

This is Ronnie Niemi interviewing V. Culbert in her house in

National Mine right under the hill from the school. (R) When were you born?

(V) January 14, 1919. (R) Where? (V) In the house I'm living in now. (R) Oh

(R) Where did you live during the Great Depression? (V) Right here in National Mine where I am living now. (R) How old were you at the time about?

(V) Hmm. Well I was in high school, Oh must of been 10 or 11 years old. (R) Did you go to National Mine?

(V) Yep right through high school. (R) Did you like it?

(V) Not really. (R) Oh. (R) Were you in sports or anything like that? (V) We had girls basketball, that was about all we did have up here. (R) Did you cheerlead or anything like that? Did they have anything like that? (V) Nope, we didn't have cheerleading. (R) Did you have boyfriends around here then?

(V) A few. (R) Who were they? (V) I'm not telling. (Both of us laugh). They were National Mine boys. (R) What do you remember most of the Depression, around here?

(V) Well let's see. (pauses) You didn't have the food you have now. (R) Which

(V) that's for sure, oh ah. (R) Was money pretty hard to get by then? (V) Yes it definitely was. (R) Did your dad keep his job, or did he get fired or anything like that?

(V) My dad worked in the Powder Mill all of the years he was in the United States, he came from Sweden & was a carpenter. (R) Did he work at the Powder Mill down there, the Hercules?

(V) The Hercules Powder Company. (R) Did your mom work or was she a housewife?

(V) Part-time cook up at school, sub. (R) You worked up there before to hey? (V) I started up there 33 years ago. (R) Did you have any brothers or sisters? (V) I had one brother Connie & one sister in Negaunee, Marie. (R) Oh, were you the oldest or the youngest? (V) I was the youngest in the family. (R) The baby hey? (V) The baby ha ha. (R) Did you get picked on?

(V) Nope, I was babied. (laughs). (R) What kind of job did your mom have? (V) She just subbed at National Mine School. (R) What kind of chores did you do around the house?

(V) Well, we always had to do dishes and help with the wash & the cleaning. (R) Who did the most work? Connie? (V) Well he had the outside work the barn work & the wood work. (R) Did you have animals or anything like that? (V) We had a

couple cows and pigs & one horse. (R) Oh, what was its name? (V) The cow's name was Nellie. (I laugh) that's about all I remember. (R) Did you or Connie or your sister

have a real job anywhere that you got paid or anything like that when you were younger or anything like that? (V) No, my sister & I worked at the hotel in the summers & that's about all. (R) Was your family poor or were they middle class?

(V) Well, they were middle class. (R) How did you like living in National Mine?

Q) No we weren't poor, but they were more on the middle class & a little poorer than before the Depression

Q) No my dad was a good worker

Q) Pretty lucky that tho tho tho

Q) Yes he brought home a good pay enough to survive on

Q) Did you have a radio then?

Q) Yes

Q) Did you listen to F.D.R. on the radio at all?

Q) Oh I imagine so but we weren't too interested as kids, my dad was

Q) Did you ever listen to shows on the radio comedy shows or anything like that?

Q) Amos & Andy, Ma Perkins, there weren't that many

Q) Well they good, funny

Q) Oh, we thought they were funny, that was the only thing we had to listen to

Q) What kind of Christmas did you have?

Q) We thought they were wonderful, we didn't have a abundance like they do now a days we were satisfied with one or two things

Q) Sleigh riding all that

Q) Yeah we always got our sleds we stayed around National mine we weren't allowed to go to town like they are now (I laugh)

Q) I remember when my half brother went down state with the basketball team I think that was in '38, my dad carried me all the way to town to see those kids come in at the train depot he carried me all of the way to town, I was little

Q) What kind of things did you do during your free time did you play monopoly?

Q) Didn't have it

Q) You didn't have monopoly?

Q) Never

Q) We played different games what you kids play now we had checkers we played hide the thimble

Q) Oh

Q) Antee, Antee excavator, tag

Q) Did you play kick ball?

Q) No

Q) Baseball

Q) Baseball? were you a good baseball player?

Q) No I was too fat to run (I laugh)

Q) Did they still have the same baseball diamond as they do now down there?

Q) No the baseball diamond was over by the Nature Trail

Q) We pay for gym back there

Q) Did you ever go to the movies when you were a teenager or anything like that?

Q) Not very often, not too often it was along walk

Q) you had to walk all of the way there?

Q) We never had a car

Q) Did you have a bike?

Q) one bike between 4 kids

Q) Did you fight over it?

Q) We sure did

Q) Was going to church real important back then?

Q) Yes it was.

Q) Did you go a lot?

Q) Yes I did I went to the National mine Swedish church

Q) They had one in National Mine

Q) Right on top of Brooks's hill, the vacant lot, next to Aho's

Q) ~~Did you go to Nat'l Mine turn to communism~~

Q) Do you remember the New Deal or anything like that?

Q) I don't remember too much of that stuff.

Q) Did anyone return to communism or anything like that, or to Russia?

Q) Probably was but I don't remember that

Q Your family didn't have a car?

A Nope never did have a car

Q How did your mom & dad get to work? they didn't walk or nothin' did they

A my father walked to work

Q what about your mom?

A my mother just went up the hill

Q my mother had an old sarge that she went to town with.

A I horse

Q She rode that

Q was your dad in good health, because always walking to work & that

A oh, yes

Q oh.

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Q Did any stores close because of that?

A No because about the only stores there were was Anala's store at that time & the Post Office and a Ernell's store

Q Bill Ernell was it?

A His father his name was Arnold Ernell

Q that's my uncle Bill Ernell.

Q were neighbors more helpful then?

A yes definitely, one neighbor helped the other, always

Q did you ever help any projects in the neighborhood, was there anything like that? like build any kind of playground or anything like that?

A No, we built our own ski slides & toboggan slides there wasn't much of anything like that

Q Did you ski a lot

A Yes

Q Was suicide going in Negaunee back then?

A We just had our little bluff here in Nat. and mine that was going strong, we built our own slides at school, no cars then

Q it's hard now with the cars

Q Did people shoplift a lot or breaking & entering?

(V) No

(B) There wasn't that much?

(B) Was National Mine that much of a poor neighborhood or was there pretty much
work going on here?

(V) There wasn't much work, but everyone provided with their gardens & animals

(B) There's just a few gardens around here now

(V) Yeah

(B) Do you remember any fraternal lodges?

(V) It was an English lodge & I can't think of it now, ah, The National Mine the
ship garage is built there now it was an English lodge I can't remember what it was

(B) That's all then!