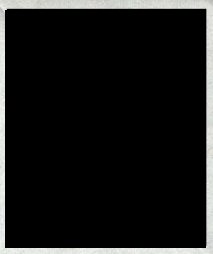


Tuti Hamm  
Interviewing  
Mrs. Murk.



me - This is Tuti Hamm interviewing Mrs. Dorothy Murk at her home in Negaunee Michigan on December 31, 1987. I'll start by asking you where and when were you born?

Mrs. M - When, where? I was born in Marinette Wisconsin, October 9th, 19 hundred 9

me - How many people were in your family?

Mrs. M - Just my brother and I, and then of course my mother and my father.

me - Was your brother older than you?

Mrs. M - No, he's three years younger

me - Did you have any, like, any pets or dogs or anything?

Mrs. M - We used to have a dog, you know, when my husband was living, I always had a dog but right now/laughs/ living by myself I don't have one, but we've always had dogs since the time I was little.

Me - What was a special treat for you when you were growing up?

Mrs. M - I, I - pauses.

Me - A treat, you know like, some kind of thing you got once and a while that you really enjoyed?

Mrs. M - Golly, I don't remember (pauses) I really don't remember any special treat, I guess (pauses) I know when we were living away from Negaunee, which is the first eight years of my life, I think one of the treats I enjoyed was coming back to visit my grandparents in Negaunee.

*include*

Me - Where did you go to school?

Mrs. M - Well, I had been in several schools in

Mrs. M (cont) - Kindergarten I was in, um, Escanaba  
I believe, and I was in Marquette in  
one of the primary grades. And then  
I ended up in Munising in the 3rd  
grade before I came to Negaunee.

Me - you moved a lot?

Mrs M. - Oh yes! I moved, we moved a great  
deal. after being born in Marinette  
Wisconsin, we didn't stay there too  
long. It was because of my father's  
employment took him there, and so  
we moved several times, uh, I think  
we lived in Menominee, Escanaba,  
Marquette, Munising, and then finally  
my father decided to enlist in the war,  
that was World War I, he didn't want  
us to be left alone in Munising (laugh) so  
we moved to Negaunee, so that when  
he was called out to service, we  
would be with our family, with our  
grandmother.

include - but condense

Me - What was it like going to school? What was it like?

Mrs. M - (confused)

Me - did you have a whole bunch of different classes or did you just stay in one class.

Mrs. M - Well, of course in the grades, there was always just the one class, but once we got into the High School, there were different classes, and I think in Junior High too, we had different classes.

Me - How did you spend your lunch time, where did you eat your lunch and stuff?

Mrs. M - Well, I do, I think all, I think I always came home for lunch.

Me - Did you have any favorite teachers or anything that you remember?

Mrs. M - Uh, Yeh, I got along well with all my teachers, I can't remember any particular favorite, just trying to think in college I had some favorites, I particularly enjoyed, I liked Mr. <sup>Myland</sup> a great deal. And any of the speech teachers, cause I enjoyed my speech classes and debating and stuff like that. And the music teachers. And I had an Art teacher that I liked very much, because it was my last, uh, (laughs) my last, uh, term in college, and I thought well I'm going to take something that I had real easy that I thought I would be sure to get an A in, so I wanted to take music, unfortunately the music classes were filled up, so I thought well I'll take the drawing class, and I got an A in that, cause he said I was the best in the class, but the class was rotten.

(we both laugh together)

Me - well, like, what did you do for entertain-  
ment, what kind of games did you play?

Mrs. M - well, of course when we were little, it  
was far different from what it is now.  
(Oh) I can remember, you know, we  
played jacks, and we played run-  
sheep-run, and things like that.

Me - what's that?

Mrs. M - Run-sheep-run, well, you'd hide, and  
somebody then would, uh, (pause) who  
ever was it had to go find everybody,  
and jump rope and baseball too.

Me - were you like, on any teams or any-  
thing for sports?

Mrs. M - well, in high school. (pause) It was just  
intramural, I, you know it was just with-  
in the classes, we didn't, we didn't, girls  
anyway didn't (having trouble)

Me - play

Mrs. M - play other schools, you know, I mean  
it was all within the class, intramural  
baseball, I remember, you know, gym,  
what not gym, baseball, and uh, basketball  
-yah, and uh then I played some tennis

Me - were you in any clubs or anything like  
organizations?

Mrs. M - in school?

me - yah.

Mrs. M - oh yah I, I can remember I belong  
-ed to a sorority in college, and uh, I was,  
uh, I think they called it a foreign club, debate  
club, it was sort of like debaters, uh, I  
can't really remember all the different  
ones I belonged to

Me - What did your dad do? You said ~~that~~  
you moved a lot

Mrs. M - My Father was a plumber

Me - Oh! (we both laugh lightly).

Mrs. M - And eventually, when he moved into  
Muinising, he set up his own shop.  
Other than that he was working for  
other people, but in Muinising he had  
his own plumbing shop.

Me - Did your mom work out of the  
home?

Mrs. M - m-mh (pause)

Me - Well

Mrs. M - (interrupting me) Mothers didn't work  
out of the home much in those days.



Mrs. M - (cont) (laughs) that was a good many  
years ago.

Me - How did you celebrate Christmas  
when you were little?

Mrs. M - Oh! we had a big Christmas, but we  
didn't get all the toys that children  
get now. We were happy if we just  
got one nice thing. I can remember  
a couple of dolls that I had, that I  
just loved. And of course, we waited  
for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve,  
we never opened anything before  
Christmas. I can remember Christ-  
mas here in Negaunee, I can remem-  
ber so clearly trying to sneak down  
the steps to see the Christmas tree.  
(we both laugh)

Me - Well, were there any other kind of things that you remember that were special occasions?

Mrs. M - When?

Me - Holidays, anytime

Mrs. M - (thinking) anytime.

Me - weddings, or. (Pause)

Mrs. M - There were lots of special times I imagine, uh, (Pause) of course I remember celebrating the end of the war. Cause then we knew my father would be coming home. He didn't ever get sent out of the country. (brief pause) oh, I think when I was a child too. What I especially enjoyed was coming back to Nagaunee, that was when we were living away from Nagaunee.

Mrs. M (continued) Coming back to Neegaunee  
and seeing my grandparents again,  
and my uncle's and aunts, cause they,  
You know I was the oldest, I was the  
first grandchild for a while, so they made  
a lot of me. (laughing) They were really  
good to me. And I loved traveling on  
the train, back and forth. You know at  
that time there were trains, so now  
matter where we lived we've always  
took the train back to see my grand  
parents. My uncles, my grandfathers,  
(she stops and says This is really funny because)  
My grandfather had a dredge business, so  
of course you had to have horses, this  
was before the time of trucks, and when  
I'd come home my uncles, well of  
course being uh uh, having horses natur-  
ally there were horse shoes, so out in  
back of their big barn where the horses  
were kept, the stables, there was the alley  
and ~~the~~ my uncles would join in with  
some of the other men in the area

Mrs. M (contin) and they'd be playing horses  
well when I'd come home, I can  
remember, my uncles would take me  
out to sing for them and entertain  
them, and then they'd pass the hat  
I don't know what they used the  
money for, but they (both of us start laughing)  
I always enjoyed singing and talking  
I guess. (laughs)

Me. - What was it like riding on a train  
I don't think I've ever ridden  
on a train.

Mrs. M - Oh, that was very nice, very, it was,  
not these really fast trains and things  
that they have today. I used to enter-  
tain the passengers then too, my  
mother used to tell me I used to  
go up and down the aisle and  
sing. (both laugh).

Me - That'd be neat!, Were you ever  
really sick or anything when you  
were little?

Mrs. M - Sick?, did you say? I was pretty  
healthy I guess.

me - Was anyone else in your family really sick?

Mrs. M - No, I can't remember anybody.  
I can remember my grandmother  
when she was very sick and she was  
home, I remember we were down-  
stairs and you could hear my, you know  
they call it a death rattle, hear my grand  
mother dying, that was sad.

me - I bet, uh. what year did you graduate  
from high school?

Mrs. M - In high school, I graduated in 1927

me - Oh, that was before the Great Depression  
Did you, like, receive any honors or schol-  
ships or awards or anything?

Mrs. M - Yah, well, I uh, I was always quite high  
in my class, and uh, I did have a  
scholarship one year. to, I went to  
Beloit College, it was a scholarship esp-  
ecially for service men's children and as  
long as I had,

Mrs. M (cont) Well your grades had something to do with it too. But I only stayed there one year; I was so homesick. You know in those days. you couldn't. And how today people can get back and forth very easily. But I, the only time I was able to get home was for Christmas, and I think I came home at Easter time. and I, it really got, I was homesick.

Me - Was that all you went to college then?

Mrs. M - Then I, well that was Beloit well then I, well after that one year I <sup>came back and</sup> went to Northern.

Me - What did you go to Northern for?

Mrs. M - Well, uh, to become a teacher mainly.

Me - (Kind of embarrassingly say) Oh.

Mrs. M - and then, uh, but um, I worked in the library too.

*include*  
Mrs. M - (cont.) So finally I was at Peter White in  
the childrens room, at Peter White  
for a while, besides teaching, so I  
decided I liked library work so much  
so I went to Western Reserve and got  
my Masters degree there, that's in Cleveland,  
got my masters degree in library work;  
librarianship.

Me - Oh, with the Great Depression, were you going  
to college during the Great Depression?

Mrs. M - Yah.

Me - How'd that affect you?

Mrs. M - Well, ya know, I dont think it affected  
me too much. cause you know we  
never had a lot of money so (laughing)  
not having it during the Depression  
didn't bother me much.

Me - When you went to Northern, or went down  
to Cleveland, did you live on the campus  
or? did you live somewhere else?

Mrs. M - At Northern I drove, we drove back and forth, except for the term when I was on the debate team, and then I almost had to stay there, because there was so much work to do; library work and that sort of thing. I had to work too hard, so I, during the terms when I ~~was~~ debated I stayed in Marquette. But then of course when I was at Western Reserve I stayed, had to stay there. I don't remember if I even got home for Christmas that year.

Me - Did you like going to college?

Mrs. M - Oh Yah, I enjoyed it.

Me - Yah, I don't know it seems kind of fun. Where was your first teaching job?

Mrs. M - I was just trying to think, I can't remember. (Pause) Oh, yes I do remember, I was in Ironwood, that was my first job; and it was after the year had started, and it wasn't a very happy experience; because I think I was



Mrs. M (cont). about the third teacher that they had for that one <sup>particular</sup> room. because they were such, so much trouble, and uh, I think one of the reasons, the classes were so crowded, In fact one class I had the seats were you know, double; right close together, the desks. And they're were three sitting in there, you know. So that wasn't very the environment wasn't very good (laugh) wasn't very conducive to good behavior. And children; just took advantage of you. So I finally, I had to leave; I couldn't stay there and take it.

Me - What grade was that? What grade did you teach?

Mrs. M - I think it was sort of a Junior High if I'm not mistaken. I can't really remember; It was so long ago. See that was right after I graduated

Me - How many years were you a teacher? You're not a teacher anymore, are you?

Mrs. M - What?

Me - You aren't a teacher anymore, are you?

Mrs. M. - Well, I taught, I a, no not now, although I still am involved with schools because one of the things, I said, one of the things I've always liked to do was talk to, music and talking those were my two favorite amusements I guess, so after I retired, see I was the librarian at Marquette High School, so after I retired I moved, my mother was with me and she wasn't well; so we moved back to Negaunee, and then, uh, I subed for a while then I got, they didn't pay me enough! (we both laugh) So I, ah, had a chance at one time to go to the public library, yah here, they were starting a story telling program, but at that time I had already started to do some volunteer work here at the Lakeview School, and I liked it so much, uh, so almost from the time I retired I've been involved in the volunteer story telling over at the library and Lakeview School, right now I have four classes,

include

Mrs. M (cont) - Kindergarten classes that come in; two, tuesday afternoon, two wednesday morning, and they come in and I tell them a story and then they, help check out books, maybe tell them another story, if there's time. And I've been doing that, and I enjoy that ever so much.

Me - How many years were you a teacher?

Mrs. M - Well, as I say after I graduated, I taught school, of course I didn't have to ~~work~~ teach because, (laughing) I didn't have to work. So I'd get tired and retire, for a little, for a few months then I'd decide. One of the jobs that I really enjoyed, this was just before I was married, uh, I taught in the children's unit at Morgan Heights. They used to have a children's unit there, for children who may have been in families where there was tuberculosis and they were, maybe not too well, so uh, God they didn't actually have tuberculosis but there was always, they wanted to keep an eye on these youngsters, and that was, I had all eight grades in the <sup>one</sup> room. Page 19

Mrs. M. (cont) So that was, and you could only  
teach, because, I think I taught them  
an hour in the morning, and an hour  
again in the afternoon; and the rest  
of the time I spent with them, maybe  
taking them out for walks and stuff of  
that sort. And I tried to make things  
interesting for them and for me too.  
I remember one summer we put on a  
circus so that we could entertain the adults  
inmates I shouldn't say inmates, adult  
patients at Morgan Heights. They looked  
out onto a long, big lawn, it's not like  
that now it's been changed, but they  
did their little circus acts, you know they  
were pretending to, some of them pre-  
tended they were trained dogs, and then  
I had horses, you know, and stuff like  
that (laughs)

include

Me - Yah! that sounds neat. What year did you  
get married in?

Mrs. M. Golly, you know, I can't remember  
(Pause) It was in the 1940's anyway.  
I can't really remember.

Me - Who did you marry?

Mrs. M. - Uhm?

Me - Who did you marry?

Mrs. M. - Oh, his name was Leo Murk, he was a painter. (both laugh), and that's where I met him, ~~because he worked~~ it was at Morgan Heights because he was, uh, he had been hired to do some painting there. and, uh, that's where I met him. I had a cousin who was sort of a nurse's aid, and she introduced me to, to my husband. And, uh, that's where I met him, we got married shortly after.

Me - What kind of wedding did you have, did you have a big wedding?

Mrs. M. - very quiet because (laughs) I was told that, uh, someone else was looking for my job, and, uh, if I were, if I were married I would lose the job, and I wanted to finish the year out. And so we got married very quietly, we were married in church, in the cathedral down in Marquette. I was told that if page 21

Mrs. M (cont.) - the authorities in the hospital didn't know, they couldn't tell me to leave (laughs)  
that was the advice I was given (laughing)

Me - Well, like, where did you live when you were married? After you were married did you still live there, where'd you go?

Mrs. M - In Marquette; see my husband was employed there in Marquette

Me - Did you have any kids?

Mrs. M - No, we never had any children. My only children I have now are the ones in the kindergarten. (laughs)

Me - Well, where did he work? same place or (interrupting)

Mrs. M - Yah, well he was a painter, uh, and he had a business, he employed some painters with it, for him.

Me - Did you have jobs after that?

Mrs. M - After I was married? well, of and on, when I felt like teaching, I subbed maybe, and when he was in the  
page 22

whole page in Blue.

Mrs. M - (cont.) - service, I taught in champion, and I loved it there. Oh, I liked every job; teaching. the only one I didn't like was that very (both laughing) first one that I had in Ironwood, but I taught in several places. I taught in Big Bay just before, well, ~~my~~ my husband was waiting to be called; he enlisted in the C.B.S.; that's part of the navy. And, uh, while he was waiting to be called, I taught in Big Bay, well then when he left, I didn't like it in Big Bay, particularly. there were a couple of very nasty girls, it was in the Junior High, in fact one of the teachers, the teacher that I replaced, left I think because one of the girls gave her so much trouble; hit her over the head with a, her dinner bucket and stuff like that, (both laughing) so that's a job I went in to, the superintendent knew me, and he asked if I would come, and I did. I don't remember if I, I finished the year and I think that next year. course in the meantime my husband had left for the service, and I liked it, okay, and uh I didn't have too much trouble, I always say there's nothing worse than a bad girl; if a girl is, is, you know

Mrs. M - (cont.) - mean, and she's harder to deal with than a boy; for some reason or other I never had any trouble with boys. I haven't had any trouble with anybody except that girl, she was really, uh, trouble maker.

Me - Did she ever do anything to you?

Mrs. M - No!

Me - Do you, like, belong to any clubs now, organizations?

Mrs. M - Sure Do! (laughing) I'm a trustee on the board of the Marquette County Historical Society, and, um, I'm on the advisory board for Michigan Industry, Iron Industry Museum. Have you ever been, Have you been down there by any chance?

Me - uh uh

Mrs. M - Oh, you should try to talk your teacher into, next spring to (interrupt)

Me - I think we're going.

Mrs. M - Yah, go down on the tour of the. And, what else, what else do I belong to? Wegauwee Historical Society



Mrs. M. (cont.) but, I'm not really active in it.  
What else do I belong to? I was trying  
to think, um, (pause) Oh! I'm on the  
library board, here in Negaunee, the  
public library board.

Me - Do you have anything to do with the  
Carp River Forge

Mrs. M. - Well, the mining industry, Yah! See  
that's ~~my~~ built right down there  
at the Forge. My reason for being inter-  
ested in that is because my great, great  
grandmother was a widow and she came  
up from Ohio and came to that settlement,  
and lived at the Carp River Forge  
settlement and, uh, I had a great aunt  
who was born at the settlement and  
my great grandma, see my great grand-  
ma came up with a daughter and a son.  
the daughters name was Nancy, that's  
my great grandmother son was Levi.  
Well, Nancy; my great grandmother married  
uh, her first husband down at the settle-  
ment. When she came she was fourteen  
so she was very young, so when she  
was married she was only about six-  
teen, and he was killed while he was  
working on the plank road, by a falling  
tree; a falling tree fell over while  
he was working on that plank page 25

include!

Mrs. M. (cont). road. So then she married, she  
remarried, she married George Mall.  
They, when the Forge closed they, they  
moved here to Negaunee. On the  
~~road~~ way to Ishpeming, outside of  
~~the~~ Negaunee, you know, there are a  
couple of points that point out into,  
like peninsulas out into teal lake, and  
they lived on the larger one, uh, just  
beyond the first little one, people use a lot  
they go in and use, uh,

Me - (interrupt) picnic table

Mrs. M. - table there, and this is the larger  
one next to it just beyond that. And  
you can tell because there's a row  
of pine trees there, and, uh, as if they  
were probably planted or left there to  
protect the house that was there from  
that cold north wind. And the, the man  
and the house that was built there was  
called the white house; they call it a  
varitable mansion, must a been a  
large home, and uh, he had money. And  
they'd leave it; they'd go south in the  
winter. And I guess my great grand  
mother and

Mrs. M - (cont) her family lived in that house  
as caretakers, while they went south.  
But of course, my grandmother was  
born there, and her name; her second  
name was teal, possibly after the lake.  
Her name was Mary Teal, course  
first it was Mall, then she married Henry  
Lee.

Me - That's kind of neat!

Mrs. M - Yah!

Me - What do you do in the Historical Societies  
and stuff? What kind of work do you do?

Mrs. M - Well, just on the, I'm on the, uh, I don't  
do any work for the Historical Society, I'm  
just on the board of trustees. We meet  
once a month and make decisions as  
to what the society can do. Tomorrow,  
rather, there's having an open house  
down at that museum; it's the one in  
Marquette. Now, on the advisory board  
for the, for the museum, we have to  
advise, mainly, as what we want to

Mrs. M - (cont.) - have done, at that museum. And our next big job now is to be deciding as to what can be done to the outside; the surroundings at the museum. And what they hope to do is start some Archeological work where the settlement was; so that they can get an idea of how people lived in the settlement. They'll, maybe, dig up old dishes and stuff like that, sort of things that people used during that, while they were living at the settlement. And I <sup>keep</sup> saying, if they dig up anything with Nancy Mall's name on it; it'll, I'll look for it. I'll claim it! (laughing) My great grandma's, (laughing), that's only a (laugh) I just say that as a, as a joke.

include

Me - Do you work with Frank Matthews there?

Mrs. M - What?

Me - Frank Matthews?

Mrs. M - Oh, of course he was very active in that too.

Whole page  
in Black

Mrs. M - (cont). He was, worked very hard to get that museum built, yah. Frank was a good friend of mine too. He, uh, as a matter of fact I just found that letter the other day; he had, uh, said in my name, he had been a winner of that, "Keep Michigan Beautiful Award". Then, apparently, they asked for suggestions for other people to receive the award, and he had suggested my name.

Me - That's nice!

Mrs. M - But I'd, I'd have to go down to Lansing in order to ~~accept~~ it; I couldn't do that. So, I don't know if they sent me one or not. I have, (gets up and goes to china cabinet) course its pretty tarnished now (sets down and drops hands) but I was on the United Way board for, for a number of years. But, I gave that up after a while.

Me - How did you meet Frank Matthews?

Mrs. M - How'd I meet him?

Me - Yah, when'd you first meet him?

Mrs. M - Uhm, I really couldn't say. I s'pose, I think mainly working with the a, you know we worked, we had a Camp River Forge Association before we had, working to get something down there, and uh, Oh, that started long, long, long ago. And that, of course, Frank was very active in that too, so that's how I got to meet him.

Me - What are your plans for now and the future? What are your goals that you've set? or anything?

Mrs. M - Well, there's not much I can do. See I had serrous surgery this ~~summer~~ ~~year~~ past summer, and um, I doubt very mu, I + limits me; more or less as to what I ~~can~~ can do, and I don't plan on making any trips

Mrs. M (cont.) anywhere.

Me - I don't know. That's just about it!  
I think we've covered everything.

Anti-Plamm

Concentrate on the historical  
data!

Legend =

childhood - purple

schooling - red

family - green

jobs - blue

organizations, clubs - black