

Interview with Irving Oist

By Dana Kostreva

me: How many children were in your family?

I: 9, 9 ~~was~~ of us were home

me: What school did you go to?

I: West Ishpeming

me: What did you do for entertainment?

I: Oh ski riding, fishing, playing hockey and stuff like that.

me: Did you go on vacation much during the depression?

I: No, no, no money

me: Did you work for the WPA?

I: Yes I did.

me: How old were you then?

I: I was 18 years old

me: What were some of jobs you did for the WPA?

I: Oh we did road work to fire center

me: Did you get food from welfare?

I: ah no

me: Do you remember the stock market crash?

I: yes I did

me: what was it like?

I: oh all the banks closed every thing tight nobody could get there money out from the bank only at a certain time ah, only little bit at a time

me: Did you have a radio?

I: oh yes

me: Did you listen to Roosevelt on it?

I: oh ya we listened to Roosevelt

me: Did you have a garden?

I: yes we had a farm we lived on a farm ya By rock lake

me: what railroads came in?

I: oh the ones an 9 and northwest <sup>Duluth</sup> South Shore

me: were the railroads formostly transportation

I: ya thats what it was for mostly Transportation and you know Passenger trains and a freight came in

me: Did the depression have an effect on railroads

I: well maybe a little bit not too bad

me: Did you like Hoover as a president

I: Oh ya he was all right It wasn't his fault at the deprection It was all over the world the deprection was

me: ~~me~~ Did you think Roosevelt was a good president?

I: Oh ya Best we ever had

me: Did you think there was a rise in crime?

I: well maybe ~~not too bad~~ not around here any way

me: were there Illegal taverns?

I: well the taverns come after the Prohibition law went ahout ah then the taverns came out

me: Did you have a car?

I: ya we had a car model T

me: what was the worst year for you?

I: well the worst year was about 1932 and 33

me! what were some of the clothes worn then?

I: well I don't know any kind of a clothes you know we had regular clothes winter clothes overalls.

me! when you were growing up did you think you were poor?

I: well a not, no I didn't think so

me! Did any mines close ~~down~~ during the depression?

I: they all clothes there was nothing moving

me! were there any strikes

I: no there wasn't no unions around here then the unions

~~me!~~ Didn't come in until <sup>about</sup> 1937, 38

me! what was the role of the church?

I: well I don't know I is pretty hard to tell

me! How did education change

I: well, a I don't know like about the same as now

me! were people helpful

I: oh ya

me: did any one lose faith in the american way of life?

I: no they didn't<sup>no</sup> heavens no (laugh)

me: did you get newspapers?

I: ya

me: what did you think of the new Deal?

I: oh that was wonderful he got this country back on his feet again

~~me~~ me: ok