

^{John LaCombe}
This interview is about the bad storm of 1939. It was considered one of the worst storms on record.

This is JOHN LACOMBE interviewing my Gramma Sabie Kuijansuu at her home at National Mine Michigan.

M- How long did the snowstorm last?

H- Well it (ah) lasted almost 3 days but what came down was so much that we couldn't get out for a week.

M- Were you aware of it coming?

H- Not really, It (ah) well, well we only had radios then that told us about the weather.

M- How much snow did you get?

H- Oh about 7 feet and that was ~~enough~~ quite a bit.

M- How did you get from place to place like when you were trying to get to a store or something?

H - Well, we had skis that we went to the store with but there wasn't no path or roads plowed or anything.

M - Did you use any snowshoes at all?

H - Yes there was snowshoes but I wore snowshoes and

M - Where were you when it started? quote

H - Well we were home but we went to (ah) we were going to go to Champion and we got as far as West Ishperming and we had to turn back and leave the car by the post office and then we started walking and it was blowing so hard that (ah) I had to hang on my husband's belt (laughing) because I couldn't see and I couldn't breathe and that was about a half a mile but it seemed like a mile before we got home.

M - How did you get out of your house when there was so much snow?

H - Well then (ah) we had to keep the doorways shoveled every half hour to be able to get out in the morning.

M- what month was it when the snow storm came?

H- about ~~January~~ FEBRUARY

M- FEBRUARY

M- Was it light or heavy the snow?

H- well it wasn't really that heavy or light but, it was windy that you can't even breath outside

M- What was the worst hit areas around here?

H- National mine (laughing) Ishperming, Marquette and thats all I know

M- How long did it take before it got all cleared out?

H- Well we had it cleared for a whole week without going to work and they had (all) together the groceries and whatever they needed

M- What did you think about the storm?

H- Well it was pretty bad

M- Did you ever see one like it before?

H- No never

M- Did you ever see a rain storm like it

H- yes, then the next year we had a terrible rain storm that flooded every thing. It Cliff Drive the roads were washed out the tracks were washed out and (ah) the front of the homes were all watered and destroyed their furniture and and you couldn't even get to our ~~cars~~ house without car we had to use a

M- About how much snow did you get every half hour?

H- well maby about a foot but it drifted so badly all the time.

M- How much ~~snow~~^{foop} did you have when the storm came?

H- well we had enough foop cause we were always prepared in case of a storm.

M- was it warm in your house always?

H- yes it was warm we had a coal stove and we had lots of coal (laughing) and wood.

M- Did you ever panic during the storm when it was so bad?

H- No all is we did was play cards and played the radio not the radio but (ah) the talking machine what ever we had.

M- Did your pipes ever freeze ^{in your house} during the storm?

H- No cause it wasn't really that cold it was only about 20° above that was n't bad.

M- How high did it get on your house the snow?

H- well it went over the window

M- (clearing my throat) Was it very cold at nights?

H- NO, it wasn't to cold

M- What was the coldest it got?

H- Well maby about 0°.

M- Did you snowshoe or ski when the snowstorm was here?

H- No, I didn't but the other kids were making tunnels ^{quite} in the snow and jumping off the roofs of barns and garages and they were having a real good time.

M- How far from her did the storm scatter?

H- Well I think it went as far as Escanaba and people were people were stranded they had to ~~stay~~ ^{go} into buildings, they had to go in motels and were ever they ~~had~~ ^{couldn't get} a place to stay that night.

M- Where did it come from like what area of the country did it come from?

H- from the east

M- up by New Hampshire and New York and that.

H- ya.

M- How did it start out like?

H- Well it started ~~it started~~ to get winny and real funny and it came ~~really~~ ^{awfully} fast when it did.

M- Did you have any snow before the storm came?

H- Well not really we didn't know it was going to be that bad

H-truck a wipe truck and that was really a bar one.

M-Thank you very much grama for telling us all about your experiences with the great snowstorm of 1938.

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