

①

Mark Meredith's
interview with
Paul Loeffler
for Red dust 93

me - When where you born?

Paul - June 15, 1918 in Ishpeming

me - What are your parents names?

Paul - Roudolph and Hannah Loeffler

me - Where you married, & so when & where

Paul - October 19, 1940 St. John's church

me - what are the names of your brothers and sisters

Paul - I didn't have any brothers but my sisters names are Helen and Agnes Loeffler.

me - What is your sponsors name?

Paul - My wife's name is Margaret Garrett, was Margaret Garrett

me - What did your parents do for a living?

Paul - My mother was an old fashioned home maker, My dad owned a meat and grocery store and sausage factory. Which he had purchased from his father.

me - Where did you go to school

Paul - I went to Ishpeming, Convent school, Ishpeming high school and Ferris Institute X

me - What special memories do you have of growing up in ^{this} ~~area~~ ^{area}?

②

Paul - Well I can remember the downtown streets of Ishpeming were much busier, trolley cars, and they used to have street carnivals every summer. Many conventions & lodge picnics were held. I remember how people used to flock to both ~~Ishpeming~~ theaters at times the Ishpeming theater besides the Butler. And the year Talking Pictures first came in it was 1929 there used to be long lines waiting to get in and especially on weekends and during the depression years in the early 30's we used to have a special ~~duets~~ night during the week on Wednesday called bank night. And ah depending on the ticket you bought you could win several aluminum wear or other gifts for the home that were given away on stage.

me - What special features stand out in your mind about the cities of Ishpeming & Negaunee when you were younger?

Paul - Well years ago there were a lot of local grocery stores besides my dad's, of course there still some, all of the stores at that time had counter service, delivery service, and issued thirty day credit for their customers. Most of the items sold in stores were bulk, there was very few packaged goods. No frozen foods available at all. There were no chain stores around at the time. Of course that's all changed today. Now some of the businesses are parking lots and others are converted into different type businesses.

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

Paul - Well there were the local dances every weekend at the Anderson Hall that's the building that houses the Mining Journal and the Coffee Cup restaurant, and they also had dances each weekend at the YMCA building that stood where the Senior Citizens Center stands now. The YMCA Building also had pool tables and bowling alleys. Of course they had shows

Cont.

Paul - at both theaters all week and Radio programs where very popular in those days they had mystery ones like the Shadow and Lights out Jack Benny Program was very popular and we went fishing and hunting alot there was good fishing at Green Circle in National Mine, Deer Lake

me - Where did the kids like to hang out in town when you were a teenager.

Paul - Well they hung out on the downtown streets We used to walk what they called a beat from main street up and down Cleveland avenue and over to Division and ah they also had the YMCA where they could go and hang out also.

me - Do You have any interesting or humorous stories to share about these days in Ishpeming or Negaunee?

Paul - Well I remember one time when a bunch of us were going to a basketball tournament in Grauer High School in Marquette. One of the fellas had an old jalopy. By the time we got there we were an hour late. Because on the way we had eight flats. (chuckles) we had to stop and change them or also pump them up and keep going until it went down again (chuckles) that's a lot of flats for 15 miles.

me - How old were you when you found your first job and where did you work.

Paul - Well my first job I worked summers for my dad at the store I was thirteen years old at the time and I worked until I was 16. Those are the years of 1931-1935.

me - what types of duties did you perform on your first job?

paul - Well waited on people there was no self serve then and also stocked shelves, put up orders, and delivord them and then after I came home from faric I started full time in the store in 1938

me - How many total years did you work in your lifetime?

paul - Well I'd say ^{counting} part time work I worked about 52 years In fact I'm still working part time 2 hours a day delivers papers.

me - During your lifetime where were you employed the longest

paul - Cleveland Cliff Iron Company.

me - In as many details as possible describe the main duties of this job.

paul - Well there was typing to be done it was an office job. I worked in the Ore Grading and Shipping Department. ~~we~~ we got weekly, monthly, yearly reports. Showing the average analyses of the percentage of Iron and in pellets also the % of impurities such as Magnesia, sulfur, and so forth aluminum in pellets. Also analyzed the cargo of pellets that left on the boats to Escanaba and Marquette.

me - Did this job have any special rules or regulations to follow?

paul - Nope outside of knowing how to type.

me - How did the duties of your job change over the years

paul - Well stayed the same
me - Please describe what your coworkers were like.

paul - They were all nice and easy to get along with, had a very nice boss also.

me - Could you describe some interesting or humorous events that happened during your career. ③

Paul - Well I worked at several jobs of course I worked at Cohodas's, They were a fruit and vegetable job - downtown there not there anymore. And a few while I was there I cut bananas every once and a while we'd see some tropical spiders ~~to~~ when the bananas come in they were all green and hard we used to call them stems. They come up from New Orleans if they come from South America.

I remember cutting a bunch one day and a fella was helping me pack the bananas and I cut about three hands from the top and I came to a great big white silk cocoon. It was like waaa right to the stock, I said to this fella that was helping me "watch this"

And I took the tip of the banana knife and I cut a little slit in the cocoon it was about the size of a hand stretched. You could see the outside of the cocoon start to move so we got a quart Mason jar and put it under the cocoon and I pushed with the top of the knife and out plumped a great big trachula. It fell right in the quart Mason jar.

And he was on display for a while. And then at various times there'd be although I never saw the snake different others that worked there would see snake skins curled up. I remember one time a mouse quick as a flash a mouse ran at the end of the stalk over to the corner of the wall we got him cornered had a long long tail it was a tropical mouse. We turned him over and

(cont.) - there was about six little pink hairless babies that must have come all the way over from Guatemala where lots of the bananas came from

6

me - At any time did you feel like changing careers why or why not?

Paul - No I didn't really feel like it because the job it paid good and the hours were good and we had all the fringe benefits to,

me - What were the biggest responsibilities on the job.

Paul - Well getting the reports out on time and seeing that your work was done neatly.

me - During your days of employment ~~or after~~ and ~~and~~ beyond what have been your favorite hobbies or leisure activities? Do you have any special stories about them.

Paul - Well fishing I enjoy fishing, I have a garden every year in my back yard. I write poetry on the side and I've had some published in the East Magazine, and ~~the~~ Chicago Tribune. In fact I had one in the Mining Journal last year. When they started that page each month I think it was April. I sent in a poem and it was printed as being one of the best submissions for that month. Over the course of years I've received letters from different people who've read it and a woman in Chicago who worked in Sears Roebuck read this particular poem and it reminded her of a cabin she kept up in Rock Michigan. And I've received literature from a woman who used to go around the country and giving Shakespearean impressions.

me - Have you been ~~you~~ involved in any clubs or organizations?

paul - No Not for a long time I used to be a active (7)
member in the Knights of Columbus. I was on
the library board from 1986 to 1990.

me - overall what are your fondest memories of your
working days and your career.

paul - well I think it's the people I've met, the friends
I've made that have made it well worth ~~it~~
while.

me - In closing do you have anything else ~~good~~
you'd like to add.

paul - Well looking back I would compare life and a
roller coaster ride, lots of ups and downs
all you have to do is hang on and don't let
it throw you.

me - Thank You.

paul - Yea.