

me: When and where were you born?

him: I was born in Islipening in 1811.

me: Do you remember the day of the stock market crash?

him: I remember it. I can't tell you the exact date though.

me: Did your family lose any money because of it?

him: No. We never had any to lose.

me: What were your feelings about President Hoover?

him: There were mixed feelings about him. But, ah, most people blamed it on him. Because it didn't pick up until, ah, FDR got in, and he started CC camps, that's work programs, WPA, CWA, NYA, they're all different programs. When one would run out they'd start another one. They'd allocate more money. When the program ran out of money they'd start another one. It was all government money, just keep you working which paid, ah, ~~forty~~ <sup>44</sup> ~~four~~ dollars a month. You just existed on it. But prices were much less. Bread was ten cents a loaf, Hamburger was fifteen cents a pound, eggs fifteen cents a dozen, and we did a lot of hunting, my father did. Rabbits, deer, partridge, raised all our own vegetables, had a cow, made the hay for the cow, and got the milk from the cow, and for somebody who didn't have a cow we would sell a little bit. So it, ah, (?...) People think it's bad now but this is nothing compared to what it was.

Paul  
Casimir

2  
him: And then, ah, CCI come. They would  
(continued) give you a lot so you could go and  
cut your own wood on it. Never did have  
any oil or coal. If you had a car, you  
were not allowed to drive it if you were  
on one of these programs. If you had  
a telephone you had to take your telephone  
out. They didn't allow anything like that.  
It was just, like I said, it was just  
existing, and that lasted quite a few  
years and then it started to pick up  
when, ah, Franklin Roosevelt got in and  
it boomed then for a long time after.

me: Were there Hoovervilles around this area?

him: No, none

me: Did your family lose any money when  
the banks closed?

him: My family didn't but a lot of families  
did that had a few dollars in there, they  
lost money.

me: How many people were there in your  
family?

him: 10, Well, there was actually 12, there  
was 10 children and a mother and father

me: Did your family have any trouble with  
food?

him: Oh yea, we were short of food often

him: But, oh, like I said, we would go  
(continued) hunting and get some wild meat  
you know, fish.

me: Did anybody in your family have  
a job?

him: I was the only one. I worked, right through  
the depression, as I, not right away, but as ah,  
well, ya, 1929. I worked right through the  
depression. I worked at a bakery. Didn't make  
any money\* but a dollar and a quarter a day.  
12 hours a day. So, oh, the people on the WPA  
which was 44 dollars a month made most likely  
as much as I did. and they worked, ah, oh like  
4 days a week, I worked 6. But I worked there  
for 20 years until I finally got in the mines.

me: Did you think of your family as poor?

him: Real poor.

me: How important was the automobile to your family?

him: Well, if we had an automobile we wouldn't have  
to walk. We used to walk from National Mine to  
Ishpeming to do our shopping, carry it home.  
Carry a bag of groceries for 3 1/2 miles. If we  
wanted to go anywhere we'd walk. We just had  
to walk. Unless you were on the road walking  
and

4  
him: somebody came along with a car that  
(continued) maybe had a little money. Nobody  
had a lot of money but some were  
better off than others.

me: What did you do for entertainment?

him: Went out, ski ride, skate, go fishing  
in the summer and go swimming. Made  
our own skis out of barrel staves. You  
know what they are. Did you ever see  
a pair made of barrel staves? (No) They're  
only about that long (motions with hands).  
The entertainment you had was what  
you made yourself.

me: Were there any bread or soup lines in this area?

him: Not them days. It ain't like it is now.  
There was no place to go and get anything  
to eat.

me: What were your opinions on FDR's fire-side  
chats?

him: Well, I was all for 'em. I really was.  
After seeing what the President before  
him did, FDR was a really popular  
man. For the poor people.

5  
me: What kind of work did the CCC do around this area?

him: They planted trees. And, ah, I had a brother that got into that and they sent him to Men<sup>u?</sup>am, Wisconsin. And, ah, he stayed there, it was just like in an army camp. But, every once in awhile he'd get a ride home on the weekend. And he would be home for two days; Saturday and Sunday. If he got Saturday and Sunday off. Sometimes he would only get Sunday off. But there was a good many with him. It wasn't lonesome. You went to work every day and planted trees. It was just like being in the army. You had rules to go by. There was quite a bit of discipline. You had to go to bed at a certain time at night. You had to behave, you know.

me: How did the conditions affect your family life?

him: I don't think it hurt them. I think people were more together than days than they are now. Much more.

6  
him: Help each other go and get wood  
(continued) help each other fix the roof on the

house. No matter what you did every body  
chipped in and helped. And you did the  
same thing when they needed help.

me: How did Prohibition affect your family?

him: It didn't hurt us any. None of us were  
drinkers. I think they'd be better off  
without it. My personal opinion. Too many  
young kids drinking too young. So it  
didn't affect us anyway because we  
didn't have money to spend on it anyway.

me: Was there any bootlegging that you knew of?

him: Oh, lots of it. Lots of bootlegging.

me: Did your family have a garden?

him: Oh yes, always had a big garden. Raised  
our own potatoes, vegetables

me: Were there any major epidemics?

him: None, none that I could think of.

me: How elaborate were weddings and family albums?

him: Not very elaborate at all. Not very elaborate.

me: What railroad lines were there?

him: Ah, let's see, there's <sup>LS?</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> I, Chicago  
Northwestern, and Duluth Southshore. Three.

me: What was the mining activity like,

him: Well that was the one thing that kept  
the people going around here. Then when  
the mines shut down that's when it was  
really bad. There was actually no other  
industry here but the mines, and I finally  
did start working in the mine,

me: What school did you go to?

him: National Mine

me: Do you remember who the principal was?

him: Yes. George Annala. And Walter Bathe was  
the superintendant. At that particular time,  
before that there were others. There was  
a man by the name of Mr. <sup>?↓</sup> Scute. He left  
and went to republic. Mr. Swanson was  
principal. But he wasn't from around here.  
I don't know where he was from. George  
Annala lived around here. In fact he's still  
living. His father had a store in National Mine  
I don't think George worked in the store.

8. him: but he did manage to get an  
(continued) education and start teaching in  
National Mine, I think right today he's over  
at the Mather Nursing Home. He's quite old now.

me: Did you walk to school.

him: Always

me: How far was it from your house?

him: It wasn't far for me, I lived fairly close,  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. But there was a lot of kids that  
lived, ah, 2 miles from school, and they  
all walked. And there was kids from  
out here, Green Creek. And there was a  
man with a team of horses and a sleigh.  
He used to bring them to school and take  
them home. And that was my grandfather.  
There was others after him but at that  
time it was him. The kids that were, well,  
how far is it out here, 10 miles? So anyone  
at that distance came in a horse and sleigh.  
Until things picked up and they got buses.  
But not the modern buses they got today.  
It was just a big truck with a box on the  
back, covered over, benches in it to sit on.  
So, ah, you kids got it pretty good.

me: Were there any men's clubs or choruses?

him: I don't remember any. Maybe in Selkemping