

① I am here at the home of Ruth Hill on December 30,  
1983. Michele  
H.

M: How old were you at the time of the stock market crash?

R: Oh, I think I was around 9.

M: Where did you live at that time?

R: Uh, we lived in National Mine here. Not in this house. On the hill there where Denis lives <sup>now</sup> you know? And that was used as a school a long time ago. We bought that house, after, you know, after the first school burned they used that house it was \_\_\_\_\_ house. And they used that as a school for classrooms.

M: How many people were there in your family?

R: Uh, eleven. Not the mother and father ~~and~~ <sup>11</sup> children.

M: Do you think the depression brought the families together because of them being around each other more?

R: I think so. I think so because people helped each other ~~and~~, you know, a lot like if the would do, you know, cutting wood and that the neighbors would come over and help them. <sup>Some of</sup> everyone had gardens and.

M: Did you go to school during the depression?

R: yes

M: Were there many young people who went to school then?

R: Well, quite a few but I think a lot, quite a few at that time used to drop out when they became of age at 16 or so. Quite a few would drop out to look for work, you know, or some thing.

M: Do you remember where schools got money?

R: I suppose from the taxes the people paid and then I don't know, the government, the school paid some too but I suppose from the taxes.

Q: M: Who were the board members of the principal of National mine school?

R: I remember George Annilla being the principal. He also taught algebra. I don't know. I don't remember any of the other board members. I know Elmer Aho's been on the board for years.

M: Did many people have enough money to buy class rings or class pictures or anything?

R: There were some that didn't. I know one of my brothers didn't have a class ring or a picture taken but when I asked I think my sister the one who helped. You know, she was married and she helped. But I did have a ring or a picture when I graduated.

M: Do you remember what the church was like?

R: Well, I went to St. John's Catholic Church in Ishpeming so I don't remember what, I don't know what you mean by what it was like, I know they spoke Latin at that time.

M: Do you think the church was affected by the depression at all?

R: I suppose to some extent because I suppose people couldn't pay, ah you know, like give so much. But I don't remember any distinct changes of any effects. You know.

M: Did a lot of people listen to the radio?

R: Oh ya, yes, the radio was our biggest thing of entertainment. I remember listening to boxing matches and, I don't know, little stories on the radio too.

M: What did you think about Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats"?

③ R: Well, it was quite interesting because, you know, every body could hear, you know, he pulled the country out of the depression and got people back to work with all these programs, you know, like WPA. That was quite good. First time a president had done that. you know.

M: Do you feel the New Deal ended the depression or do you think it would have ended eventually any way?

R: Oh, I think he had a lot to do with it. I mean, a lot of people say that he done good, you know, in helping the country get back on its feet. I don't know ~~if it~~ would have come otherwise. It might have.

M: Did you blame Hoover for the depression?

R: I don't know. At that time I was that young that I don't think I cared much about, you know some of that stuff that was going on so I don't really remember much about Hoover.

M: Do you remember what you used for transportation?

R: (laughs) Walking! Walked mostly. Yes, walked to school, back there was no bus services then. If we wanted to go dance in town we walked. We walked quite a bit.

M: So cars weren't very important?

R: They weren't too important at that time. No. Not too many people had cars.

M: How were the holidays affected by the depression?

R: Well, they were very simple. I don't remember all the presents that we have now. You know, when I was a child they didn't have things they have now. It wasn't as big commercialized, you know. It was more simple.

M: Did people go to the movies a lot?

R: Yea, that was quite a good form of entertainment. I used to go every week when I was in my teens. You know, we went every, every weekend.

④ R: We used to go to the movies.

M: Do you remember who were the most famous stars back then?

R: Clark Gable, and Carry Grant and Betty Davis, and I can't think of any others right now. Howie James,

M: Harry Stanley,

R: m, I don't know. Not so often. I can't remember

Herculeus power company would have a summer picnic. You know. And I used to go with my sisters husband because he worked there. That's about the only picnic I remember. A few times we'd get to the beach. You know, my sister had a car. We got to the beach a few times in the summer. One time we camped up there. You know, girl friends, you know, when you in High school. Bunch of girls camped up there and had a good time. mhm.

M: Were there any WPA programs in the area?

R: Yes. ya.

They were ~~at my brother's~~ same ~~neighborhood~~ <sup>neighborhood</sup> ~~near the~~ <sup>near the</sup> ~~roads~~ <sup>roads</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~my brother~~ <sup>my brother</sup> ~~worked~~ <sup>worked</sup> ~~on the W.P.A.~~ <sup>on the W.P.A.</sup>

M: Do you think they really helped alot?

R: I think so. ya. Uh huh.

M: What were your opinions of the C.C.C.?

R: Well, that was a good thing too. My brother, after ~~and graduated~~ <sup>and graduated</sup> ~~that's where he went~~ <sup>that's where he went</sup> ~~you know~~ <sup>you know</sup> ~~and he enrolled~~ <sup>and he enrolled</sup> ~~in that~~ <sup>in that</sup> ~~and he~~ <sup>and he</sup> ~~was in that~~ <sup>was in that</sup> ~~and he~~ <sup>and he</sup> ~~helped alot~~ <sup>helped alot</sup> ~~cause he got~~ <sup>cause he got</sup> ~~so much from a~~ <sup>so much from a</sup> ~~and you know its room~~ <sup>and you know its room</sup> ~~board up there~~ <sup>board up there</sup> ~~I think that was a good~~ <sup>I think that was a good</sup> ~~thing for the young people~~ <sup>thing for the young people</sup> ~~you know, young~~ <sup>you know, young</sup> ~~men~~ <sup>men</sup>.

was in that & it helped alot cause he got so much from a & you know its room board up there. I think that was a good thing for the young people. you know, young men.

Q: M: Do you remember any banks folding up?

R: I don't remember. ~~But~~ But I remember my mother-in-law telling me, after I was married, how they went to the bank, you know, and they were told they couldn't get their money out. You know, and how the people were so upset. That when the banks closed they weren't giving the people <sup>their</sup> money.

M: Oh, huh

R: So that's about all I know about it.

M: How did you feel about home owners loans?

R: Now you mean? Home owners loans or?

M: During the depression.

R: See, I don't know things like that. We owned our home. I don't have any experience with that sort of thing.

M: Do remember about anything about blind pigs or speakeasies or whatever?

R: You mean like saloons and that you know like places that weren't legal I suppose.

M: Ya.

R: I didn't hear too much about that. No, but I suppose there was. I didn't know of any. I guess, some times some of the people I heard use to make it, you know, at home. I've heard you know of different ones.

M: Do you remember the temperance society?

R: No, mm.

M: Do you remember if any mines were closing? I don't remember. I think, at that time I think they worked only 2 days a week, and like that ~~you know~~. Very little <sup>but</sup> I don't remember any closing.

Q: M: Do you remember there being any mun. company houses?

R: Well there's some out here. You know, upwards the school and then over there where a near Pepino up on the hill and that those houses that all look alike. Those are company houses. And up by the school too, there's about 3 or 4 company houses.

M: Were there railways in the area?

R: Yes, uh huh.

M: What were their purposes?

R: To haul ore. There were mines all around here and a the tracks over here behind my house they hauled ore for the Tildon Mine at the time it was in operation. A smaller operation. You know, and it hauled ore from there and then I suppose before that it was on account of the mines but there are a lot of tracks left. None are used anymore except this one down below it used to haul from the Tildon.

M: Were there any major strikes during the depression?

R: Well, I remember when I was first married my husband was on strike for 3 months one time. And that was quite hard cause money we had saved like bonds we had to use for one or food and so we used up all our savings in those 3 months and there wasn't any help, you know, the way the people got now. We didn't get help from the welfare or anything. We had to use what we had in our savings. You know. And there were other strikes but not as long as that one. That was the longest.

M: Which company was that for?

R: That was for CCI.

M: What did you think about the Wagner act?

R: Mm. Nothing. I don't even remember it. What was it about?

M: I don't really remember either.

R: I can't tell you nothing about that.

M: Did a lot of people grow gardens?

R: Yes, mmmmm, ya.

M: Did you have one?

R: Ya, ya we always had a big garden when I was growing up.

M: What kind of things did you grow?

R: Um, a lot of vegetables. You know cabbage, carrots, beets, rutabaga, potatoes, mostly you know a lot of potatoes and every body had chickens so we didn't go hungry even if we didn't have to buy a lot from a store because you had all these these gardens

M: Did you do a lot of canning?

Q: Well, most of us used to, ya, preserve quite a bit

beams, or some other vegetables. Uh huh,

M: Do you think the ethnic groups crowded together?

R: Crowded together?

M: Ya.

R: Well, I don't know if they each stayed to their own, you know, nationality more than I think. I think they didn't mix and probably they do now. I think they stayed to themselves like the Finnish people.

M: Do you remember what the weddings were like in the depression?

R: Oh, ya, I don't know well they usually there was a big wedding, unless when the people were very rich. It was the poorer people had like a smaller wedding and had a big shower. The girl had a big shower like either at five or ten a lot of gifts then. But you didn't have this big reception like they do now. Weddings were very, you know, there was hardly ever a big church wedding like you do now. Like when I got married in the Pa. Songi part of the church, you know. Lot of people got married that way just with their attendants, just the bride and we just the bride & groom and the attendants just the other man, you know. Now you got all these things, they have a big production, it wasn't like that. ~~It~~ It was very simple.

M: Did you go to any funerals or remember what they were like?

R: No, I suppose they were simpler too probably. You know like when I was real young, you know they had the body at home. ~~What~~ ~~And~~ ~~you~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~do~~ ~~now~~ ~~that~~ any more.

have I days before the funeral. They always had a night for the visiting which they do now, I now.

M: Do you remember any people turning to communism?

R: No, no I don't.

M: Did you remember anything about the Orange Hall?

R: Orange Hall I don't remember. I think about that although I hear they used to have dances there one time. You know my first wife, she had a dance there and many other things. I don't know what she was doing there. But I heard of some things that were there.

M: Thanks for your information.

R: Uh huh.