

EVA Rintamaki's interview with Mrs. Beale

me: This is Eva Rintamaki. It's December 10, 1989
I'm doing an interview on Mrs. Beale, an autobio-
graphical. It's in Ishpeming, Michigan.

me: When and where were you born?

Mrs. B.: I was born in 1909 at Marquette Michigan.

me: What were your parents names?

Mrs. B.: My father was Louis Elbert Desete and he was
a lighthouse keeper at Marquette. My mother was
Emma Desete. They are both now deceased.

me: How many people were in your family?

Mrs. B.: I had um, two sisters and one brother.

me: What ~~were~~ ^{are} ~~they're~~ their names?

Mrs. B.: Um, ~~Emilia~~ Emeline was the um oldest girl and
um, um my brother was next and his name was
George Desete. Then I came along (laughs) And my
name is Edna Grace Desete.

me: Okay,

Mrs. B.: ~~um~~ ~~that~~ was my maiden name, um and then I
had a sister, and um her name was Ethel
Desete.

me: ^{day} Where did your family come from? originally?

Mrs. B.: Um, my father was a I-I I don't know where
he where he was around Canada someplace. I don't
know just exactly.

me: What nationality?

Mrs. B.: um, we're French and English.

me: Do you know when the first member of your
family came to America?

Mrs. B.: No, I really don't. ^{my father} ~~my father~~ was a lighthouse
keeper. As long as, I can remember, and um he - he
passed away now, so that.

me: okay, when were you married?
MRS. B.: when was I married? I was married two times.
I was married to Leonard Hart. He was a coastguard,
near the lighthouse, and uh, we had one daughter, her
name was Mildred. and um, my daughter married Roy
Bietala, uh, from Ishpeming, one of the ski riders, um
I don't know and and then uh, I remarried. ^{and} I
married Wilfred Beale of Ishpeming.

me: okay

MRS. B.: And uh, he is now deceased, since 1986.

me: okay, um, where did you go to school?

MRS. B.: ~~uh~~ uh, he went to school in Ishpeming, But he was
born in Nashwalk, Minnesota. And, I went to school
in Marquette Michigan.

me: okay, um, what was your school's name that ~~you~~ you
went to?

MRS. B.: ^{uh} what?

me: what was your school's name that you went to?

MRS. B.: uh, Marquette, I-I went through the eighth, I took
up the eighth and ninth grade subjects, I went to
Roger's city, and then my father was transferred
to the lighthouse back in Marquette again, because
he wanted to be near the high schools, for me to
go to high school, and of course, that wasn't
for me. (laughs) Because I was out working at
twelve years old.

me: okay, Did you graduate?

MRS. B.: no, I went through the eighth, I took the eighth
and ninth grade subjects together because we were in
a rural school at that time and they allowed me to
~~take~~ to go into town to take the ninth grade
work.

me: okay, what was it like when you were young?

MRS. B.: well, much different than it is now. we had to work
awfully hard. And uh, we helped out a lot at home.
I'm sure you do that too. um, but we each had
our own job too. And when my oldest sister left, I was
very young. I had to take over the duties which were

Mrs B. (um.) washing clothes, and keeping up the house, because our home was always inspected, by the government. And this was the rules they had there, and um, so I did the washing and I'll never forget the first washing I did. we used Felsnaptha soap and my father used to go down to the store and get the needs and that which was seven miles into town. That seemed ~~along~~ a long ways for us, but here we have the cars and we can go. And uh, so I did the washing, and uh, my father asked me, "well, did you use the Felsnaptha soap?" and I said yes, (we had to boil our clothes in those days) and uh, I said yes, but I used all seven bars of Felsnaptha soap. (laughs) well, he said I don't care how much you used, the clothes are clean. (laughs). I got away with that all right, and we picked blueberries. And um, ~~my~~ the blueberries we picked my father would take them into the market and there he would turn that into money and give it to us and then ~~we~~ ^{he'd} take the Sears Roebuck catalog and say now, what would you like? For all your hard work? So, we got our winter clothes that way. (laughs)

me: okay, what subjects were your favorites? in school?

Mrs. B: The subjects?

me: yes.

Mrs. B: Well, I don't know, uh. I've been told I was a real good student. But, um, I didn't care too much. It isn't a nice thing to say to a high school student. But, I didn't care too much because, I had to do so much out-side work. Um, that is my father's work and um, I worked at the Buck Dairy in Marquette. As a clerk there. And um, at fifteen years old, I worked for ~~the~~ Professor Lothner's wife that uh, was one of the Professor's from the Northern Michigan and I worked in ~~the~~ their home. She said, "I show you how to do the things and I'll do the cooking." And uh, and I'll teach you how to cook. Page 3

Mrs. B. (cont) So, I learned a lot of my things being out working.

me: What was like working? there?

Mrs B. ~~What~~ what was it like working?

me: Yes

Mrs B.

Well, it was nice, because the people were real nice to me. They knew I was young, and um, uh, they wanted me to get all the 'experience' I could. And um, so, I worked there until, I just those two places. At the Buck Dairy as a clerk and at Professor Lotner's as their housekeeper. And um, of course I had my homework, to do besides, so. (laughs) my work wasn't really that fun. But um, as I went along, I took job after job. Um, when I married Mr. Beale, I, we had been married 53 years when he passed away. And uh, he was, he worked at the Marquette County Road Commission, and uh, we've lived out here the biggest part of our lives. We found a spot, while I was working in Marquette, we found a spot here and we said well, that place is for sale. ~~Now~~ Now this is a 'good start. So, from then on we, our moneys went ~~for~~ towards our home. Our home was paid for. I have something to live in.

me: Okay, how did you get to school? each day?

Mrs. B.:

How did I get to school? Well, when we lived in Rogers City. My father made my skis. He made all our skis. And he used to put them, into the boiler and bend the tip of the toes, and we walked seven miles to school.

me: Oh.

Mrs. B.:

Or ~~skied~~ (laughs)

me:

Do you know how many kids finished high school? Did many finish?

Mrs. B.:

How many were there in the high school?

me:

No, did how many kids finish high school? Were there many that finished and ~~graduated~~ graduated?

Mrs. B.:

Oh, um, well, uh, yes ~~there~~ there were there were lots of my friends that graduated. But um, see, my work was hard ~~and~~ at home because ~~we~~ had

mrs. B:

my father to take care of. I had his home to take care of. I was the eldest home then. Of course, that discouraged me, with all the work I had at home, I had no time for studies. No interests in anything what-so ever. Although, um, through our married I have raised up, I have had Scout Troops. I had a troop of twenty-two girls. I would like to show you the picture.

me:

what were the teachers like?

mrs. B:

what were the teachers like? well, I think very much the same as teachers are nowadays. um, uh, they didn't have too much of this, um, dope that they have to put up with today. This interferes a lot with the school, um, I think they were very much the same. um, they had to pretty much, um, go by a certain ruling. They had to have just so much of their education, that had to be qualifications, to make them teachers. I thought my teacher was a lovely teacher. In fact, uh, when I got social security card, um, they had to know how old I was. um, I couldn't, um, um, I told them how old I was at that time. um, I had a post card ~~that~~ the only thing I had, was a post card that my mother had sent her mother when I was born. She said, "I just had a lovely baby girl." That's all I had for my social security card. um, so they investigated that when they found out. um, at the social security office they investigated it, and uh, to find out what kind of student I was. That's how I know, they said I was a very ~~good student~~ studious person. But, did not have the time to devote to my education. But, I had thought a number of times, in that getting my education. But, still in all, it was the same thing. I was working, and you can't work, um, and go to school. You go to school, in a day time and you, and uh, if, uh, work that night. You just couldn't get ~~that~~ ^{justice} to education. that was for sure. So, um, I know a lot of them are doing it this day. But, um, it's an awful hard way to get your education.

mrs.:

originally, how were people expected to wear? or, how were they expected dress?

Mrs. B:

to be respectable. Um, they, um. I know, um, they would be watching as they came into the school. They would follow them, if they went into the restroom, one of the lady teachers would follow them. Teachers would follow the boys and find out why they didn't put the proper clothes on. They were sent home to put the proper clothes on. This was some thing that was ~~very~~ very strict. Now I guess, they're aloud to go to school in jeans. If I'm not mistaken. But, alot of the people, like my father, ~~there~~ ^{who} raised three of us, by the time he dressed three people, to go to school, well, his wage was pretty much gone. He had to hang onto more than one job ~~and~~ in order to raise kids. He worked for Americlock in Marquette, as a custodian to their buildings, to keep their heating going. He helped keep the places clean and things like that. Then he worked at night and you can't work both day and night and do justice to your job. I have worked all my life, since I was little. I can't stop working now, regardless of what I want. I just now passed my ~~eighty~~ 80 birthday on the third of November. Where I work now, they don't want me to leave. I have a hard time between my doctor ~~says~~ ^{says} wanting me to leave my work. I have had a disability and I have had eighteen major surgeries. (showing a picture) This is where I work now. Um, this is my boss here, um, this is the part I work on. I'm in charge of the whole ~~dining~~ dining room there. I'm hostess of the dining room. Um, they don't want me to leave. When my husband passed away, I was under very, deep, deep ~~depression~~ depression. Being alone, it is not a ~~very~~ ^{very} good thing, and uh, I might have to give up my home, now. Of the work with this and I come back to when I say, "You can't do more than you can do. My father couldn't do more for us than what he did, taking other jobs. It just destroyed his life, I mean uh, he liked doing it, and he worked many years at that. That wasn't his fault that I quit school."

mrs. B.: (cont.) I quit school because I couldn't take it. I was too young to put that much more on me. With this I just, I have really, um, learned to love working so very much, and getting out with people. I only had the one daughter myself. She had one daughter. Her daughter has two sons. So, um, this is my husband, here now, this is the one I was married to (showing a picture). Um, as recently, and uh, so that, uh, well, we've been trying to be very dignified, in our lives. We have ~~been~~ trying to live a good and ~~as honest~~ life. We've been happy here. It's just the idea that, it just may become a little more what I can take, on my self. I had diabetes, I was very, very sick. I went to work for ~~two~~ Taco Bell. It's all coming through now. It's just the circulation of working there, being with the people, and not having little babies around. Children are a very necessity of marriage and I didn't have all that, because my daughter didn't want me to spoil her child. Her child did not want me to spoil her children. So, uh, she has two lovely boys. They are both going to college now. So, I have two great grandchildren. One is up at Michigan Tech, the other one is learning computer. Um, the other one is in Grand Rapids, he doesn't want to leave his mother. Um, for more than a week at a time. My mom's cooking is good and he likes to look after her, he's the youngest one, but he likes to look after her, to see that she's content and she's not sitting at home either. She's out working, in fact, she started a little business of her one. (showing a picture.) I don't know if I show you which one is my daughter here. This here, (showing something else) is important because I did go there for two years looking for work. I could not get any work what so ever. Uh, the only thing I had, I went back into, I had home nursing, I went back into that. With the home nursing, I was able to help myself to a certain extent. But, I was denied medical purposes, Page 8

Mrs. B.:
(cont.)

and food. So, my social security did not take me on any further and I did go there, at Taco Bell, to put my name in. I had an application in my hand, that ^{I was} asked, to go down to the new store, down in Marquette. The grocery store, where there are lots of different areas that you can get in on. On foods, you can get in, um, on different things, um, on the registers, if you want to. I never liked working on the registers, because my mind wasn't that quick. Now, anyway, I think the younger people can carry that on. Um, but, when I did, um, the reason she claims she taken of ~~the~~ the customers at Taco Bell, since last spring, open doors, cleaning tables, refilling glasses of pop, and greeting customers. All the way, she lost forty-one pounds, regained her health, and paid her bills. All testimonies to the beneficial part of the work. She retired in 1969, after a lifetime of work, as a garment maker, dry cleaner, and a nurse's aide, among other occupations. She immediately found ~~her~~ ~~her~~ self dissatisfied and went back to work. It was easier at the age of sixty - then it was at the age of seventy-six. I was not seventy-six, she said Beale's husband lost, got ~~so~~ sick, and has spent a long time nursing him at home. He died three years ago. She found herself feeling sick, ~~and~~ out of work, and isolated. I had to have lots of help, that was hard to do, because older people like to help themselves. The solution to a, her solution to a launch of job search. It took her nearly two years. She got a job as a home care worker. When she tried that line, she started looking for something else. This reminded me of my husband, he brought me nothing more but more depression, because, uh, someday I was going to lose one of those people. ~~Then~~ it says here, Peggy Shrimman hired Beale, figuring she was the age of sixty. But, she never asked how old she was, until Beale started to work. I told her, at ~~the~~ time I did not have to disclose my age, I was a senior citizen. So, she told me, that she was seventy-two. This was a lie. I couldn't believe it then I found out she lied and she

Mrs. B:
(cont.)

was seventy nine. This is all she's got in her own mind. I had to hire her, Shrimanan said, "She had such a good answer, to one of my questions, in the interview. I asked her why I should hire her. She said, "I'm an incentive worker, which I was at Dallas Cleaners. I ~~was~~ did not get a dime that I did not earn. It was just what I earned. I earned more than what I would have gotten, otherwise. So, it says I asked her why I should hire her and she said I'm an incentive worker. I'm so ~~so~~ full of energy, that other workers will have to try to catch up. (laughs) So, it says she proved herself right, according to Shrimanan. But, uh this is, this is, uh, I am eighty. - I was eighty the third of November, you will never imagine of all the complimentary things, I've had said to me. How dearly the children greet me. In my first week at work, I was washing the windows and one little girl, she was about six years old, and she came over she said, "She came early in the morning, that was at ten o'clock and her daddy had brought her there to Taco Bell. She ran with her arms wide open I gotta have a hug, I gotta have a hug, it was just building her and her five year old little sister was right behind her and said, "me too!" Out she came with her arms and I'll never forget that! It's the same thing there every day, every day. The children are just so glad to come in and ~~x~~ have a place to eat, that somebody will sit and talk to them. Some of them just sit there and they grin at you, you know, and I've never seen a baby with a sour face (laughs). Unless, it just woke up out of ~~its~~ its sleep. But, it renewed my life, my whole life inside, I feel as though I've never lost a thing, everything, that might have been denied me, otherwise, due to the fact that I was too busy. Um, it's all come back to me now. Now, I have that time. This girl has turned it all over to me, you go in there and you just make friends.

Mrs. B.: That damn you just make friends. I have all the way from the, the uh, young, um, uh, the students, at the high school. Um, the college children, the college people, you will never, never realize the build up I have made of friends there. I can't stay away from there (laughs) One day away is really hard. (laughs) So, they don't want me, the owner does not want me, to leave. The owner will come up and stay, he'll say, "Edna, can I have the honor." I said, "What?" And he'll say, "Would you pour me a cup of coffee." He's on the customer's side, you know, and reaching over the counter. I said, "Sure you can have a cup of coffee." Bobby. He said, "Well, okay," and he grinned you know. (laughs) Right in the midst of all his work, and then there's a mailman, and he's next to the owner. Um, and then there's Peggy, and uh, they are just as well, when I had this accident, a week ago Monday. They called ~~me~~ ~~at~~ the hospital and they were so interested of where I am? ~~X~~ Where are we going to get in touch with her? Did we lose her now? You know, when I left her yesterday, I thought I'd never be able to come back again. I just thought, no! You won't use me. I'm not afraid to talk for myself. I built enough courage, to stick up for my own rights, and that has helped me too, it does help me a lot. But, this, I'm going on and on and on. The reason I ~~read~~ read you this part right here I thought maybe, it would come in handy.

me: How were kids expected to behave in school?

Mrs. B.: How were they expected to what?

me: Behave?

Mrs. B.: Behave? Well, I think they should do a lot of listening, before, uh, before uh, telling a teacher in some way, some manner or shape that they don't understand her. I think, they should listen more clearly because it may be something within the statement that they haven't got. It might be just that important thing that they needed to know.

me:

Okay, Do you have any humorous or interesting memories about school?

mrs. B.:

Um, no, I um, I uh, I liked school. But, I just found I wasn't grasping enough. I've grasped more on my ~~own~~ own, then I have, to being in class. But I had a normal, normal teacher, very nice, um, and uh, I'm sure that uh, um, The only thing I've had at teachers, uh, telling somebody something as and I feel that teachers should know this that. ~~She~~ When one child is taller than the other, my daughter was tall, they wouldn't help her on with her things. You know when she was small, because big enough, your bigger than any of them in the class, and that abused her. She remembered that, she remembered the teacher that told her. And um, cause she felt she was being belittled, and uh, she would ~~be~~ be put outside of the school, to put her coat on. I don't know if they do that now-a-days or not, but she was just, oh you get going, when its time to go. You better be ready to grab your things, you know. But, some of them are slower. So, I did know a teacher that lived very close and she had told me, ~~that~~ "that, that was the wrong thing to do to rush my daughter, because she was took more time to grasp. She probably took after me. She was a very brilliant girl, she was a commercial artist. She made drawings from Prangels. She could look at somebody when she saw them, ~~if~~ took a liking to them, she could go home, and didn't have to see that person and she could draw an identical picture of them. Which she had done for her teachers many times. The teachers offered to buy it from ~~be~~ her and she said no, that's no good.

me:

What kind of hobbies did you have?

Mrs. B.:

Well, we played, my father always had games for us, at home, when we were younger. Uh, we were at a forty mile point. A lighthouse which there was no other, there weren't movies, there ~~weren't~~ was nothing there. Uh, but, just what you would do, if you wanted to take a walk on ^{the} beach. You did those things, um, but, um, uh, maybe just going for a walk. Um, I know this is work, ~~but~~ because I did it. I picked blue berries. That was a hobby of mine. I'm just, uh, uh, I could smell blue berries as I go out in the patch. I can smell 'um (laughs.) I like blue berries like I like work today.

me:

Okay, what did you do for fun or recreation?

Mrs. B.:

Um, we'd go to a movie now and then. My father drove us into town. It was seven miles, from our home. His time was limited. Other than that, we had a school teacher, had stayed right at our home. She roomed and boarded there. My dad did the cooking. Um, often we had partridge or rabbit, for our meal. He would go out ~~and~~ and cook. He could do it, too. But, uh, uh, the teachers liked to stay there, because uh, it was a good, warm, clean home. Um, they had a chance for their own study work, that they had to do there, because this was a rural school. It was a little log cabin. So, I had that experience, too. It was nice, it was really nice. There weren't too many students there. I couldn't say if there was fifteen or twenty. Um, in that little school house. That's all there was there. But we had our same time, we were ~~there~~ attentive. We had to pay attention to what we were being told. But, uh, we had class plays like they do at the schools here now. We had little parties. Um, and we had a parents' day, when the parents would come and talk. Uh, that's all I could tell you that.

me:

How would you compare times today with times back then?

mrs. B.: well, I think times of years ago were hard, were real hard. But I think, our younger children, those that are trying to get an education. I think they're having it pretty hard. um, I see it in my own great ^{grand} children now. Where, one boy had had a chance, ~~to~~ the one that's up at Michigan Tech. He had a chance to get a ~~loan~~ ^{loan}, and he took that loan, and then he dropped one subject. Then he had to pay eleven hundred ~~thousand~~ dollars back to the school. He's like his great-grandma, his grandma, all of 'um. Never wanting to owe, this money, and still have to pay it back later. It's hard. So, he took off, now, and he won't be going back until June. It has interfered in his schooling. I don't think this was a fair thing, ~~to~~ because he's a very brilliant boy. He may just not decide to go back to school.

me: What was the area like when you were growing up?

mrs. B.: what was the area like? Well, I think we had more freedom. We ~~do~~ didn't have so many worries. I think the kids now have a lot of worries. It's just a little more than what should be put on them. I actually give them a credit, um, for wanting to go to school. Those who want to go to school, because um, if I thought I was going again. I have gone back to classes myself, and found that I just wasn't able to pick up. I wasn't able to continue, um, probably I knew the way to do the things. The way to do something, I find my own way of addition. um, that's helped me, and I keep my own checking account. I keep my own books, I pay my own bills. um, I have a good credit stand, that's important in life. Where this is what I say, now what are the children going to do? they're

Mrs. B.:
(cont.)

going to have to pay back all this college. Now this boy, great grandson of mine, worked at a gas station, where he's not getting an awful lot of money. Um, he's working in a gas station, he had to take on another job. So, he picked up this small job. So he's ~~working~~ working day and night, he went to a pizza place where ~~he~~ he will be delivering pizzas. Uh, he said there's money ~~in~~ in it, but um, what's it doing to his education? I hope he doesn't lose any of it. ~~that~~. But to have to pay back, ~~to~~ ~~pay~~ eleven hundred dollars, ~~on~~ on the small pay he's getting now. He's not going back to school until he's paid it. I think that's wrong. I think very wrong. If um, ~~it~~ it seems as though the government should have to. Uh, it's ~~either~~ either through the school or through the government, that that's happening. But uh, my daughter couldn't do it, I couldn't do it. My social security, I had to get out myself and work. Um, so, I couldn't manage the way things are now. I don't know what people that have ~~a~~ big families do. I really don't know what they're doing. I don't know how their ~~feeding~~ feeding their families. In fact, when I go for my commodities, I say, "Give it to a family, somebody that has children, that can use the butter and can use the things that uh, that come in these commodities. I take some, I take what I can use. Um, but I'm diabetic. I don't use too much sugar. Things like I don't get that. I give a lot of my stuff away. I have to do it, I can't see other people going without. I can't have sweets at my home, ~~why~~ why ~~shouldn't~~ shouldn't the children have sweets in their home. I grew up on sweets.
(laughs)

me:

okay, could you describe some interesting stories like; special community events?

Mrs. B.: well, I'm not very good for reading. But, I do um, I did take up a course in effective speaking and human relationship. Uh, ~~in~~ in that I found out what, uh this was a Dale Carnegie course. I picked it up when I had ~~the~~ funds that I could pay it. Um, I got awful lot out of it. I still have the same books and when I get uh, confused. What can I do to correct this or that? I take my book and I look at it, and it does help me.

me:

Mrs. B.:

Okay, did you travel really much as a child? ~~My~~ my father being a lighthouse man, um, uh, he would always take us from the station he was at. When he was at Reg's city, um, he would take the whole family, to Marquette, for vacations. ~~So~~ he would always remember our home town. Um, that is the only traveling we ever did. Uh, I did go to Florida, one year, um, uh, I didn't like it there. This was my country and I could ~~and~~ have gone to other communities to continue my life and this is what I like. Maybe Taco Bell was it.

me:

Mrs. B.:

me:

Did you travel very much as an adult?

No, uh-uh.

Okay, um, what was Christmas like when you were young?

Mrs. B.:

Oh, Christmas was always big. (laughs) Christmas was big. It um, we always had a tree. We always helped one another, with the trimming of the tree. The family was together. When the family started to grow loose. Well, and Christmases were lonely. It was hardly worth while. In fact, um, I believe this Christmas, well Thanksgiving was very, very bad, for me. Um, I didn't want to prepare for it. I didn't want to fix for myself alone. I think a lot of people are this way. But, I couldn't see sitting at a table alone. While my husband was being, he was sitting here by the table. Page 15

Mrs. B.:
(cont.)

He asked me if he could sit to the table and have a meal with me. I said he could. He said, "gee ~~that~~, that was good ~~ed~~. You don't know how good that was. But he ~~was~~ was never well enough to sit to the table. I had to get him in the wheelchair and help him was quite a thing for an ~~ordeal~~. But I would fix his dinner first and then little Princess, our little tea cup peddle. ~~The~~ The peddle would sit by him in the bed and she'd be looking. She knew she didn't dare touch. She would be looking and have a little bit of this or a little bit of that. He knew better than feed her at the table. Uh, when he got through, it was something he wanted and he wished for. He was content, when he passed away, he was ~~was~~ very, very content. He, I was right by his side and we had the home nursing in here, which helped alot. Uh, I guess I couldn't think much about it then. I had it all to do afterwards, alone. Uh, ~~it~~ it took, it took an awful lot of visiting, it took people to visit that didn't realize. Uh, the more I sat alone, the worse it got. So, Thanksgiving, was really bad for me. So, now that I had this fall a week ago. I thought, well, all my decorations are down stairs. What'll I do? I don't know if I'll be able to get them. So, I did. I took a cane and I went down, ~~I~~ I put 'em, all my decorations that I could get, put them in the clothes basket, and I brought them up here. It took two trips but, I put in an awful day at work ~~was~~ yesterday, for 4. but, um, and they told me that, if you don't do nothing when you come here. But just be with us, that's what we want. So, my picture like this, is hanging up at Taco Bell. It has since October. Everyday, there's not a day that passes that somebody doesn't come in and say there's our celebrity. It has just having me be there, it has stopped the rowdiness. page 16

Mrs. B.:

There's not anybody that, I don't have to take anything. It's under such supervision and food is clean. It's really something, to be proud to have, my doctor, is proud to have it here. So,

me:

What were other holidays like?

Mrs. B.:

Other holidays, I guess I resented. Since these past few have passed on, or since he's passed on. But other than that, we always had our ~~home~~ home decorated, little bit, not too much. But we had decorations, ~~and~~ we had a lot of nice cards, and people calling. But, the family being home, that's what you miss. You know. Uh, my brother has passed away now, my oldest sister is in a, the uh, high rise. Where um, she probably will spend the rest of her days there. But she's with, close to her family. My youngest sister is in Florida. Uh, she's going to be pretty much alone like I do. But um, she's getting more used to it. I talk to her on the phone. I think that this is about the ~~easiest~~ easiest thing to do. It might cost me a little money, but I can't go there for that amount. Uh, I know that she is not in the best of health. She's holding her own. Um, though she feels her family doesn't care, I tell her that don't be ~~like~~ like that, because they have their lives to live too. Their lives are different. We don't all have the same life, um, sometimes their families are very good to us. Maybe a little bit more better than they should have been, you know but, um, then, then again as you grow older you realize that you have a life of your own. Your mother and father have a life of their own, your brothers and sisters. They all don't get together, there's a reason for it and you just have to face that. Facing the future is gonna make you ~~pride~~ proud and happy, that you can face it that way. Um, there's nothing you can do about it. There might be miles between you's. But take the telephone, call, ~~if~~ if you get too lonely. It may be a little out of your pocket at the time but,

MRS. B:
(cont)

at the same time, you've satisfied yourself and I'm sure given them a real surprise, that you called them. They feel the same thing, but maybe they don't look at it like you would.

me:

what was your first real job?

MRS. B:

what's that?

me:

what was your first real job.

MRS. B:

The first real job I had was I worked in the dairy, for Doctor Buck, in Marquette. Then I worked for Professor Lotter. Then I was married, uh, shortly after ~~me~~ or during the time. In fact I told her I was going to get married. She was real happy for me, um, uh, I've never been fired from a job. I've had lots of jobs. But I've never been fired. If they ever gave something I didn't understand the reason for firing or for letting me go. I talked it out with them. I never made an enemy of them. So, that would, that would be, I say I never was let go. I was at Morrison Drug Store. Believe it or not, when he came all down to it, I lost the job, not because I wasn't honest. I reported somebody else that wasn't, and I have proof of it. I lost my job ~~me~~ and she still stayed on. So um, you can't uh, you have to protect yourself as well as. But if your honest you can never go wrong. You can never go wrong, honest in what you say, honest in what do. Your actions and if your in some place and there's a temptation, wipe it out of your mind. You will never win.

me:

How did people react to the stock market crash of 1929?

MRS. B:

How do they react to what?

me:

The stock market crash, of 1929.

MRS. B:

I've never had that to discuss,

ME: okay, How was your family affected by the great depression?

MRS. B.: How do they effect what?

ME: How was your family affected by the ~~great~~ Great Depression?

MRS. B.: Well, um, I believe my story in away has, has really a described that. Um, it was two Christmas ago that I was denied medication. That doctors had, had um, one was for heart condition, and one was for diabetes, There was medication that was necessary. I was at the drug store ~~the~~ when I had asked for help, through Marguerite I had called down there, and they refused me. So I, in turn called my doctor, and told him I would have to leave that off my list. I was unable to get it and did not have the funds to do so. So, there was nothing he could do about it. But they did call me and told me that they would, then after wards, they would. After telling the druggist, don't fill a prescription, we won't pay it. So, um, I agree, I had to have a lot. I had to have a lot of help. Um, and I didn't ask for it. When I didn't leave ~~it~~ it get right down to where there was, with that and with the food. Until I, I knew that I was, I was doing the only thing I could do. So, the lack of medication gave me more calls to the doctor. The doctor was good and he wasn't charging for it. He didn't charge me for that. It didn't help me any, If I still ~~the~~ the diabetes today, but its to a very small extent ^{now} now, where I don't have to worry about that. Uh, its, its the age and the strength and the ability to do the work I want to do, and want to carry on. I have to leave other things go. Of course, ~~the~~ never my bills, because they will catch up to you. Just like I say, my great grandson is gonna' go through life now.

Mrs. B.:
(cont.)

If he doesn't get that, he said he will not go back to school. Until he has that paid. I can't see that, I could help. Although I am going to try this, this year. I've managed to give him out some money. But by the time I gave his mother money, ~~he~~ gave his other brother, and him. Well, I never had a holiday, to myself. So this day I plan that I was going to have a holiday even if I ~~didn't~~ didn't make a trip there. So I really don't believe that we discussed that, my father felt as though that, he was doing his level best. The best is what we had to take. We may have not seen enough movies, we may have not gotten enough of different things, and that. But um we never went wrong on it. I mean uh, ~~um~~ a lot of um, people now own their families and that. Their families are really going wrong on it, because they'll either, the children will either steal. They take it not knowing and uh, though there isn't somebody right behind you all the time. You walk out the door and you get nailed for it. So, it's, it's a ~~losing~~ losing game. You know you have to be honest with yourself. Um, with what the people have to work with today is much less. That's about the only way I can put it, it's much less. There doing without. If they had, didn't have to do without. It probably would have made it better, better generations.

me: How did your family make ends meet during the great depression?

Mrs. B.:

well, we never went hungry, never went without, never had to take a lot of medication. Although uh, uh, I was the one in the family that got belly-aches, ear aches, tooth ache, and my dad would ~~buy~~ buy me an apple trying to be good, I would get a ~~tooth~~ tooth ache. He would stay up all night with it. Uh, so, he must have had the money to spend. Um, but he worked hard for it. I think our parents had to work. I think their parents ~~put~~ ^{took} out more than what the families ~~new~~, that they had to do without. It's surprising how much, the mothers' put it on the table.

Mrs. B:
(cont.)

Um, that's what she's got to work with. Sometimes uh, she's gone without uh, something else, maybe a pair of shoes, she needed. Or, maybe medication, she needed. I never, ever went without medication. When I was a child. I didn't think I was aloud in, aloud you know. But, uh take over in Finland they take them in. A lot of people are going just for the medical part of it. Our state doesn't have it here, they should have something for it. The lady that told me when I was at the drug store and told the druggist don't ~~fill~~ a prescription. There was my witness right there ~~at~~ ^{by} the time I got home she realized it, she called me back, ~~at~~ I'll give it to you this time but there won't be another time. So she got rid of one tell you another. So I just if I go now and I see that I don't have the money for it. I just tell the doctor right out, Don't fill me the prescription because I'll be denied it, if I don't have the money for it now I do, have had it. I only take two medications, now. Certainly, I know before I had had so bad. At that time I'd had a bleeding ulcer. ~~for~~ the size of a plumb. This is just less than two years. So, uh, worries can bring all that on too, how are ~~you~~ you going to meet ends? Things like that. So, those can bring it on. I don't worry so much anymore as I do mostly, going lonely. That's an awful way to put your life into. Instead I wanted to go to work. I ~~kept~~ kept hauling more up on myself. I work six days a week and six hours a day. If I uh, don't do that because I've got so much to payout, but I want to keep myself on the level, where it costs me to take care of my home and I'm the only one working now. My grand daughter like I say everybody has their own ~~family~~ families and that you take care of.

Mrs. B
(cont.)

If you take away from your family, then your family suffers for it. So you don't get rid of that problem, you still have mom and dad to carry on for. You still have them to take care of. I don't want ever, to be a burden to my family, if I can help it. I don't want to ever be, if I can work. I don't want to go into a nursing home. But life in Ishpeming or Marquette, this is my community, this is where I like to stay. I believe I'll be her 'till, 'till the end of my time, expect to be.

me:

What was your opinion of Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Mrs. B:

Well, I'll tell you my dear. It's not a real nice thing to say. But, I just thought the presidents were in there. If I was able to vote, from my voting time, uh, I let that fellow do the work the way he's doing it. It's gonna be done that way anyway. So uh, um, I never involved myself in that, in the governmental things. Um, perhaps because I had more, more on my hands than what I could handle. That was enough for me. Uh, I believe in my church. Um, I believe in the community, helping out the community as needed. Things like that, but your governmental things I never did get too involved in.

me:

Did you or your friends or relatives work on government programs during the Great Depression?

Mrs. B:

Oh, yes. In fact I work on them myself.

Mrs. B:
(cont.)

I worked with Ann Cabin. Uh, my father was a government man, so he was working on that. He had done that all his life, I believe that's the way that um, I never bothered with, with our president. I uh, when I was old enough to vote, I voted. Um, kept up that but uh, um, The Depression is the government choosing the money, or some-thing that the people, people themselves in our country really and truly need. They are giving it more to, to the other countries uh, our garments that are made should, we shouldn't paternize them. Um, when you get from Taiwan and this and that. Um, because they made it and it's man made, uh things. That doesn't mean it's better than our, our, our um, products in that are.

me:

What was it like working on the government programs?

Mrs. B:

With what?

me:

What was it like working on the government programs?

Mrs. B:

Well, I don't think I paid much attention to that either.

me:

okay.

Mrs. B

I ~~know~~ know it's important to you for um, I don't believe I paid any more attention to that than just the fact that using our tax money. ~~As~~ As we are older and that we, we pay lots of taxes out that we shouldn't be paying. Um, on our homes too. But uh, other than that I.

me:

okay. Did living through the Depression change your life?

MRS. B: Yes, I think it did. I think it did. I think it brought the families further apart.

ME: okay. What has made this area special to you?

MRS. B: What's that?

ME: what has made this area special to you?

MRS. B: Because it's more natural. It um, we have our trees, our wooded areas. I've gone to the city cities. I've tried to live there and I don't like it there. There aren't the pretty trees. In Florida I found uh, the area was very nice. But the, the, there are trees. My younger sister now is um, having a very bad problem^{with} the trees. A certain tree ~~that~~ that is growing in that area and um she has a certain thing called a tic in the face there. It's so very severe and sometimes when I call her, even long distance I can't talk with her because she can't talk. But still the tree grows right in the yards around. They have to put up with that. We don't have to put up with that here. I don't know. We've got a lot of good, clean air, here, I think. Uh, I think the depression has taken a lot of our people from here and put them into other communities. They started building their families from there and this way. Well, families are getting further away from one another. It would be nice if they were closer.

ME: what was the most memorable event in your life?

MRS. B: I think what I have found right now my life's right there. Everything I lost in my life, or there wasn't time for, I'm taking it all up there. Um, when you see people come in,

MRS B
(cont)

they sit, they talk and the first thing you know they call you over. They say, "You know, are you the one that's in that picture up there?" I say, "yes." I read that article. Are you really and truly going to be eighty. I said I am eighty. Um, they, they can't grasp it, and yet they're steady customers. They're coming in and day after day they're asking these questions of, of my life you know. Which is not in there. Uh, in this article. Uh, I thought it was going to be but, this was entirely different. Um, this I went to work at ten o'clock in the morning and didn't know there was going to be a newspaper reporter there. So this is really lasted now. They um, um, it, it has in my life, has changed my whole life. It's really made a big change in my life. I'm able to do for myself and medicines doesn't seem that important to me anymore. I'm using ~~less~~ less of 'em. I don't have to have all that. So, um, I guess "is what you make it. Uh, if you believe in it, uh, I think if you believe that you can do something, that you can do it. Anybody can do anything they want. I don't care how, how um they are, if ~~they want~~ you actually get them to do something, that you know they can do, they'll do it. They can do anything they want, if they want to do it. If they don't want to do it, you're not going to get it outta them.

me:

What event had the greatest impact on your life?

MRS. B:

Um, well. I've had everything in life. I've had a perfect life as far as that goes. I've had the good and the bad, and I've survived them both.

Mrs. B:
(cont)

Um, I were to leave this world tomorrow, I wouldn't have missed a thing. I wouldn't have missed a thing I ever wanted. A lot of times, did you ever ask yourself, did you ask yourself that something you wanted to do awfully bad. You wanted to go to a movie or you wanted to do something, and something turned up that you couldn't do it. Maybe you had an appointment that day, or maybe your mother and dad were going to take you someplace. Um, or maybe you wanted to see a picture real bad. Did you ever ~~happen~~ have it happen, it fell through and you never had it? That's what it is to have little children playing along with you teenagers. See I never saw my great grandsons grow up. To have teenagers wh, there that go, well ~~not~~ going to school and they're doing things. They're doing things different than you are and you think well, if I could only do that. Do it. You can do it if you want to. If you don't want to do it, you won't do it. Nope, I don't care how much you try. I know, because I couldn't do it. I would never change the ~~lives~~ of those teenagers, that have ~~come~~ come in their and have been perfect people. Now this isn't a tipping area where I'm at. But I've had people come in and give me a couple of dollars, give me a dollar or something. They'll say, "Now you take that." That's for ~~you~~ being so nice to us. That isn't for waiting on them, you understand. That is for doing the things, cause I don't get tipped here. At first I had to ask my boss is this logical? the other day a man and his wife gave

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Mrs. B.
(cont)

me two dollars, well, I couldn't understand. They said buy something for your grandchildren or for yourself. Then he said, "God bless you." Now you don't know how much they had in their hearts. They musta' had big hearts, or they wouldn't have thought of that. It isn't the idea of what you get, it's the idea of how they give it to you. I couldn't because, I wouldn't want to take it. You know on the floor, because I don't take money on the floor. So I had to give it to my boss. We don't have pockets to put ours in. I said here I had this given to me as a tip. They told me it was for me. So, and many, many of them have done that since ~~IMMEDIATELY~~ This article has been in the paper. I don't want them for sympathy. I just want to know whose got the big heart and who doesn't. Boy they really come out with it. ~~There~~ there are two young people and they made it a point on my birthday. They didn't have anything to give me. They said ~~me~~ a Happy Birthday to you. It was things that I never spent. There's one of the happy things in my life I had. I never had a birthday in my life like I had on my ~~ANNIVERSARY~~ 50th birthday. At this place I'm working at now. They had ordered flowers and um they had um, they had a birthday cake. Before my working was over they all stood behind the counter and I was in the dining room and they called me over. They all sang "Happy Birthday" to me. They presented to me with a bouquet of flowers and my cake. Each one gave me a little cheer. So, um, a long about three o'clock in the afternoon, I had a special ~~bouquet~~ bouquet, from someone, I don't know who it was. I had a special bouquet brought to me and it had to be presented to me on the floor. It was a big ~~big~~ bouquet of flowers. Page 27

MRS. B
(cont.)

~~That~~ That was my special day. That was something really special in my life. I never had a birthday party. So, uh, this made up for all those years.

ME:

What was it like living in the lighthouses?
When what?

MRS. B

ME:

What was it like living in the lighthouses?

MRS. B.

Well um, our bedrooms, we didn't live right in the lighthouse. My father was the assistant keeper. Um, so the lighthouse keeper. Well, dad was keeper at the end. So this was um, he was the assistant keeper then. Um, uh, we had a little house between the coast guard station and the lighthouse. Which is many, many stairs up. Um, that's where the uh, light goes around. It's on the, uh, oh, you have to climb a lot of these um, uh, metal stairs. To go up, swirlly around like that, up at the lighthouse, where my dad would be going to turn the light on for the ships and that to go through the harbor. Um, then um, uh, we weren't, we were allowed to just go, to just maybe give him a little message, or something. But that was all ~~the~~ under. It had to be, to be for the safety of the ships. Uh, if you know, if you ever heard the signal go. Whooooooo, like that as you go into Marquette. ~~Whooooooo~~ That was the fog horn. Uh, that was um, uh, just a little ways from, in the back of the lighthouse. In fact, the coast guard station is ~~in~~ here. Well, and they stayed in a home right there. They had the regular coast guard. Well then, um, this is their watch. There was a big area there. It had not been put up there yet. Because the picture had not been completed for me. Um, and our home was down here. So, we never lived in this one.

(showing painting)

Mrs. B:
(cont)

In fact, now they have it for um. They're renting it out, as apartments now. Um, so, uh, there is a big stair way that goes up here. Then up here is living quarters. This is living quarters and up here is where the light when around, it revolved. Then back here was all um, there was a bridge. Right down here, I see it's so much lower than what the lighthouse is. That's where the big foghorn was. Um, we would get up on to the top of the stairs. It made such an awful, awful noise, that um, when they started to blow it, that um, when I would go to see my dad, I start from the top, and run all the way down those stairs. So that, I'd get down, so I wouldn't fall. I frightened very easily. I would have a fall. But, here we played a lot. This was our area for, this is all the lake here. This is up right where I was born, right in there. Um, my sister-in-law, her sister, before she died wanted to do something for me. She had started this and I'm going to ~~have~~ have someone finish it. Um, I thought I would get uh, um, there are some in Marquette that do a lot of this work. ~~I~~ I want it made more realistic. When you stand back, it gives you more of an idea. Our ~~home~~ home, right over here where I was born. So this is what I think that makes me feel um, Marquette's, Marquette is my. ~~Marquette~~ I don't like Marquette since the college has been there. There's been a lot of, a lot of things happening there, that uh, I don't know. They have the um, training of the state police and things like that. I know several girls are going into it, believe it or not. In fact one of the managers down at Taco Bell the end of this month will be her last day there.

MRS. B
(cont.)

Um, because she's, she's taking up this police training. So, Marquette is a very popular, it has a lot of um, a lot of history behind, behind it. Like down at the um, um, the island now, the island would be over this way here. This is all beach and um, this ~~is~~ was a picnic ground in here. They had a picnic table there and um, they always had ~~there~~ their picnics in there. They would go down there and swim. But that's where I met my first husband. He was on there, it was just like a tall um, uh, um, a tall um, well, I don't know exactly what they ~~is~~ call it. They have them all over for radio stations and that. Then they have their building there. I got near drowned out there and my first husband saved me. (Laughs) So um, I went out and didn't realize it was so far out. I was on a log. He was hollering, "Don't, don't get off!" I did get off. So.

ME:
MRS

Okay, thank you for letting me interview you.
Okay.