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Stephanie Lucarelli's
interview with
Sid Holman

me: This is Stephanie Lucarelli February 7, 1993.
I'm interviewing Sidney Holman. The purpose
of this interview is for the Red Duet project.
And is a personal interview. The location of
interview is downtown Ishpeming at the 96th
District Court.

me: when and where were you born?

sid: 1930, as a matter of fact October 30th Devils
night, 1930 in Negaunee. I was living in Negaunee,
I was born in Ishpeming hospital.

me: what were your parents names?

sid: my dad's name was Joseph and my mother's
name was Louisa.

me: what are the names of your brother's & sister's?
And how many did you have?

sid: I was the eleventh. A, the only one that was
born in the hospital. The first one was Arthur
he died at age 2 when my parents, shortly after
my parents came here from England. And my
oldest sister is Murile she is 80, 83 living in
California.

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Sid: And next is my sister May who is married and living in Rockford, Illinois who has been married for 55 years. My oldest had her 60th anniversary out in California. And I'm pointing out these marriages so you'll see the changes that have taken place in social attitudes. Compared with my family to the way families are today. So after May then was my brother Joe he's a lives in Negaunee. He's a widower his wife died a couple years ago, they had been married for 55 years. Then A, my sister Eveshe died in 1965 lung cancer, smoker. My brother Gordon who's 75 and lives in Marquette, he's been married close to 50 years. Twins, Murt who lives in Negaunee been married close to 50 years, Milt lives in Skandia his twin. is a widower. My sister Mitsey who lives in California is a widow. She had been married close to 50 years. My bother Bob who retired from prison, he's got. He's been married for 45 years. And that's the family.

me: When were you married? IF so, when and where?

Sid: I was married in the St. Pauls Church in Negaunee on Groundhogs Day February 2, 1952.

me: what is your spouses name?

Sid: marry Mary Thomson

me: what did your parents do for a living?

Sid: My dad was a minor all his life he worked in the tin mines in England. Then he came here and worked in iron mines in Negaunee.

me: where did you go to school?

Sid: Negaunee High School.

me: what are some special memories do you have of growing up in this area?

Sid: When we were young, we had gangs. little different from the gangs we have today. We'd get together, we'd be called like the Cherry Street gang or the Kaye Street gang. It's a groupe of kids that got together and played together, they were boys & girls playing together.

Sid: There was, they were friends. We'd get together at the bottom of the street and have football games or at night we'd choose up sides and play chase. Have two teams one would chase the other one around the neighborhood at night until they caught them all. Usually that would take the whole night. Also had a game called kick the can with all the kids would get out and play kick the can, which you guys probably never heard of playing. It was always visiting and playing together. Naturally there was no television. We could go out north of Negaunee when we were very young 9 or 10 years old. Go out fishing in little cricks out there and catch Brook Trout. When the water was pure you could drink water out of the cricks. In Kaye Street there was a long block on Kaye Street in Negaunee there. I would imagine that there were 150 or 200 kids on that one block. There were not any property crimes ever.

Sid: And I think you have another question there about how things have changed now and along the way?

me: what special fetures stand out in your mind about the cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee from when you were younger?

Sid: The only thing I remember about Ishpeming was the chocolat shop, over on main Street there. I remember being there once or twice when I was a kid. In Negaunee. We were never down town, we just never went to town. We always stayed in our neighbor hood and played with the kids or we went out to the bush.

me: How have the cities changed?

Sid: How have these towns changed?

me: Yeah.

Sid: well you take a look at Negaunee up where we lived on Kaye Street got caved in up there and so that whole ~~the~~ neighbor hood got moved right after the cave in started. Lucky the houses didn't go with it.

Sid: And then that's on the east end of Negaunee up on the west end of Negaunee that's all blocked off and blockcated. There was caving grounds up there. Downtown Negaunee there's practically nothing left to it any more, it's totally changed.

me: what kind of things did you and your friends do for entertainment when you were teenagers?

Sid: let me see, when I was a teenager besides doing a lot of hunting and fishing. We had a, one of my friends had a car, two of my friends had cars their parents cars. That they got to use once in a while so we'd ride around in those things. not much but once in a while we were a lewd to do that. But of course I went in the army when I was 17 years old so you know.

me: where did the kids like to hang out in town when you were a teenager?

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Sid: we were in the neighbor hoods, we never went down town, there was no. As a teenager OK, as a teenager we went to Marquette there was a dance hall ^{down} there called the K.C., Knights of Columbus. Used to sponsor Friday night dance in Marquette. That's where we went to when we were a teen.

me: As a child and your later years did you have any specific occupations that you ~~wanted~~ wanted to do?

Sid: Yeah, I wanted to be a soldier, most of my life I wanted to be a soldier

me: Do you have any interesting or humorous ~~st~~ stories to share about these early days in Ishpeming or Negaunee?

Sid: well I can't think of. I don't know, what value judgement what's interesting? Ya know what's interesting to me and what's interesting to ~~us~~ people now a days? For example what would you think anything that I found interesting as a youth to me is no longer interesting.

Sid: So I really don't know what I could say was interesting to me as a kid. I know what interested me as a kid was hunting and fishing even in those days.

me: How old were you when you found your first job? And where did you work?

Sid: my first job I was 12 years old. I had 3 residences that I took ~~down~~^{care of} and cute grass and in the winter I shovled snow.

me: where were these places?

Sid: Two were on main Street in Negaunee. That is where the elct lived up in Negaunee. One was another residences in Negaunee where a minning captain lived at the time. And insadently my first pay day I bought a pint of _____ icecream as _____ dairy. For my mother, thats the first thing I bought

me: what types of duties did you preform on your first job?

Sid: Cutting grass, raking leaves, shoveling snow.

me: How many jobs did you have in your life time, and what where they, and what was the most important one?

Sid: Well the, as a teenager later on I worked for Bannon Cleaners in Negaunee. Until I went into the army. So I put almost five years in the army and a found the _____ for the court room and wound up in Korea and the war in Korea. And when I came home from there I worked in the mine for under ground iron mine for 20 years. And Following that I went back to school because I was a drop out. Then I started ^{working} here as probation officer. And I can't say one was more important than the other I think the most enjoyable job I had was under ground iron mining.

me: What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Sid: I think it was the person I worked for he was, he was a very understanding fellow. He really taught me how to do things well in the yard now he wanted it cleaned up and so forth. And very patient.

me: were you ever in the military, if so please describe your experiences there.

Sid: 1947 November 1 that was 2 days after I 17 years old I had dropped out of high school. At that time they were still taking the service so I joined the army. And my basic training was in California I had further training in Camp Lee Virginia.

And on June 6 1948 I was on a troop ship going under the Golden Gate Bridge, I was still 17.

The day that my regular class was graduating high school I heading over seas. I went to Japan, they landed in Japan first which took 8 day & 8 hours on that troop ship. Why I remember that I don't know. From there after the troops did some _____ I went to Korea. We were in Korea until 1949 and then they pulled the troops out of Korea back to Japan. And I supposed to come home June 27 1950. _____ so as

it turned out on ^{the} June 1950 North Korea invaded the south so they scrambled us up and flew us back in there into Korea landed in a place called Suedon which is a little simided air strip out in the middle of the rice patties. And they dumped us off there.

Sid: And the way I remember things occurring may not even be the way they happened. I mean time has a way of doing things to memories. So there are some things that occurred that I don't know if it's the way it happened or if I read it some where. You can't really be sure of that. But I did receive a Brauns Star. A metal with a V for Valide. When we first got there they gave us some quad 50s with four 50 calibre machine guns and a mount, just to stash around this air strip cause the North Koreans at that time had an air force and they came over several times ~~the~~ a day booming. We national had to use the guns against ~~them~~ them. We did shoot down two of those planes. My crew shot down two planes. After that was pull out of there we had to abandon all of the equipment and destroy it as best as we ~~can~~ could and take off because there was only 47 of us that went in there originally. So we weren't much of a match for the old North Korean army so we split we headed down south on foot. And later on we got back to Japan for refitting, equipment, equipment and so forth. And then they threw us back to Korea again.

Sid: So I was over there over seas for 39 month and I came back I think in 1951 September Of 51 something ~~###~~ like that really. And I came home on a 30 day furlow and during my second night home I was a passenger with a drunk driver who hit a lamp post in Negaunee and I wound up in the hospital. I was still in the army so they had covered all the medical expense. I was discharged from the army in 1952.

me: how many total years did you work in your life time and when did you retire?

Sid: I just retired this January 23 1993. I've been working for ever it seems like since I was 12 years old I've been working. But full time gain full employment I've never been out of work. Except for surgery I had broken back when I was working in the mine. I had surgery on that a couple of times. But outside of that I've worked full time from the time I went in the army to aged 17 to right now.

me: when you were working on the mine what special duties did you have?

Sid: I was mining I would be consistive drilling and blasting and scraping out iron ore and standing timber to make it safe in there so the roof wouldn't fall and it wouldn't cove in on you. We'd call it the back you'd call it the roof. And as one insedmt I did have a broken back I had surgery on it, twice. The last time I had surgery I was home recuperating. I had a body cast on at that time the mines shut down. so that left me kinda dangling on a string. which at that time prompted me to go back and get my high school daploma from Vegaunee after the mines shut down and following that I went to Northern and graduated from Northern.

Me: Did the mining job require any special training?

Sid: No, it was on the job train).

Me: during your life time where were you employed the longest?

Sid: Mining

Me: How or why did you chose the career?

Sid: Boy I've asked myself that a lot of times. when I graduated from Northern there was an opening, well no I started as a volunteer probation officer with the probation officer in Marquette. I worked there for a short time then an opening came a long for a part time probation officer with Marquette county. It was true at the time, the federal program ~~ceda~~ ~~ceda~~ ^{ceda} I think it was initially it was CDT I don't even know what it stood for I think that's where the ~~the~~ grant ~~came~~ ^{came} from for the new probation officer. So I started there working in Marquette for a few months and then I came to Ashpeming in September of 74. To open the office here supposed to have been on a part time basis. But it was never part time it was always full load. So that's how I got started in this job.

Me: During this career is there anything you'd like to go back and do over?

Sid: Well ya there are some things I would have done differently but I don't know if it could have been done differently. Attitudes in this profession people change also. When I first started in probation the attitude was that anybody that was

Sid: on probation I think I won't go on any further than that but ya there are some changes that I would have definitely done different.

Me: In much detail as possible describe your main duties of your job.

Sid: This job, my job is to enforce the orders of the court. Whatever the court orders to defendant to do its the probationary officers job to see that there carried out.

Me: Did this job require any special training if so please describe the training.

Sid: Four years at northern criminal justice and psychology minor is what I have. I suppose, ya you have to have a four year degree now. To become a probation officer.

Me: What special equipment or clothing did this job require?

Sid: No special equipment.

Me: What was the most rewarding part of your career?

Sid: Periodically people drop by to see my when they don't have to see me after they've been discharged from probation. Just to talk so people who are now my friend weren't always my friends. And that's very rewarding.

Me: What was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Sid: On one occasion, the police officers from I-shpeming the chief of police. At the time usually from I-shpeming came over here with a bullet proof vest for me and escorted me home. and I had to make arrangements for my family to be else where for a couple of nights. Because there was some information that there was a quote "contract" on probation officer. So the police secured my residence for a couple of nights until this thing blew over. And I wasn't really sure if it was legitamate or not. But the person who supposedly had set this up was later arrested in Illinois for killing a guy down there I suppose he was capable.

Me: How did the duties of your job change over the years?

Sid: The duties remain the same it's a matter of how, how you perform them. Earlier in my career of probation officer it was all hard nose learn on them don't give them any slack. Make sure he close precise what he's gonna do or else he goes to jail period. As thing progressed and as I became more exposed to other people who were in the same field. I became aware that the job was not to return a guy to jail, but to keep him out of jail.

Sid: And to try to get them into some type of program the would enable him to stay out of jail. Ya it wasn't a drastic change or anything the Aditvide when I first got into this job.

Me: Did your put you and your family in any dangerous situations? If so please describe.

Sid: Well I mentioned that one all ready you can use that one.

Me: Please describe what your co-workers were like.

Sid: Oh the people in this office and Marquettee. For example when I first started here when I walked into District Court there was one magistrate & one clurk & one boylife & one court reported and they were all one person. Lynn Ketchem did all these things and when I started she kind of volunteered to be probation secretary also because there was no probation secretaries. So she put on another hat and she even had taken these presentices home that I did. And presentences that and interview you do with a person to get background information. So you can give record to the court, so she would take the information home and type it on her own time and there was no extra pay for that she just did it. And the people that are working here to this day have always been very coapperative. Helped me cut along the way answering phones taking messages without every asking for any of that or anything in return they just did it

Sid: Without them it just would never had worked.

Me: could you describe some numerous or interesting events that happend during your career.

Sid: Ya, me retirement party that was about the most interesting & suprising thing I ever ran into. I never expected anything like it to happen. At the party there were I had been involved with over the years. The different police officers from difrant agencies were there. There was one person there who spoke that night he indicated that in 1975 after his second visit with the probation officer he decided to get sober. He talked about it and what a drunk he was at the time. And now he woke up on morning and his car was smashed and he had no recollection of getting home even. he got arrested for it and he went threw some programs and he wound up in AA and he stayed with AA right to this day. And on that night he presented me with a little camel a small tie tack camel which is indicative of sobriety. The being camel the animal that can go the longest without a drink, you know? And his talk that night was very impresive. Ya, the people that I've worked with all these years the police aginces and so forth have been most helpful along the way. Without them also this program would not work if the police agencise weren't cooperative.

Me: At any time did you feel like changing your career, why or ^{why not?}

Sid: well I guess I really couldn't change the career. The physical problems that I had because of my back surgery would limit what I could do and who would hire me.

Sid: I ~~was~~ was satisfied with this there are times where it's frustrating of course. But no I wouldn't have changed this career.

Me: what were your biggest responsibilities on the job?

Sid: well the just to be sure that the courts orders were followed those were my responsibilities. There were other things involved of course the interaction with ~~the~~ the probationers. I think most importantly the interaction with them was to reinforce some of positive things that the person would do. To often the only ~~the~~ time they would get noticed is if they did some thing wrong. When it was important to reinforce the positive behaviors that they expampled.

Me: Did recived any special awards from your employer & where you reconized for any of your job requirements,

Sid: The rewards that I recived were peridice and not very many, letters from people that had been on probation. Expressing there gradituide for the interaction that we had together. Letters from probationers and or there families. That was very gradifing. Also (go to next 2 pages) ^{At the end of 2 page} _{Start here & finish on page 20}

Me: where you ever a member of a union if so which one?

Sid: The CIO which was a us steel workers, thats when I was working underground for the mine.

Me: Please describe any interesting moments of a union.

Sid: well it was allways, I can't say that there was any unintersting things going on underground. The people that worked there were pretty close knite we got along well together. As far as if there was a union or not they got along toget-
ner.

Sid: Also the reward I got from the county the night of my retirement party.

Me: During your days of employment & beyond what have been your favorite hobbies & leisure activities? Do you have any special stories about them?

Sid: Well I have a special story about a deer hunt. As the hobbies I have are hunting & fishing & I ~~make~~ ~~Maple~~ have a little sugar bush where I make Maple syrup in the spring. Which is pretty time consuming. I do a considerable amount of running. Not near as much as I used to. But I did three & one half miles this morning daily, I like to get out daily. And I do a little bit of weight lifting so I don't get soggy. And I guess that's my total interests.

Me: Have you been involved in any clubs, organizations or sport leagues, if so please describe them.

Sid: I belong to the U.P. Road Runners Association. And I had done a lot of running in the past I belong to the Nequanee Eagles. I belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I belong to Disabled Veterans of Foreign Wars, I think that's all the organizations that I belong to.

Me: What special moment are a part about this aspect of your life?

Sid: About the organizations I belonged to?

Me: Yes.

Sid: I have never been a real strong member. I don't ~~know~~^{do} much with the organizations, I just belong. The Road Runner I was very active in there. It's a different type of individual that you see there. The one Race I remember in Wegaunee was a 10K Race there were probable 250-300 people there, a lot of young people. I'm talking from 8 years old and up. And after the race we got together in the gym & they handed out all the awards. And these young people, I'm sure I will never see any of those people in the probation Department, they are just a different attitude, they are motivated, they belong to something. Were as the people that wound up on probation generally they never had a chance to get involved in something like that. They never had that motivation. So, ya the Road Runner program I think that I favor that program.

Me: over all what are the fondest memories of your working days?

Sid: well I guess the fondest memories of my working days, are from the people that I worked with. Like I mentioned before how helpful they have been. They are good people. I still come back to visit them.

Sid: I really can't say there was the union that got us together like that but it's just while working underground I enjoyed it because of the people that were there.

Me: If you had to do it all ~~off~~ over again would chose the same career? why or why not?

Sid: I guess I would do almost the same thing I've done in my life.

Me: In the closing do you have anything else you would like to add?

Sid: Just that you can see the changes that have taken place in our society that I've mentioned to you earlier about my family the marriages. The lengthy marriages. ~~;~~ compared to what happens today when someone gets married. Its likely that the marriage isn't going to last more than likely it will end up in divorce. The unfortanet part of that is you have a brake down in the family and thats the type of person of individual who winds up here in this probation department. Young people don't work out the differences anymore when we first got married we had differences, everybody does but we worked them out. I these marrriages today its if an argument starts one of them leaves the house. Gets out of the house instead of solving the problem and winds up with the family breaking down. Its very tradgice and that is why we have so many social problems to day because of that break down in the family.

Me: Thats all, Thank you