I can be sure that there will be a variety of goodies awaiting my entrance to her apartment in Marquette. As I arrived there one December afternoon, she seemed ready to share her fond and not-so-pleasant memories with me. While she reminisced into the past, she took me along for the trip.

Among these recollections are those of a childhood with eight siblings, living on a farm together. Common sights while Martha was growing up included cows being milked, butter being made, which she often assisted, home cooking over a wood stove, and kerosene lamps lighting the house. Although she loved to bake cakes and make bread, which "came out delicious on the wood stoves," making butter was another story. It was a strenuous task involving strong arms to operate the butter churn. Because refrigerators were not invented at this time, keeping food cold in the summertime proved to be difficult. Meat and other types of food were kept in a cooler that they stored in the basement.

We all know the common *swish, swash* sound of a washer, silently but surely cleaning our clothes back to wearable condition. As a child, though, Grandma never heard these sounds. Her family's practice, like many other families at this time, was washing clothes by hand, on the scrub board. Then, the soapsuds were rinsed away and the clothing put through the ringer machine. Finally, they hung the fresh laundry on the line. During the winter months, the same practice was used except that after hanging the clothes on the line, they brought the frozen articles into what they called a "summer kitchen" to dry thoroughly. Not only was washing clothes time consuming, but getting the water needed to wash them was also a strenuous task. To get their water supply, they pumped water into a bucket in the backyard. The family also needed the water for other tasks around the house. This is much different from what most people are used to today who use just a simple flick of the wrist at the faucet. Grandma admitted that "it was hard."

Chores didn't take up the entire day, though. Every night, Grandma listened to different shows, such as *Major Barnes, Jack Benny, Fibber McGee and Molly,* and *Inner Sanctum* on their battery-operated radio. At five o'clock every afternoon, the family listened to the half-hour show *Supper Time Frolics*. Also, each Saturday evening, Martha listened to the barn dance broadcast from WLS, Chicago.

When it wasn't time for chores or recreational activities, it was time for the children to go to schools, which are almost nothing like they used to be. Today people see huge schools of vibrant colors dotting the community. At that time, there were only plain-looking one or two-room schoolhouses with less than one-fifth the number of students present in today's schools. My grandma attended grade school in a two-room schoolhouse with only ten to twelve students. Every day she walked to school, until 1923, when her father bought a Model T Ford. Although she moved to the Imperial

David Paul Wiljanen, and Grandma holding the author, Erin Marie Wiljanen, 1984.

Heights School for fifth to eighth grade, the number of her classmates stayed stable until eighth grade, when many former eighth graders flunked, increasing the number by ten. For her remaining years of school, she attended Michigamme High School, with twenty-two classmates at her side through graduation.

Some activities that children did when they were not in school included skiing, sleigh-riding, picnics, and berry-picking. Another alternative for kids, teenagers, and adults was to go to the movies. Grandma remembered the three-mile walking trip that it took to get to the silent pictures. This was a definite disadvantage in the spring, when the roads were "all mud." Although there were no dances back then, there were basketball games and school parties, which my grandma frequently attended. It was at these parties and around the community that Martha met Arthur Wiljanen and eventually, when she was fifteen years old, started dating him. Two years later, they were married. The marriage took place on December 24, 1932, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming.

When Grandma first met him, Arthur Wiljanen was working for the Illinois Railroad Company, but eventually, he became a conductor of the Soo Line Railroad. Arthur was also "in politics almost all his life." Some examples of his involvement in politics were that he was supervisor, clerk and treasurer of Spurr Township, and Deputy Sheriff of Baraga County for many years. Grandma can still recall the appearance of the handcuffs, though my dad, David Paul Wiljanen, described them best. They had "a length of chain on one end... (with) a half a piece of pipe (on that side.) On the other side was a piece of round stalk, and they would... wrap the chain around their wrist. Then they'd put the round stalk into the piece of pipe. You were supposed to come along peacefully, and if you didn't, they'd give it a little twist so that the chain would dig into your wrist, and you came along peacefully."

Martha also had several jobs. She was treasurer of Spurr Township for a while. Soon afterward, she went to work at Herb's and Mary's Restaurant. She was also elected treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary for six years.

When telephones were invented, the Wiljanen couple got one right away, but they had to use a party line shared with eight other people! However, because of Arthur's involvement in the railroad, they soon got a private line.

Another invention that has clearly done its job in changing society is the television. Although almost every family has one today, televisions were very scarce and expensive when they first came out. Presently, there are a much larger variety of programs shown on TV when compared with earlier years. Because of this, Grandma also has more television shows that

Grandma during 1990.

she enjoys watching, for example, *ER, Law and Order*, *Diagnosis Murder,* and most soap operas.

The Great Depression definitely had an impact in the lives of many people in the U.S. One family that my grandmother knew had a very difficult experience during the Depression era. They hardly had enough to eat. The family probably would not have survived without the help from Franklin Roosevelt's assistance plans. According to Grandma, Roosevelt was the best U.S. president during her lifetime. She believes this because he was the one who got our country out of the Depression, and helped people get jobs so that they could support their families.

Now, with twenty-one grandchildren, some of Grandma's favorite activities include playing Scrabble, doing crossword puzzles, visiting her relatives, and shopping. Because silent pictures have developed into films action-packed, romantic, humorous or sometimes just a movie about life, Grandma enjoys going to the local theaters even more than watching silent movies.

The actions of our country can put people through emotional times, both good and bad. For example, the victory of World War II brought relief and happiness to the hearts of the American people, including Grandma, but deep sorrow was felt in Japan, because of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The people of America's past were strong for their country; they carried the fate of their country on their shoulders, and led it into the world in which we now live. My hopes are set high that people will continue to help their country through all circumstances, in the best ways that they can.

Erin Wiljanen

Grandma's son, David, author Erin Wiljanen's father c. 1957

THE LIFE AND MEMOIRS OF MR. FRED BRAWLEY

Sitting at the kitchen table, Mr. Fred Brawley reminisced about his life as a civilian and a Marine. "At least in WW2 we won it," chuckled Mr. Brawley. Mr. Brawley has spent the last twenty-five years in the area. Hunting and fishing have kept him very active and Mrs. Brawley very happy.

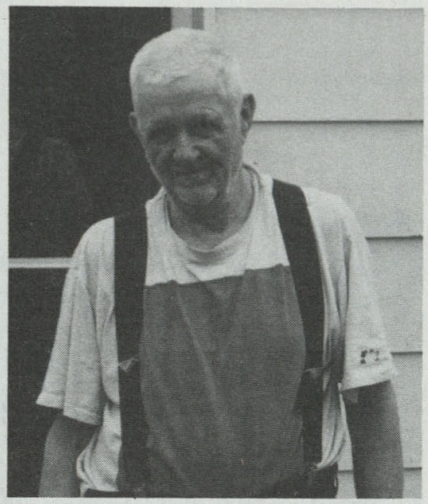
Mr. Fred T. Brawley was born in Boston, Wisconsin, on October 22, 1925. His father worked as a logger in Wisconsin and also worked for a railroad for forty-eight years. Mr. Brawley's father had a major impact on his life. In fact, Fred started, "Whatever he said was the law." When Fred was going to school, it was different from today's school. Some of the students with him were twenty-five years of age, and many were farmers. Fred played football and baseball in school. "We won the championship for football in 1943, undefeated and not scored on," he recalled. He completed twelve years of schooling.

Fred had just graduated from high school when he went into the Marine Corps. He did his training in San Diego for sixteen weeks. During his four years in the Marines, Mr. Brawley went to Guadacanal, Trala, Saipan, and Okinawa. "In the Marines they always gave us the worse jobs. Lieutenant Lawless volunteered us for everything like taking a hill. One time there was rocket fire from a hill about a mile away. He sent us up the hill and we ran out of ammo. So he radioed in some guys who brought us some ammo at night. We finally survived that time we were on patrol," stated Mr. Brawley. Mr. Brawley related another difficult incident, "The ten of us were in the jungle about twenty-five miles from camp. The lieutenant was from New York. He had never been in the woods in his life but he had a compass. Problem was he did not know how to read it. Well he got himself lost. Finally he asked, 'Fred do you know the way out of here?' I told him, 'Ya, the Triennia River is right over there about a half mile. We will just follow it down river and we will come out by our camp' Fred talked about seeing crocodiles. So instead of walking on the bank of the river, they had to take the harder route through the jungle. "It is not going to be easier but it is better than those crocodiles eating us," he said shaking his head. Fred recalled being in a foxhole with three other people. A mortar round hit the hole killing two of the guys and took off both of Eddies' legs. The force blew Fred into the air. Fred put his belt on one of Eddie's thighs and put Eddie's belt on the other, using the belts as tourniquets to stop the bleeding. "Eddie and me are still buddies today," stated Mr. Brawley.

Mr. Brawley did not have much luck on military boats. Four times shells hit them and the other time they hit a coral reef. Fred said, "If I was on them, they were going down." He related another incident, "One thing I remembered about WW2 is when Lieutenant Lawless and we were behind a stone wall. There were three machine guns right in front of us. Lawless said, 'Go get them Brawley,' I will be right behind you Lieutenant," I said. He did not go and I did not go neither. There were three tanks down the road. We had a radio so we called them up. They did not make it because they got stuck in the mud," recalled Fred. Fred had to crawl to the end of the wall and use a bazooka on the machine guns. Though Mr. Brawley was wounded in the legs, he did not receive a Purple Heart. His medic was killed the following day and all of his records were lost.

He thought he was going to be sent home, but they sent him to China for a year. Once he and another person rented some donkeys. The Chinese men thought they were going to steal them because they did not bring the donkeys back right away. Consequently, one hit Fred with a brick in the face and knocked out his two front teeth. The guy with Fred finished the Chinese man off with

a bottle. The MPs were looking for who killed the Chinese man. Fred did not own up to it, and they never found out who did it.



While thinking back to the meals he ate, Mr. Brawley said, "The food was rotten. All they had to eat was ox meat and mutton from Australia. They did not have any refrigeration. The only fresh meat they got was if they hunted wild boars." Out of his platoon of forty-three men, he was the only one to walk back. The rest were dead or crippled. When he got home, they gave him no hero's welcome because the war had been over for almost a year.

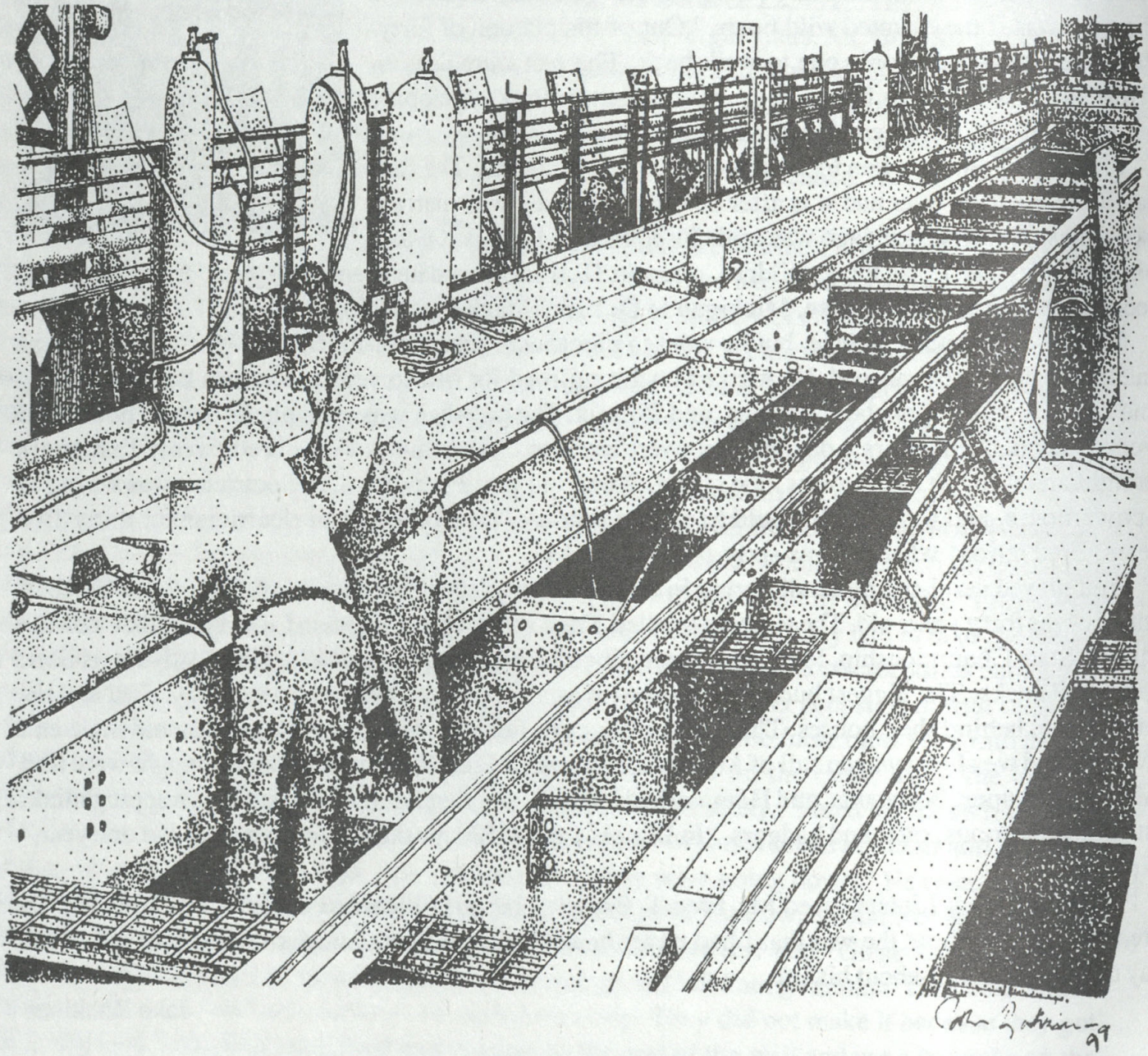
Fred stared dating when he was about sixteen years old. The first car, a '41 Ford, he ever had was after he returned. Fred was married two times. The first marriage was with Josephine in Illinois it was a big ceremony. Fred has three children, one son Bob and two daughters Nancy and Mary Lou. The second marriage was in L'anse, Michigan to Dorothy Mackey in 1976.

Fred never attended college, but he went to electrician school for four years. His first job was as an electrician for the railroad. He worked on the railroad for fifteen years. He was a lineman pulling line out west in the Dakotas, Montana, and Illinois. The pay then was a couple dollars an hour. Fred worked about eight hours a day; he had overtime also. "Sometimes we worked twenty-four hours straight and through sleet storms," he stated. Some big jobs Fred did as an electrician was wiring in a powerhouse, and a small job would be wiring a house. He worked as an electrician for thirty-five years. Fred retired when he was sixty-two years old.

Fred played semi-pro baseball during his career as an electrician. Fred played semi-pro baseball until he was forty years old. The team was called The Libertyville Mountain Lion Twins that won the Illinois State Championship. Fred has hunted since he was twelve years old. He mostly hunts deer, geese and ducks. The biggest buck Fred bagged was a ten pointer. When he was a boy, Fred and his buddy went behind their houses. There was a big corn field that flooded. "We took an old mule and a wagon and we shot a wagon full of Mallards," chuckled Fred. The biggest fish he caught were Red Snapper, Grouper, Barracuda, and Hammerhead Shark. Another hobby Fred had was trapping mink, muskrats, raccoons, otter and badgers. "In Illinois I got 1,500 muskrats and sixty mink in one year," explained Fred.

I am glad that I interviewed Mr. Fred T. Brawley because I learned a lot about World War II. Fred told stories about the war that I had never heard before. I thank him for taking time out of his day to tell me stories about his life.

Jake Rankinen



Tim Prudam and George Swanson welding on Marquette Ore Docks

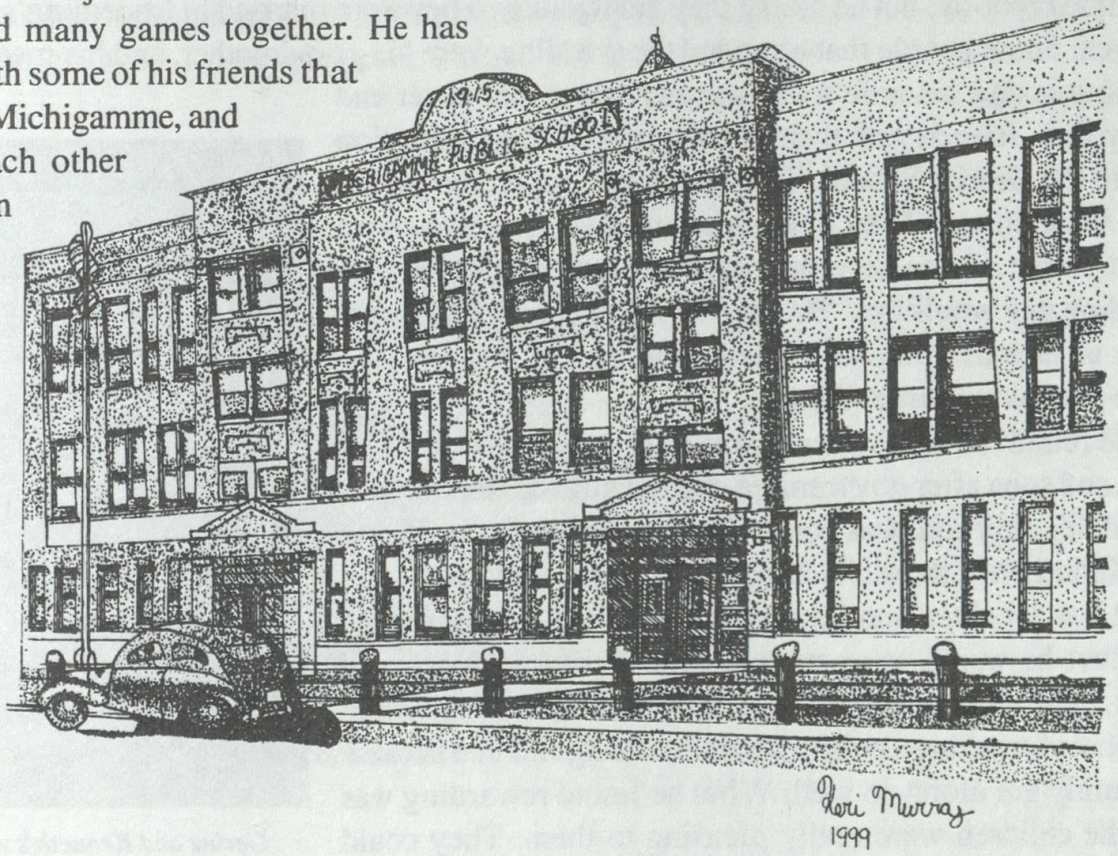
THE WORLD CHANGES

"I didn't like the wars at all! It's a shame they had to happen. So many young people got killed for nothing!" Kenneth Jaykka spoke these words, when asked how he felt about wars. He lost a brother, Keith, in the Vietnam War.

Kenneth Jaykka was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1933. He was raised in Michigamme. His grandmother, the oldest person that he can remember, was very humble. She raised him and was very kind. Kenneth's grandparents had a really hard life; they did not have much money available and it was really hard for them.

Kenneth had a really hard life when he was a child. His Grandmother who raised him had just come to America from Finland. When he was old enough to start talking he could only speak the Finnish language. During his childhood Kenneth had many chores that children today do, but some tasks were different. The chore he hated to do was chopping wood. He had to chop wood because that was what they burned. They had to burn so many times that he had to do it so much. When he was a child, he could not buy as many things as children can today. He also had to walk to most places because there were not many vehicles. Some of his favorite toys were little dump trucks that he put dirt in and little cars. His favorite games were kick the can and shooting rubber guns that resembled the operation of slingshots. He lived close to his school and walked there daily.

The schools he attended were small but pleasant. In school his favorite subject was history because it was the easiest for him. The history teacher, Mrs. Mahanna, was his favorite teacher because he worked for her and earned good grades. He hated math because he did not like it and could not do it easily. He usually wore jeans and a T-shirt to school. He and some of his classmates played many games together. He has kept in contact with some of his friends that he played with in Michigamme, and they still visit each other once in awhile. In school he played basketball, track and baseball. He earned average grades. He did not like going to school, but his grandmother made him go. He graduated from Michigamme High School.



When he was a child, he wanted

Kenneth during Korean War

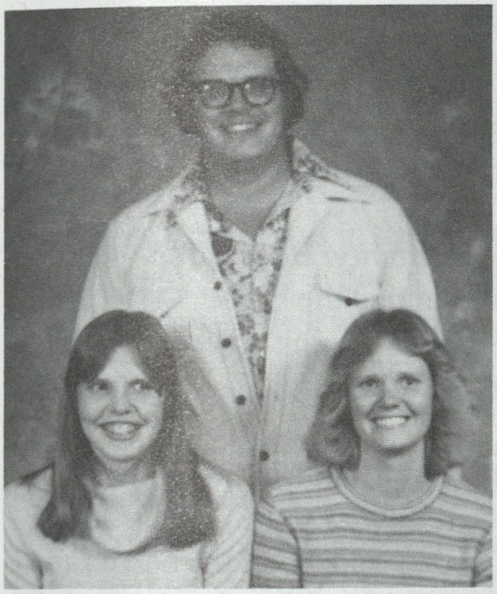
to be a forester. However, he never had the opportunity to go to college because he went to work right after high school. His first job was working in an underground mine. He worked underground in the mines for thirty years followed by another thirteen years working in security for the mining company. When I asked him how he decided his career he replied, "You don't decide. When I went to work, I was eighteen years old. You just went to work cause there were all kinds of mines around here and you would just pick one mine because they paid the most." He could live comfortably because the wages were good. He worked eight hours a day.

He was a cook in the Korean War, and enjoyed it. They stationed him in Panama and he said that it was easy. He went to cook school for sixteen weeks in Balboa, Panama. He also had sixteen weeks of infantry training at Camp Roberts California. The kind of meals he cooked included Spanish rice, stews, and fish. In the morning they always served eggs and pancakes. For lunch they made sandwiches.

He started dating when he was eighteen years old, but he cannot remember his first date. The way he met the person he later married was slightly like fate. Her name was Gloria Wepsola. He met her at Champion Beach. There were some young women in a car, and they had a flat tire. They asked the boys to change their tire for them. Kenneth thought Gloria was very sweet and was really easy to get along with. He thinks they may have gone to the Evergreen Drive-in theater for their first date. They knew each other for two years before they married. Kenneth cannot remember his exact wedding proposal, but he thinks they did it jointly. They were married in Ishpeming's Bethel Lutheran Church. Some people that attended the wedding were his grandmother, and his mother, his brothers and sisters and his wife's mother and father, her sister and many their friends and their family friends. The reception was in the Diorite School. They went to Copper Harbor for their honeymoon. They have been married for forty-seven years. Some advice he would give to a grandchild on their wedding day would be, "Be nice to your spouse, always try to be as nice as you can to them, and they'll treat you the same way as you treat them."

Gerine and Kenneth's wedding picture.

He found out that he was going to be a parent for the first time, and soon after government drafted him into the service. David, his only son, was born when he was over seas. Gloria and Kenneth had three children: David, the oldest son, Diane, the oldest daughter, and Carolyn their youngest daughter. He said that he was a semi-strict parent. If he could do it all again, he would not change how he raised his kids. He could not think of anything too difficult about raising children because his family got along so well. What he found rewarding was that the children were really pleasing to them. They could



David (in the back), Carolyn (front left), Diane (front right).

see that they loved them very much and they loved them back. He did not feel that he had to treat each of his children differently. The first time he heard he was going to be a grandparent was by his youngest daughter. His wife told him and he was quite happy. His advice to his grandchildren is to try to be nice to everybody because usually if you treat somebody nice then you will be treated back the same.

Technology has made a great difference in their lives. Before there were televisions, the Jaykka's had a radio that they got when they married. Televisions entered their lives in 1955. They purchased a colored TV in the 1960s.When they first got married they did their laundry with an old wringer washing machine, the first electric washers that came out.

He does not think he had to make any really hard choices in his life because he feels that everything came to him quite easily. He thinks his grandmother had the most influence in his life because she always treated him very well, and she told him to make sure to treat everyone nicely. The U.S. President that he admired the most was Harry Truman because he was very honest and when he said something he meant it. As he sees it, the biggest problem facing the nation right now is too many people get in trouble and the courts do not seem really to do anything about it. He feels crime is just getting really bad, and if officials do not do something soon, it is going to get worse.

I really enjoyed interviewing Kenneth Jaykka. It really helped me learn how people lived and how much the world has changed. I hope you have learned just as much as me.

-Keri Murray

Kenneth in front of his first car

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE

Joyce Richards, who now has lived in Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 1969, was born and raised in Minnesota. While living in Minnesota, Joyce lived in Huntersville Township, Wadina County. She very much enjoyed living there. When I asked her where else she would rather live besides Ishpeming, she replied: "I'd probably wish to live in Minnesota."

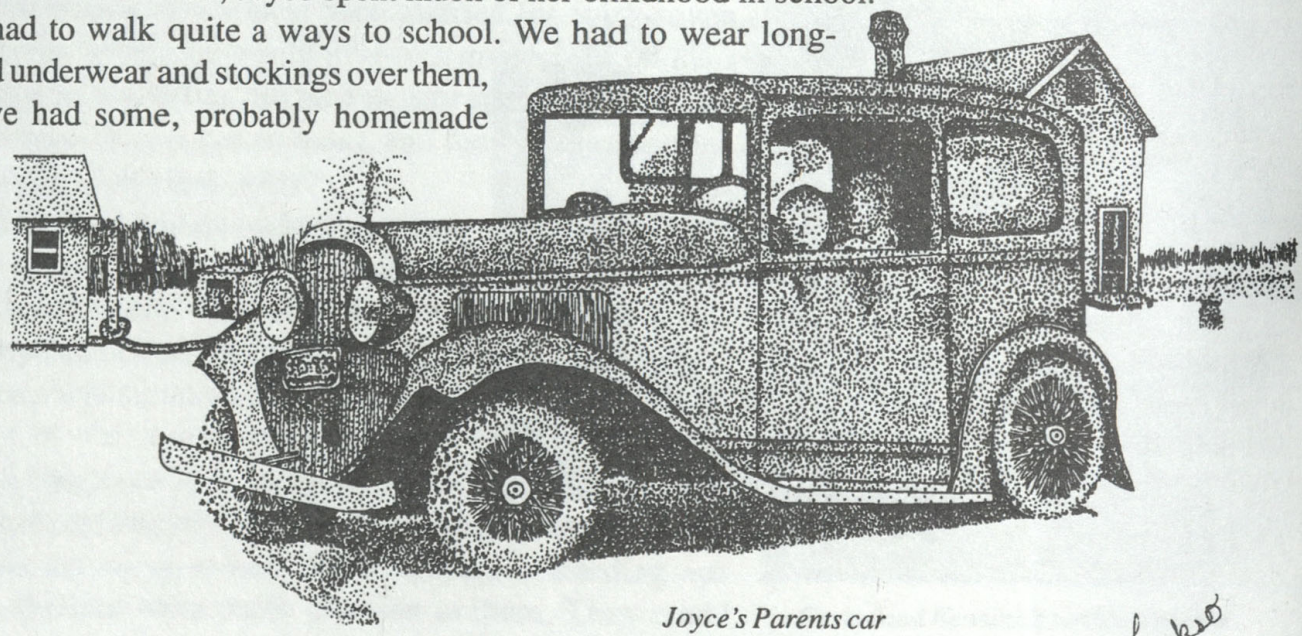
Joyce grew up on a farm where there was no running water or electricity. Because she was the second oldest of her eight brothers and sisters, she had many chores around the house. Only one of her five brothers is older, and she has two younger sisters. She can remember doing much babysitting, carrying the water in to the house, helping with the cooking, dishes, and laundry. She laughs as she recalls hating to washing dishes.

When Joyce was younger, they cooked on the stove, which had no way to control the temperature. She remembers that her mother made bread, cookies, and cakes, and they were always good. If they were making toast on the wood stove, sometimes they burned it and they had to eat the burnt bread crust. "My mother always said that it'll make your hair curly. It never did though," she laughed.

Joyce related a couple of near tragic incidents. "When I was a child, I don't remember it but, my mother had taken I and my brother to the river. We were swimming and she turned around and I had gone under the water. My older brother pulled me out. There was another time, I was probably nine or ten years old, the water in the spring was real high and we decided to go swimming when we weren't supposed to and I can remember going under the water and coming up. My same brother jumped into the river holding on to a branch and pulled me up out of the water. If it wasn't for him, I would've been a goner. That I remember well."

Joyce had some vivid memories of her maternal grandparents' house. "I can remember my mothers parents lived on a farm. They had cows and sheep. I can remember going to their house as a little girl, and they had a bear rug in the middle of the floor and we were deathly afraid of it. I can remember my grandma having to take me into that room because, I was so afraid of their bear rug."

Like most children, Joyce spent much of her childhood in school. "We had to walk quite a ways to school. We had to wear long-legged underwear and stockings over them, and we had some, probably homemade



Joyce's Parents car

Kaylee Jackson 1999

snow pants to wear," Joyce related. Joyce attended grade school at a country school, which was in Huntersville Minnesota.

While thinking about her school years Joyce recalled her first grade teacher. "I can remember when I was in the country school, and in first grade, I don't remember the teachers name, but I was deathly afraid of him. I was so afraid of him. In fact, I was learning to read, I didn't know the word, remember. I learned how to spell it and went home and asked my mother what it was."

Joyce's dad and brother on the farm.

The country school that Joyce attended is quite different from the schools that we attend today. "The country school was heated by a wood stove. It was grades one through eight. The desks where all in the same room, the little kids sat on one side of the room, the fourth and fifth graders were in the middle of the room, and sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were on the other side of the room."

In school, she was a good student; her grades were usually A's and B's. Her favorite subject in school was reading. In school, Joyce was very quiet and very shy. The thing she disliked most about school was riding the bus. She rode the bus for many miles before they reaching the school.

For high school, she went to Sebeka High School in Sebeka, Minnesota. While attending high school, she lived on a farm and did not have a ride to school to participate in many extra school projects. In her senior year of high school, she did help with the yearbook. In high school, the clothing styles were saddle shoes with bobby socks, and poodle skirts.

The first time that her parents allowed Joyce to go out on a date was when she was seventeen years old. She went with a group of boys and girls to a movie. When the movie was over, they had to go directly home because they had one of the girls' fathers' cars. They could only be out until ten o'clock. "That didn't give us much time to do anything, we went to the movie and then right home, she commented.

She got her first job at a creamery at the age of eighteen. She worked forty-eight hours a week, working every day except Sundays. Cream was brought it to creamery by farmers, and processed using big butter churns to make butter. Joyce worked doing clerical and accounting work.

When Joyce moved from Minnesota to the Upper Peninsula, she worked at Northern Automatic Electric Foundry in North Lake Location in Ishpeming Michigan. While working at the foundry, she started doing part-time clerical work and the payroll. Then it became a full time job, and she worked there for twenty-five years. Her job at the foundry was hectic and stressful, but she loved working there. Today she still works part time doing bookkeeping at OK Enterprises in Ishpeming.

Joyce selected this a career because, she liked accounting and bookkeeping in high school. Her high school bookkeeping teacher recommended her. "I had planned to be an elementary school

Grandmother's house

teacher. When I graduated, a job came up at the Sebeka creamery, they had asked him to recommend someone, and he recommended me and I got the job and then I never did go to college."

Joyce met her first husband Duane Dobson, a recently returned Korean War Veteran, when he stopped at the Creamer while she was working. Joyce and Duane dated and were married in 1955.

She and Duane had two boys and one girl. Their son Larry now lives in Little Chute, Wisconsin, their son Terry lives in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, and Connie, their only daughter, lives in Kingsford, Michigan. Joyce has eight grandchildren, with their ages ranging from three to thirteen years old; she spoils all of them!

Duane passed away in 1989. She married a long-known friend, Sam Richards, on August 11, 1995 in Marquette County, Michigan. .

Her advice to a young person on their wedding day is, "Just to make sure that they are really serious about making a commitment to that person and to be faithful and loving."

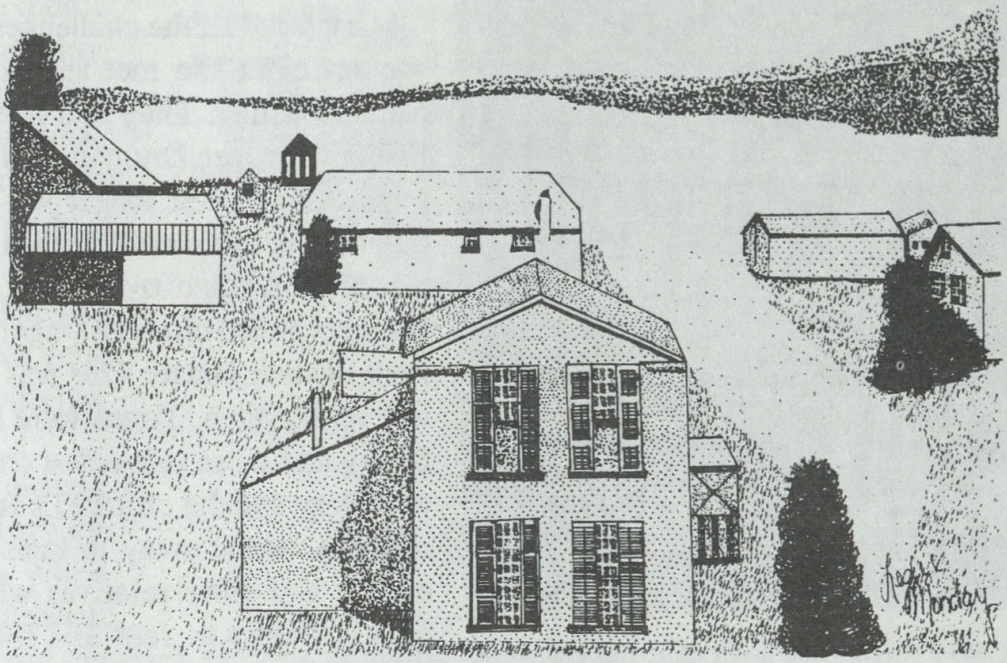
John F. Kennedy was her most admired president because he was getting things done before Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated him. "I think that drugs, crime and violence are the biggest problems we face today. For one thing there is too much violence on TV that the children see. I also think that the Nintendo games and video games are too violent for the ages of the children playing them," she reflected.

When I asked her about the impact of technology she said, "Probably the most important invention would be the computer. I used it where I worked. It saved a lot of time, and now it's just mind boggling what they can do with computers and the Internet and all that."

I had a great time interviewing Joyce Richards. I now understand how things have changed and how lucky were are to be living today.

Kaylee Laakso

LOOKING BACK IN TIME



Mary Iva Goff and Ralph Blaine Ellwood grew up not too far from each other. They had similar lifestyles, yet never met each other until their early thirties.

Mary was born in Missaukee County, Michigan on July 8, 1914. Her parents were Patrick Henry Goff, a farmer and part-time lumberman and Etta Ottilia Goff. She attended many different schools throughout the state of Michigan as her family mover from farm to farm and job to job in the years leading up to the Great Depression. She started at Oak Park School in Lansing. She only stayed there for a few of her elementary years until she and her family moved to the country. There she attended three different country, or one-room schools. She started ninth grade in Wacousta, Michigan, tenth and eleventh grade in Nashville, Michigan and she graduated from Lansing Central High School in 1932. This building still stands in Lansing and is now a part of the Lansing Community College campus.

Much of Mary's childhood was spent in the country. One year, when she was about thirteen, a nearby neighbor gentleman visited her house with a problem. You see his wife had taken ill and could not continue doing her household chores. He came to ask Mary and her parents if she would assist him and his wife. After discussing the proposition with her family, they accepted and she began working for them. She did all of the regular household chores, cooked meals and took care of the ailing wife. One of the most challenging things that she did was preparation for the harvest. In the fall, all the farmers gathered their crops with the help of their neighbors and traveling thrashers. Each day, huge meals would have to be prepared to feed the hungry men. All of the farmers wives got together and fixed a variety of dishes for the daily meals until the crops were brought in. This was very hectic, yet also very exciting for her. Mary's pay for this job was $10.00 a week, a lot of money for those times. With her first week's pay she bought a pair of shiny, black patent-leather shoes with a beautiful gold buckle that she wore very proudly.

While she was growing up and becoming a teenager Mary's live was very different that a modern teenager because they had little money and few conveniences of today had been invented. It wasn't until her older brother grew into his twenties and got a job that they had a car. Still she did many things that are similar to the things that teens do today. For instance, she went to dances with her

boyfriends, attended county fairs and she also was a member of her church fellowship groups.

Mary faced all the challenges that live offered her. When she got older she met and married a man with the last name of Miller. They had five children within six years, first Forrest, then Douglas, then Joyce, Roger, and the baby Mary Ann. When Roger was three years old, the most tragic thing that would happen in Mary's live occurred, he was hit and killed by a drunk driver as his older brother Douglas pulled him in a wagon down the little dirt road in front of their house. This was very devastating for Mary and her children. Times were financially ver hard for the family and when her oldest child was about fifteen years old, Mary and the children's father divorced. She and the children moved away to Lansing to be nearer to Mary's mother and other relatives who had settled there. They found a house to rent and she got a job as a cook and waitress in a little restaurant nearby to support them.

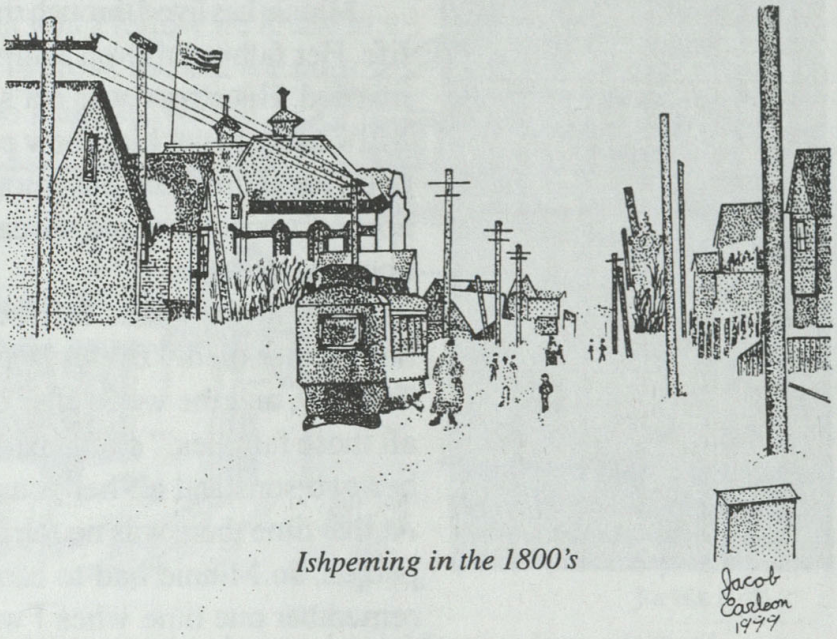
After a short time, Mary met a man who was a regular customer in the restaurant where she worked. The man's name was Ralph Blaine Ellwood. He was a very kind and loving man who the children liked very much. Ralph had been born in Kalamazoo, Michigan on January 15, 1915 and after working many jobs that took him to many different places he had come to Lansing to live near some of his family also and began working at the Oldsmobile Plant there. Mary and Ralph fell in love and married on April 16,1952.

Following their marriage, Ralph and Mary had a child who they named Shawne. When Shawne was only a few months old, Ralph became very ill and it was discovered that he had a brain tumor. Surgery for this sort of tumor was almost unheard of and they feared he would die. What seemed like a miracle happened and a newly developed form of brain surgery, that had only been preformed twice before anywhere in the world, was done on Ralph at the University of Michigan hospital and he survived. He was hospitalized for a very long time. The oldest three children had to work to support the family until Ralph could recover. After several months in the hospital and over two years recovering at home, he was eventually able to return to his job at the Oldsmobile Plant. He worked there for over thirty years until he retired in 1980.

Since Ralph retired, they have 19 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and are still very happy living in Lansing. My sister and I are the daughters of Shawne, their youngest daughter. I found out a lot of things from my grandparents about my family, history and life while interviewing them. One thing that really caught my attention was at the end of my interview, I asked them what was the thing besides technology that had changed the most in their lifetime. They asked me to explain to them why kids these days, with so many advantages and such easy lives act the way they do. They just can't understand why kids seem to be so full of hate. I guess I wonder about this too.

Leslie Monday

HARD TIMES LEAD TO A GREAT PERSON



Ishpeming in the 1800's

"I had it so tough that I didn't depend on anybody," explained my great-aunt Minnie St. Onge. By interviewing her, I found out what she meant. She has survived many personal tragedies and has made a good life for herself. Minnie is an inspiration to everybody that she meets, and I hope she inspires your life through the experiences she has shared.

Minnie is ninety-six years old and resides at the Mather Nursing Home. When I talked to her, I realized she does not look or sound like a ninety-six-year-old; she is still as sharp as ever. She has lived through wars, the Depression, many president changes, and everything else that has gone on since her birth. I never really got to sit and talk to Minnie about her life before, so when I did it was a really great experience.


Minnie as a young woman

Minnie St. Onge was born in 1903, in Ishpeming, Michigan. Her full name is Vilamina, Minnie is short for Vilamina so that is why everybody calls her Minnie. Her maiden name is Maki. She had fourteen brothers and sisters, but she did not know all of them because some died before Minnie was born. Minnie's husband was Arthur St. Onge. She has two boys, Francis and Leroy.

Minnie just loved school. Her favorite subjects were arithmetic and geometry. Minnie's first job was as a teacher in 1921. She taught at a school north of Ishpeming by the Dead River. It is not there anymore, but the foundation is still visible. Minnie traveled to the school on Sunday and stayed until the weekend because it was so hard to get from town to the school. She had to walk in the summer or ski in the winter to school from town. Occasionally Minnie's dad went to the livery stable, a place that rents horses, and rented a horse to take Minnie back up to school. Since it cost more than three dollars to rent a horse, which was big money back then, it was a rare treat. Minnie was the only teacher at the school, so she taught from kindergarten to 8th grade all in one classroom!


Minnie enjoying the outdoors

After her teaching job, Minnie worked in grocery stores, cleaning houses, and washing and ironing because "I didn't have any money," said Minnie. Her last job was selling furniture and doing

the accounts for Kemps Furniture.

Minnie has lived through many, many difficulties during her illustrious life. Her father suffered a mine injury when Minnie was grown up and married. His elbow was not set right from the injury so he traveled to Milwaukee to get his elbow properly set and he died. Her mother died two years later from pneumonia. "She was in the hospital. She had an appendix operation, and she came home and she died" explained Minnie about her mother.

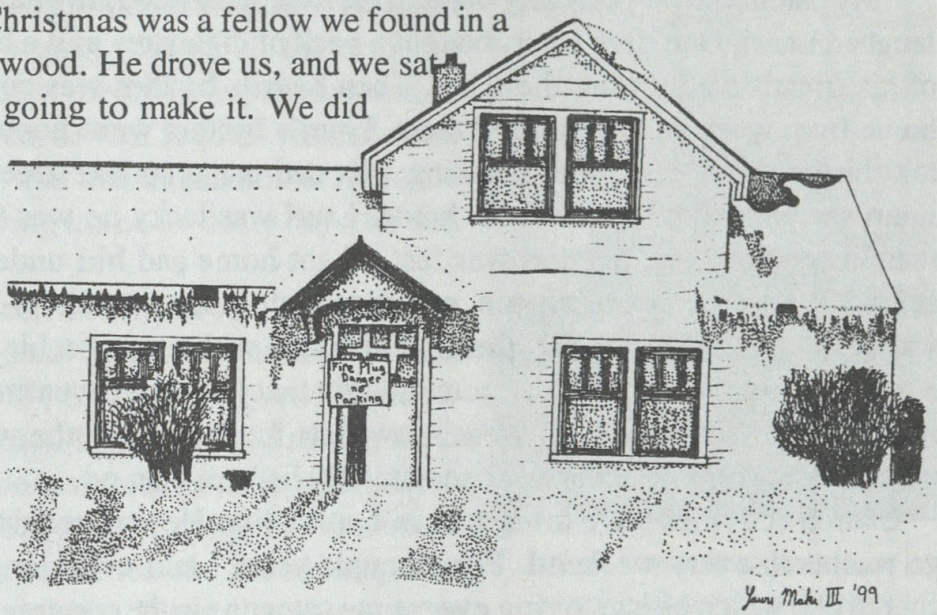
Within two weeks Minnie's son was born, her husband died, and her mother died. "Buddy was born on Sunday. My husband died on Tuesday, and the week after that my mother died, and I was left with all those families!" exclaimed Minnie. After that Minnie was left with her two sons and all her younger brothers and sisters to take care of. At that time there was no form of government assistance for deserving people, so Minnie had to handle the difficult situation by herself. "I remember one time when I went down to ask for a load of wood. He said, 'no!' That's the only time I ever asked them for anything," replied Minnie when I asked if she requested assistance. Minnie made it through all those hardships by herself and has raised two boys and some of her sisters without any help at all. If you ask me that is incredible!

Interviewing Minnie was a great experience. I got to know much more about her life. Knowing what she has had to overcome to be where she is today is amazing. I have always looked up to Minnie, but now I look up to her even more. One word to describe Minnie is giving. She is not wealthy, but she still gives to charities and never forgets a gift of money on a person's birthday. She also shares the knowledge that she has gathered throughout her life. She has been a mother to my grandma, a grandmother to my dad, and a blessing to me, and many others. I hope I have the same courage and generosity that Minnie has shown when I grow older.

Jacob Carlson

A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE

"Our last way to get home on Christmas was a fellow we found in a bar who offered to take us to Ironwood. He drove us, and we sat there wondering if we were ever going to make it. We did make it because we had enough money to get him a few more beers." This is what Lauri Maki Sr. told me when asked if he had any Christmas memories. That happened during their journey while they tried getting home after returning from serving overseas. This is just one of the many memories that he revealed to me during our conversation. We spent a pleasant afternoon sharing others.



Lauri's house where he spent his childhood and into adulthood.

Here is Lauri (middle) with his brothers William (right), and Toivo (left).

Lauri Maki Sr. was born in Ironwood, Michigan on Oak Street October 13, 1930. Born the fifth of six kids, Lauri had a bright trouble free childhood, except driving his brother's Marquette car into some lilac bushes. Lauri recalled going to school by bus and walking home for lunch then walking back to school. "I'd have to take a rope along, and right when the bell would ring I would have to take my cow from the pasture and walk her home. She was a good pet," stated Lauri.

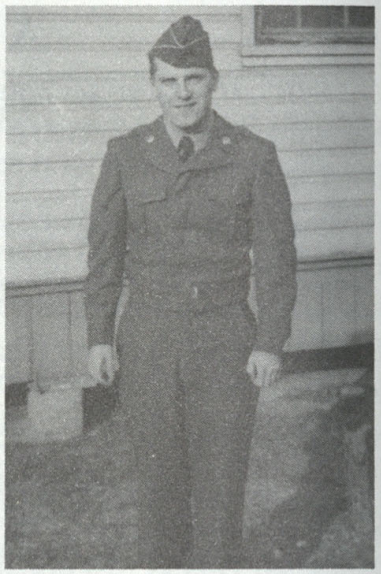
Lauri lived through the depression, which was a hard time for all Americans to find jobs. He told me that his parents only got him an apple or an orange for a Christmas present during the depression. This was a tough time for Lauri's family because they had so many kids, but one thing Lauri told me is that they were never out of food.

Lauri also recalled the cars his family has owned. His brother owned a Marquette. "I remember that he parked it in the yard and I was to young to reach the pedals but I did get the clutch, and naturally the car moved into the Lilac bushes," laughed Lauri. His dad had a 1936 Pontiac. His dad paid in cash for a Kaiser which he bought for Lauri and his wife as a wedding present. Lauri has been happily married to Jean Pearson for forty-six beautiful years. They have had six kids together, four boys and two girls. Lauri and Jean have raised their children with discipline just like Lauri's

Lauri and Jean right after their marriage.

father before him.

"My parents never got really upset at me except for a couple of times," laughed Lauri. One time Lauri bought a pack of cigarettes and a bunch of his friends were trying them out. Then Lauri's brother was coming home from work and he spotted them. Lauri's brother went home and told his dad that Lauri was smoking. His dad came up the street and Lauri saw him so he took off for home. Lauri was lucky he was faster than his dad because his dad was fast. "I got home and hid under the stairwell. He couldn't reach me, not even with a broomstick so I just waited out the rest of the day there," Lauri said with a grin on his face. Another time is when Lauri's mom thought that he wasn't wearing his snowpants so she made him wear snowpants for the rest of the winter with no pants on just underwear so naturally he kept then on.



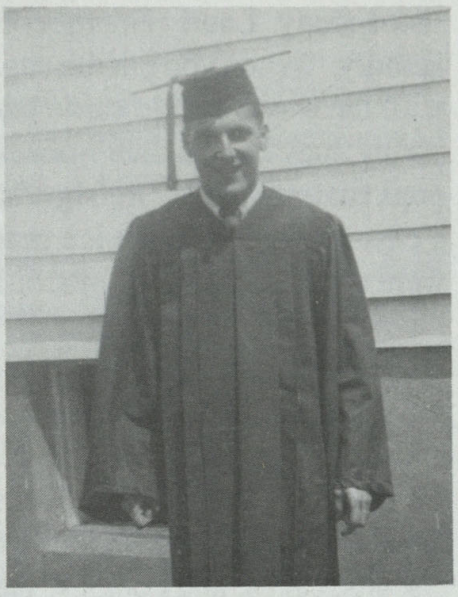
Lauri in his Army uniform.

Church activities were a big part in Lauri's life. He was required to go to church every weekend. For a couple years Lauri even rang the church bell which he had to ring every time someone in the congregation past away. Lauri partook in Confirmation every Saturday morning for a couple years. It cost ten dollars to be confirmed. When Lauri was a teenage boy it cost five dollars to be baptized, twenty dollars for a wedding, twenty dollars for a funeral, and each individual member of the congregation was required to pay six dollars in offering over a period of one year.

Lauri remembered different childhood activities that he participated in like skating in size thirteen skates while wearing his regular shoes inside. He was a paperboy for the Milwaukee Journal, he remembers the Sunday that he delivered the papers that proclaimed the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and that World War II had began for the United States. Lauri also worked at a grocery store until he was in high school. During those years he also worked on Johnson's truck farm where they did a lot of weeding, moss picking, and transplanting. Lauri got paid three dollars a day. When he graduated from high school, he quit working in the grocery store and stayed at home. "The next morning John Blomquist came to the door and told me that his boss from the drugstore wanted to see me, and I went and I was hired. I worked in the drug store until I was about twenty and then I was drafted into the service," stated Lauri. Lauri would work a sixty hour week and get one-hundred dollars a month.

"I went into the U.S. Army in January of 1951," began Lauri when telling me about his wartime experience. "I joined the Air Force; I was sworn in and even already had a serial number," he continued. "When I called home, I found out that my father my was sick so I didn't go in the Air Force, but I was drafted into the army. My dad was very ill," stated Lauri. Lauri had three dependents at the age of twenty-one. His dependents were his mom, his dad, and his brother Eino. He was a member of the army and was inducted at Fort Sheridan Illinois. From there they sent him to Fort Knox, Kentucky in the third armored division where he stayed through basic training. He got an emergency leave because his dad was so sick. Following his leave they sent him to Germany because he could speak Finn, and he knew some foreign traditions. They shipped him to Freidburg. He went

to the eighth infantry division. "They called me into the fortieth tank battalion medical detachment and the captain asked if I wanted to be a medic. I said sure, so I was no longer in the armored infantry," stated Lauri. He became a medic in September and in January, he had to come home because that is when his dad died. He then flew to Washington, D.C. and hitchhiked home. He made it in time for the funeral. After staying home for thirty days, he was sent back overseas by ship.



Lauri stands in his front yard wearing his graduatiuon gown.

Lauri spent from March to December in Europe in 1952, then the army sent him to the U.S. Medical School as a medic. "When I gave shots my Sergeant told me if I hit the wrong spot I'd know because I better start running," stated Lauri. He told me his most interesting case. A young lad of about sixteen came in with a lump on his chest, which Lauri could feel with his fingers. "You could just take your finger tips and you could feel the round lump that would move. It wasn't sore or anything. When the fellow went home a doctor who worked with me told me he had cancer."

While Lauri was in Germany, he visited the various castles, his favorite was Frankenstein's. The troops he was with had to take a twisty and steep road up to the castle's little guest house. "There they always served beer and usually you could get a weinerschnitchel sandwich. They always had the German beer, which was very strong. The first time I got over to Germany and I had never drunk German beer. I drank some and it was so strong that I barfed it up and the barracks had a concrete floor that the beer ate a hole right through it. That spot was there forever, it's probably still there," laughed Lauri.

Lauri and Ronny Supernaut tried to make it home to Ironwood. They got as far as Melon, Wisconsin and went to a bar where they found a man who offered to take them home. They sat there wondering if they were ever going to get home. Well they did, because they had enough money to get the man a few more beers. So they got home for Christmas Eve. "That was a happy occasion," spoke Lauri with a grin on his face. After the Christmas season, they had to go back to Illinois to be discharged in January of 1953.

When I asked Lauri about some changes in machinery and technology, he told me this. In the medical industry, it is unbelievable that they started having bypass surgeries. "They had invented the defibrillator, which I have. I'm going to receive my fourth defibrillator in 1999," explained Lauri. When he had his first defibrillator, it zapped him thirteen times, this means he escaped death thirteen times. He survived his first and second cardiac arrest. "Lots of people don't make it through the first one, and I made it through both," Lauri proudly stated. His first defibrillator lasted one year, the second two and one half, now the third one has gone over four and one half years. I have to get it charged every two months. "It's amazing, small gadgets no smaller than a package of cigarettes inserted in my body," Lauri stated.

When I asked Lauri about what he can remember about how the appliances have changed, he

listed many. Lauri remembered washing machines. He used to go and help his neighbor do her laundry. "When you put the rug between the ringers and then you pushed the handle, if you didn't get it all the way it would came back and hit you right in the chops," chuckled Lauri. When Lauri was young, they heated their houses with wood. Toasters were handled by opening the sides; now it just pops automatically. "Refrigeration has changed because we used to have an ice chest, we had to get a chunk of ice from the ice man once a week," said Lauri. The sewing machines Lauri's mom had were all pedal operated machines. If I get sick, we now have many medicines to help my cold, but Lauri's family just had a jar of Vicks, a bottle of brandy, and a tin of aspirin.

Respect for elders has changed quite a bit. If an elder went on the bus, young people let them have the seat. During dinnertime, the children always ate after the elders had finished their food and invited the children to the table. When I asked Lauri about how food prices have changed, he gave me many examples. I was astonished how people could get a root beer and a pint of ice cream for a dime. Lauri enjoyed his mom's home made root beer. His mom was always baking things like breads, biscuits, cakes, and cookies. He would buy a pint of ice cream and go home and he would use it to make root beer floats. Lauri would go to the ice cream stand and get a single dip ice cream cone for five cents, or he would get the double dip for ten cents. A quart bottle of pop cost ten cents. A can or package of snuff cost ten cents. Cigarettes cost twenty-nine cents. Gasoline was nineteen cents a gallon. Bread was ten cents a loaf. Candy bars were five cents. A pack of gum cost five cents. A quart of milk cost five cents. Lauri's first house cost him $1400.00. His Kaiser he got as a wedding gift cost $2000.00, when a Pontiac car only cost $500.00. If you purchased jewelry, baby products, cosmetics, or gasoline, there was a federal tax and a state tax.

Lauri's family was never out of food because they had beef animals. Lauri's mom made her own butter, and she made her own milk for the family. Although Lauri and his family never ate his rabbits, they sold them for good money. Lauri picked berries every year. A big part of berry season was canning them. Lauri picked apples and potatoes, and canned them so they would have them all winter long.

When Lauri compared his salary to the salaries they get now he was astonished. In 1957 when Lauri was a teacher, he was paid $4000 per year. Now teachers are paid at least $20,000 per year.

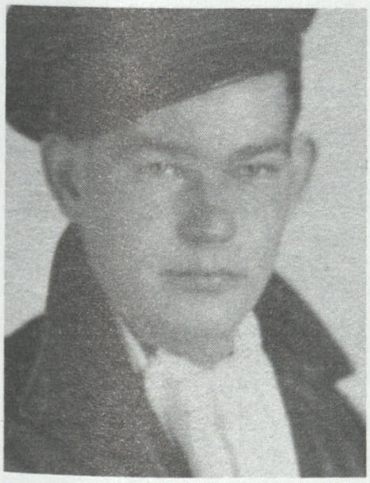
My interview was worth the time of preparation. I really enjoyed interviewing Lauri Maki Sr. It made me realize how much easier we have life than those living during the Depression and World Wars did.

Lauri Maki III

LIFE TIME

John Lake 1926

John Lake 1935



John Lake 1945

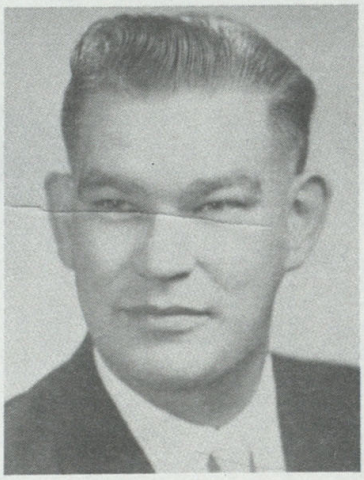
As I waited for John Robert Lake to come up the basement stairs, thoughts of the interview filled my head. Nevertheless, as I looked around the cozy, clean kitchen and saw John Lake, I knew that the interview would be successful.

When I began conversing with John Lake, I asked him questions about his life including, schooling, jobs, and inventions. One of my favorite questions concerned his opinion on the most important invention that was made during his lifetime. He responded, "Well, I guess space flight would be." We continued discussing the many interesting aspects of his life.

John Lake was born "October 27, 1926." His real grandpa died before he was born and his grandma remarried John Nelson. When John was a child, his favorite games were "Kick the Can, Pom Pom Pull-a-way and Hide and Seek," he stated.

John started school at Ironwood with combined classes of first and second or second and third grades. Next, he went from this combined class to classes where the teacher moved and the students stayed in their seats. Finally when he was in high school and college, he had separate classes in individual disciplines. His mode of transportation to school was by bus. His favorite subjects in school were math and science. His least favorite class was history because he did not like to learn dates. John has had sixteen years of education and earned a bachelor's degree in industrial education.

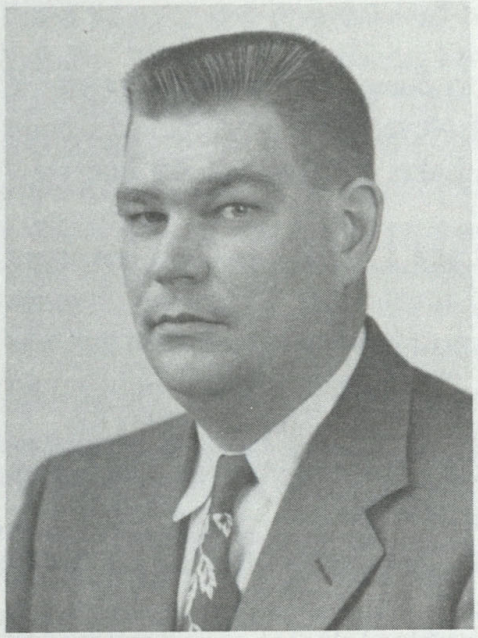
John's career interest started in his childhood. He wanted to be a "locomotive engineer." However, when he got older and in high school he was a mason working for his father in the heat doing hard labor. Next he worked for the mining company as an "engineer helper and moved up from there," he related. His last job was working at the Ishpeming Credit Union working eight hours or more each day. He retired at the age of sixty-three.



John Lake 1950

John Lake married Joyce Turrovarra on "September 4, 1948." He had three kids and their names, birthplaces and birth dates are: "Connie, September 18, 1951, Robert, June 8, 1953, and Randy, May 30, 1955. All of them born in Ishpeming, Michigan." John is "5' 11"."

Entertainment has changed dramatically throughout his life. When I asked John what



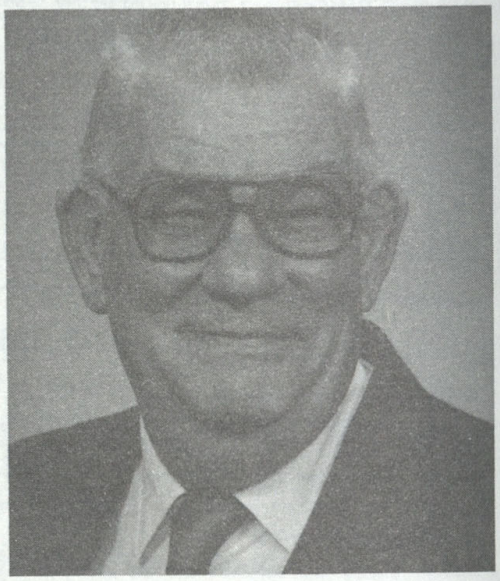
John Lake 1953

his radios were like, he responded, "It was a cabinet type and it was on four legs and it was quite wide and table height." I was shocked at the difference between his radios and our radios. Also when I asked him what TV's were like, I was surprised that he had "one channel and on good days two." Today we have more than one hundred channels.

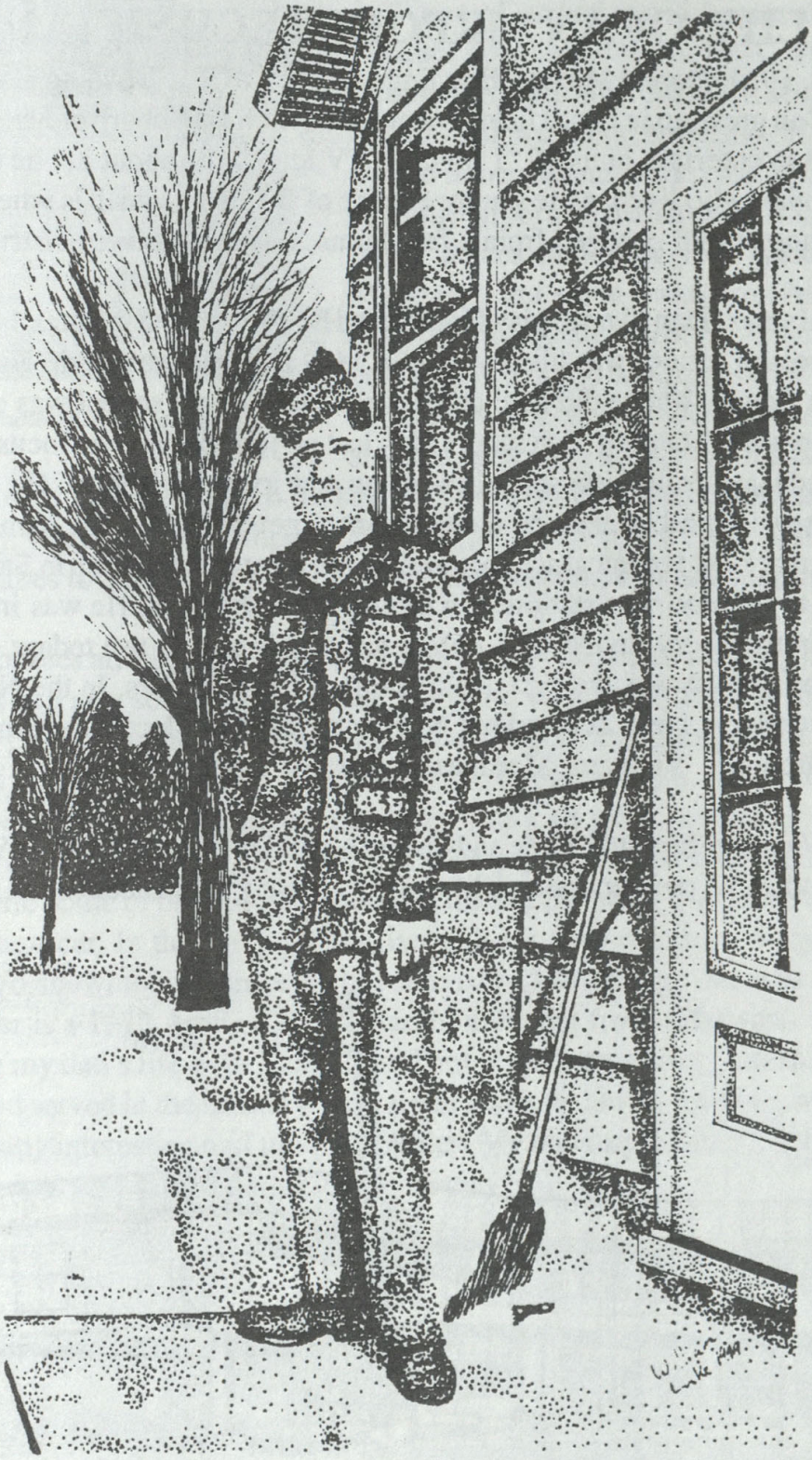
His hobbies include "reading, woodworking and photography." Some things John has done with wood are "wooden trucks, 3-D pictures, and wooden spoons" which he designs. His favorite pet is a dog, and he exclaimed he had several of them. His favorite music is "easy listening" and his favorite TV show is *NYPD Blue* because of the mystery. His favorite books are Anatomy of a Murder and Caine Mutiny.

As I look back at our interview, I think how John Robert Lake's life has changed from his childhood to his adulthood. I learned a great deal about his life and I admire him.

William Lake



John Lake 1985



John Lake c. 1945

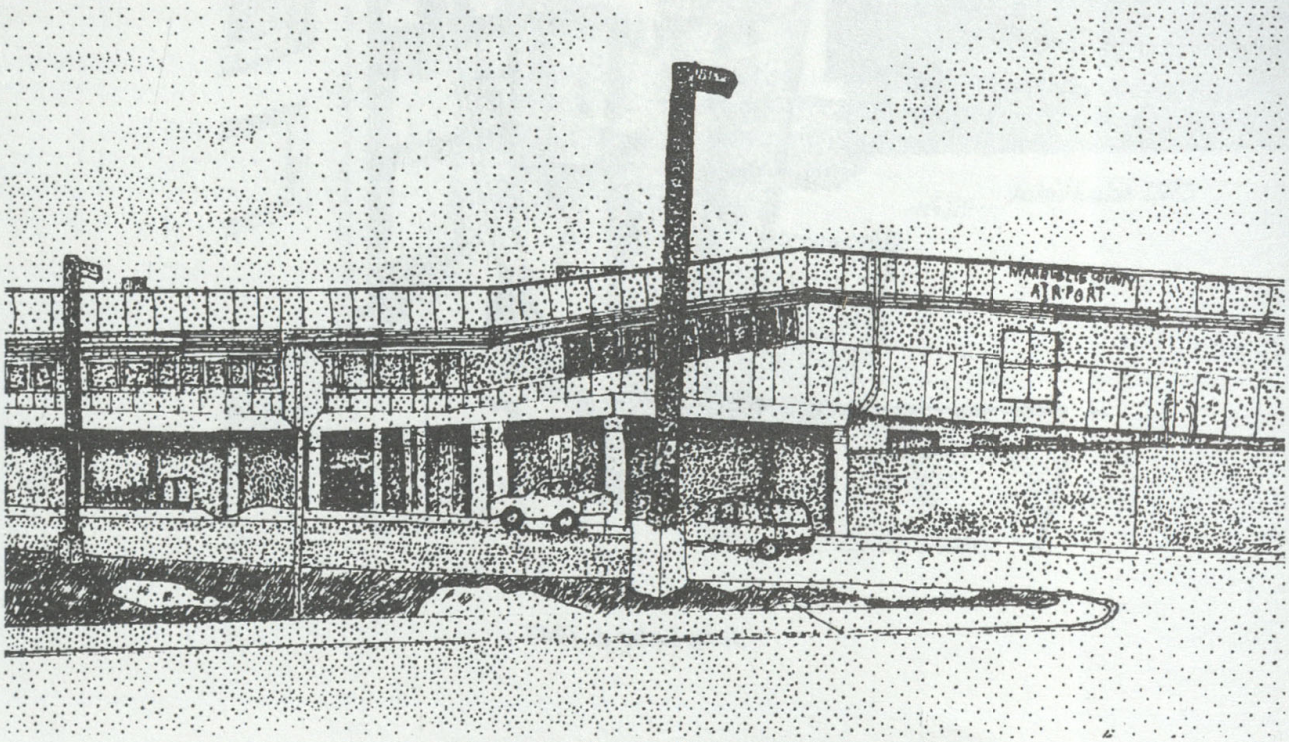
LIFE OF AN AIRPORT TECHNICIAN

On September 3, 1954, Daniel Michael Bowling was born to Roy Bowling and Betty Bowling in Chicago, Illinois. Dan grew up in Brookfield, Wisconsin which is a suburb of Milwaukee. He was an only child who had to entertain himself, "I watched TV and that's about it," he explained. He also visited his grandmother who lived in the southwest side of Chicago, which is where he was born. He explained that his hometown changed from a few farms, a small business district to a town larger than Ishpeming.

During his school years, Dan liked to play football and he participated in junior high school football. Dan's favorite subject in school was history and his least favorite was math. His favorite kinds of books were science fiction, but he did read other types. He thought school was okay and about his grades Dan said, "I passed." During high school Dan had no jobs because he focused on schoolwork.

In 1972 Dan graduated from high school, went on and joined the Navy. He received technical training during his service and because he did not want to get drafted by the Army. He did not go to college, but he did gain some technical school training. He went to boot camp in San Diego California which is no longer in use and was stationed in Olympia Washington. He was in the Vietnam War during his service in the Navy on the *USS Enterprise* that is still in use today; he was part of the evacuation of Saigon, which was the first deployment of F-14 fighters. In the Navy he traveled to many places; his favorite is New Zealand but he also traveled to places like Singapore, Australia, Tasmania, The Philippines, Vietnam, Madagascar most of eastern Africa and southern Asia and many more.

After serving in Vietnam, he came home and visited his dad in his new home of Winona, Michigan, and got a job as an industrial painter. Later in life he got married to Elizabeth Saari who had grown up



Marquette County Airport 1998.

Dan with his son hunting in the fall of 98.

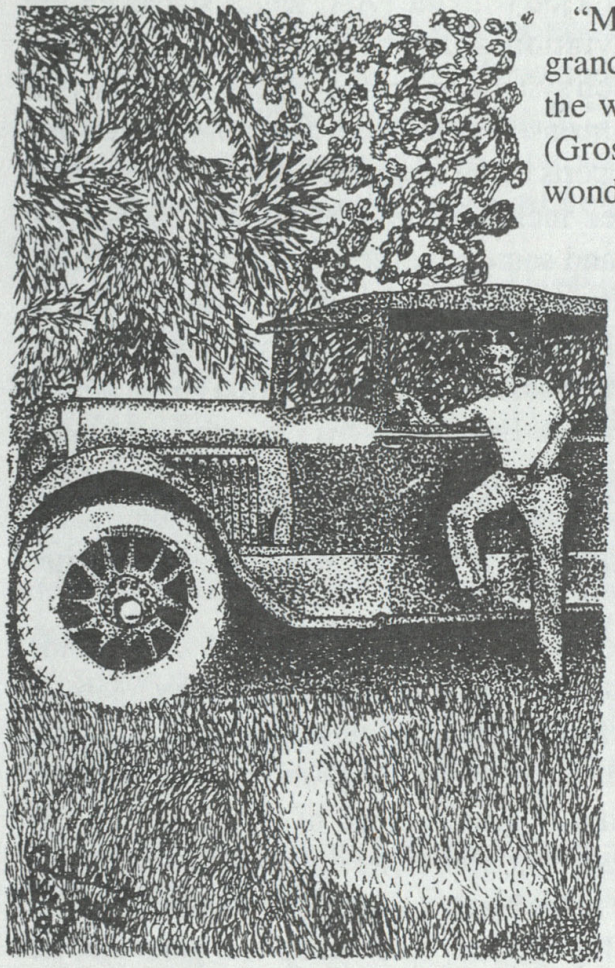
in Winona. Dan had two kids named Daniel and Sarah. He later got a job with the FAA, which stands for the Federal Aviation Administration, as an airway transportation systems specialist. His responsibility on the job is to maintain all the electronics and sub systems at all the airports in the Upper Peninsula. He travels to many places including Iron Mountain, Newberry, Munising, and some times Iron Mountain and helps with the Marquette Airport. About every other year he has to take a trip to Kansas City or Oklahoma City for a refresher coarse on the information he got during technical schools. He explains his job as the same thing he did in the Navy, but it is on land not on the sea. He works on VOR and Glide slope. He has moved from Oklahoma City, Green Bay and Ishpeming during his tenure in the FAA. The technology on his job has gone from tubes to transistors to solid state chip and from a manual interface to a computer interface.

Some of Dan's hobbies are brewing beer, working on computers and working on vehicles. On his computer he has put in a new sound card, motherboard and video card and has fixed many relatives computers. Some types of beer he brews are ales, stouts, lagers and many more. In his brewing he uses a complicated system that takes about an hour to two hours to finish. He grows his own hops for his beer and the types include Olympia and Cascade. Using all grain instead of extract makes it is easier to control the color of the beer. He also collects empty beer bottles; he has around 150 bottles and still counting. One bottle of beer he got during his time in the Navy was made on an island off the north coast of Madagascar. In the early 1980's, he built his own car from scrap and parts that he bought. He fixed two snowmobiles since he has moved to Ishpeming; one was a 1969 Arctic Cat Pantera and the other is a 1972 Arctic Cat Panther, both he got from relatives.

While discussing my dad's life with him, I found out many interesting facts that I did not know. I am proud that my dad served in the military. He gained much technical training, which he uses in his job today. He has many interesting and unique hobbies. My dad impresses me with his ability to fix almost anything. He is a very talented man.

Dan Bowling

A LIFELONG DREAM



Mr. Spalding Voegtline, Republic, MI c. 1926

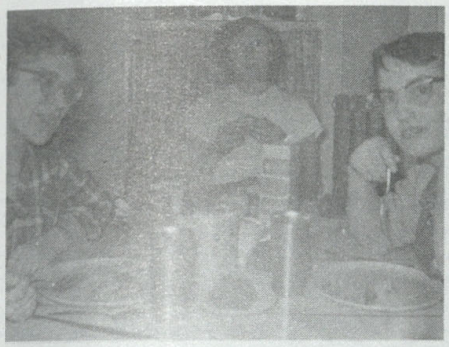
"My great grandchildren call me 'Mimi,' a French word for grandma, but my children call me 'Ma'." We both laughed at the way she said it. I knew my visit with Mrs. Irene Helen (Gross) Voegtline would be interesting because she has a wonderful sense of humor.

Irene Helen Voegtline was born in Diorite, Michigan on August 17, 1915 to Mr. Martin and Delmarise Gross. She was an only child who had very few chores to do. When I asked her what she remembered most about her childhood, she said it was her pony, which was brown and white. She recalled that a picture of her and the pony was taken, but after moving she cannot remember what happened to it. At five years old she taught herself to read. She went to the library across from where she lived. She used a phonics machine, which said something and she repeated what it said. She played jacks and hopscotch with her friends and cousins who lived next door. She remembered her paternal grandmother Gross and her maternal grandmother Gagnen, who came to visit. She liked seeing them because her other grandparents were deceased. Her lifelong dream when she was a child was to be a nurse.

When Mimi was growing up, the fashion fads included butterfly skirts, white angora sweaters, bobby socks, and saddle shoes. "The butterfly skirts were different colors, like a rainbow, and they wore them with white angora sweaters," Mimi claimed. She laughed as we talked about dating during those times; she was fourteen on her first date. "We didn't go out dating like they do now. Everybody went together. We all got together; we were never apart. We were always bunched together and never went anyplace otherwise. Until I met your great-grandfather, " laughed Mimi. She later met her future husband at a basketball game in Republic. "Champion was playing Republic. We all went to that basketball game, but I didn't go there with him or leave with him I just met him there," chuckled Mimi.

Mimi's wedding was small; it was in the backyard at her mother's house on a quiet, summer day with just her family, her father and mother, and their two attendants. During the war, Mimi and her husband Spaldin, had to ration many items. She and Spalding needed coupons or tickets for everything they bought, except vegetables, which they grew in their own gardens. Mimi and Spalding were married nineteen years before he died.

Mimi had her first son on October 20, 1933. His name is Olivier Spalding Joseph Arthur Voegtline. The reason he has three middle names is because when he was baptized, Spalding was not a Catholic



Friends c. 1956

name so he became Joseph Arthur as well. Carl John Voegtline, her second son, was born on June 26, 1935, and her third son, James Paul Voegtline, was born on November 18, 1941. Oliver and Carl were born at their home in Champion. Dr. Van Riper of Champion came, and they had a midwife also. Midwives had taken classes just like a nurse to be able to aid in the birth. James was born at Bell Memorial Hospital. "I didn't find anything difficult about being a parent. It was just a blessing I thought," Mimi told me.

Mimi had always wanted to be a nurse. To become a Licensed Practical Nurse, Mimi attended Northern Michigan University for one year. Her first job was at St. Mary's Hospital in Marquette. Patients suffering with tuberculosis had to go to special hospitals; the closest at that time was Morgan Heights located in Marquette Township. The hospitals were like those today, but with much less technology. For instance, x-rays were in a separate room, but the machines were less powerful. Another tragic disease prevalent in those times was polio that struck one of Mimi's friend's daughters, and she died in a matter of two weeks. " It was a crippling disease. They brought her to the hospital but they had no special machines for it," Mimi said as she shook her head. They had not yet come up with the polio vaccine in 1933, and treatments were ineffective. Not very many people were hospitalized for things other than surgery, for people could not afford it. Penicillin was invented during Mimi's nursing career, but she says now it is not used as extensively. Doctors still prescribe penicillin to people, but they also give other antibiotics that better fight the sickness they have. Mimi began nursing in 1956 and retired in 1979 at age sixty-one.

Mimi (left) c. 1957

Cars have become a major change in technology while Mimi was growing up. Cars were a vehicle to get to one place or another. Our cars today are more modern, and they go faster. If a person had a car, they were considered lucky. Another branch of technology to undergo changes was laundry. When Mimi first started doing laundry, she had to haul her own water and heat it on the stove before she could wash the clothes. She used a washboard, hung the clothing on the line. The innovation was a washing machine with a wringer, which operated with a hand crank. The clothing was hung on the line in summer or winter rain or shine.

Mimi has lived through five wars and ten or more presidents. When I asked Mimi what she thought about war, she replied, " I think it is a terrible, terrible thing and a waste of humanity."

Mimi shared parts of her life story with me and the things I may never get to experience myself. Now that I know more about the changes that have taken place I understand what people have gone through, and I really appreciate my life. Things were not easy back then. Many people had to give up things they wanted to make a living. Mimi shared her story with us because she wants us to gain knowledge and respect what others have gone through and how it changed their lives.

Ashley Voegtline

REMEMBERING THE YEARS IN MINING

As I walked into the familiar house, my grandparents welcomed me with smiling faces and questions about school. I was a little nervous about my interview, but soon as I started talking with my grandpa, I felt very comfortable.

My grandpa, Roy Harold Winnen, was born to Joseph and Emma Winnen on July 3, 1927, in Calumet, Michigan and the youngest of nine children. As a child, he lived in a two-story eight-room home owned by the copper mining company. In later years when the copper mines closed the homes were sold to the employees living in them. In elementary school he attended Washington School from first through eighth grade. His high school days were spent at Calumet High School. During his high school days, twice a week he had to wear his ROTC uniform. As for the other school clothes, "we had a good pair of slacks and shirt, when we came home from school, you had to take your school clothes off", explained grandpa. In school my grandpa played hockey and baseball. Regarding toys my grandpa said, "never had any toys" as he chuckles to himself.

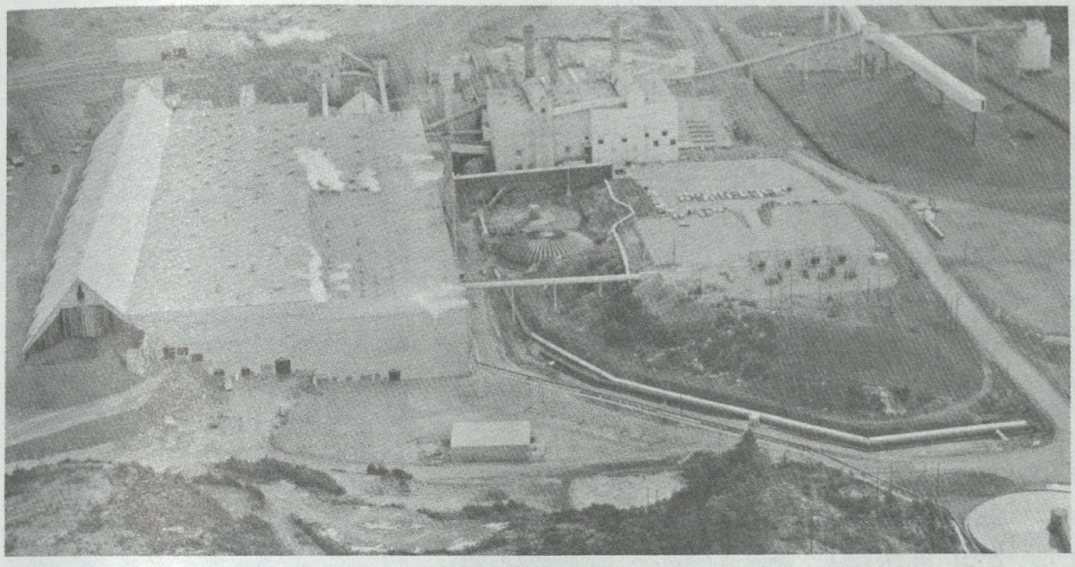
Grandpa Winnen as a young boy standing in front of his dad's car. Jackie Johnson 1999

Roy in his ROTC uniform. c. 1944

My grandpa's first job was when he was a junior in high school. He worked in a baker shop, where his job was to help bake and wrap the bread. He was not paid very much. "I got a dollar and a half a night, and if it took three hours or five hours, I still got the same pay, a dollar and a half", grandpa stated. Before college, my grandpa had another job. He was in the Merchant Marines. He worked on the deck, and he was the wheels man on the ship. When I asked my grandpa if leaving his family was hard for him, he commented, "It was war time when I left. You didn't even think about it. You knew you had to go and you went."

When my grandpa returned from the Merchant Marines, he went straight to college. He attended Michigan Technological University, Wayne State University and the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. His first job that sparked his interest in mining was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he worked in the Mine Equipment department that was a sales department for mining equipment. After that job, he came back to Ishpeming where he worked for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company.

Mornings are, as many people know, difficult with a six-o clock wake-up time. My grandpa had to get up at 6:00 a.m. for work. It was a forty-minute drive so he left his house at around quarter to seven. When he got to work, the first thing he did was change his clothes and check all the equipment.



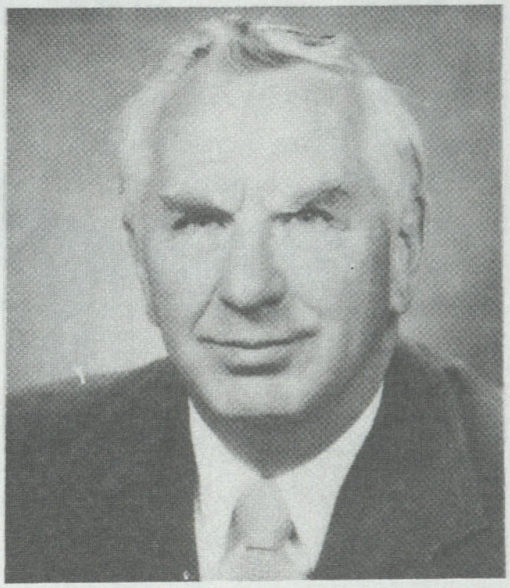
Early view of the Tilden Mine c. 1981

The last place he worked was the Tilden Mine, which was a big open pit mining operation, where they produced low-grade hematite ore. Hematite is nonmagnetic ore requiring a more complex process with many chemicals. It included a flotation process to concentrate the ore and finally it was pelletized. After processing the pellets, they shipped them to various steel mills. Due to the heavy reliance this area has on mining industry, one of the most important things was the various changes in mining. When my grandpa first worked at the iron ore mines, the underground mines were big and open pit mines were small. The first open pit mine producing low-grade ore was at the Humboldt mine, which had a capacity of about 600,000 tons a year. Next the Republic Mine opened and it produced about 2,000,000 tons a year. The most significant changes began with the Empire and Tilden Mines that through serious expansions ended at 8,000,000 tons a year. The changes in machinery were also great. When my grandpa worked in the early days at Humboldt, they had twenty-two ton trucks. Currently the Empire and Tilden Mines have around 250 ton trucks to haul ore to the crushers. "You started out with small shovels at Humboldt and Republic. You got a little bigger and now at the Empire and Tilden you have huge shovels" explained grandpa. The equipment inside the plant has changed a great deal also. The plants grinding mills started off with about eight by ten feet and now they have enormous thirty-foot diameter mills!

Now my grandpa is seventy-one years old. He has been married to Zita Verbanac for forty-eight years. He has five children: Marion, Susie, Mark, Roy, and Joe who are in their middle 30's and 40's. Some hobbies of his are playing cards with friends and spending time with his ten grandchildren.

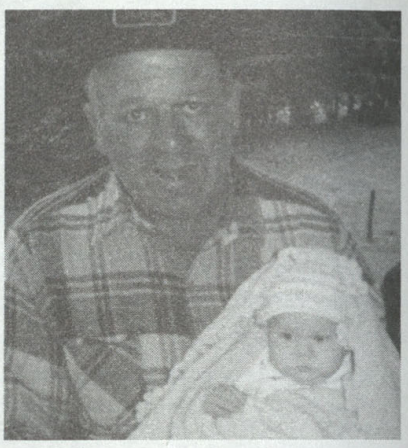
I think this interview has really opened my eyes to my grandpa's family back round and his profession that I would have never known.

Jackie Johnson



Roy Winnen, c. 1986

THE LIFE OF LEONARD HEBERT



My Garndpa and I

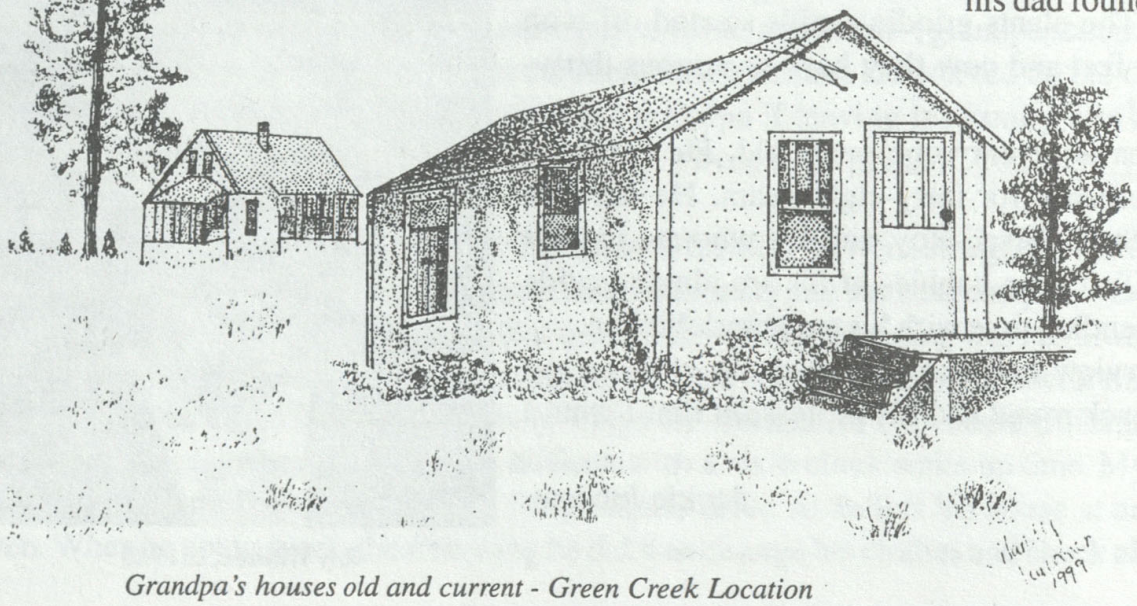
I already knew my grandpa,. Leonard (Len) Hebert, has a good sense of humor, but I did not know some funny stories he told me. One of them took place when my grandpa was working at Ford Garage. He often ate kipper snacks and they do not smell very good. He hid the kipper snacks in Loren Grey's waste paper basket after he got done eating them. Loren was the secretary there at the time. "He looked all over the office to see where the smell was coming from. "It took him about two months to find out who was doing that," Grandpa said laughingly.

My grandpa was born in a little log house in Frenchtown and lived there till 1938 when he moved to Green Creek Location. He had one sister Margaret and one brother Wilfred ; his parent's names were Annie and Philip Hebert.

When my grandpa was younger, he and his friends liked to play hide and go seek, cowboys, and trucks. My grandpa also had a very loyal dog named Pal; Pal followed my grandpa everywhere.

My Grandpa attended National Mine School. He said that school was different for him; he said school was much simpler and teachers were meaner. If students did something wrong at school, they got a slap on the hand with a ruler or were sent to the principal's office. My grandfather's favorite subject was history; he liked studying about the elections, how the United States became a country, George Washington, and about the thirteen colonies. He did not have a favorite teacher, but he liked the schools cook Andrea, he liked her because she handed out cookies to the kids when they were playing at recess.

At home grandpa always had something to do; he had to milk the cows, feed the chickens, chop wood, and do some different things in the barn. My grandpa said he never ran out of things to do, because if he told his dad he did not have anything to do, his dad found more chores for him. My grandpa got his first car at age sixteen; it was a Model A which his dad paid only forty dollars. Cars surely were much cheaper when my grandpa was younger.



Grandpa's houses old and current - Green Creek Location

My grandpa always wanted to be a mechanic, and when he grew up he became one. The first job he had as an adult was working at Master Motors. At his first job he only received fifteen dollars a week. I asked grandpa what the difference was between a Model A and a Model T, and he told me. "Well, a model T has spoke wheels and doesn't have very much of a body and a Model A has steel wheels and a little better body, and if you really wanted to spend money you could even get a heater."

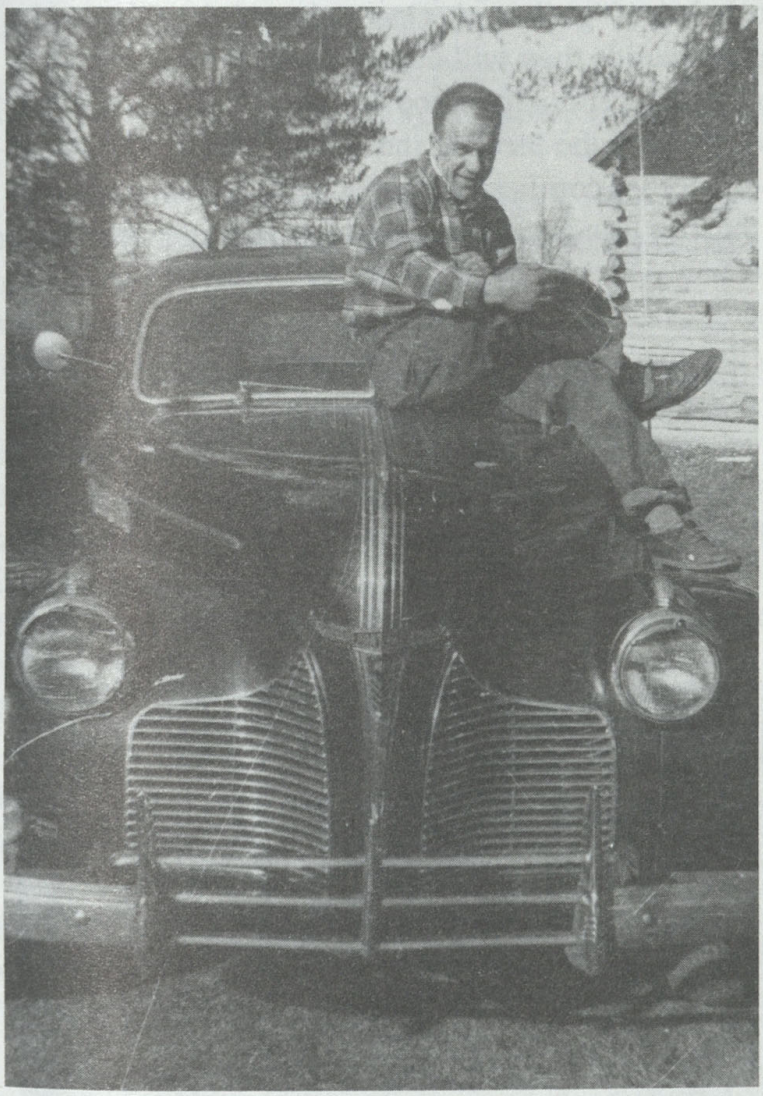
My grandpa has enjoyed many different hobbies that include, throwing horse shoes, bowling, playing cribbage, going out to eat on Fridays with Loren and Pearl, and especially riding horses. Since he and his friends liked horseback riding they started a club when he was about thirty-five years old called the Trail Riders. All the members that had horses went trail riding together. After a while instead of just trail riding the club organized Horse Shows and Fun Days. My grandpa's job at the Horse Show was Ringmaster. Everyone had lots of fun and the club existed for about twenty-five years.

When I asked my grandpa what he thought the most important inventions made in his lifetime were, he replied the car, airplane, radio, and laughingly said TV.

My grandpa married and had one child, Sandra Ann Hebert who was born December 17, 1962. His first wife died, and he is now married again to Mert.

When I asked my grandpa why he is living where he is today, he replied "Cause I love it."

MandyTarvainen



My Grandpa on his 1939 Pontiac

PETER JOHN ARSENAULT'S LIFE

Pete sits atop a horse at 8th gr. picinic.

"The close-knit family was very significant to me. We always see each other pretty often," said Pete Arsenault when asked about something very important in his life. His three brothers and sisters that are left remain very close to each other.

Peter John Arsenault was born on July 8, 1929, in Salisbury Location in Ishpeming, Michigan to a family of eleven, including his parents. He had seven brothers: Paul, Patrick, Paschal, Phillip, Peter who died when he was two, Pius, and two girls, Elaine and Ethel. Pete's mother named all of her boys after the saints.

When Pete was a child, he had to do chores, he had to cut wood, bring it in, shovel the snow and wash dishes. Since there were only two girls and his mother, the boys had to do lots of "girl" work. Once, when his brother and he went to get wood, they had a ride they will never forget. Pete's father had built a toboggan slide coming down into the yard so that getting the wood was quick and easier. Well, Pete and his brother piled eight or nine pieces of wood on the piece of sheet metal that they used for a sled. There was a curve in the slide that they did not see coming. They shot over the top, and there was an open pit about five thousand feet from the hill, Pete and his brother went through three barb wire fences. All they could think of was to save the wood, while their father was yelling to jump off and save themselves. By the time they stopped the sled, they were about thirty or forty feet away from the edge of the pit! Their father was angry that the boys almost lost their lives trying to save the wood. Pete recalled this memory with a laugh as he said "I still can't sit down today."

Pete attended the Parochial School, which had eight grades and a strict dress code. This school taught religion, and respect for other people plus the ordinary subjects. In the convent school, the nuns were very strict. Pete recalled another funny school tale when he was hit with a geography book for hollering out. Pete says that the boy behind flicked his ears, and when Pete reacted by yelling, the teacher hit him! When he got to the fifth grade and was a "bad boy" the teacher sent him down to his dad, who was a janitor of the school. His father would talk to him for twenty minutes, then tell him to get a tear in his eye and go back up to the classroom. At that time in the year, the school had a horse barn. Pete spent his time before school in the barn with the horses. The teachers were not pleased when he would come in smelling like an "old horse".

Pete and current wife, Lois at their wedding reception with attendants.

As for the dress code, they did not permit the kids to wear overalls, but considering that Pete was from a poor family, he occasionally wore overalls

to school. His mother always said that their overalls were clean and not patched.

Pete's favorite subject in school was geography and math. Pete's dad helped in math by teaching his kids to play cribbage that made them good at their counting. By playing cards a lot, Pete's house became one of the most popular hang outs. Kids often came to his house to play cards.

Considering how long he has been out of school, I think it is a wonder that he remembers some things he does. Pete remembers most of his teachers. One of them was Sister Lawrence, who hit him with the geography book, and his fifth grade teacher, Patricia, who hit him with the edge of the ruler. As for high school, Oscar Strand and Loretta McDoughna, were the teachers he named.

Pete dropped out of school in the tenth grade and enlisted in the army with his father and mother's consent. When he got back from the army, he decided that an education was the best way to go. He finished high school through correspondence, and then went on to college to get a Master's Degree in Industrial Education with a minor in Conservation. He eventually became a teacher and accomplished a childhood dream of becoming a printer. In 1968 he taught printing in Nepal through a government agency for six months.

When Pete came out of the Army, he dated for a couple years and then married his first wife, Edna, who taught at Ishpeming High School. They were married for twenty-eight years and then she passed away.

Pete had two children, a boy and a girl. His son has a little girl named Atlanta. Pete thinks that setting values is one of the hardest things about raising children. When he got angry, he walked away, because Pete feels that a person cannot straighten things out when he or she is angry. He says the easiest is setting down the rules of the house and make sure that everyone follows that respecting elders. Pete thinks that he may have spoiled his children because growing up in the Depression was hard. When he had two children of his own, he gave them everything they wanted, because he did not want them to have the tough life that he had.

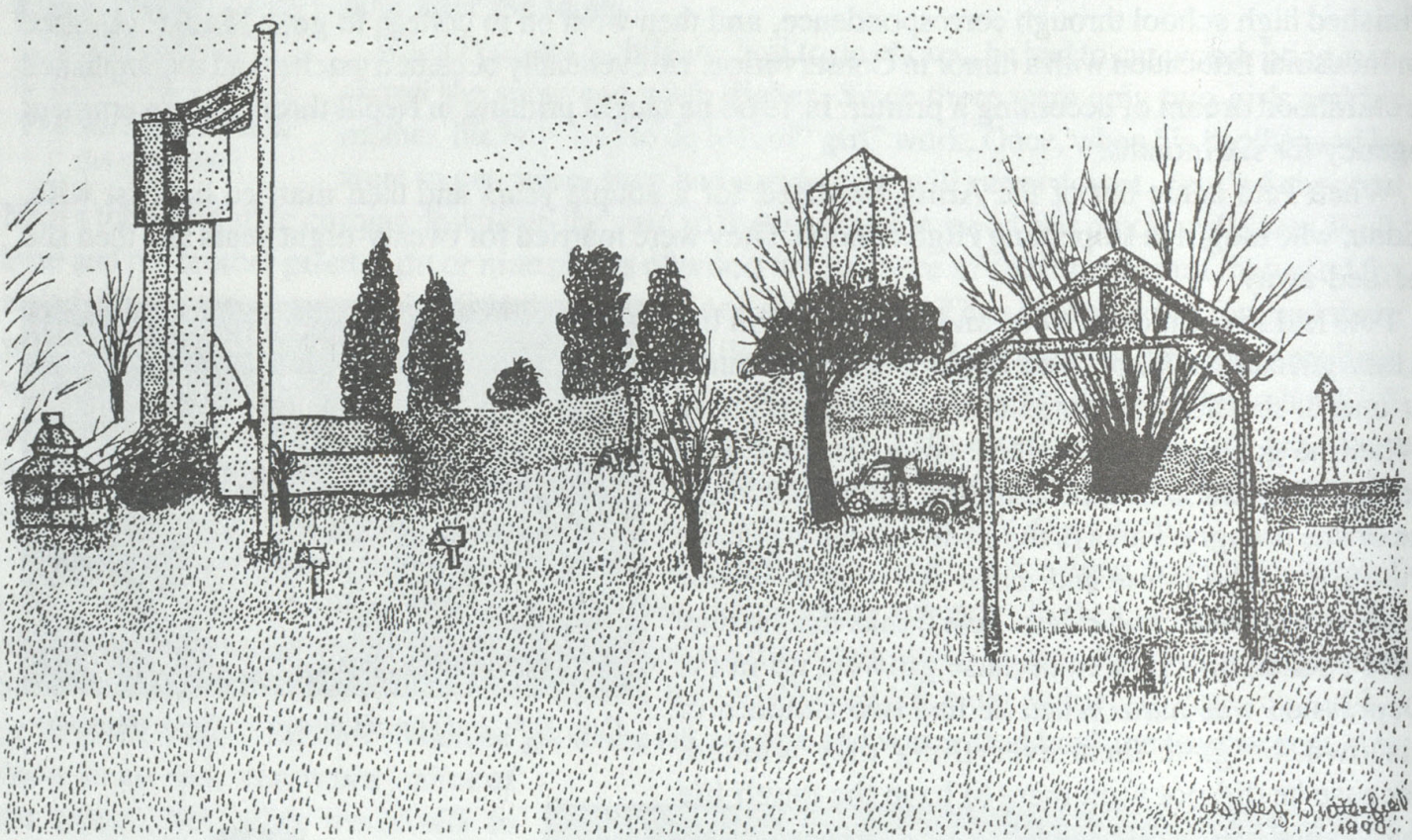
Pete, Wife, and grandkids enjoy a day at the mall.

Pete married his current wife, Lois, when he was fifty-five years old. They live on Rose Street with their adorable dog, Zoey. Pete and Lois attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Ishpeming.

It was a wonderful experience to interview Peter Arsenault, and to learn about his life. I enjoyed being with him and his wife. I would just like to thank him for talking to me.

Ashley Butterfield

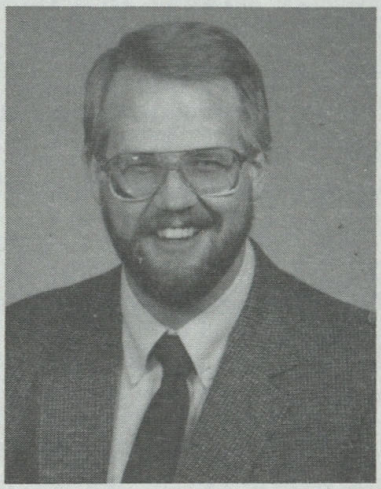
Pete celebrating father's day picnic.



Lake Bancroft park where the Arsenaults like to picnic.

THE GOOD DOCTOR

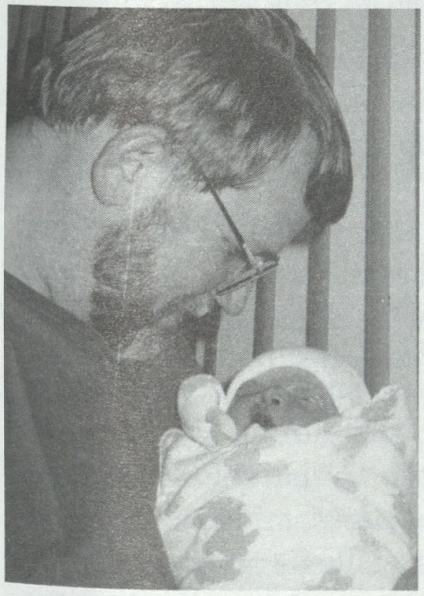
Recently Dr. Wayne Carlson discussed many interesting points and perspectives in his life. Dr. Carlson also shared some of his perspectives on many other issues. "I am an anti-computer person," stated Dr. Carlson. "I haven't sat down at one for forty-two years, and I hope I won't for the next forty-two," he added. The interview with Dr. Carlson was time well spent, because he brought me through some very important moments in his life.



Dr. Carlson

Dr. Carlson was born at what was then known as St. Luke's Hospital, now named Marquette General Hospital, on October 13, 1954. As a child Dr. Carlson grew up in Michigamme, Michigan. During his childhood Dr. Carlson enjoyed swimming and baseball, "Played lots of baseball, not organized. Kids of all ages would play. Fifth graders and seniors all in one big game," Dr. Carlson recalled. During the winter time Dr. Carlson told me that where he lived the streets got plowed, but not sanded. This made for excellent sledding conditions, and as a result he and his friends could sled for two to three miles. Wayne-O, as he was sometimes called during his childhood, also told me about some of the more influential figures in his up bringing. One of which was his father, "On nice days he'd come in and shut the T.V. off. He'd say go on, go outside," he recalled. Another person that Dr. Carlson pointed out as a big influence was his confirmation pastor. Dr. Carlson explained that his pastor changed his life because he introduced him to Jesus.

Dr. Carlson had some very interesting jobs before becoming a doctor also. At the age of sixteen they hired him at a grocery store in Michigamme. Unfortunately for him, the owners of the store were usually inebriated. Dr. Carlson had this to say, "I'd go there on Friday, and they'd be blitzed."

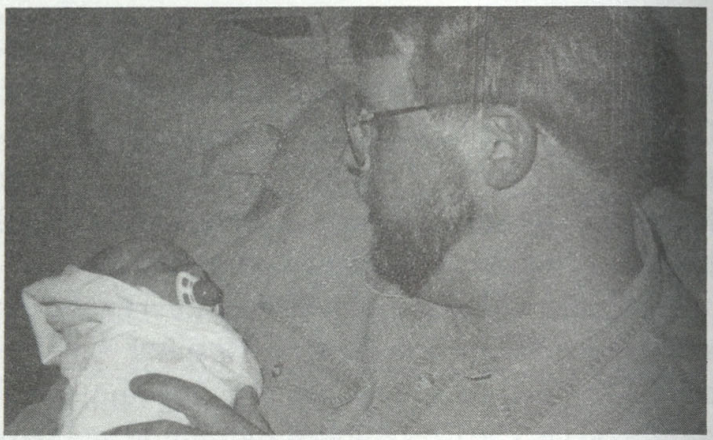


A great joy of Dr. Carlson to deliver babies.

Over the summer Dr. Carlson learned some very important lessons. One of these lessons was how to run a grocery store, since the owners were incapacitated most of the time Dr. Carlson and other employees basically ran the store. Another one of Dr. Carlson's jobs was at a sawmill. Dr. Carlson had the very prestigious name of sawdust man. While working at this sawmill, he earned $3.07 an hour, not that bad for the sawdust man. Obviously Dr. Carlson is a doctor now, and that will be his job for quite sometime. During his high school years he explained how the idea of becoming a doctor first came about, "I didn't grow up with this desire.... But as I got close to graduation people wanted to know what I was going to do. So they'd ask. Well it got to bug me so much I just said I was going to dental school" Dr. Carlson remembered.

During his college years Dr. Carlson explained that he had some indecision before he decided to take the pre-medicine curriculum. Dr. Carlson's medical training spanned eleven years. Those years

were split between Northern Michigan University, Michigan Technological University, medical school and internship and residency. During his college years at NMU, Dr. Carlson was a member of one of the bands. During a concert he had a solo that he had to get up and play. Dr. Carlson gave details of the incident, "I went up to play a solo, and I just totally forgot the entire thing. I couldn't blow a note. So I just went back and sat down as the rest of the band played the background music."



Dr. Carlson with one of the babies he delivered.

Through the years, there have been many gigantic changes in technology. Dr. Carlson looked back and reflected about many of what he thought were the most major changes, "Television, television was the biggest that I appreciated during my childhood," he remarked. Dr. Carlson explained that the T.V. he grew up with had only one channel. Consequently everybody watched the same thing or nothing. Dr. Carlson also told me one of the programs that he watched, "I didn't grow up with Sesame Street, I grew up with Captain Kangaroo," he mentioned. Another major change in technology was the change with telephones. Dr. Carlson explained that at one time everybody had a three-digit phone number. He related how unreliable phones could be, stating that the call would sometimes get cut off.

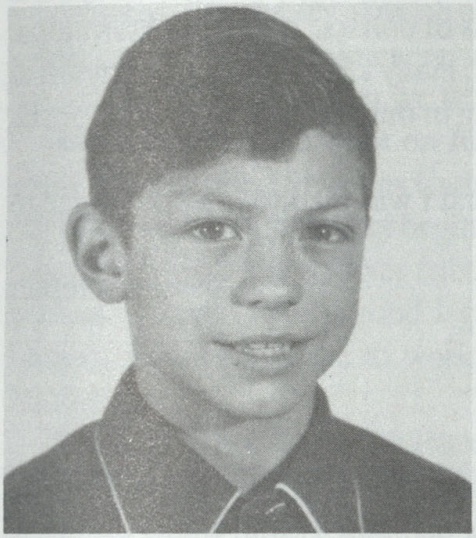
While talking with Dr. Carlson, we discussed many alterations in medicine that have occurred. He explained how diagnostic tests, and medication have really changed dramatically. Dr. Carlson had this interesting statement, "In some ways technology has passed up our ability to cure. It can show us things that we don't know how to cure yet." The most dramatic thing Dr. Carlson mentioned was the treatment of heart disease. He told me about a new type of surgery where new blood vessels are formed.

Dr. Carlson stated his feelings on many "current" topics such as abortion and computers. While talking with Dr. Carlson I found out that he is not really impressed with the turn that society has taken. Dr. Carlson noted, "Abortion is big now, and I don't back that up. I feel it goes against my creed as a doctor."

I have brought you through a part of this great man's life, and I hope you have realized that he is a very caring and loving individual. Dr. Carlson has shared with all of us his views on life, and now we should take them to heart. As you finish this story think about what he has said and how it can affect your life. With all of this being said, I reemphasize the title of this story, for he is truly is a "Good Doctor".

Adam Michaud

LOOKING BACK



Lee Jordan Hebert, 1955 school picture.

My grandfather, Leo Jordan Hebert, is a short and jolly fifty-five year old man, who had many interesting facts to share with me about his life and other issues.

Grandpa was born in Marquette, Michigan in 1943 to Leo and Joyce Hebert. He had two sisters and four brothers. Grandpa lived in many different places when he was a child such as Big Bay, Ishpeming, Marquette, National Mine and Cottonwood, Idaho. Like all kids he had a favorite game; it was cowboys and Indians.

There were many older guys around when he was about six years old who told him stories about when they were in the army out west. "One old guy took care of horses and couldn't even hear," exclaimed grandpa. This older fellow more than ninety was still working! He told grandpa stories about working with trees, hunting and how the fishing was better in the older days. Grandpa was around more old people then young people. He had no idea that hearing stories from all these old people would later result in his interest in history.

Like most kids he had to attend school. Since grandpa went to a Catholic school, he had to wear blue dress pants, a white shirt and a tie to school. The teacher he remembered most was an art teacher. Her name was Mrs. Bath. Grandpa had two favorite subjects in school. They were history and geography. "Then you always had the schools talking about the threat of nuclear war," grandpa said. Often students had to go to air raid shelters, practicing for the event of a nuclear bomb. Of course, such shelters were probably ineffective if the Russians dropped a bomb.

When he was sixteen, he found out from his wife Anita Hebert, that they were expecting a child. They eventually had six children together. Cindy, Janet, Barb and Darlene were the four girls. The two boys were Tommy and Jerry. All children were born in Ishpeming except Tommy who was born in Milwaukee. What grandpa found most difficult about raising kids was earning enough money to support a large family. Grandpa was a strong disciplinarian.

Grandpa found out from his daughter Cindy and son-in-law Brad that he was going to be a grandparent. This excited grandpa. Today he has fourteen grandchildren and one on the way. Grandpa enjoys being a grandparent. It is one thing he is very proud of.

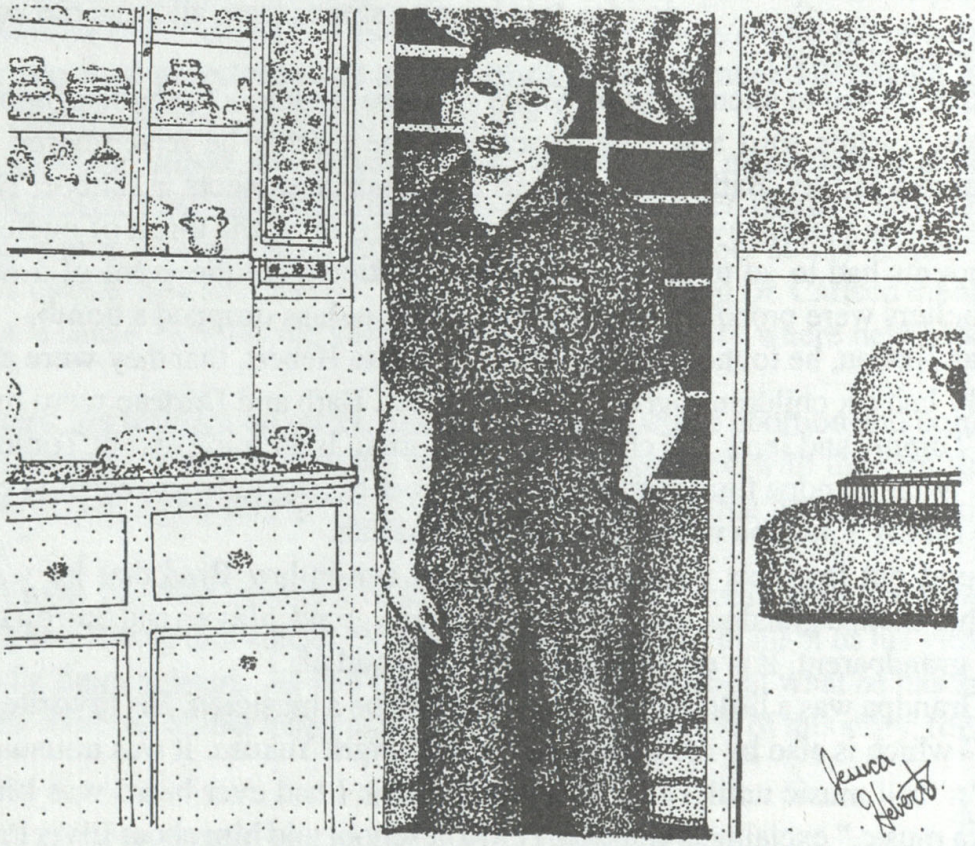
Ever since Grandpa was a little boy he has wanted to be a musician. His favorite song is "Guitars and Cadillac's" which is also by his favorite singer, Dwight Yokum. It was unusual that he had not heard of rock 'n' roll music until 1957. "The only music I had ever heard was bluegrass, hillbilly music and Polka music," exclaimed grandpa. A kid at school told him about Elvis Presley, but he had never heard of him. Music took a big change when the Beatles came along. In the sixties rock music started changing significantly, grandpa went back to listening to country music. "And everything pretty much went the same until the music business really started to change big time," said grandpa. The musical computer and synthesizer were coming on the scene. It started changing the way things

were done musically.

"It's a lot more expensive to play music today then it was then. You use to be able to get away with a few hundred dollars in equipment; Now, you're talking thousands of dollars," explained Grandpa. Grandpa is very much interested in music. He told me that there are many kids out there that want to be musicians, but it is hard today. A person cannot learn everything in musical school, for he or she has to be able to sing before people.

Grandpa had many wonderful aspects that he shared with me, and I was glad to have a chance to interview him. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Jessica Hebert



Grandfather Hebert at home on his wedding day

MY NEW DISCOVERIES ABOUT GRAM

"Oh yes, two uncles a bunch of cousins of my mothers…" responded my grandma, Shirley Pepin, when I inquired if she knew anyone in World War II. This was just one of the many memories that she shared with me when we talked.

My Grandma was born on July 22, 1925, to the late Frances (Nault) and Daniel Cudahy. As a child, she attended St. Johns Catholic School for kindergarten through the eighth grade. She attended the Ishpeming High School beginning in the ninth grade. While attending Ishpeming High School she was in the band she and her friend played the clarinet; they got put behind the drums because, "We certainly weren't very good I guess," she said. While going to school her favorite subject was, "Math, I guess… I like to work with numbers," replied Shirley. Her favorite teacher was "Sister Davidaca".

While Shirley was growing up, she helped her mother with the chores, such as going to the grocery store, which was two blocks away from her home. Also she kept her room clean. They were always a family that had enough money for food, clothing and other necessities a growing family needs.

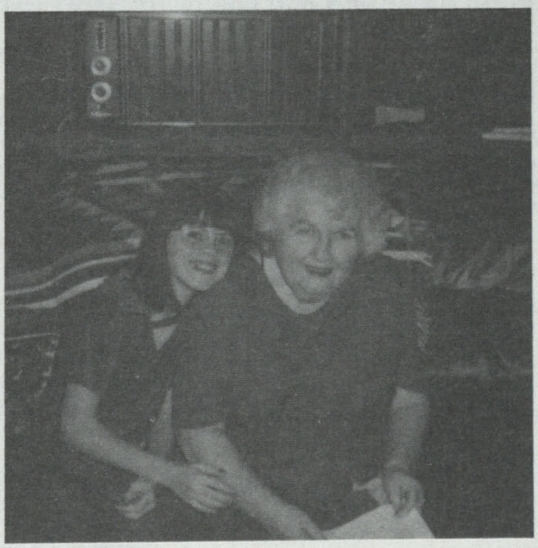
Shirley's first car was "A real oldie 1934, 4-door we had more fun in that car then we would have with a new one." As a child she and her friends around the neighborhood used to play: Hide and Go Seek, Ring Around the Rosie and many other fun games that kids still play today in their neighborhoods.

My grandma also shared some memories about her best friend Blanche Gatien. She explained with a dismayed look on her face, "She became my auntie. She married my uncle who is only eleven months older then I am," she told me.

My grandma had two nicknames that she can remember. " I used to be called Pinky, the people at work used to call me that." She also said that she has another nickname "Totie, I guess it's a family joke" while laughing hysterically. While a child, the family went on many vacations including going to Chicago at least once a year, and also traveling to Canada and always stop to visit the St. Lawrence River.

She also went to Cuba with her friend shortly after the dictator Battista took over. While soldiers were there, my grandma and her friend walked by and soldiers hissed at them. They always thought that it was because they didn't like her and her friend. They were worried, but soon after they finally found out that they were hissing because they thought they were pretty. Americans whistle, but in Cuba the men hiss as a compliment.

One of the many decisions she had to make was a career to pursue. She enrolled at Northern Michigan University to become a school teacher, but her friend Blanche convinced her to go to Green Bay Badger Business School in Green Bay. She attended the school and returned home to Michigan to become a compensation clerk.



Shirley and her granddaughter Katie Tonge looking over my Red Dust story together.

Thanksgiving 1998, back row L to R: Anne Michell (daughter), Tracy Cote, Amy Carlson (granddaughters), Lawrence Pepin (son) Jennifer Tonge, Angela Cote, Patrick Carlson (grandchildren) front row L to R: Kristie Tonge (granddaughter) Shirley Pepin, Katie Tonge (granddaughters)

She worked at the Main Office at CCI until 1985 when she retired from her position.

Shirley started dating unsupervised at the age of seventeen. Her first dance was on St.Patrick's Day with her future husband George L. Pepin. They went bowling and dancing. He asked her to marry him in her living room. She was twenty-seven years when they were married.

" Anne Marie, Lawrence Paul, Mary Jo and Patricia Renee" announced Shirley as she told me her children's names. As we kept on talking, she recited all her grandchildren as follows: "Patrick John, Amy Jo, Jennifer Rae, Tracy Anne, Angela Jean, Kristie Leah and Katie Lynn." When her grandchildren get married, she says the best motto to give them is, "Be kind to each other."

"Western Type dances a little bit of jazz" remembered Shirley referring to all the popular dances in the 50' s-60. Her favorite athletes are Brett Favre and Don Hutson. She also enjoyed skiing, night skating, bowling, and of course dancing.

From the hour that I spent talking with my grandma I realized how caring she really is. Throughout the good times and bad she is always kind to my fellow family members and me. I really liked her sharing her memories with me. I am sure that I will cherish them forever. I have found out many things I never knew about her.

Angela Cote

Shirley's parent's wedding
front row L to R : Frances Nault, Daniel Cudahy
back row L to R: Eva Hebert, John Cudahy

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MR. BUSSONE.

Club House c. 1917

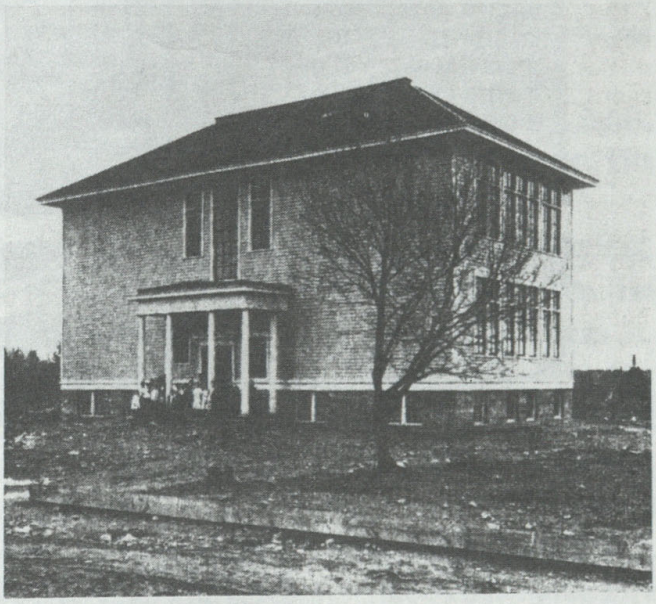
David Joseph Bussone was born August 21, 1915, in a small mining community called Dexter where his father worked in the American Mine. When Mr. Bussone was three months old, the American Mine closed down. The houses from Dexter and some from near Lake Angeline were moved to a small locality that was soon to be called North Lake.

Mr. Bussone went through school without being known as David. One day when he was in kindergarten, his mom brought him to school; she was calling him Dino, but the principal did not quite hear her accurately and thought that she said Gino. Consequently, they called him Gino; his name was not changed back until the fifth or sixth grade. The school officials finally changed it back to David. Mr. Bussone said, "I was never the best at school but I got by and I enjoyed it."

In our discussion about chores Mr. Bussone said, "I had every kind of chore you could imagine." David took care of a garden, the cows, and harvesting the hay, among other chores. Earning money was not easy in North Lake when Mr. Bussone was a kid. He stated, "I would always work if I could get a dollar." One job that he earned wages for was setting pins up at the clubhouse where he earned a penny and a half for a line of bowling.

The first car the Bussone family had was a Model T that cost seventy-five dollars. When they went to build a garage for it, they ended up paying more for the garage than they did for the car. His father tried driving it, but he never got the hang of it so he gave it to his son.

When Mr. Bussone was fifteen, his father died. He had to quit high school and get a job so he could support his family. The company his father had worked for gave the family thirty-two dollars a month to live on. When the North Lake School burned down, he got a job there by telling them he was eighteen when he was really seventeen.



"Old School" c. 1911

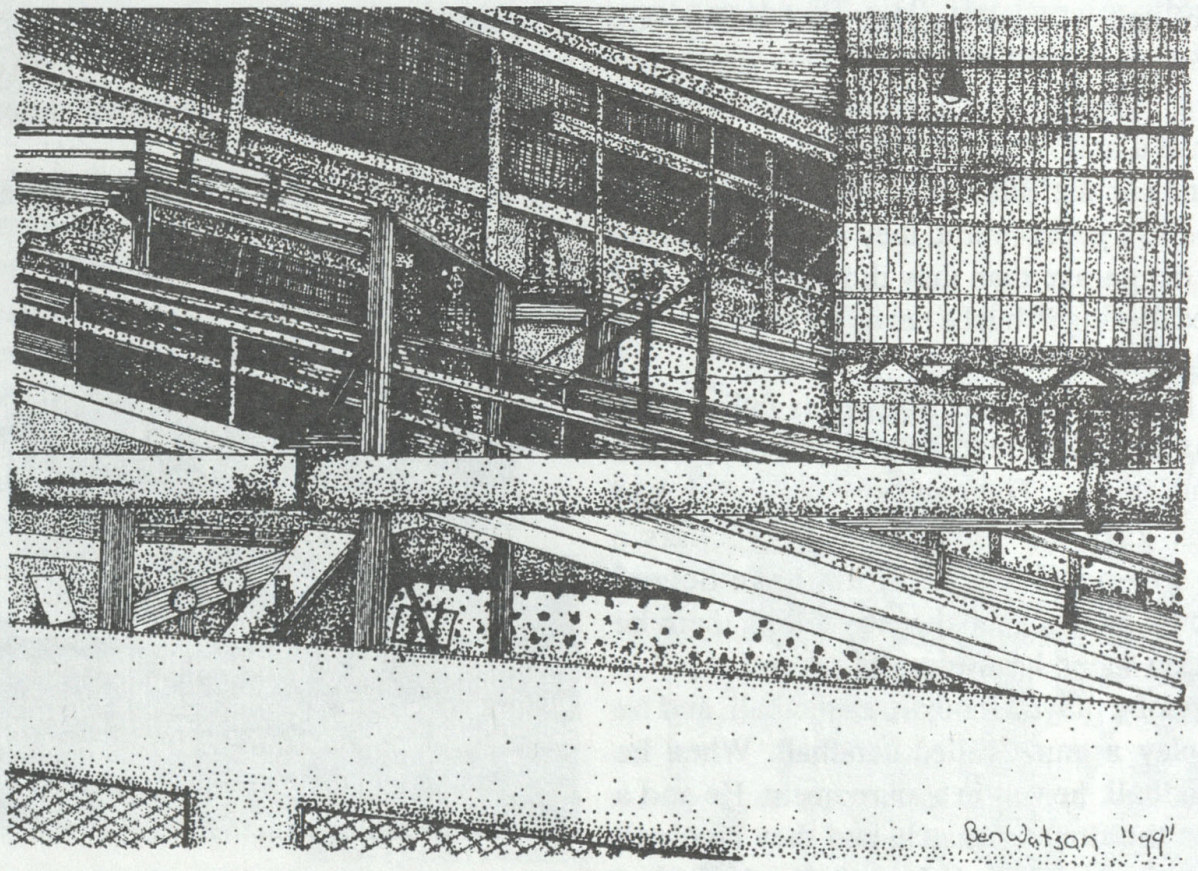
Mr. Bussone played football, basketball, and he loved to play a game called handball. When he played handball, he was in a tournament. He and a friend won the doubles match, and they received an electric clock. It stood about 2 feet high, but compared with the clocks today, it was not very

good.

One of his other jobs was at a mine where he worked four days then he was off ten days. He made forty cents an hour. The mine was called Section 6, which was an underground mine. When asked if he was ever scared working in an underground mine he replied, "I was never scared. I had many close accidents, but I was never scared." When he went to various area sinking shafts, they had to place runners in place. There were never any safety belts because if a man forgot to put it on and made a mistake or wrong move an accident resulted. If no safety belt was used then the men watched themselves and did not make mistakes. Mr. Bussone said that he only knew one guy that died in the mines. He was a friend that was working on the bottom of the shaft when a guy accidentally dropped a hammer. The hammer fell and hit the man on the head.

Right now Mr. Bussone resides in North Lake and he attends church regularly. He still goes out camp and tends his garden at home.

Ben Watson



Mine worker at the Tilden Mine c. 1997

LOOKING BACK

"There was a Negro barber by the name of Braxton. All of us paper kids we used to be kind of like that show *The Newzies*, but it wasn't the same thing. He called us down there into his barber shop, said he wanted to buy a paper from each of us. But instead he ran down there locked the door quick. He pulled out his barber razor. Asked us if we ever wanted to spit on his windows again? We said 'no' and he gave each of us a penny which was a lot of money them days. We never spit on his windows."

This story was told to me by Charles Joseph Henry Patrick Bleau III. During Charles's childhood, kids did not have fashionable clothes of any kind. He got a pair of sneakers, which during the summer wore out. That was his last pair of sneakers; even though school started he did not get a new pair because money was scarce during the Depression. Fashion was the clothing he could find.

For entertainment Charles went to the movies often. They got about ten people together. He and his brother Jimmy each put in a penny and they paid his brother's admission. After his brother got in, he unlocked the doors in back letting the rest of the kids into the theater. They got a chance to see about three movies a week at a penny a piece. Jimmy got caught opening the doors once. The bouncer grabbed him by the back of his neck, and threw him down on the cement blocks knocking out two of his teeth. The manager of the theater paid his dad twenty five dollars for dental work.

Charles made skis out of old pickle barrels. He knocked down one of those old pickle barrels fashioning skis that were about three feet long. He put rubber straps cut off bands of inner tubes to hold his feet on. He put lots of wax on them so they could ski downhill by the Courthouse in Marquette. They also made their own sleds. They took an orange crate, loaded it on one of those staves, and put a little seat on it. He could steer it a little. Kids had to make their own fun back then.

Some memories that he was not too fond of were diseases like small pox, and chickenpox. The doctor put a sign on the door that labeled the house as quarantined. He said that was not too bad because he missed two weeks of school every time they experienced such an episode. He told me that he always got caught up on his school work

Charles sold his papers on the street. He never had a route until his last year of high school. Next, he worked at a gas station. He worked selling popcorn out on the street in a big popcorn wagon. His last job before joining the Army was at a funeral home.

One time when Charles was working at the bowling alley, one of the Dead End Kids was bowling. The Dead End kids were celebrities who were in the movies all the time. He set pins for him. He recalled, "After a while that bowling alley did burn down. Another thing that burnt dawn was St. Peters Cathedral that burnt down probably in May of 1935 or 36 something like that."

"Charles's dad threw one of those rubber bowling balls in the fire once. There was no central heatin in his home; he lived in an old barn of a house, and he had a heattrolla in the middle of the floor. He used to go along behind J.C. Penny's to pick up cardboard or anything to be used for burning material to keep them warm. Sometimes the government got some kind of softwood that they piled. They gathered whatever they could, and they were burning something all the time. That's probably why his dad thought that the bowling ball would burn. The ball started shooting fire out of the three finger holes. Charles said, "That old stove never seen so much heat in its life. It was dancing in the

middle of the floor". His dad got kind of worried; they got some pails of water and put it around the stove.

December 7,1941 World War II officially started for the United States. Charles was in school, and the school awarded them all their diplomas in April so they could all get in the service. He did not join until August of 1943.

It was the first time that Charles was introduced to alcohol. A young fellow got on the train bringing them to Chicago. He had a suitcase without even a tie in it. It was all loaded with whiskey. So everybody had some alcohol by the time they got to Chicago. Charles said, "They wouldn't give us a blood test for two days." He said he did not want to go into detail about the train ride of eighteen year old kids throwing up all over the place.

Charles volunteered because they told him his draft number was up the next month. He tried to get into the marines but he could not because his eyes were bad. The Army took a person as long as he was breathing. A person had to meet certain qualifications to get into the Marines. Charles spent a lot of his own money trying to get his teeth into shape so he could get into the Marine Corps. He believed that to get into the Marine corps he had to have perfect teeth.

"After you get into the army everybody gets separated so you don't know too many people. You may go through basic training with most of them but after basic training you get spread all over the world."

Charles's commanding officer in the Army was General Lunsferd B Oliver. Charley was trained as an artillery gunner. After training he was one of the few who was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program. He was all set to go there, and he speculates that they anticipated the invasion of Normandy and shut down all those programs. He did not get there and the next thing he knew he had a home for the next five or six days. He went to Maryland, and he stayed there for two or three days for briefing. The army sent him to the Boston army base for nearly a month. All they did was load boats and move cargo with all the stevedores. The stevedores got paid well, but they worked thirteen or fourteen hours a day with no overtime pay. Charles and his company kept filling those boats up with supplies. Now, as he recalls that time, he thinks those boats were for the Normandy Invasion. They went to England where they camped out until they became part of the invasion. He was on very rough water waiting for a place to land. Once they landed, they stayed on the Petrose River until General Patton and his troops came and rescued them. He turned nineteen somewhere in France with the fifth army division.

When Charles first joined the army, his rank was a private. He advanced to PFC which means Private First Class, and finally he became a corporal. He did not want to make a career out of the army, so they demoted him back to PFC.

As he looked back on his life experiences he said, "I married my still beautiful wife, Helen, on the 14th of June. No doubt the best, most happiest day of my life."

Tim Bleau