

Interview with Helen Solka "Paul Racine"

(ME) I'm at the Home of Helen Solka in 1
AND NATIONAL MINE THE DATE IS DECEMBER 29TH
1983, THURSDAY. WERE, WHERE AND WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

(MS) I WAS BORN IN NATIONAL MINE, IN AH, 1913, SO I'LL
BE 71 YEARS OLD AH, 8TH OF FEBRUARY.

(ME) COULD YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD, OR?

(MS) MY CHILDHOOD? WELL, WHATAHH, I WAS BORN ON A MY
GRANDMA'S HOUSE AND WE HADA. THEY CALLED IT A FARM,
BUT IT WASN'T A FARM LIKE THE BIG FARMS ARE, WE HAD
HORSES AND CHICKEN AND COWS AND PIGS OF COARSE, AND I
LIVED THERE UNTIL I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, THEN A WE MOVED
CLOSER HERE TO THE NATIONAL MINE SCHOOL THEN, BUT WE
WALKED TO SCHOOL FROM THERE, I REMEMBER WALKING
THROUGH A AWFUL ALOT OF SNOW TO GET THERE AND I
REMEMBER ONE VALENTINES DAY I LOST ALL MY VALENTINES,
MY DADDY HAD TO COME AND GET ME BECAUSE I COULDN'T
WALK THROUGH THE SNOW, THERE WAS SO MUCH SNOW AND I
HAD LOST MY VALENTINES ON THE WAY HOME.

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY OF THE STOCK MARKET CRASH?

(MS) NO, I DON'T REMEMBER TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT.

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD ABOUT IT, OR
ANYTHING?

(MS) NO, I DON'T... I HAVE NO IDEA.

(ME) WHAT DID YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT HOOVER?

(MS) I DON'T REMEMBER TOO MUCH OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT?

(MS) WELL, FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, I REMEMBER HIM... SITTING BY THE FIRE PLACE AND GIVING THE DIFFERENT ^(ONE) CHATS OVER THE T.V., OR OVER THE RADIO AND, AND A, OF COARSE IN THOSE DAYS WE DIDN'T HAVE T.V. LIKE WE HAVE NOW, WE ONLY HAD THE RADIOS AND, WE HAD A LITTLE ~~THAT~~ CROSSLY RADIO THAT HAD BAT... BIG BATTERY IN THE BACK OF IT AND THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO LISTEN TO ALL THE....

(ME) "INTERUPT" DID YOU...?

(MS) ... NEWS AND EVERYTHING, CAME THROUGH...

(ME) DID YOU OWN YOUR OWN RADIO OR DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND...?

(MS) WE HAD OUR O... WE HAD OUR FAMILY RADIO. IN THOSE DAYS KIDS NEVER HAD RADIO LIKE THEY DID KNOW.

(ME) WAS YOUR FATHER EMPLOYED?

(MS) I DONT EVER REMEMBER MY DAD NOT WORKING, HE WORKED Part time, a few times and He was a night watch man at the at the TILDEN MINE, WHEN THE TILDER MINE OPENED FIRST, THAT WAS MANY, MANY YEARS ago, THAT WAS, OH I WAS JUST A YOUNG THEN IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HE WAS WORKING at the tilden mine and...

(ME) WAS HE ever laid off or anything?

(MS) NOT THAT I CAN REMEMBER. NO, IT SEEMS LIKE HE ALWAYS HAD SOME KIND OF A JOB. Well, I REMEMBER ~~OUT~~ ONCE... WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE went and worked ahh... In L'anse for Henry FORD. He was laid off at that time from the mine and then he went to work for Henry FORD in L'anse. AND AHH... THEN HE CAME BACK Here AGAIN AND GOT BACK INTO THE MINE, AGAIN AND THAT'S ~~AND~~ WHEN HE WORKED AT THE TILDEN MINE

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER, PRETTY MUCH, OR, DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT, FROM THE DEPRESSION, DURING THE DERRESSION?

(MS) Well, (CLEARS THROAT),...

3

(ME) AND IF YOU HAD HARD TIMES? OR...

(MS) IT WAS, IT WAS KIND OF HARD.

(ME) IF YOUR FAMILY HAD TO GO WITHOUT SUPPER SOME DAY?

(MS) NO! I DON'T EVER REMEMBER EVER BEING HUNGRY, NOT ONCE IN MY WHOLE LIFE DO I EVER REMEMBER OF EVER BEING HUNGRY.

(ME) DID YOUR FAMILY EVER LOSE MONEY, LIKE..., WHEN THE BANKS CLOSED, OR...

(MS) NOT THAT I KNOW OF, UHH, UHH! NO

(ME) WERE THERE ANY REAL BIG BANKS AROUND HERE THAT CLOSED

(MS) NOT THAT I KNOW OF. NO. I DON'T EVER REMEMBER OF THE BANKS CLOSING HERE.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS, DO YOU REMEMBER OF THEM HAVING A HARD TIME, OR ANYTHING?

(MS) Well, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE THAT HAD IT HARD, BUT TUM, ... WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE A MOTHER AND FATHER THAT WERE KIND OF ON THE SAVING SIDE, AND WHEN THERE WAS WORK THEY DID SAVE SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO FALL BACK ON, YOU KNOW, AND THERE, OF COURSE THEY ALWAYS PLANTED A GARDEN SO, SUMMER TIME THEY'D PRESERVE AND, BERRIES, AN, JAMS AND JELLIES, AN, PICKLES AND THINGS LIKE THAT... YUP

(ME) WHAT DID YOU DO FOR ENTERTAINMENT?

(MS) FOR ENTERTAINMENT (GROWS) WELL, ...

(ME) (INTERUPT) DID YOU GO TO MOVIES?

(MS) WE MADE SKIPPERS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT SKIPPERS ARE,

(4)
WE TAKE A , A BARREL , TAKE A BARREL AND KNOCK IT APART,
KNOCK THE RINGS OFF OF IT AN, AND TAKE A BLOCK OF WOOD
AND NAIL IN THE CENTER OF ONE ^{OF} THE BARREL STABES THAT CAME
OUT OF THE BARREL AND PUT A PIECE OF WOOD ACROSS THE TOP
OF THAT BLOCK OF WOOD AN, AND WE USED THEM TO RIDE ON, AND
THEN WE USED TO RIDE ~~IN~~, OLD DISH PAN, IF WE COULD FIND
AN OLD DISH PAN, WE'D RIDE THAT, AND PIECES OF CARDBOARD
WE RODE ON, WE DIDN'T HAVE VERY MUCH AS FAR AS TOBAGANS
AND THINGS LIKE THAT. ~~SO~~ UNTIL WE WERE OLDER. THINGS WERE
BETTER THEN.

(ME) How were, How, How OLD WERE YOU DOING THE 30'S,
WHEN THE DEPRESSION WAS, WERE YOU JUST A LITTLE GIRL, OR?

(MS) I DON'T REMEMBER JUST EXACTLY. HOW. WHAT YEAR WAS
that in 19...

(ME) 30, ABOUT 1930'S, 33

(MS) I THINK I MUST HAVE BEEN. I MUST HAVE BEEN IN
HIGH SCHOOL. 1930 WHAT, DID YOU SAY?

(ME) AROUND '33 ABOUT 50 years ago.

(MS) '33? 1933, I WAS MARRIED AT THAT TIME (LAUGHS)
Ha. Ha, Haha.

(ME) AROUND TO THE 20'S SOMEWHERE...

(MS) I THINK I CAN REMEBER PART NOW WHEN YOU SAY THE
YEAR THAT IT WAS, I WAS MARRIED AT THAT TIME, AND MY
Husband worked at the, um, MATHER INN FOR A FEW.. JUST
FOR A FEW MONTHS AND THEN HE WAS OFF AND THEN, HE, THEN
AH, WPA CAME IN, THAT WAS DURING THE DEPRESSION, WE HAD
THE WPA. SO HE WORKED WPA, WPA, NIGHT WATCH MAN. AND
SOMETIMES HE WORKED DAY SHIFT TOO, (DAY HE WAS LEAVING) "P"
AND I HAD THREE SMALL @ CHILDREN AT THAT TIME. WELL
IT WAS, WE HAD DA, KIND OF HARD TIMES IT WAS HARD
GOING, WE HAD TO... SQUEEZE OUR PENNIES AND MAKE

~~IT SEEM OT, MIGHT~~

THEM, TO MAKE THEM, YOU KNOW, GO FAR, AND THEN WE HAD, AH, DIFFERENT THINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT GAVE OUT BUTTER, AN, JUST LIKE THEY ARE DOING NOW... ~~THEN~~

(ME) CHEESE? ←

(MS) THEY GAVE OUT BUTTER AN, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT., NOT TOO MUCH CHEESE, BUT BACON. I REMEMBER GETTING BACON AND BUTTER AN... BEANS, AN RICE, AN S, THINGS, DRY FOODS.

(ME) WHAT WERE THE PRICES LIKE, WERE THEY DIFFERENT THAN TODAY?

(MS) YES, THEY WERE DIFFERENT BUT THE WAGES WEREN'T HIGH THEN EITHER, THEY USED TO WORK FOR \$3.75 A DAY. BUTTER WAS \$15, \$20 CENTS A POUND, AND HAMBURGER, USED TO GET THREE POUNDS OF HAMBURGER FOR A QUARTER.

(ME) DID THE PRICES SEEM HIGH, LIKE?

(MS) IT DID SEEM HIGH THEN BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, THE WAGES WERE SO LITTLE. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE WERE HAPPIER THEN, THAN WE ARE NOW. I THINK THE WAY PEOPLE ARE NOW, THEY WANT TOO MUCH. YOU KNOW, THEY MADE, MORE MONEY, THE MORE MONEY THEY MAKE THE MORE THEY WANT.

(ME) DID YOU HAVE AN AUTOMOBILE IN THOSE DAYS? A CAR?

(MS) NOT AT FIRST WE DIDN'T. WE WERE, WE DIDN'T HAVE AN AUTOMOBILE, I DON'T THINK UNTIL WE WERE, ARE CHILDREN WERE QUITE BIG BEFORE WE GOT A CAR, I WE, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT 7 OR 8 YEARS OLD, I THINK MY DAUGHTER MUST HAVE BEEN 10 YEARS OLD BEFORE WE BOUGHT OUR FIRST CAR. ALL WE THOUGHT OF, WAS GETTING A HOME. MAKING A HOME FOR THE CHILDREN, AND, AUTOMOBILES DIDN'T BOTHER US THAT MUCH, WELL MY BROTHER-IN-LAWS HAD AUTOMOBILES SO, THEY USED TO PICK US UP. AND THEN WE HAD A TAXI, THAT RAN FROM ISHPEMING TO NATIONAL MINE, AND WE COULD TAKE THAT FOR A QUARTER, TO ISHPEMING. AND A, IT WOULD BE A QUARTER TO GO DOWN AND A QUARTER TO COME BACK. I REMEMBER THAT MUCH ABOUT IT.

(ME) DID YOU HAVE TO WALK EVERY WHERE THEN?

(MS) YES, I WALKED BACK AND FORTH TO ISHPEMING, MANY, MANY TIME, SOMETIMES TWICE AND THREE TIME A WEEK, COARSE, WE ALWAYS HAD A STORE HERE IN NATIONAL MINE, AND IT WAS CALLED ANALA'S STORE AT THAT TIME, AND A THEN ERNEL AND SOLKA HAD A STORE HERE IN NATIONAL MINE TOO, AND WE DID, WERE, DID BUY MOST OF OUR GROCERIES FROM THOSE TWO STORES, THEY HAD FRESH MEAT AND, ALL THE VEGETABLES WE COULD GET, YOU KNOW.

(ME) WAS BIGGER THAN IT IS TODAY?

(MS) NO, THEY'RE A, THE STORE IS ALMOST THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN, I WAS YOUNGER, I REMEMBER ANALA'S STORE EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, HA, HA, HA, HA.

(ME) HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE AUTOMOBILE, WAS IT REALLY IMPORTANT OR, WAS IT JUST LIKE?

(MS) IT WAS A LUXURY IN ONE WAY, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T ^{TUM} GO VERY FAR, WE DIDN'T MAKE VERY MANY LONG TRIPS, THE ONLY THING WE USED THE CAR FOR WOULD BE TO GO BACK AND FORTH TO ISHPEMING, AND THEN TO CHURCH, MOSTLY, WE, AND THEN, OF COARSE, ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE, WE WOULD GO TO A BASKETBALL GAME, IF THERE WAS A BASKETBALL GAME IN NEGAUNEE OR MARQUETTE, WE MIGHT GO, BUT, WE DIDN'T TAKE ANY LONG TRIPS IN OUR CAR WITH OUR CAR UNTILL... AFTER THE FAMILY WAS RAISED.

(ME) WHA, WHAT WERE THE STORES LIKE AROUND HERE, WERE THERE MANY STORES, REAL ~~B~~ BIG LIKE..?

(MS) YOU MEAN IN ISHPEMING?

(ME) LIKE A+P, LIKE THESE KIND, WERE, WERE THERE ANY, OR WERE THEY JUST LIKE FAMILY STORE, OR? LIKE, WERE THEY BIG CHAIN STORES LIKE IN CHAINS, LIKE A+P?

(MS) NO, UH, UH, THE STORES WEREN'T MUCH DIFFERENT THEN THEY ARE RIGHT NOW, ISHPEMING HASN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH, AND NATIONAL MINE HASN'T, REALLY, EITHER, ONLY THAT THE PEOPLE ~~HAD~~ HAVE, THERE'S ALOT OF PEOPLE IN NATIONAL MINE THAT I DON'T ANY MORE NOW, THEN.

6

(ME) DID YOU HAVE TO ORDER ~~EVERY~~ EVERYTHING? OR, WAS THERE SOME, OR AT LEAST ONE STORE YOU COULD GO AND BUY?

(MS) Well, we used to go to the... THEY CALLED THE DIME STORE. AT THAT, OR FIVE & TEN, AT THAT TIME, WE DID GO THERE TO BUY A LOT OF SMALL THINGS. BUT THEY NEVER HAD ANYTHING TOO BIG, IT WAS MORE OR LESS LITTLE THINGS, YOU KNOW. (CLEARS THROAT)

(ME) ~~WHAT~~ WERE THERE ANY BIG CLUBS AROUND HERE? LIKE THE LIONS OR?

(MS) Well, THEY HAD A, THE ELKS WERE STILL ^{ah} FORMED, AND THEN THERE WAS THE MOOSE, AND THE SONS OF SAINT GEORGE. AND A, THAT'S THE ONLY ONES I CAN REMEMBER, MY DAD WAS THE MEMBER OF THE SON OF SAINT GEORGE. MY HUSBAND NEVER BELONGED TO ANY CLUB AT ALL. AND I NEVER DID EITHER. JUST A BIRTHDAY CLUB, AND THAT WAS JUST A FAMILY MORE OR LESS.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT, WERE THERE REAL BIG RESTAURANTS AROUND HERE?

(MS) THERE WAS NEVER A RESTAURANT IN NATIONAL MINE THAT I COULD REMEMBER OF.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT IN ISHPENDING?

(MS) Well, ISHPENDING IS, THERE WAS UP. THERE WERE MORE RESTAURANTS, THERE ARE MORE RESTAURANTS NOW THEN THERE WERE BEFORE IN ISHPENDING. BECAUSE, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S EVERYONE COME TO ISHPENDING FROM ALL THE OUTSIDE PLACES, THAT THEY HAVE CARS TO GET THERE, NOW, YOU KNOW, SO.

(ME) WHAT, DID YOU EVER TRAVEL ON THE RAILROAD? WAS THE RAILROAD A BIG THING IN THOSE DAYS.

(MS) DID I EVER RIDE?

(ME) I MEAN WAS IT ~~a~~ A REAL BIG THING? THE RAILROAD LIKE THE AIRPLANE TODAY.

(MS) OH, Yeah, THE TRAIN USED TO COME TO NATIONAL MINE. I REMEMBER ONCE I WENT TO MARQUETTE ON THE

7

TRAIN. IT CAME OUT AND AH, WE GOT ON THE. BY THE OLD POST OFFICE IN NATIONAL MINE. THE TRAIN CAME THAT FAR, ON THE TR, AND A PICKED ~~EVER~~ EVERYBODY UP FROM THE CHURCH. AND THE CHURCH WENT TO PRESK ~~ILE~~ ILE FOR A PICKNICK. AND WE WENT ON THE TRAIN AN WE ALL THOUGHT THAT WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL. BECAUSE I REMEMBER THAT, I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE THAN 8 OR 10 YEARS OLD. I CAN STILL REMEMBER.

(ME) COULD YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE LAST PASSENGER TRAIN WAS IN ISHPEMING?

(MS) NO, THAT'S. THAT'S QUITE A FEW YEAR AGO. I CAN'T EXACTLY REMEMBER. BUT I DID TAKE THE 400 OUT OF ISHPEMING ONE TIME, AND I WENT DOWN TO WISCONSIN FOR A FUNERAL, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I RODE ON THE 400.

(ME) WERE THERE ANY MAJOR LAYOFFS THAT YOU REMEMBER, LIKE IN THE MINES OR SCHOOLS OR, STRIKES OR ANYTHING?

(MS) ANY WHAT?

(ME) ANY MAJOR LAYOFF OR STRIKES?

(MS) THEY HAD A BIG STRIKE HERE AH I CAN'T REMEMBER THE EXACT YEAR, BUT THAT.

(ME) WAS IT 1946 OR SOMETHING?

(MS) I THINK SO, YEAH THAT WAS A REAL BIG STRIKE THEN, THEY WERE OFF FOR MANY MONTHS.

(ME) WAS THAT FOR THE MINES?

(MS) THAT WAS FOR THE MINES, YEAH HUM UM, YEAH, THERE WAS A LOT OF HARD FEELINGS, THERE WAS A SHOOTING. THERE WAS A MAN THAT WAS SHOT. AND A, I WAS ON THE PICKIT LINE WITH MY HUSBAND. I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SAY IT. I SAID IF YOU'RE GOING ON THE PICKIT LINE, I'M GOING WITH YOU. IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET SHOT I'M GOING TO GET SHOT, I TOLD HIM. I SAYS YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO AND LEAVE ME WITH THE KIDS. SO I WENT WITH, ON THE PICKIT LINE, AN.

8

(ME) DID THE POLICE SHOOT OR, THEY WERE FIGHTING...?

(MS) No, He was shot by a fellow that, that was a, against the strike, of course. SOME OF THEM WERE, SOME OF THEM WENT TO WORK ~~REGAR~~ REGARDLESS, THEY CROSSED THE PICKET LINES, you know, but ah, my husband was a real backer of the union. AT THAT TIME,

(ME) WHAT MINES WERE CLOSED, WHAT ONES WERE THEY...?

(MS) AH, LETS SEE, THEY CLOSED THE HOLMES MINE, AND THEY CLOSE THE... AH... AND THE BARN, THE BARNEM MINE WAS CLOSED, AND THE NEGAUNEE MINE WAS CLOSED AT THAT TIME, you mean because of the strike? Yes all the mines in here, around here, were closed at that time, because of the strike most of them were closed.

(ME) WHAT MINES WERE AROUND HERE? WAS THERE THE TILDEN OR THE ONE IN TOWN?

(MS) OH THERE AH... ~~THE~~

(ME) OR THE ONE IN PALMER, THE EMPIRE?

(MS) You mean the ~~Empire~~. No that wasn't, THAT WASN'T AH, OPEN AT THAT TIME, AND THE TILDEN WASN'T OPEN AT THAT TIME EITHER. NOT THE WAY IT IS NOW. AN OPEN. IT WAS, THE TILDEN WAS, THEY WA, THEY WERE MINING AT THE TILDEN, BUT NOT AS MUCH, AS EXTENSIVELY AS THEY ARE NOW. AND THEN THERE WAS AH, THE NEGAUNEE MINE, AND THERE WAS THE MATHER B, and the MATHER A, MINE, THEY WERE CLOSED. AND...

(ME) WHICH ONE, I GOT THOSE MIXED UP. WHERE WAS THE MATHER A, was that the one in Ishpeming?

(MS) WHICH

(ME) WHICH ONE WAS THAT ONE DOWN TOWN IN ISHPERING, BY

(MS) THAT WAS THE BARNEM MINE, you mean that the shafts are still there, ya that WAS THE BARNEM MINE. OR CLIFT SHAFT, THEY CALLED ~~IT~~ CLIFT SHAFT TOO.

(ME) WERE, I HEARD OF MATHER A AND MATHER B, BUT I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHERE THEY WERE.

(MS) Well, MATHER A, IS UM, OUT TOWARDS, YOU KNOW WABBASH HIGHTS

(ME) I heard of it.

(MS) IT, THERE'S A LAKE OUT THERE WHERE THEY CUT ICE, DID YOU KNOW WHERE THAT LAKE WAS, WELL, THAT WAS, THE MATHER A WAS OVER IN THAT LOCATION, AND THE MATHER B WAS MORE TOWARDS, MORE DOWN PAST THE GULF CORSE, BY NEGAUNEE. And then there was, the TRACY MINE WAS DOWN THERE TOO, AND THAT CLOSED. THAT BEEN CLOSED FOR QUITE SOME TIME, OF COARSE ALL THOSE MINES ARE CLOSED NOW.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT REFRIDGERATORS? DID YOU HAVE TO BUY ICE?

(MS) We had ice boxes, yes. Huh, Huh

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER MY GRAMPA? UM.

(MS) WAS "HEAD" RACINE RELATED TO YOU?

(ME) HE'S MY GREAT UNCLE, HIS FATHER IS THAT ICE...

(MS) OO HHH.

(ME) HE USED TO CUT ICE OUT ON...

(MS) Huh, Huh

(ME) I FORGOT WHAT LAKE.

(MS) Huh, Huh

(ME) HE USED TO DELIVER IT.

(MS) Huh, Huh

(ME) REMEMBER HIM? RACINE?

(MS) I KNOW YOUR, I THINK YOUR GRANDMA STILL ALIVING, ISN'T SHE?

(ME) YAH

(MS) I KNOW YOUR GRANDMA THEN, TO SEE HER, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I DON'T KNOW HER PERSONALLY, BUT I KNOW WHO SHE IS.

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER HER HUSBAND? WHEN HE USED TO SELL ICE?

(MS) Huh, Huh. I BOUGHT ICE FROM HIM. Yeah, and "HEAD" RACINE used to come here, because he went with my daughter, when SHE WAS YOUNG. SHE WAS ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN SHE WENT WITH HIM.

10

(ME) I GETTING KIND OF NERVOUS ON THESE QUESTIONS. WHAT, WHAT WAS, WHAT WAS, WHAT WERE WEDDINGS LIKE IN THOSE DAYS DID, THEY HAVE REAL BIG PARTIES?

(MS) YES, THEY HAD PARTIES IN THOSE DAYS TOO...

(ME) JUST LIKE TODAY?

(MS) YAH, MOST OF THE WEDDING WERE IN THE HOMES, MY DAUGHTER WAS MARRIED, HERE IN THIS HOUSE. AND A SHE BEEN NOW, ALMOST, ALMOST 30 YEARS. SHE WAS MARRIED HERE AT HOME. OF COURSE, MY SONS WERE ALL MARRIED IN CHURCH, BUT SHE WAS MARRIED, SHE ~~WAS~~ WANTED TO BE MARRIED HOME. SO SHE WAS MARRIED HOME. YES, WE HAD ALOT OF BIG WEDDINGS.

(ME) THE PRIEST CAME HERE?

(MS) PARDEN?

(ME) THE PRIEST CAME HERE, OR DID, DID THEY HAVE THE PRIEST IN CHURCH?

(MS) NO, SHE WAS MARRIED BY THE METHADISTS MINISTER, AND THE MINISTER CAME HERE TO MARRY ~~HERE~~ Her, in our home, yaahp.

(ME) WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMASES? WERE THE KIDS, IN THOSE DAYS, DID THEY GET ALOT OF TOYS LIKE THEY DO TODAY? OR WAS IT, DURING THE DEPRESSION WAS IT HARDER TO BUY THEM?

(MS) WELL, WHEN THE KIDS WERE SMALL THEY WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE COARSE, WE USED TO SEND FOR EVERYTHING, TO MONTGOMERY WARDS, OR SEARS ROBUCK, OR SPEAGLES OR SOME PLACE WHERE THERE WAS A CATCLOG. AND THE KID WOULD BE ALLOWED TO, SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE, AND PICK OUT WHAT THEY WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS, THEN THEY WRITE THEIR LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS, AND THEN THAT'S WHAT THEY GET FOR CHRISTMAS. WE NEVER, I VERY SELDOM GOT TO ISHPREMIING FOR CHRISTMAS. Very, very seldom until the kids were quite old.

(ME) WAS THERE ANY STORES LIKE Kmart? OR DID YOU HAVE TO ORDER...

(MS) THERE WAS NO SHOPKO OR KmartS OR. ~~TH~~ THERE WAS A WOOL-WORTHS STORE, THAT WAS BURNED, HERE SOME YEARS AGO, THE WOOL WORTHS STORE. NOW ITS MERICK'S. THEY REMODELED, AND MADE MERICK'S OUT OF IT.

10

(ME) How important was education in those days?

(MS) PARDON?

(ME) How important was education in those days? WAS IT REALLY IMPORTANT if they...

(MS) Well, EDUCATION Has always been important.

(ME) I mean, was a real big thing to get to college?

(MS) Yes, it was hard. THEY Had to work in order to do it, because when their folks didn't make good wages, big wages, they couldn't afford to send them of course. THEY NEVER got the grants like they do now either, you know. And ah, ... there wasn't any of my children that went to college. None of them wanted to go. Coney was the one that really should have gone, but he didn't want to go, so, he didn't go.

(ME) was, did many people want, OH yeah, LIKE TODAY EVERYONE WANTS TO GO, LIKE, WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT, LEARN ABOUT, LIKE TODAY you have to learn about computers, and that was there...?

(MS) I can't hear too good.

(ME) Ah, I goofed that question up. Do you remember any re... DO you remember ^{ever} going to National MINE SCHOOL, OR? DID YOU LIVE somewhere else?

(MS) No, I went to National mine school. I was going to the National mine school when the old SCHOOL BURNED. I was in the fifth grade. And I went ahhm, to school, through the last half of ~~ten~~ eleventh grade, and I had past my first ~~my~~ semester in the eleventh grade when I quit school. I had a year and a half to go and I didn't finish.

(ME) DO you Remember if there were any teacher's salaries cut, or? Any teachers that went on strike?

(MS) NOT that I can remember. NO THE ONLY teacher strike was the one they had just recently. THAT'S THE ONLY STRIKE THAT CAN ever remember that the teachers ever ~~at~~ went on strike.

(ME) Do you Remember who the Principle was, or?

12

~~THE PRINCIPAL WAS MR. ANALA SM (SM)~~
(MS) MR ANALA WAS PRINCIPAL WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL. AND MR. SCOTT WAS ~~SUPA~~ SUPERINTENDANT, AND MR. BATH WAS SUPERINTENDANT. AND THEN, MR BATH WAS SUPERINTENDANT... I THINK WHEN I LEFT SCHOOL.

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER.....?

(MS) NO HE WASN'T. IT WASN'T MR BATH THAT YEAR. MR BATH BECAME SUPERINTENDANT AFTER I LEFT SCHOOL. TRYING TO THINK... IT MUST HAVE BEEN MR. SCOTT THAT WAS SUPERINTENDANT. I'M TRYING TO THINK. BUT I KNOW MR ANALA WAS TAUGHT SCHOOL WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL. HE WAS PRINCIPAL AT THE SCHOOL WHEN I ~~WENT~~ LEFT TO SCHOOL.

(ME) DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE TEACHERS?

(MS) PARDON.

(ME) DO YOU ~~REMEMB~~ REMEMBER ANY OF THE TEACHERS, IN THOSE?

(MS) MR. GLEASON, I REMEMBER MR. GLEASON, MRS. GLEASON WAS MY TEACHER. SHE WAS MY MUSIC TEACHER, MR. GLEASON WAS GEOGRAPHY TEACHER. AND UM, MS. ROSE, MY TEACHER... AND... TRYING TO THINK NOW. MS. MILL... AH FANNY MILIMAKI WAS MY TEACHER. SHE MARRIED, AFTER, THAT WAS YEARS BEFORE SHE WAS EVER MARRIED. AND WILLMA LUMBLANT WAS MY TEACHER. NOW I CAN SEE IF, THINK WHO ELSE... MS. ROO... MS. JEFFERY WAS MY TEACHER. SHE MARRIED A HAMMER, MR. HAMMER AFTER SHE LEFT.

(ME) WAS HE THE, MR. HAMMER, WAS THAT THE ~~THAT~~ ONE, THAT, THAT'S THE PRINCIPAL OF...

(MS) THAT WOULD BE HIS, HIS MOTHER WAS ... MY TEACHER HUMM

(ME) BIRCHVIEW. ← I THINK I RAN OUT OF QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.

(MS) YOU'RE WELCOME. (THE END) FINALLY!! (13)