

Mrs. Bath,  
Heidi Robson

- means pause

Ms  
Bath  
M-

I'm interviewing Mrs. Robert E. Bath at the Matherm Nursing Home. The date is <sup>(pause)</sup> December 22nd, 1983. OK. How old were you during the depression?

B- How old I was during the depression? That would be when I was about <sup>(pause)</sup>

M- Well, estimating like

B- At the school?

M- Ya. Were you in school during the depression?

B- During the depression I was married, you know.

M- Oh! OK.

B- 1930 you know - hm-hm. Well we were a well - the depression was running off through that section now, when the, - times were - ~~at that time~~ <sup>people</sup>

we worked alot, you see, hm-hm. Ya - hm-m. Like Jefferson. They <sup>to</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>people</sup>

M- When were you born?

B- 1901

M- Who - Really?!

B- I'm 80 years old

M- Oh!

B- Ya. A-ha

M- That's nice!

B- 1901 so - that's a long time ago

M- Hm! Well my grandma, she was born 1905. <sup>laugh</sup> (Hm-hm)

B- A-ha! You see. Hm-m. Well, so

M- ~~was~~ 50 - so you ah

B- Went along and ah -

M- How many are in your family? Did you have any kids?

B- eight

M- eight?

B- hm-m, hm-m

M- That's

B- I'm the only one left by Fredgen <sup>family</sup>. Hm-hm

M- Oh, that's great

B, M- (laugh)

? (not sure if correct word.)  
family



B- Then a, so a, that a- so it goes. Then I was handicapped because I'm crippled with arthritis.

M- Oh

B- And then I was writing since 1936. But right now I, its- I had the pain and the swelling, and that's gone down. But now the stiffness in the thumbs and the, and the crack ~~ta~~<sup>ta</sup>, I crack my nails. Hm-hm.

M- Oh.

B- So-ah, I have to- and I couldn't, couldn't go to the High Rise. But then I would have to have somebody - a, well, they have no elevators there. And I was renting an apartment on Ark Street in Marquette. The Hawks, aha, a lovely place. I could walk down the stairs if I went to, couldn't climb it since it was a cold home.

M- Aha

B- Mrs. ~~the~~ Hawk, she's at Nordlight

M- Oh!

B- Ya, and she made this sweater for me.

M- That's pretty

B- Yes, she's made several sweaters for me. Lovely and everybody admires them.

B- M- haha

B- Aaha, ya, Aha, hmmm, yes there now.

M- Did you have any kids?

B- No, we weren't fortunate but we had a lot of children who came to see us and we enjoyed having them come and da we had the parties and everything. <sup>and</sup> We were real happy and they were good and kind to us, very, very good and kind. aha

M- Betcha they were.

B- Aha. ~~the~~<sup>one</sup> of our nurses aids now married that Carlson boy out in National Mine. Remember the Carl- is it a Carlson? They live by a Hensons.

M. Haha

B- Oh! You don't know of - Oh you don't know those guys.

M- Ya

B- Oh, I see.

M- My brother might know them.

B- Aha, I see



M- Ahmm - Did, did oh, like, would - haha

B- That's all right

M- <sup>Amman</sup> Did you like during that time, did you have any really weak power or certain or like, just how are you in money wise and that?

B- Oh ya, well we were OK fine. Ah-hmm. We got along. you see ya, and- and we had to work in which we had, Hmm yes, and ah. We didn't have big salaries, but we didn't ask for it see.

M- What did he work as?

B- He was ~~superintendent~~ superintendant

M- Oh ya! that's right.

B- Hmm. Yes Ahm

M, B- (Can't understand because both of us are talking)

B- Yes, ahmm, yes, aha, and a, so a, but he managed a, there's lot of things that they could've have but they just a, he managed to get the education for the children. That was his big problem and he was a full superintendant.

M- Do you ~~know~~ <sup>remember</sup> anyone else that a, that works for the school? The principal

B- Well, the principle was Mr. Amala. And he's here. Hmm

M- He's in the Mathern Nur-

B- Ya, he's <sup>in</sup> here now

M- That's good!

B- <sup>Hmm</sup> Ya, that's good. He was <sup>the</sup> principle. Hmm

M- Oh

B- Ya Mr. a he was the last principle and he was a good one. Amala. Hmm. And there home was there, hmmm, and they had a store

M- Oh

B- Well, a, they had the grocery store where and other things too. <sup>But</sup> Perhaps you would like to go and talk to Mr. Amala also. And a - he was principle. Hmmm

M- Oh

B- And we visit once in awhile now too, Hmmm. And we had a Christmas party today. Hmmm.



M- Oh really?!

B- Yes!

M- Was it fun?

B- Hm hmn It was just lovely, hmhm, and a, so a, it would a - and you brought me cookies! do that a, do you want that tray?

M- No, its all yours

B- Oh. All right. But would you like, my girlfriend, do, I suppose dont know a, know a - Sil - and a know a Viola deqsterin?

M- A-a | She's a nurse,

B- She was down to Morgan Hights. Probably that's to far back for you. But she came here with her double jang going (?) the day before yesterday she brought me those knitted footies and she also brought me a real young. —

M- Do you know any teachers that worked for the school too, other members

B- well, Mrs. Magnison had 3rd grade and Mr. Venti, 3rd Venti Junior had the sixth grade, and am now a George Amala, his here and hes principle, and a - and Mrs Gleason was the music and a -

M- Oh, I know her

B and the kindergarden and she a, Pat Gleason, ~~Pat~~ married her. <sup>and a</sup> Hes past away, but a, now she was, she puts on wonderful plays and everything. and really the people enjoyed it very much. Aha, Yes, now they remodded the school. I havent been there since they remodded the school Hm hmn

M- Oh

B, M- Ya

M- Am, did they had like basketball teams?

B- Oh yeah they had the basketball teams Aha.

M- oh.

B- Aha, yes. And they had their own stamps and that but, Mr. Mathews used his car during the depression, because they didn't have too much gas and that, but they used the car to take the boys to their games Aha.

M- Oh, so

B- It got better after wards ya, you know it was getting better later on Hm hmn

M- Ya



~~B- But a, they worked with what they had hmmm~~  
B- But a, they worked with what they had hmmm

M- We had cars then right, during the depression we can like alot of people -

B Lot of buses ya! Then they had the lunch hour hmmm yes, and Mrs Anderson was the cook and Mrs. Copert our assistant cook. Hmmm and a Helen sophomore. - (Did you get it?)

M Ya dm just turning up the volume a little ~~ok~~

B- Oh, can you repeat, can you hear what you said

M- Ya

B Shall we hear, close the door and maybe it wont disturb you so much.

M OK - (Pause)

B Heres your (mirror?)

M Ha- thats nice. OK. Was there any other sports <sup>too</sup> during that school time. I like was there track and cheerleading and stuff like that too?

B Ya, I think they had a - its awhile since before that I ah- but you would have that record up at <sup>the</sup> school.

M yah

B hmmm- you should have that up at the school hmmm

M Did you guys had a band and a chorus too?

B- Hm?

M Did you guys -

B We had a band, oh yes aha, we had our little pentys hm ya, and the games hm, yes, and the grades hmmm. But you will probably get quite alot from George Amala too, the principle.

M Oh, yah.

B hmmm and a you can enquire to this where his room is. Hmmm

M All right

B So whether hes here today or not, I dont know, but a, anyway if not you can call him. Hmmm. Oh what are we going to have? One of those Red Dust books again?

M yah!

B I wasnt in that at all



M NO?

B No.

M Maybe you will ~~at~~ this time!

B Ha, will ~~it~~ doesn't make a difference as long, as long as if somethings there, your writing and you wanted to do it, and its work hmhm

M yah

B yah, that Peterson of course I know him, he wasnt at National Mine, he was at West Ishpeming.

M Oh

B Yer, hes from West ~~of~~ Ishpeming.

M How was your house? ~~the~~ Where was your house when during that time? Where did you live?

B In a well, we had a, well we had to live out there when we applied for that job, we lived upstairs of McDeals. Did you know where the home of McDeals was?

me-No

B We had the upstairs there. Your new there. Hmhm you shouldve had someone come with you that knew the town.

M yah, (laugh)

B yah, youll learn.

M yah, (laugh)

B Are you listening to us now? Are we using that now or not?

M Ya this is on.

B Om, Ch hmhm. Its kind of funny to ~~laugh~~ laughs at afterwards. anyway - I know I wasnt being interview for the first one. Hmhm. And some others were interviewed too

M Hmhm

B Hmhm, anda

M Do you know of anyone else that was interviewed?

B Mr. Peterson. Because in the book, do you, did you read the book?

M No, I didnt see it yet, well I looked at it but I dont have the book.

B Well, no. But a, Sunberg, she a, I think she interviewed Mr. Peterson Hmhm, yes a



M Am- Did you, like did you ~~of~~ have to ~~buy~~ buy your food or did you have to grow it or what or how did you get your food?

B The food?

M Yeh. Well for eating a that.

B Well there, well they had-

M You'd just buy it like how you would <sup>buy it</sup> now?

B Sure. Hmhm hmhm

M Did you have any animals?

B I didn't have anything to do with that.

M Oh.

B I didn't work in the school hmhm

M Did you have any farm animals?

B Hm?

M Did you have any ~~of~~ farm animals, do you know?

B No

M No

B But if you a, maybe you can get a lot of those questions answered from one of the teachers. Hmhm. So like Dorothy Gleason. She was there all the time and she put on all those wonderful plays and entertain and oh! she did a wonderful job and Mr. Gleason worked with her.

M She was interviewed last year

B She was. Aha

M From her granddaughter

B Well perhaps you could a, now a - theres quite a few other teachers, French teachers, and, and then the typing, and then there were Mrs. Majour. She was there. Hmhm. And a - but, but theres quite a few, but you get the record at the a at the office for those.

M Yeh

B See, we've been off quite awhile since 1964 hm, thats a long time hmhm. But we liked it very much and get a lot of nice break.

M Aha

B So I dont know anything else but what, if there something else they dont know a they think I know it, well you just come and, *all see if I can answer for you.*

(I'll see if I can answer for you)



m OK

B Hmhm, yes

m Um, did, did (laugh) um, I can't remember what I was going to say now.

B just relax Aha

m How long were you living in National Mine?

B 30 years

m 30 years, wow

B Ya, we were married and ~~we~~ we stayed there until he retired

m That's good.

B Yah. Then we went in 64 then and a he graduated from Univ. of Michigan and a, he applied for this superintendant job ~~on~~ contract and on his way home then, when he got to his mother's in Guinn, well there was a letter that they accepted him

m Oh!

B as superintendant hmhm

m That's nice

B And if he a, if he a, as long as he got the job, well then we were gonna be married. Hmhm. Ya. So we had to wait for a week and a and there we a were married on a Saturday. And of course we could go very far, we were married in Barstidge in a now a, in Jaspemington Division Street, but now they have the new Barwense there

m Aha

B And this is <sup>here</sup> Once now, that's a the one that with me now that's a her son, that's the minister there now, Hmhm. He's young. But then we were married on a Saturday and he a, he had to start work on a Monday.

m. That's Good!

B Yah. ~~Q~~ But a, anyway we enjoyed it. They were just marvelous and friendly. We just had a wonderful time out there

m That's good

B Yah, but when he retired then it was time you know for someone else to take over and we were only 3 yards from the school and that would get in our way. ~~Barstidge~~



B (continued) - But when you <sup>know</sup> would always be wondering of this, busting it up and that and varping it ~~up~~ <sup>up</sup> and that things but it just there never so good for ~~what~~ they were going to get.

M Aha

B - And they were awfully nice to us, so hmhm, and then Mrs. um Finberg, and his a Dolly Laura, she's a nurse, hmhm, and a Mr. Finberg was um superintendent afterwards hmhm. He was principle & superintendent after Mr. Bath retired. Of course you can get all those records at the office.

M - Yah

B - You wouldn't have to ask anybody for that. You can scratch those things off, Yah. You know they do alot and then hmhm. So a... Would you like a chocolate, ~~from~~ my girlfriend?

M - OK

B - And we graduated in 1920! And we corresponded ever since. She ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> in Detroit from Fairdale

M - Oh really?

B - Hmhm. And that's where Bill Gorange. Do you know Billy Gorange? He lives now in Jshpeming and his sister the both of them came down here two days ago and a they brought me my gifts.

M - That's nice!

B - Hmhm. And of course I ~~could~~ couldn't do anything this year, but I couldn't wrap up a, they say it's kinda hard, but then they said you done it for many years. So - Come in dear! Is it still on.

M - No that's OK, it's still on.

B - Oh

M - Um, where were you born?

B - Jshpeming

M - Jshpeming?

B - Hmhm. 4th of July

M - Really

B - Aha

M - (laugh)

B - Ya 1901

Nurse - She's a fire cracker ever since then. *Hey Edith?*



- B- Ya, been noisy ever since.
- N, B, M- (laugh)
- B That's right. We had a good part today, didn't we?
- N That's what I hear.
- B Santa Claus, was so good for us, it was just lovely.
- N You've must've been a good girl!
- B I must've been in some ways hey? And he wanted me to smell sweet so he gave me 2 bars of soap. ~~And~~  
And then, and now I got a box of chocolate.
- N Well, he knew what you like hey?
- B That's right dear.
- N I guess so.
- B Aha.
- M During Christmas time, how did you celebrate during the depression?
- B The depression? We get along, ya. We get along just fine. Hmhm. Yes. We work with which you had. Hmhm. Hmhm. You kind of expect something that a when you go shopping, the \$10.00 and you only have \$5.00.
- M B- (laugh)
- B That's right isn't it? Hmhm. But a we were satisfied. We remembered the children. Hmhm. Ya.
- M Um. You remember President Hoover don't ya?
- B Hoover? Hmhm.
- M What did you think of him?
- B Well, they all try, I said you'd never know. Hmhm. Hoover.
- M. What about FDR? President Roosevelt. Franklin Roosevelt.
- B Well, all of them said he was not so good, but we satisfied they aren't all the same. Even Carter and everybody and now they criticize Roosevelt and I mean a (haha) not Roosevelt, a
- M Hoover?
- B Ya, Hoover so.
- M What one did you like better? Hoover or Roosevelt?
- B Well- they all try to do their best that's the way I feel. Don't you?



M That's a good thought!

B Absolutely! And I said <sup>that</sup> try and bring up all the questions to remember and they really had to work with what they ~~had~~ have. And a, No body's AI, No, emem

M ~~Yo!~~ What do you think cause the depression? How do you think it got started?

B Well, really started...

M Hello Edith?

B Oh, Hello!

M Here are your clothes. You take them <sup>then</sup> won't you?

B Hmhm. Thank you dear Thank you - Well you can chop that off

M Yo! Well just erase it later. Um, a what did I just say? Oh! How did you think the depression started?

B I don't know. It came and that's all

B, M (laugh)

B That's right! The depression came. And I think it will come again.

M You think it will?

B A ha I think something will. We can't go on forever. Hmhm

M Yo

B And be satisfied and work with which you have

M That's how my dad thinks

B Does your dad think that too?

M Hmhm

B Hmhm. If you got \$10.00, you got to work with that and try not to spend \$20.00

M Right!

B That's right. <sup>Hmhm</sup> So, we managed, we pulled through, hmhm

M Do you remember the CCC?

B CC?

M It's the work that um - it's a group of the (laugh)

B That's all right!

M The CCC. Do you remember a group, I think a group of workers, do you remember them? They helped other people getting jobs, employing jobs:

B People who went out for jobs?



M Well.

B ~~What~~ What do you mean?

M Like were there any C.C.C group, they help people who are unemployed by giving them jobs like cutting down trees, um, building dams, clearing -

B I see, no. I wouldn't have much connection with that

M Oh, I see

B No I wouldn't, a uha, I wouldn't no

M Did you, did you have any kind of hobbies back then

B Hobbly?

M Well, did you have a certain hobby you do?

B Oh! Well yes! I've done alot of sewing

M Sew?

B Aha and helping people and I took care of my mother, she was crippled. I carried her up & down stairs for 8 years, and a, so a, things like that, but I didn't go school. I graduated in 1920, but my mother was ~~of~~ cripple, she had to be with artherites, so those things, and I had to take and I took care of her. Hmhm.

M Um

B And I sewed.

M That's good! My mom sews a lot

B Hmhm, Yes I sewed and crochet, but now I cant do anything but I am thankful for what I did do.

M Ye, that's a good way to think

B Yes. And now I think that you should have one of my chocolates that my girlfriend, we've been friends and its wonderful for 63 years for correspond. Isn't that wonderful?

M Yes

B Yes

M Would you be able to say anything about clubs there or any kind of clubs?

B Oh ye we had an all ladies thing for our meetings aha we had, oh and we had our circle meetings, aha

M For what?

B Aha, for a the church. Aha



M Oh!

B Ya hm.

M What religion are you?

B Methodist.

M Methodist?

B Methodist aha. <sup>USA</sup> Mrs. Amals, there <sup>circle</sup> Finish, you but a we met them and the Swedish <sup>circle</sup> group they used to meet, they used to come to ours and we used to go to theirs.

M Oh!

B And we really, we really had a good time

M Sounds like fun.

B Yes! Aha. But there aren't so many out there, they had left National Mine, but right now a Younger Dally & Bill Dally are a has a not well right now, they had a heart surgery. Hmhm

M Oh!

B What is it? 4, 5 passes or something and then she and she has treatments and Bills sister is here from California, she's a RN and she's taking care, and I don't know how long she's gonna stay. Hmhm I feel sorry for him. He has a post office. Perhaps you have heard of that. Hmhm. But he's retired now.

M Oh!

B Hmhm. They have no mail delivered to him. Yes so

M Were there any racial groups in National Mine?

B Hm?

M Were there any racial groups? Like were there a group of Finns who stuck together in one part

B Well, we all mixed Aha

M Oh!

B The Swedish had there circle groups and the English had theirs and we invite them to ours and they invite us to theirs and well mix a little bit more then

M Oh

B Yes so - so we get along real nice, what more can we ask for? Friendly ya!



m Um, were there any mines or up here  
B Oh several mines we had and all the mines are closed. There's no mines now. Hmhm They had a lot of good mines

m Really?

B Good mines in Brinceton, and mines in Austin & mines in Guinn, hmhm, Underground.

m Underground?

B Hmhm

m What are some of the mines called around here?

B Stevenson and Brinceton & Austin and several. Hmhm

m What, what about railroads? Were there a whole bunch -

B Trains?

m Ya!

B They had them around Austin, around here, they call them, (laugh) trains, ya there were lots of trains. There were ~~some~~

m What were the trains for?

B A to One, shipping ore

m Oh.

B Yaha, mines!

m Ya. Can you name any of the railroads that went through National Mine?

B huh?

m Any railroads that went through National Mine?

B Well, Stevenson Mine, those went through and it went through Guinn & Brinceton

m Oh

B Uh-hu, Brinceton was the first section then it came down to Austin and the were a deep holes, but there should be records of them from men that are still living from those, aha. You'd get it from them, there would be any connection with the school Ya, No. Well anyhow we had a nice visit of this and that & odds & ends a are you taking it down now?

m Ya

B Then now we have to listen hm?

m OK!

B Hm?