

John Bleau  
interviewing  
Mr. Henry Rinne br.

Me - When and where were you born?

Mr. R. - I was born in Ishpeming, Michigan  
(ah) September 14, 1912.

Me - In your early childhood what was your  
father's occupation?

Mr. R. - (ah) He was a carpenter builder.

Me - How many children were in your family?

Mr. R. - (ah) Two boys and a girl

Me - What kind of school experiences did  
you have?

Mr. R. - I went from (ah) kindergarden to (ah) six grade  
in the Ridge Street school in Ishpeming, the  
seventh and eighth grade in the ~~the~~ Grammar  
school and ninth and the twelfth grade, and I  
graduated from the Ishpeming high school in 1931.



Me - What kind of diseases were their?

Mr. R. - There were measles, chicken pox, I had chicken pox, and (ah) influenza, I had influenza, I lost a grade in school on the count of being sick, and people were dieing all around

Me - What kinds of medicine and Doctors did you have?

Mr. R. - We had good doctors, Doctor Barnette, during the flue, and the medicines were mostly castor oil, pine tar, and sugar.

Me - What were cars like back then?

Mr. R. - They weren't much different then they are today, but <sup>(ah)</sup> they were harder to operate, they were no automatic windshield wipers, ah hydraulic brakes, and ah no heaters in the cars, And the tires didn't as long and we got lot better batteries now, but they brought us to where

wer were going ah ah ah and they brought us back, Me - What was the great depression like in the 1930's?

Mr. R. - well to me it wasn't exactly to bad, I (ah) cut pulp in the woods, hauled pulp wood, worked on the WPA with a truck, hauled gravel out south on 581 on ah Cliff's drive and I worked 2 days in the garage in town, Sun blood Brothers garage, mechanics helper, but it was bad for a lot of people but they seem to ah they seem <sup>good</sup>



Me - How did you get to school?

Mr. R. - We always walked from home to the school, winter and summer

Me - what were your school lunches like?

Mr. R. - Well we didn't have any school lunches, we came home (ah) for lunch and went ~~back~~ back in the afternoon

Me - What were some of your favorite teacher and subjects?

Mr. R. - Well one of my favorite teachers was Henry Seaborg, <sup>Ishpeming High School</sup> machine shop class. McGinty - wood shop. Leonard plough mechanical drawing. + uh Octavius Townsend in Ishpeming Physics

Me - what kind of jobs did you have at home?

Mr. R. - well, ah, I hauled the wood in, coal, and ah, helped my dad on Saturdays when I was going school in (car) construction business,

Me - what did you do on special occasions such as Fourth of July and Midsummers Day?

Mr. R. - Fourth of July we always watch the parade, and then we go on a little picnic in the woods.

Me - what kind of weddings did you have?

Mr. R. - good ones



Me- did you listen to the president on radio about W.P.A.?

Mr. R.- you mean this one here?

Me- President Roosevelt

Mr. R.- Oh yes, I listened to Roosevelt and I'm glad he put the, put the social security on, because it comes in handy for me now

Me- What kind of experiences did you have working for the Ford Motor Company?

Mr. R.- I worked about 8 years for the Ford garage in Ishpeming, Sunblood Brothers, and (ah) Ford was, Ford Motor was particular about how clean you were, and you had to look as if you were on the job, and (ah) everything had to be just so, or not at all,

Me- What was it like without electricity?

Mr. R.- Well we had kerosene lamps, a lantern to go outside with in night to go to the woodshed. but inside the kerosene lights, you trim the wick and you put kerosene in it and you clean the chimney, it was called a chimney on it and then there was a reflector behind it that shined down, you could hang it at what you were reading and it wasn't exactly bad



Me - What kind of hobbies did you have?

Mr. R. - Tinkering with automobiles, ski riding, fishing on lake superior, and listening to the radio.

Me - How did cars change over the years, were they for better or worse?

Mr. R. - The cars are a lot better today then they were before, for various reasons.

Me - What kind of pets did you have?

Mr. R. - We always had a cat, you know, a good big tomcat.

Me - Have you ever been to other countries or states?

Mr. R. - Well the only states I've been in is, ah North Dakota

Mrs. R. - Canada

Mr. R. - Canada, Illinois, Wisconsin, and around there, Michigan.

Me - I there anything you'd like to add that I've something.

Mr. R. - life today, to me, is a lot better than it was before

Me - If you could do all over again what would you do different

Mr. R. - (pauses) well thered be ~~was~~ quite a few things I would do different but its to late to change it now so I'd geuss I'd do it over again.