

Hi my name is Nichole Schneider,  
and I am interviewing Ellen Tippet  
at her house in West Ishpeming. Today's  
date is November 2nd, 1996 and it is 1:00pm.  
Mrs. Tippet is going to talk with me  
about her connections and life at Fire Center  
School.

The first question is: How old are  
you?

My age right now is, well, I will be  
72 yrs. old on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

O.K. When and where were you  
born?

96-715  
I was born in, um, Fire Center on November  
5<sup>th</sup> 1925. I was born at home. I wasn't born  
in a hospital, I was born at home.

O.K. What was your childhood like?  
Well, it was fun. We were born during the  
Depression so, it wasn't easy. We didn't have  
a whole lot of money. We were poor so  
we didn't have a whole lot of clothes and...  
but we did live on a farm so we had  
plenty of food to eat. We had our own cows &  
chickens and we had pigs & sheep. We had  
our own meat and we had eggs & milk, we  
made our own butter so we had a lot to eat  
even though life was hard, we lived eight miles  
out of town so we, ... the transportation was difficult.

Nichole

(AI)

to get back and forth and so we had to walk to school, we had to walk two and a half miles everyday to go to school."

Me: "What about games? Did you..."  
"Yeah, yeah we had games. We played games at home, everything we had was home made well, we played ball, we played baseball and we played tag and we played hide-and-go-seek, and we'd take old tires and roll them around, 'cuz that's all we had, to play with, we took a lot of walks, we walked out in the woods and just, well in ~~the~~ general we just had each other for fun. We didn't have any neighbors close by so we just made our own fun."

Me: "Did you ever get in fights or anything?"

Mrs. T: "Yeah, we had our childhood squabbles. We didn't ever, really, hurt each other but oh, yeah we did fight. And, I guess you'd call it a sibling rivalry now-a-days. That's what it was we used to argue and fight amongst each other."

Me: "How many people were in your family?"

Mrs. T: "Well, we had my parents and then there were six children. Two children had died"

Ad

when they were

little so there would have been eight children

Me. What were your brothers' and sisters' names?

Mrs. T. Well I had a sister named Kaarina, well she still is my sister but... Kaarina spelled - K.A.A.R.I.N.A. - and I have a sister named Hilda, and I have three brothers: Arvid, Matt, and Arthur, and I had two sisters that died

Me. What were your parents' names?

Mrs. T. My mother's name was Hilda and my father was Matt. And our name was Korpi.

Me. How do you spell your parents' names?

Mrs. T. Ah, Hilda, H.I.L.D.A. and my father was Matt M.A.T.T.

Me. What about jobs? Like, how old were you when you got your first job?

(A3) Mrs. T. Um, I was about, let's see... 18 or 19, about 19 I would say. My first job was as a, well, I worked in an office I went to Milwaukee to work and I

worked in an office in a plant that made materials for the war.

Me. Did you go to church?

Mrs. T Yes, we attended church we, didn't have ~~any~~ a needed time going to church but we went when we were able to. Living that far out of town it wasn't very easy going to church but when we got our automobile we were able to go much easier. We did have Sunday school, Sunday school was held in the homes. We'd ~~eat~~ <sup>read</sup> at the other homes. Some of the teachers were just some of the local people. The older people would teach the younger children.

impt include

Me Did you enjoy it?

Mrs. T Yes, we enjoyed Sunday School we went whenever we could, whenever the weather was permissible it wasn't very easy but we did go so we had our parents make sure that we had religious education.

Me What church did you go to?

Mrs. T We went to the Bethel Lutheran Church

me How do you spell that?

Mrs. T. "That's B-E-T-T-E-L L-U-T-H-E-L or T-H-E-R; <sup>let's see,</sup> Lutheran L-U-T-H-E-R-A-N."

me O.K. Did you ever get punished for something?

Mrs. T. "Yeah, we did, we were punished. We had spankings when we were bad, we even had our hair pulled, which wasn't very much fun. And we had to ~~go~~ stand in the corner, if we were bad." (Is this punishment by the parents?)

me What kinds of things did you, or your sisters and brothers do to get punished?

Mrs. T. Well, I don't know, I guess we'd probably just tried to take things away from each other probably call each other names. I don't really exactly remember but we did get punished, I really don't remember I guess just ordinary things that kids ~~do~~ fight about. I don't really remember anything specific we didn't really hurt each other. Maybe we'd hit each other, or slap, things like that.

AS

me O.K. What about your school life?  
Could you describe a typical life as an elementary student. (which school is she referring to?)

Mrs. T Well, we spoke the ~~English~~ Finnish language when we were at home so we didn't know any English at all when we went to school. We went to school, that's where we learned to speak English. So we started, well I don't remember that we went to Kindergarten ~~and~~. But we did start in ~~the~~ first grade. We had learned, uh we only spoke the Finnish language so the English language was learned in school. We started out with learning the alphabet, and spelling, it didn't seem to take us long to pick up the English language and so we had penmanship and we had reading, writing, ~~and~~ and we had arithmetic and some science and there, the school was so small we only had about ~~ten~~ fifteen desks and we had only eight or ~~ten~~ nine students at a time at the school. So, ~~the~~ most of the students, um well within a radius of two and a half miles from the school so we had to walk 2 and 1/2 miles every day to school. And it was nice, well school life was quite fun except in the winter time we

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quote

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had to walk in the cold in the winter and there were times when we were half frozen when we got to school. And we'd try to hurry home from school so we could go stand behind the stove to get warm, behind the woodstove so it was kind of hard but we enjoyed it because we were learning and school life was kind of fun."

me Did you go to high school or college?

Mrs. T "Well I went to high school. By the time I got to seventh grade I was bused to the West Ishpeming School then from there I went on to high school and we were ~~also~~ bused to high school so, I finished high school."

me What about homework? What kind of homework and stuff did you get?

Mrs. T I don't remember getting any homework in grade school when we were at the Fire Center School. I don't remember any homework we did have homework in the West Ishpeming School and that usually consisted of, I remember doing some arithmetic and ~~we may have~~ had geography perhaps and some science. But

(A7)

I don't remember doing a whole lot of homework. We had the usual in high school like almost anybody would have in high school. But not in ~~school~~ grade school we didn't have any.

me

What did you write with when you were younger?

Mrs. T

include  
& quote

Oh, we had the little ink well, we had the little pen and we'd dip it in the ink well and we had our pencils and when we were in Fire Center School we were so happy when we had our first box of color crayons, and every year we had a new box of color crayons and we really enjoyed those because they were so nice to have, new crayons, and of course we wrote on the blackboard and we had our chalk and I remember writing on the blackboard and how funny it was to use the brand new chalk and ~~and~~ our job always was, at the end of the school days, we would always have to clip the erasers together, that maybe the younger kids now-a-days do but. So we did a lot of the things that kids now-a-days do and it seemed that we learned real well even though we went to a little country school. What the interesting thing was I think that when the teachers talk

quote

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like let's say she, all in one day, she had to teach <sup>almost</sup> up to the first through the eighth grades and we'd listen in and we just listened to what the teacher had to say to all of the other classes and we kind of learned. It seemed like we learned more that way than we would've otherwise. We just listened in because it was all in one room and we couldn't help but listen to what everyone else was saying so we learned a lot.

me

Did you ever ~~write~~ write on slates?

Mrs. T

No we didn't. I think that was prior to my time, going to school writing on slates. I remember ever having a slate

me

was the ink wells and that, was it messy?

Mrs. T

Um, yeah I guess at times <sup>they'd kind a start to dry</sup> we had to take the ink <sup>wells</sup> and wash them out at, ~~times~~ before we'd put fresh ink in them. Yeah, now I remember you reminded me, I ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> remember the bottle, the big bottle of ink, and when our little ink well would dry the teacher would come around and pour ink into our ink wells and I enjoyed writing with a pen. We learned, one thi

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quote

we had was ~~penmanship~~ penmanship, we learned to write by the Palmer method of penmanship you've probably heard of that, and every day we'd have penmanship every day and, so that was, the teacher was real particular that we learned to write neatly and well.

me: What was lunch like?

Mrs. T Well, we'd take our lunch everyday. There, well in our own family about 3 or 4 that went to school at the same time. We'd have <sup>1</sup> lunch <sup>pair</sup> pale and we'd <sup>usually</sup> have one sandwich each and we'd always have homemade bread and the funny thing that, well's usually a fried egg. We had egg sandwiches a lot and then we'd take a bottle of milk and we'd all drink from the same bottle because when you walk 2 1/2 miles it was easier for us to have just one bottle of milk. One would carry the lunch <sup>pale</sup> and one would carry the milk, we'd just drink from the same milk bottle.

me: Did they have school lunches?

Mrs. T We didn't have school lunches. Not in Fire Center we had to carry our own lunches in Fire Center School so there were no hot lunches. Not at all.

Me Where were your jackets kept?

Mrs. T We had hooks to hang our jackets on.  
It ~~was~~ just in a schoolroom if I remember correctly we just had hooks in a schoolroom.

Me A cloak room, like? yesh, well let's see, did we have a special cloak room? I can't remember. It may have been in the back. In the back of the schoolroom there was a room where we had a pump, we had a pitcher pump. An old hand pump, where we'd get our water from and that's where the bathroom was and it could be that our cloak room ~~was~~ was there. I can't really remember for sure.

include  
about  
pump

Could you describe recess?

Yes! We used to have, well I don't know about winter, if we were forced to go outside in the winter because it was so cold. If we did we probably just played in the snow. In spring and fall we'd play tag and we'd play hide-and-go-seek and we'd play ~~the~~ Kick-the-can ~~and~~ in the school yard and I remember even, we had a teacher who'd come out & play baseball with us. We had a man teacher in 5th grade who'd come outside and play baseball w/us

fall  
include

recess and during lunch hour.

Could you describe what kick-the-cans?

*MS.T*  
*not don't use connect*  
Well, you just, have an empty can and you just kick it and the next person kicks it, and I don't remember what the goal was but, there ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> a certain place you had to kick it.

I guess there was a certain area we'd have to try and get ~~the can~~ <sup>the can</sup>. I don't know we'd just have to try & kick it & the next person would kick it and we'd kick it as far as we could. That's a game I don't remember playing too often but I do remember occasionally playing it. We'd play hide-and-go-seek a lot.

That was one game we did play a lot.

*Me* How long was recess?

*MS.T*  
*A-10*  
*include*  
recess was about 15 min. And lunch hour was, I don't remember if was an hour? or half an hour. I remember we'd have to go and eat in, we had a room, ~~it~~ it was called, well it was a furnace room and we would go and eat our lunch in the furnace room. It was a big round furnace and it covered almost the whole room and we used to sit in the corners of the furnace room & that's where we'd eat our lunch. There were only  $\approx$  2 or 3 families that ate lunch a few went home. I remember

*Mrs. T* I remember especially 2 families that walked, that were able to go home for lunch. one family that did go home she lived near by & there was one boy that lived near by. They would go home for lunch. But we would eat lunch in the furnace room and it lasted about half an hour I would say.

*Me* What were the desks like?  
*Mrs. T* They were the slanted desks w/ the, in the front there was an opening where you put your books. You'd just push your books into the opening in the front and, it was just like the, well in those days those kind of desks were pretty popular. The seat was attached onto the desk if I remember correctly. Some of the desks were smaller & some were larger. The smaller desks were for the smaller children and the bigger desks for the larger/higher grades.

*Me* Describe the clothing you wore?

*Mrs. T* Well, we didn't have a whole lot of clothing but we wore (all year round) dress and, girls didn't wear slacks to school so we wore and then we usually had a coat or a jacket. On our heads we'd wear a kerchief or some kind of hat. I remember in the winters we would have to wear long johns. So we just wore ordinary clothing. We ~~didn't~~ always had something to wear, even though

A-13

*quote* we were quite poor we managed to have,  
ah, my parent made sure we were dressed warm.

*Me* Did you wear, like, in layers?

*Mrs. T* Yeah, yeah we had sweaters, we wore sweaters  
under our jackets, And, I guess we bundled  
up as the weather was colder, we'd bundle up and  
in the summer, we had a lightweight jacket.

*Me* What about holiday celebrations at school?

*Mrs. T* Oh, they were big events in school. Our  
holidays, at Christmas<sup>s</sup> time we always had  
a Christmas program but we didn't have  
electricity, though, so we, So when a Christmas  
*include  
+ quote* program came around we'd have oil lamps,  
we'd have oil lamps ya know we'd have these  
lamps with the chimneys on them, oil lamps and we had  
several of those, they were our, they, lit up the  
school and we always had a Christmas program  
and we'd sing carols and I remember the front of  
the school and then with our stage we'd have  
a curtain across, the teacher would bring a sheet  
and we'd put that across the front of the room  
on a rope, ~~the~~ The curtain would open and close  
as each child came out to speak their piece or whatever  
*include*

And then we'd sing Christmas Carols and that, ~~would be our~~ some of the neighbors and parents would come and watch the program. Even though the room was small, it seemed as though there was plenty of room for everyone.

People would stand in the back of the room and ~~then~~ watch the program. And then ~~the~~ other highlight of the school year were ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> summer picnicks at the end of the school year we'd have a picnic, quite ~~is~~ close to the school

*include* and all the neighbors would come the parish would come and everyone and we all had a brand new dress and new shoes and the parish would bring hot dishes and all kinds of goodies for everyone to eat and we'd play games and everybody would just have a good time celebrating the end of school, so that was fun.

Did you celebrate Halloween?

I don't remember celebrating Halloween.

No, no

A-15

me: Did you celebrate Halloween?

Mr. T: I don't remember celebrating Halloween. No, no I don't think we celebrated Halloween, I don't remember at all celebrating, I don't know why. It could be that teachers putting up some Halloween pictures but we didn't any popside parties or anything like that.

ME: Did you exchange gifts for Christmas?

Mrs. T: We did. We exchanged names and we'd give gifts. Yes, we did.

Me: How were unruly children handled?

Mrs. T: <sup>include</sup> That's a good question too because, see, I remember we had this coal room and where the coal room of course held the coal for the furnace so the teacher would say a lot of times if the children were bad "if you don't behave, I'm going to put you in the coal room." I, \*laughing\*, I don't really think any of us really had to go in the coal room which was, but she would say, I remember her telling



*include & quote*  
telling one boy, he was kind of unruly but, she threatened to put him in the coal room, but I don't think it happened because, he was such a big boy I don't think she could've handled him, to have put him in the coal room. But other than that I don't remember any other punishment of any kind, we were pretty good, well behaved.

me - How do you think your parents would have acted if you were in trouble at school?

Mrs T. - They probably would've disciplined us. I don't know of our teacher ever having to tell our parents that we were misbehaving. But I'm sure that we'd have had proper discipline [we were expected to listen to the teacher.] *quote*

me → What was the highest grade you attended?

Mrs T. - The highest grade I attended? twelfth grade.

ME: From sixth to twelfth grade, did you switch classes? Or, were you always in one classroom?

Mrs. T: I was in the same classroom from grades 1-6 and then we, because after 6th grade I went to West Ishpeming school so I was in the same, again, just in one classroom and of course in Highschool I changed, we went from classroom to classroom like the kids do now.

ME: How many different teachers did you have?

Mrs. T: Altogether I had, let's see, In Fire Center I had three teachers, And in North Lake, or the West Ishpeming School I had, I think I had three teachers, well at least three. And then in Highschool I had many, for all the different subjects, like the kids now do.

quote

ME: Were there any sports that boys and/or girls participated in?

Mrs. T: Well, when I went to Fire Center School, there was nothing, because, there just was nothing, we went to school and that was just the main thing that we did. There were no sports school related sports at all. And even when

I went to West Ishpeming School, I don't remember if there were sports or not.

*include* We didn't take part in any, because we lived too far out of town and the same in Highschool we didn't take part in any sports at all. It was too hard for our parents to get us to, take me.

ME: Was there a dress code?

*include* Mrs. T: No, the only I remember is that, when we went to school, Girls wore dresses, and boys wore slacks. So, that was the only thing I remember.

because girls just didn't wear pants like they do now. Other than that there was no other dress code that I remember.

ME: Did you have to wear uniforms?

Mrs. T: No, no.

ME: What kind of activities did you do in class?

Mrs. T: Well, I don't know, I don't remember, If we did very much, other than our subjects, we did have plays though at Fire Center and the West Ishpeming School. There weren't any other activities, well I don't remember anything else that we did. The plays usually took place around Christmas time. Other than that I don't remember taking

part in any other activities.

ME: What year did you graduate from Highschool?

Mrs.T: From highschool > 1944.

ME: How many students were in your graduating class?

Mrs.T: What?

ME: How many students were in your graduating class?

Mrs.T: That would be from, which school?

ME: Either or both.

Mrs.T: West Ishpeming school there were about 8 of us. <sup>include</sup>  
I do have a picture of my 8th grade class.

ME: Did you have any... (got cut off)

Mrs.T: I don't remember high school I'd have to look it up.

ME: Did you have any further education after that?

Mrs.T: After high school I studied, I took a class in, I go to Northern and took a class in Medical Terminology, what else did I, study after that, I took some short, classes after that but I didn't go to college or anything.

ME: Were there any drop outs?

Mrs.T: No, not at West Ishpeming or Fire Center. Not that I remember. There might've been a couple. <sup>includes</sup> ⑤

ME: Were there any extra-curricular activities?

Mrs.T: No we didn't take part in any extra-curriculars.

ME: What did you do on a date?

Mrs.T: On a date?

ME: On a date.

Mrs.T: Didn't have any

ME: NO?

Mrs.T: No. No dates in grade school or highschool. Nope.

NO, Dates.

ME: How old were you on your first date?

Mrs.T: My first date \*laughing\* Well let's see. I would say I was about. I might've been about nineteen. I think.

ME: Do you have a yearbook?

Mrs.T: Yearbook? I have one from highschool.

ME: Can I see it?

Mrs.T: Sure! Yeah you can see my yearbook. Well, should I get it now or should, well how about I get when were done here.

ME: What courses did you take?

Mrs.T: I took what called a commercial course which included typing, and short-hand & business. *include*

ME: Did you take any courses for teachers or lab facilities?

Mrs. T.: NO.

ME: What was the man/woman teacher ratio?

Mrs. T.: I don't remember, I think, well I had, both women and men I don't remember if I had more women than men teachers. I don't know, I really can't answer that. If we had more women or more men or...

ME: Did you have married women teachers?

Mrs. T.: NO, I think they were mostly all single <sup>include</sup>.

ME: What kind of grades did you get?

Mrs. T.: I had pretty good grades, you know above average. A's and B's. I did pretty well.

ME: Were there any minorities or recent immigrants in your classroom?

Mrs. T.: NO

ME: Any that didn't speak English?

Mrs. T.: Now you're talking about later on in the grades well when we started, like I said we spoke Finnish, but there was English after that. There was no other language if that's what you mean.

ME: How big were the schools?

Mrs. T: Well, Fire Center School was just a little school.

*include* A one room school with about 15 desks. It was small, West Ishpeming School was a larger school. Are you going to be interviewing anyone from West Ishpeming? Of course I went to that school, but...

ME: yeah.

ME: When did you start driving? How old?

Mrs. T: I didn't start driving until I was about 29 when my 3rd child was little. I had adult edu... or training, drivers training. There must've been training in high school but I don't remember, taking drivers training in high school. There may have been. If there was I didn't take part in it. I don't know why I could have been I would've had a problem getting there, because we lived out in the country.

ME: What did your first car look like?

Mrs. T: Oh! Let's see. I think the first car that I remember. I think my father had a Model-T But I know, well I don't remember but I know he had a model-A. It was a 1937 1937 Ford. The first car I remember was a 1937 Ford.

ME: Do you know how much it costed?

Mrs. T: Yeah... It cost about \$700.00. I remember clearly when we bought a brand-new car and I remember that the man from the Ford dealership, his name was Mr. Grummitt, and he came to our house and, you know these salesmen would go around selling and my father was interested in a car so he came and brought this nice blue Ford over there and my father bought it and he payed about \$700.00 for it.

Me- was there a kindergarten or a preschool?

Mrs. T- I don't remember having a preschool at all. I kind of think we started in first grade.

ME- how old were you when you started school?

Mrs. T- I think I was about, well I must've been between 6 and 7. Some where in there.

ME- what are your most vivid/favorite memories of school?

Mrs. T- I don't know, I think... \*long pause\*... well, just going to school because we were learning something. I enjoyed going just because we were learning something... I don't remember there was favorite about it. It was just something we had to do. (9)



ME - Do you have any specific ~~is~~ funny or sad incidents of school?

Mrs. T - I don't remember anything really sad. The best parts were I think being able to go during the summer time because we enjoyed or not during the summer but in the spring because the weather was nice, and just walking to and from school was enjoyable as compared with winter. I think we probably had, it was kind of a hard life so we can't really point to anything that was really fun about school. I think it was, it was just something we had to do. I think the favorite parts was Christmas time and the school picnics at the end of the year... just

ME - Do you remember the name of your first teacher?

Mrs. T - Yeah... her name was Tyne Kauppila.

ME - Could you spell that please?

Mrs. T - Yeah it is spelled, T.y.y.n.e. K.a.u.p.p.i.l.a. just

ME - Who was the last teacher you had?

Mrs. T. - Well, would you mean in grade school or high school?

ME - The last teacher that you remember in high school.

Mrs. T. - That I would remember in high school. Well, that would be when I was a senior. I don't remember. I'd have to look up in my yearbook. I had quite a few I must've had about four diff. because I usually four subjects in high school so there must've been about four teachers, as a senior.

ME - What other names do you remember that would be important?

Mrs. T. - Well, one person I remember, I kinda, well, was kind of a distinguished person was, he was a school commissioner he would come visit the school about once a year. His name was Stanley Williams. He'd come several times a year to see if the teacher was doing her job.

*include*

So that's one person, I remember him as being kind of a distinguished person but, he came to visit at Fire Center School.

ME - Do you remember any diseases at school?

Mrs. T - Oh, yes! I remember scarlet fever, measles, chicken pox, and I remember whooping cough went around. And I remember my brother having whooping cough and the doctor came to the house or the Health Department and he'd put a quarantine sign on the house so no one was allowed to enter. There were a lot of ear aches, sore throats, and we had a lot of colds because the weather was so cold during the winter time. So we had our share of sickness. *include + quote*

ME - What grade did you enjoy the most?

Mrs. T - Well I think I probably enjoyed 11th grade. Because we were almost through school. Well, ~~you~~ you know we had to walk such a long distance I was just glad to have it over with. You know I did enjoy the lower grades a lot too though because when we were little we did have a lot of fun among ourselves. I like to think of school.

as a lot of happy memories. Even though I was kind of glad to have it over with.

ME - Who was your favorite teacher? and why?

Mrs. T - Well, I have to tell you that my favorite teacher was, well I had two of them, Tyne Kaupila I had to say, was one of them and then Dominic Paris. He was my first <sup>(grade)</sup> teacher and then I liked him because he was, he used to take part in our play time as well as school he'd play ball w/us in the school yard and I remember him reading to us and doing a lot of fun things with us. Different, you know he treated us more on a normal basis than some of the other teachers.

include to go

ME - Who was your least favorite?

Mrs. T - I don't think I ever had a least favorite teacher. That I remember I can't think of any right now.

ME - what was the most fun in school?

Mrs. T - I don't know. I suppose the most fun when you're a child, I suppose the most fun would be able to have recess and be outside and I, I don't know, I can't think of anything that was more fun than anything else. I think, like I said before, we did enjoy our school programs and picnics and things like that. *include*

ME - What was the price of a movie?

Mrs. T - Oh gee, couldn't have been more than a quarter probably. I don't know. It wasn't expensive.

me - What about pop and a candy bar?

Mrs. T - probably a nickel. It wasn't expensive.

ME - Did you go on any field trips?

Mrs. T - Oh yeah we did go on field trips that was one of the other... fun things we did. We walking around in the woods and studying different kinds of trees, flowers and things like that. So we'd go on field trips once and a while. I think we went in Fire Center School and I think we, also, went in West Ishpeming School. I remember going on several not real many. It wasn't going ~~out~~ somewhere. It was ~~going~~ for walks in the woods. Like a field trip should be. Now-a-days a field trip is considered something different.

*include in the  
not distance*

ME - How have things changed since back then?

Mrs. T - <sup>*include & quote*</sup> It's changed a lot, we had a real quiet life when we went to school. And the schooling then was school, it was just centered around studying and attending school. We didn't have any sports. Now-a-days, sports is so... big. We didn't take part in any sports when we were kids. There were no cars, everything, we'd always walk to school or take the bus. Now-a-days kids have transportation, there own transportation. We didn't have television. We made our own fun. Played with each other and... (15)

*include*  
I remember, drawing and coloring and cutting pictures out of magazines and... it was just our life was very, very simple compared with the way it is now. A very, very calm kind of a life.

ME: What do you remember about the Depression?

*include quote*  
Mrs T: It was really hard. We didn't have a whole lot of money in our house. We just had plain food. We didn't have any extras of any kind. We didn't have a whole lot of clothing. My father was always very happy that we didn't have to be on welfare. We always seemed to have enough money to get by with. We had no frills or anything, we had a good decent life.

ME: How has the world changed after/during the Depression?

*include quote*  
Mrs. T: Jobs, jobs now. A lot of everything. Everything is, everything, it's just completely changed. Kids now have so much more than we did when we were kids. Everything is moving at a faster pace. I think kids have a lot more to say about their lives than we did when we were little. They have a lot more choices to make. It's, everything has completely changed.

ME - Do you have any strong feelings about the Depression?

Mrs. T - No, I don't, I'll tell you why... It was just something we had to go through when we were kids we didn't ~~feel~~ <sup>include + quote</sup> as though we were deprived of anything. Because everybody was poor. We were well sometimes I think we were better off than the ~~people in the city~~, we were living on a farm and I think we were better off than the kids who lived in the city because we had everything we needed. We grew our own crops. My mother who sewed for us and knit, she knit socks and sweaters. See I don't have any feelings that I was deprived of anything because that was the way it was we were just poor and... that was all there was too it.

ME - Do you remember Black Tuesday?

Mrs. T - No, I don't know anything about it.

ME - What foods were treats during the Depression?

Mrs. T - Fruit! <sup>include + quote</sup> For one thing like oranges or bananas, we didn't have, one thing that was a real treat was bread that was bought from the store. ~~we'd always had~~ homemade bread.



So bread was a treat! A real treat. And different things like luncheon meat, things like that.

ME - Do you remember anything about World War II?

Mrs. T - I remember something of it, sure. *include a quote part*

I remember very well when the war was declared on November 7th, 1941, or was it no, December 7th, 1941. I don't, well, you mean in a personal way or... Well, I don't know if it affected me that much I was in High school then and I guess I didn't really pay much attention to what was going on. I knew the boys were going in the service, I had a brother who went in the service. It wasn't a very good time I remember mothers who were sad because their boys went in the service, things like that, but, because I was still quite young, it didn't make too much of a change in my life. (18)

ME - What was school like during this time? Were there drills in school?

Mrs. T - Well, I <sup>include</sup> remember in West Ishpeming we had fire drills, we, but that's about the only thing I remember, we didn't have any in Fire Center School. I remember having fire drills in West Ishpeming, several times.

ME - What about war bonds?

Mrs. T - Yeah, I remember war bonds. In fact we bought some war bonds ourselves. They stressed that people should buy war bonds, I don't remember too much about them, not when I was in High School.

ME - How old were you during the time of WW II?

Mrs. T - I must have ~~been~~ been about, about... 17 when the war started.

ME - How were children affected by it?

Mrs. T - I don't know, I don't remember if they were affected one way or another. I guess it depends on the home, if any one had to go in the service in the home. I suppose that made a difference but it didn't seem to affect us at all.

ME - What happened during this time? Was it scary for you?

Mrs. T - no

ME - What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the war?

Mrs. T - Well, I think is how many young men would be killed during the war and how dangerous it was for them to go into the service and to be shipped over seas but I guess when you're young, it didn't enter my mind too much at that time we did hear about it. I remember making a (20)

*include + quote*  
scrapbook when I was in Highschool about  
WWII. It was one of our subjects in  
History, was to make a scrapbook, and  
I still have it and that brought to my  
mind how the war affected people, the  
battles that were ~~was~~ fought and the many  
service men were killed and it... didn't  
affect me personally ~~or~~ or anything  
but I was aware what was going on in the  
world. That it was a bad time, for many families.

ME - What about snowstorm of 1938?

*include + quote*  
Mrs. T. - Yeah, I was still a student at  
Fire Center School. We lived two ~~and~~ and a half  
miles from school. [We were home for two  
weeks from school because the road was  
closed. I remember my father wasn't able  
to go to work. He worked at the mine at  
that time and he didn't come home from  
the mine that day of the storm. He had  
to stay in town. Because we lived on a farm,  
we were lucky we had what we needed.  
Big plow finally ~~came~~ came after two weeks to open the road  
So we could go back to school. (D)

ME - How high were the snowbanks?

Mrs. T - They must've been about six feet, all of six feet.

ME - What kind of things did you do during the storm?

Mrs. T - We'll, that's a good question. One thing we did do, I remember we'd go outside, <sup>include + good</sup> we'd bundle up and go outside and take a snow shovel and we'd make paths through the snow, make like a ~~maze~~ <sup>maze</sup> <sup>good, neat!</sup> we'd make a path in one direction and then we all had our shovels and we had fun just going around because the snow was so deep it was just like a maze. In the house we'd stay in the house, and read, and color & make pictures and just spend time in the house, do our chores. We spent a lot of time reading. I do know that we read a lot, I'm sure the time went pretty well that way. (22)

ME - Can you tell me any stories about it?

*include & justify*

Mrs. T - About the storm? I don't know if I had any stories to tell. One thing I do remember was every day we'd look outside and my mother would look out and we'd wonder when the plow was going to come because [we didn't have any telephones... we didn't have any way to get to I shpeming, to town] and, [so we'd listen and finally we heard the sound of the motor of the plow] you know the engine we could hear it, many miles away. It would just gradually work its way and often times the men would have to get out and do a little shoveling to help the plow along, and finally, it seemed like almost hours, finally heard the plow getting close to our house and it was so exciting to go outside and finally see that plow coming down the hill, ~~we~~ we lived on the bottom of a hill, so that was really exciting. ~~A~~ To finally see the plow.

ME - What were the better times during the snowstorm?

Mrs. T - The better times during the snowstorm, I think being outside, we enjoyed being outside, just to walk around the snow. The big, side drifts, and we'd go up on the roofs of the buildings and slide down the roofs and just spend time outside. That was the most exciting thing about the snowstorm. *include - ~~excite~~*

ME - What were the worst times during the snowstorm.

Mrs. T - *include + guess* I think the worst times was getting wood. We'd have to open ~~up~~ a path to the woodshed, getting wood. The next, worst, just as bad would have to be for my mother to ~~be~~ have to and the rest of us to have to shovel a path to the barn <sup>where</sup> my mother had her cows to milk and feed. In general everyday living was hard just to get chores done. (24)

ME - Was anyone close to you killed in the Barnes Hecker tragedy?

Mrs. T - No, not in my own family.

ME - Friends?

Mrs. T - ~~No~~ No, there was nobody at all that we knew of close to our family that ~~was~~ was killed in the Barnes Hecker.

Now, my husband is the one you should interview for that, he had, his father died in the Barnes Hecker. He would be a good one to interview. By the way, we went to West Ishpeming, also. \*

ME - How were the school children affected by it?

Mrs. T - It didn't make any difference to me at all because we didn't know anything about ~~it~~, Didn't know anyone that was killed in the Barnes Hecker so it didn't affect us at all. We didn't know anybody <sup>any friends</sup> (25)



that had, you know, members that were killed. We were aware of it, we were aware of it because ~~thats~~ we did hear about it.

ME- What about the community? Was it affected a lot?

Mrs. T- I don't know....

ME- What was the worst thing about the tragedy for you?

Mrs. T- There was no worst thing because we didn't know anything about it.

ME- Can you tell me anything about the mine's strike of 1946?

Mrs. T- Well, I know that my father was employed at the mine at the time. He was working at the Cliffs Shaft mine. I think he was unemployed for about a month during the strike and, but we didn't seem to mind about the mine strike. (26)

because we were glad to have our father home. We didn't seem to suffer too much as far as him loosing his wages because we did live on a farm and we had everything we needed. It was kind of fun having him there because we spend a, many days playing cards with my father, he love<sup>d</sup> to play cards so we had fun doing that. That's about all I remember as far as the strike is concerned.

ME - what kind of card games did you play?

Mrs. T. Well, we played a game called, Smear.

ME - How do you play the game?

Mrs. T. It will be a little hard to explain, I know that it's played, called high, you have to have a high and a low @

card, and ~~game~~ jack and game, we'd count for game points. It would be a little hard to explain, there's a game <sup>now</sup> similar to that but I can't remember the name of the game, we called it Smear in those days but I think, now, there's a game similar to it. (Smear is still played today)

ME - What was the name of the mine that your dad worked at?

Mrs. T He worked at the Barnum/The Cliffs ~~and~~ Shaft Mine.

ME - Were with or against the strike?

Mrs. T - I don't remember. It didn't make any difference to me because I was so young I don't know, I don't know if my father... I think he was against the strike because it just took their wages away. Whether or (28)

not they got the raise during that time... I don't know.

ME - What were your feelings towards it?

Mrs. T - I didn't feel one way or the other.

ME - Were people for the strike or most against it?

Mrs. T - I don't know.

ME - Did the people ~~in~~ in the strike get what they wanted?

Mrs. T - I don't know. I just wasn't aware of...

ME - Do you know why they decided to strike?

Mrs. T - Well, I suppose it was for additional wages but I don't know otherwise.

ME - were there any childhood games that you used to play?

Mrs. T - mostly the games we played, spent time with each other, I know, in the summer we played hide-n-seek, and tag. As far as winter time I don't remember playing any special games, we didn't have any of the modern games, so we just didn't.

ME - who were included in the games?

Mrs. T - just our own family members. About four or five of us, we'd just all played together.

ME - were any people excluded?

Mrs. T - no.

ME - were there any games that you personally disliked?

Mrs. T - no

ME - what ones did you like a lot?

Mrs T - I didn't really have any favorite games

ME - were there any games that only the older kids in school could play?

Mrs. T - No, we were all included because there were so ~~many~~<sup>few</sup> of us we just had to take part or there wouldn't be anyone playing together.

ME - were there any games that were particularly hard to learn?

Mrs. T - no, we didn't have any games that were hard to learn.

ME - Do you have any childhood stories you could share?

Mrs. T - no. I don't think so, I can't think of any ~~one~~ right now.

ME - when did you get your first T.V.?

Mrs. T - About 1960...

ME - what did it look like?

Mrs. T - It was a floor model, blonde, we got it from Sears it was a silver tone brand, Had two or three channels.

ME - what did you think when you first saw it?

Mrs. T - It was kind of amazing... to have a t.v. in the house, all we wanted to do when we first got it, course I was already married and our children were born. So I was just as awed with it as the children were. We sat there and watched it as much as we could.

ME - what channels did you get?

Mrs. T - we got channel 3, it came from Green Bay that was the first channel we had. And then we had our ~~the~~ channel from Marquette I don't, It wasn't called WLUC at the time, but those were the two channels we had.

ME - what were your favorite TV Shows?

Mrs. T - Kids loved to watch Captain Kangaroo, as for myself, I used to watch Ed Sullivan and Jack Benny and some of the comedy shows.

ME - Did you get the news?

Mrs. T - Yes. We used to get the news from Marquette. I think watched some news. I don't remember how many times a day the news came on but... I'm sure there was news.

ME - When did you get your first radio?

Mrs. T - Oh! That's a good question! I was <sup>include</sup> about ten years old! Probably about the middle 1930s when we got our first radio at the farm.

ME - What did it look like?



Mrs. T - Oval on the top and table model  
and was sort of shaped oval  
on the top like the old fashioned  
radios. I don't know how to explain  
it shaped like a clock, you know  
the round on the top.

ME - What kind of music and stuff played  
on it?

Mrs. T - Well, one thing I remember very well  
listening to was the Saturday evening  
barn dance on the radio. We used to  
watch, called the WLS Barn dance it  
had come from Chicago, that was one  
thing we'd listen to on Saturday night.  
Shows like Amis & Andy and things like that,  
ya know?

include  
+ quote

ME - What were your favorite stations or  
songs?

Mrs. T - Stations on the radio? I don't know I  
guess I didn't really have any favorite  
stations.

ME - Did you have any favorite songs?

Mrs. T - favorite songs? No I can't remember any that were my favorites.

ME - O.K... Current life... when did you get married?

Mrs. T - 1940... um... 1947, December of 1947.

ME - What's your husband's name?

Mrs. T - Dewey Tippett. D as in dog, E Wey.  
T as in toy. TIPPETT.

ME - Do you have any pets?

Mrs. T - No

ME - Do you go to church?

Mrs. T - Yes. Go pretty regularly we go to the Bethel Lutheran Church.

ME - Lutheran is your religion then...?

Mrs. T - yes, and that's in Ishpeming on third Street.

ME - What are your favorite TV shows now-a-days?

Mrs. T - Well we ~~we~~ like to watch document-aries, nature shows, different kinds of news ~~programs~~ programs.

ME - What are your favorite songs/radio stations now-a-days?

Mrs. T - I don't have any. I like country western, country songs.

ME - Do you have any children?

Mrs. T - Yes. 4.

ME - What are their names?

Mrs. T - You probably just want the first names, they're all married so. Well there's

Trina, Mary, Walter, & Ann.

ME - How old are they?

Mrs. T - Trina is 48, Mary is 46, ~~44~~ 44 & 39

ME - Do you have any grandchildren?

Mrs. T - Yes, we have eleven.

ME - What are their names & how old are they?

Mrs. T - James, he's 20, Laura - 21, Matthew - 18, Nick - 16, Molly - 15, Christopher - 17, Katie - 15, Scott - 10, Timothy - 8, Hannah - 5, James - 23

ME - Are... any happy events happened to you recently or in the past few years?

Mrs. T - the birth of my grandchildren, being able to go visit them.

ME - Sad ones?

Mrs. T - I've had some illnesses, I've had cancer a couple of times...

ME - What kind of hobbies do you have?

Mrs. T - I sew & do some quilting & make baskets, read

ME - What do you like to do for fun?

Mrs. T. - I think probably when we go to visit our grandchildren. And we like to go out camping and having all the family come out to the camp with us.  
ME - Did you have any role models when you were younger?

Mrs. T. - No, I don't think so. I don't think I had any role-models.

ME - Did you have any as a teenager?

Mrs. T. - No... No...

ME - How about now?

Mrs. T. - No.

ME - Whereabouts did you live when you were younger?

Mrs. T. - I lived in Fire Center it is about 8 1/2 miles from Ishpeming. Out on a farm. I lived there until I grew up & went away to work and I got married and I moved here, the little house I live in now.

ME - Do you know of anyone else that you think should be interviewed?

Mrs. T. - Well... I have an older brother, <sup>80</sup><sub>485</sub> he went to Fire Center School, there may be things that he might remember that I don't remember. And there's another person I know... She's 81 so... she may remember some things that happened before the time that I attended school. Do you want to interview more people that went to Fire Center School? because I don't think there's so many of us around anymore you know...? I could give you a few names you want to take them down because, well why don't you write down the name of Arvid Korpi. His phone number is 4186-8275, and ~~there's~~ there's this other lady she's not feeling too well lately, but she would be a sister to Tinnze 3stlund the teacher. Jennie Lundin. ~~that~~

ME - Yeah, I think you had given me those... before.

Mrs. T. - I don't think I gave you the phone numbers did I? Well I'll just look it up in case I didn't.

Mrs T - Seems to me I don't remember looking in the phone book at the time. She'd be a good person... She might have more pictures. She had mentioned to me she had pictures, but she didn't know where to... she'd have to start looking for them. She has arthritis kinda bad. Her # is 486-6165.

ME - O.K. Is there...

Mrs. T - Oh! and there's this other person that you could interview would be one of the teachers, he had taught for one year... I had him in 4th grade. His name is Isaac Polomaki. His number is 486-9384. Like I said I have those couple of sisters here too but I don't think they'd remember anything different than I do.

ME - What are your sister's names?

Mrs. T - Kaarina (Korpi) Lucas - 486-~~8~~4639

Hilda (Korpi) Santti - 486-9037, oh and my brother Matt Korpi - 486-6482. See they might remember some things I don't. (40)

Mrs. T. - that I don't remember.

ME - do you have anything to comment about or anything you think we should know about?

Mrs. T. - Comments? Let's see... Covered just about everything, mostly everything.

ME - O.K. Thank, for your time and sharing the things with me. 😊