

Jodi Alderton
interviewing
Mrs. Hazel Alderton

me - When were you born?

Mrs. A - September 24, 1905

me - Where?

Mrs. A - National Mine

me - O.k., How many kids were in your family?

Mrs. A - 9, there were five boys and four girls.

me - Did your father work?

Mrs. A - yes

me - where?

Mrs. A - Dad he worked, I can't think of the name but he worked at the home mine and out to Palmer at the volunteer mine.

me - what did he do?

Mrs. A - He was a ... He worked in the boiler house what they called in those days. Shovel coal into the boilers and that.

me - O.k. - did your mother work?

Mrs. A - no

me - mmm what kind of vaccinations did they have?

Mrs. A - ... what kind of what?

me - vaccinations.

Mrs. A - Oh gee, I don't know.

me - Oh. (interrupting)

mrs. a - that's along time ago dear.

me - um... did doctors make house calls?

mrs. a - yes. Dr. Corkrim an was our doctor. An and before him Dr. Barnette and Dr. Felch.

me - O.K. um what school did you go to?

mrs. a - a national mine.

me - um what time did school start?

mrs. a - 9:00

me - what time did it end?

mrs. a - (interrupting) in the morning.
what?

me - what time did it end?

mrs. a - I suppose 3:30 in those days.

me - um did you have to wear anything special to school?

mrs. a - no, we didn't have to (corrects) we just had our regular school clothes.

me - and what were those?

mrs. a - ah I hate to tell ya well ah a lot of times our underwear was made out of flour sacks (laughing)

yah and we were laughing about that last night. out there I said we had Gold Medal, Pillsbury best (laughing) on our underwear.

me - Did you have to wear dresses?

mrs. a. - Yes

me - um was the school work hard?

mrs. a. - well no we had good teachers out there and ah it wasn't hard ya know we did... but we had to do our homework, and that you know and my mother made sure we did our homework. After we would help cut the wood or else go down and work in the garden. We had to work hard in those days.

me - were you in any clubs or organizations at school?

mrs. a. - no

me - did they have, like sports and that?

mrs. a. - not much when we went to school ah basketball

maybe but ah I really can't remember. You know.

me - m-hmm what kind of chores did you have to do?

Mrs. a - Well we had to help get the wood cut the wood and we had to go out and work in the garden cause we always had a garden and we use to have (correcting) we had one garden that was out on the Iron cliff drive and we'd we'd have to walk out there and dig a help dig the potatoes and we, we worked hard in those days and I think that kids (correcting) we were better off than they are today cause I don't think children do enough today.

me - ummm what other foods did you grow?

mrs. a - what other what?

me - foods.

mrs. a - foods?

me - ya

mrs. a - We we had a ~~we~~ had apple trees in our yard too and we had chickens and at one time we had turkeys and pigs and we had a couple cows. but we were never allowed in the barn cause we weren't clean enough for my mother. (laughs)

me - um what did you do for fun?

mrs. a - well I don't know we were working all the time we never we would have a play a trick the can I don't think they do that now. a day

and play ball. but that was
about it.

me - umm Do you know how
funerals were held while
you were growing up?

mrs. a - How the funerals? well
I can remember when
they had the big
explosion at the powder
mill and all (correcting)
at the at Hercules powder
it wasn't called that
then but at Hercules powder
when all the men got
blown up and then
they had all these a
the funeral
met down an at the
road coming from the
powder mill and from the
school and it was really
pitiful to see all that
and when (correcting) and
especially when you
knew the people the

woodwards live out there then
and they had two killed
there and then ah There
was a Tippet and that was
really terrible and you'd
hear that explosion ya
know and the sky would
be all yellow and it was
it was really terrible
although I worked um to
the powder mill making
shells in the shell house.
just the shell and then
they would send them
down on the powder line
and they the men would
fill, fill them there.

me - How long did you work there?

ms. a - Oh I worked there for
about 2 years.

me - doing the same thing?

ms. a - mhm

me - Do you know how weddings
were held?

mrs. a - weddings? well I suppose
well to tell you the truth
I was the only one that
was ever married in the
national min. methodist
church. I was the only one

me - interesting

mrs. a - ya and you know I still
have a I don't have it
here its down to Sharons,
wedding presents in my
cedar chest ^{that} I sent down
to Sharon an they gave
me a out to the church,
but we didn't have reception
or anything like that an
like they do now, and
that they came to the house
and we'd have a little
lunch, but I an I still
got wedding presents that
I had an 60 years ago
when I was married

me - that's a long time

mrs. a - I don't know how long
that'll last after I'm
gone.

me - (laughing) um what was
life like during the depression?

mrs. a - well it was hard my
dad didn't work to
steady then they had
so many days a week
I think it was three
three days a week that
they would work, and then
they would quit, they gave
out land and we (correcting)
they would plant an acre
was out at the Stonecliff
and we would walk out
there and plant the gardens
and my father cut all
the wood with the help of
my brothers and that was
our ... we had to cause there
was no money to buy a
coal so we heated our house
with wood. but we worked
hard.

me - um what age did you start
working?

mrs. a - at the powder mill?

me - ya.

Mrs. A. - Well about eight when
I got through school about
eighteen maybe around
eighteen.

me - um Did you get married?

Mrs. A. - (laughing) in 1927

me - 1927 um who did you marry?

Mrs. A. - ah William Alderton

me - um did you have any
kids?

Mrs. A. - I have two a boy
and a girl my daughter
lives in Harvey which
you know and Jimmy
lives up at Jeneville.

me - O.K. um did your husband
fight in any wars?

Mrs. A. - no

me - um when you were older
did you have a garden?

Mrs. A. - no we didn't cause we
lived in town then
and I and I started
(correcting) Bill and I started

house keeping where his mother and father started housekeeping when they were first married and we lived there for a couple years and then we moved another an in a 19 a what time an 1936 we bought the house that we started house-keeping in and I lived there all together 50 years. I hated to give it up.

me - um Did um you hunt for any of your foods?

ms.a - no

me - Did your husband?

ms.a - well he would go out he would go out but he never got anything.

me - what were your hobbies?

ms.a - ah knitting, crocheting ah I guess that was about it. my mother had a carpet loom and we a would make carpet on that. my mother died in 1941 and ah I still

have a strip of carpet that she made in 1939 I still have one long strip of carpet Sharon got it now and I told her mind she takes care of it its just like the day my mother made it.

Sentimental me. (laughs)

me - well what about when you were a kid like who all lived in National mine?

mr. a. well the McCardi's, ah lived next store to us and the Matson's ah they lived we were three houses together our house, then the McCardi's and then Matson's house.

I don't know who's living in our house now
me - what did you used to call that area?

mr. a. - well we used to laugh cause we always said that was the city square. Because the house

the road went up to the school and the other went down in the prudel mill location so we were right in that little v so we always called that the city square.

me - Oh did you go to church?

mrw.a - Oh yes

me - what was the church called?

mrw.a - Ah just united Methodist church

me - what year did you get married?

mrw.a - 1927

me - were there other people getting married that year?

mrw.a - ah I really cant remember but maybe ah Fern Hill she married a febleto from Regaance maybe she got married that year

and a Ruth Roberts, Ruth
Jason stood for me when I
was married and my brother
and she would that would
be Rosalie's sis or an aunt.

me - who was the first to get
married in that church?

ms. a. - I was the only one that
was ever married in
that Methodist church out
there

me - the only one?

ms. a. - ah the only one that ever
got married out there
in that church.

me - why?

ms. a. - well we kind of wanted a
church wedding and that's
where we always went to
that church and ah I
was trying to think of
the name of the minister
and I really can't remember
and that's all in the

me - why didn't anybody else
get married there?

ms. a - Well I don't know
really ah you know
why. but we always
wanted a church wedding
so that's where we were.

me - um

ms. a. - (interrupting) and Nelly
Harvey that lived out there
she was the organist and ah
out there. I can't think of
the name of the minister
right now. Yes that was all
in that book.

me - what was the closest town
for shopping?

ms. a. - Jopplering. and that's as
far as we went.

me - when did you usually go
shopping?

ms. a. - when?

me - like now after?

ms. a. - Oh my - my moth (correcting)
we'd walk to town maybe
once a week.

but we had a we traded at an
meyers store. They would deliver
everyday. and the teamster
and the delivery man was
Fred Dekare from out there.

me - what did they deliver?

ms.a - well they delivered all our
groceries or you know. and
they'd take our order one day
and then it would be delivered
the next day.

me - what was the price of food
then?

ms.a - well things were a cheaper
than cuz the men they didn't
make big wages. but my father
we well always he was a
good provider. My father
always worked.

me - where was the Meyers Store
located?

ms.a - ah down where the O.K. Auto
parts are. now that's where
my (correcting) and of course
when we did run out, we
would always go to Annala's
Store.

me - where was Annala's?

ms.a - That's where the what is that
little.

Country market is that what
it is? now but that was Annala's
store

me - who owned it?

msa - hm?

me - who owned it?

msa - ah it was the Annala
family Mr Annala and
then ah John and Donald
they worked in there. Well I
guess they all did. cuz we
at one time or another so

me - what hospital was here?

msa - the closest one was ah in
Ishpeming it was in the
old American Legion building
where there. I think that's
torn down now but that's
where the hospital was

me - what was it called?

msa - well I imagine Ishpeming
hospital. and then ah there
was a Finnish doctor he
lived on division street
right down by the fire hall
or the city building there
was ah a Finnish doctor
there. he's buried right by
my mother. too I can't think

of the name but there was a little hospital there too and you could go to either one. So

me - Do you remember anything funny from school or that?

mrs. a - Well yes one time my brother Norman took went and had 2 little skunks in his pocket he took them to school with him they all had to get (laughs) so that was kind of funny. but the usual things with kids do but that was really something so he got kicked out of school for that

me - for how long?

mrs. a - Oh for a few days till the smell got away and my mother got rid of the clothes.

me - did you have horses?

mrs. a - no - no we just had cows and

me - Did you walk like what kind of transportation did you have?

mrs. a - we had to walk we never had a car. So when we went to town we had

to walk. and go over badger hill
they don't go over they go around
now but we always had to go
over badger hill.

me - when you got married did
you get a car?

msw.a - we had a car then it was
an old ford. That Bill had
picked up and he made
it over like a coup in those
days and that's and we went
to the for our honey
moon and boy when you
went out of town like that
for your honey moon it was
something.

me - was there a theater?

msw.a - no we had to come to town
for that.

me - what was it called?

msw.a - I don't well I suppose
something or theater. we
paid a nickle anyway and
we had a nickle to spend
we never had very much in
them days.

me - how much was candy or that?

msw.a - well you could ah now
they charge how much for

a package of gum we use to pay
ah I guess it was a quarter or
not even that for a package
of gum. now its quite expensive
when you buy a package
(the phone) that's my daughter
well in order to go out well
would go to the Methodist
church in National Mine and
then we'd go to Salisbury
Methodist church after and that
would be our outing and as
long as we went to church every-
thing would be fine and we'd
have a good time just singing
church hymns all the way
home and and that you know
and once in a while the a band
of gypsies would come and
they would park up on badger
hill and we'd wanna go and
see the gypsies so we were
allowed to go but we had to
be in at a certain time ya
know we weren't allowed
to be out and if you were
out 9:00 o'clock that was really
late but my mother was
strict and my dad but they
were wonderful parents my

ms. a-
(Continuing)

mother was kind to everybody
she had anything and you wanted
it you'd get it and one time
there was a family in National
Mine they had spinal meningitis
and one little one girl died my
mother heard how they were needed
help my mother cooked up I
don't know how many meals
and brought them up and took
nearly all our bedding cause they
never had bedding. they were really
really poor. So my mother took
all the bedding a spare bedding
and some of as which we needed
those people needed it now
cause they were sick and they
were the one that got it and
there one fella living today
who will say how good my
mother was and Mrs. Keistala
that lived down there by us
she was good to them to
because they had a big family
or large family my mother
would send down bill to them
when they didn't have it my
mother was always one who
could give to you do without
I'll do without but you can have.

my mother was always giving to
somebody, which was good and
that's the way the world should be
to help your neighbor, love thy
neighbor, and that's the way it
should be everybody's so greedy
today they want everything,
and it's that's the way it is
not only around here it's all over
the world. So.

me - when you ran a boarding
house did people come ^{from} all over?

mrs. a - Well I had a boarding house in
Palmer a no she ah we just
lived there a couple of years
and she took the men in
from National Mine they
were all ah one the Cal there
was a Calahan and there
was an Emmanuel and then
ah oh I can think of the
same he was a bachelor out
there and he wa he came
and my mother just kept
them for a couple years and
then we moved back to National
mine, but we had a boarding
house in Palmer

me - Did anybody else come? from
any where else?
mrs. a - No my mother wouldn't take

anybody in in fact they asked
her they knew we had an upstairs
that was empty it was a big
house and ah my mother said
sure I might as well cook for
a few more and that's who we
had I think there were - I
can't think of the name of that
man but he lived up there
where the Christies live up
in that house ah but I can't
remember his name and
ya there was an Emanuelson
and the Calabane and this
hew guy I can't think but
we just had them for a couple
years and then we moved
back to National Mine cause
my father worked there in
National Mine but that mine
isn't working now and he
he was the last one to fire
the boilers and then the mine
shut down. Ah the mine up
by the school right down over
the there's a my grandpa
Brown was the last one in

that and my grandma Brown would pack his bucket and that and after school we'd always stop in from school and he would give us he always had some little treat for us. if it was a sandwich he'd break it in two. so we'd each have a piece a nice looking man too.

me - how long did you live in Rational Mine?

ms.a - well we just lived there two years in Palmer and otherwise until I got married. till I was 21.

me - how old were you when you moved to Palmer?

ms.a - oh that was in 1916 and 1917

me - what was your dad's name?

ms.a - William Brown

me - you said he was the last one in the mine.

ms.a - ya he was the last one to fire a fire the boilers and shut

them down.

me - what was the name of the mine?

ms. a - I really don't know
cause then that that a section
No was the name of the mine.
and that's where that road
goes in between there's a pit
on that water pit and then
right across the road was
that mine.

me - what was your grandfather's
name you said he was the last
one to work in the mine?

ms. a - I think he was called
John John Brown.

me - what mine did he

ms. a - That was the mine I don't
know the name of that mine
that was down at the it
used to be a swede church
there and right across the road
was the mine but I can't
remember the name

me - where was that

ms. a - National mine as you go
up to the school there you know
there I didn't that house
is remodeled into a somebody's

home now but who lives there I don't know but it was right across the road from there where he was the last one to blow the whistle and everything when the mine closed then when section 16 closed my father was the one that blew the whistle and that then he went up to the Holmes mine and you know where that is a you're going on that junction road ya know where you leave here you go to the junction road its on that side I guess they have storage up there the Kielinen's have a big building up there where they keep all their equipment and all Bonnie Kielinen.

me - where was the Gorrard here?
mis. a - yes the Gorrard was here I can't remember the year but I worked at the Gorrard a number of years maybe 5 years around that and I worked about a year after I was married. I worked there

me - so I quit in 1928 and that
me - what kind of things did you
make there?

ms. a - well I worked mostly in
the stock room but when they
would get shot hardest I would
go and they were making
them to put the steel in ya
know and we'd have to hold our
hand this way and the steel
would go in we had a thing
that would push the steel down
into the strip and many of
time our hand were cut here
and ya know ther a I worked
mostly in the stock room handing
out stock to the girls. Ya it
must have been 4 or 5 years
that I worked there but I
enjoyed that

me - where was it located?

ms. a - Right where it is the pioneer
square that's where the Hozyard
was and Mr. Tripp was the
head one and Harold Peterson.

me - what were other jobs at the
Hozyard?

ms. a - well they made mostly
brasserie's and heavy garments
for the head that they would

wear in those days and then
later on see I didn't know
much about it after that and
they had a big parade here
in 19 I think it was 1926
~~something~~ and they had a
beautiful big float and they
had all the personal the osses
and that and then they included
me cause I was in the stock
room handing out stock and to
all the girls but everybody
seemed to get along good.
but Bill fixed this old car up
and I would drive that back
and forth to work. it was a
coupe what they called and then
later on he fixed another car
and I'd have that to go to
work.

me - Did you say that Bill made a
car out of scrap?

Mr. O. Ya just he picked up a
body and an engine and here
and there an yes he made
the car he also fixed up a
coupe that we use to go
in. I got pictures of it
in there somewhere he was
a good mechanic.

and that was his line of work
you know

me - where did he work?

mr. a - The county - Marquette county
road

me - what did he do there?

mr. a - He was a mechanic and he
was heavy equipment operator.
he did both and he had quit
then he worked there for 32
years. Then he got sick, ya know
he was so diabetic he couldn't
work anymore so he had to
quit well then I said we'll get
along and that well then my
brother-in-law died and he
said do you think I can take
care of that insurance do you
think I can do that? I said
anybody who can make high school
in little over 3 years can do
anything and he said alright
so he bought out my brother-in-
law's insurance, and he went
down to Lansing for one week
to take a course in that and
he had that for all that while
and then he was in the fire dept.
for 45 years Bill was and he

was fire chief for 13 years. then he
sold that insurance business
and he just lived from may
month until December the 13 he
dropped out in the garage or going
to use the snowblower he dropped
out that's bothered me terribly he
never drank or easy going ya know
just like his father his father
was raised by a methodist
minister down in Depperville
his grandpa Ardester was very
very quiet and Bill was only 12
years old when his mother died.
and they were kind of on their own
but he sure was a good fella
a good provider just like his
dad and grandpa Cole so ya and
then when they came and said to
me what'll we they knocked
I went out and looked at him
and then the knock came they said
Hazel what'll we cover the body
I said what's happened they
said Bill's laying out in the
street and the lady Mrs. can't
think of her name off hard Kulis
she came down and rapped him
in a blanket and I was out
there holding him, no coat on or
anything waiting for them to come

the ambulance to come but when I
seen him I knew he was gone.
It's hard to take cause was home
up near all the time he worked
down to Carlson and Kliva for
back and forth they'd go they'd
stay a week at a time and all
the men would come home but other
wise Bill was home all the time
unless he went the fire hall which
was but he was always he was
quiet those things happen and
Sharon's oldest baby died a
December the 13 same day Bill
died ~~the~~ December the 13 kind of hard
at Christmastime then a Sharon's
little granddaughter was born on
Bill's birthday March the 3 and
my little grandson was born on
my birthday Sept. the 24 but we
had a good married life we
never had any problems he was
he worked steady and we went
everywhere together. Is that on?

me - ~~Did~~ How long did he have the
insurance.

Mrs. A - How long what?

me - the insurance how long did he
own it?

Mrs. A - I can't remember he must

have had it about 15 years
I imagine around 15 years.
he had the insurance

me - What was the name of the insurance

miss. a - Nickle's insurance agency
a.c. Nickle's insurance agency
we never changed the name
which was my brother-in-law
we went to my little nephews
funeral he had gotten killed
in the Hercules powder mill in
New Jersey and they brought
the body back and we went to
the funeral Bill and my sister-
in-law and when we came
back we went up stairs and
my brother-in-law had wa-
dead we found him there
he hadn't moved at all the
while so and we took care of her
no matter where we went or where we
would go and she would wanna
go we took her Bill and I he
said we gotta take care of her
I said well absolutely and we
took her no matter where we went
it was her little corner in the
back seat and we took her all
over. Grandpa Cole owned the
boiler shop downtown and the

building is still there but Bill's
dad we always call him Pa
Fred Alenton worked for him
and Mr. Peirce worked for him
and then there was Row Jacobs
worked for him and then when
Grandpa Cole died Pa Fred
Alenton took it over and he
had to boiler shop until he got
sick and couldn't do the work
anymore and Bill used to
help him out like on a
weekend they'd go somewhere
Bill would always go with him
and help him and see what he
could with him but he kept
that for quite a few years

me - what did they do?

Mrs. A - well they they would make
boilers big boilers for building
and that for heating I got that
picture in here somewhere well
Bill helped him out for I
don't know how many a couple
years there he did work at the
county and ^{Bill} went and would
help him down there but he
kept it as long as he could.
He sure was a good man though.

me - how many years did he have
it? how many years.

ms. a - oh that was grandpa Cole
had it all his life. But a
Bill's dad worked in there
I don't know how many
years. Bill's dad was in there.
that I couldn't say.

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