

Abby Nardi's  
interview with  
Edward Petroff

me: My name is Abby Nardi. I'm interviewing my Grandpa Edward Petroff about his jobs, his life, and his leisure activities and the date is February 21, 1993.

me: OK. When and where were you born?

grandpa: I was born in Stambaugh Township of Iron County May 28, 1928.

me: On a farm?

grandpa: On a farm, yes. Them days we didn't, uh, they had a lady that would help with the birth of children so that we didn't, I wasn't born in a hospital, I was born on a farm.

me: Uh-huh and what was the year? You already said, yeah, ok. (chuckles) What were the names of your brothers and sisters?

Grandpa: my oldest sister was named Mary and then the next sister was Margaret and the next was Helen and the youngest one was Suzy. my oldest brother was named Peter, the next brother was named George and then there was me and then my younger brother James.

me: OK. Oh, when and where were you married?

Grandpa: Uh, May, uh no, July 19, 1950 at the Caspian St. Cecilia Church.

me: OK.

Grandpa: You gotta hurry up.

me: What did your parents do for a living?

Grandpa: my folks ran a dairy farm, uh, in Stambaugh Township of Iron County.

me: OK. Where did you go to school?

Grandpa: First of all I went to Caspian Grade School from kindergarten to second grade then from second grade to fifth grade I went to Gastra School. From sixth grade to eighth grade I went to Platska school and from ninth grade to twelve grade I went to Stambaugh school. Now Stambaugh is the only one that's still existing, all the other schools aren't there anymore.

me: Uh. Were you a good student?

Grandpa: Oh, I had about a C average.

me: Really. (laughs) Did you go to college?

Grandpa: I had one year of business school and one year of heating and refrigeration.

me: OK. What special memories do you have of growing up in this area?

Grandpa: Well,

me: Do you have any stories?

Grandpa: No, not really. As a child, our entertainment, we never had any T.V., so it was radio. We used to listen to different programs on the radio and Saturday night was always WLS that came out of Chicago with your country music so mainly we listened to that. Other than that we had to make our own entertainment when we were kids with games. Playing kick the can, hide and seek, and we entertained ourselves. We spent a lot of time outside playing, winter or summer. We used to ski, we used to sled ride, we had, if there was a stormy day we used to stay inside and play different card games. That was our main way of entertaining ourselves.

me: Yeah, and you and Grandma grew up together, hey?

Grandpa: Yeah, she was two years behind me in school.

me: Yeah. So you guys used to do stuff together too?

Grandpa: Well yeah, we used to play baseball and different games when we were kids.

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

Grandpa: Well, mainly we'd go, it was fishing, hunting, and in the wintertime skiing, or rabbit hunting. But for entertainment we generally went to the movies.

me: Really?!

Grandpa: On Saturday night. That was the only entertainment. Or we got together and played cards or games.

me: Really!

Grandpa: Like Scrabble or something in that order, we played games. A lot of card games.

me: Do you have any hunting stories?

Grandpa: Pardon?

me: Do you have any hunting stories?

Grandpa: Well not really, Abby. I'd have to think about that a while before I can go back. . . .

me: That's OK.

Grandpa: And think about hunting stories.

me: OK. How old were you when you found your first job and where did you work?

Grandpa: My first job I was seven years old. I had to

Grandpa: fill the woodbox.

me: Really!

Grandpa: for grandma. Your great-grandmother. Everyday when I came in from school. Winter and Summer, I had to fill the woodbox, that was my job. Then the following year, well I say a year later when I was around nine years old I had the job of going everyday in the summer to get the cows. And they had to be home for the seven o'clock milking every night.

me: Did you used to do the milking too?

Grandpa: I had to help with the milking. We used to have to carry the milk from the barn to the milkhouse where it was cooled. And we had milking machines so the minute they were emptied into the pails we'd carry it into the milkhouse where it was cooled. Now that isn't allowable, see, it has to be all tight. They don't carry it like that.

me: Uh-uh. OK. What types of duties did you perform on your first job? Well, you just said that so....

Grandpa: no, wait a while. On the first job when I went out to work outside of the farm job I worked in construction down in Milwaukee from September, October, and November and then when the weather got bad we were laid off. Then I got a job at Seamen Body Welding on the bodies of the cars.

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: All they did at Seamen Body was they made the body

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Grandpa: but the wheels and the engine weren't put on there, they were shipped to Kenosha Wisconsin where they were, the wheels and the engine and all the accessories were put on, the steering wheel, the horn, all the accessories were put on there.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: The seats.

me: Really?

Grandpa: All we did was built the body. I worked there for about three months. I got bored with the job cause I did the same thing every day. I had to weld a certain three spots on the body every day, everyday. I worked there three or four months then I quit and came back to Iron River and in the spring I got a job with the forestry planting trees.

me: Did you?

Grandpa: For the summer and then the trees, say, that were planted the previous year, we'd go in there and cut the brush from around the tree or cut out the currant berry bushes because they carried the disease that would go to the...

me: Oh yeah, uh-uh.

Grandpa: pine trees, see. So I did that all summer. That was in 1949 I believe it was.

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

Grandpa: That you had to put in a full eight hours

Grandpa: and you didn't waste any time because there was somebody waiting for your job. And I worked in construction and it was hard work. But I was young so the work, uh physical part of it didn't bother me except at the end of the day you were tired because them days we never had a union and you had to work study, you know.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: It was outdoor work but very, uh, well I was a laborer. What I was doing was helping build, we'd put the footings in for building homes in Milwaukee and outside on the, uh, there was a subdivision outside of Milwaukee. There was a hundred and some homes going up at one time. And I and the engineer were ~~putting~~<sup>putting</sup> in the forms for laying the concrete for the footings for the cement block basement. And we had a hundred and like thirty homes going up and that's all we did everyday was put them forms in.

me: And you were a teenager?

Grandpa: What?

me: And you were a teenager when you did this?

Grandpa: I didn't hear you.

me: Were you a teenager?

Grandpa: Yeah, I was twenty, well not exactly, you know twenty years old at the time.

me: Ok. Were you ever in the military?

Grandpa: In 1946 I enlisted because I figured I was gonna be drafted and by enlisting for 18 months I could serve my 18 months and then I would be discharged but I had 6 weeks basic training, 10 days home and I went to Korea for the remainder of the time of my 18 months.

me: Really, what was it like?

Grandpa: Well, all we did was, the war, we were in between the wars. We were in between second world war and Korean War so all we did was guard duty. The Russians were on the 38th parallel and we were below the 38th parallel and they were above and we just guarded so that there was no crossing between the Russians and the Korean Constabulary on either side of the line. So I was there for 15 months.

me: Really, when did you come back?

Grandpa: February of 1948 I came back.

me: Really!

Grandpa: February or March it was of 1948. And the Korea war started in 1950 so, and I wasn't called cause I had been in the service.

me: Tell me about when you worked in the underground mines?

Grandpa: Well, I started in 1950, spring of 1950. First I worked on the service as a laborer. We sent supplies underground and did work like building trussels for the ore when the ore would come out from underground. They had a little car that was above the ground, forty feet and about



Grandpa: it stopped the ore in piles until spring when it could be shipped by rail to the boats either in Escanaba or Marquette. We had the jobs of helping to build these trussels. Every spring when it started to warm up they'd tear um down so that they could get in there to move the ore out with a steam shovel then they'd had to steam shovel and we laid the track so that the shovel could get up to the pile and load the cars. And we had to haul coal and move the track for the operator of the steam shovel. Then in the fall when they had the piles clear then we had to build the trussel back out again so they could start again with the stock piling ore. Then later that same fall I went underground and I was a laborer underground. Finally I went mining. I was actually ~~building~~ <sup>drilling</sup> and blasting underground for building raises which are tunnels going from one level to another. (me: yeah.) Then in between the levels we'd run drips that would go horizontal, see, so that you could go in there and mine <sup>out</sup> the ore. that was my job.

me: Really! How um far, ....

Grandpa: How far down?

me: yeah.

Grandpa: Well we were around, oh, from a thousand to <sup>1</sup> fifteen hundred feet. maybe

me: Really?

Grandpa: And I worked there for almost three years and when I got laid off they give us an option to, this was at the Pickend Mather mine in Caspian, see, at the

Grandpa: Brick shire at the Baltic mine, and we had an option if we wanted to go transfer to Hurley Wisconsin so I worked in the mines up there for six months, there we were down, the deepest we were was 4,300 ft. deep.

me: Wow, that's deep!

Grandpa: That's the deepest we were and I worked there about six months and I quit cause I had to travel back and forth and your Grandma had your mother Peggy was about eight years old, no, no, she was only ~~two~~ three years old and Bethy was about five so it was kind of lonesome living up there all alone

me: So you and Grandma were already married and that.

Grandpa: I mean I lived in a boarding house with other miners.

me: Do you remember any accidents that happened?

Grandpa: Well minor there, you know, there wasn't, nobody lost their lives at that mine but then years later when I came back and then I got a job at the Cannon mine, I worked there for nine years, almost ten years, we had one fatality there where one of the miners was working in the stope and the back, or the ceiling, we call it a back, or the sides of the stope came in and ~~crushed~~ ~~crushed~~ <sup>over</sup> crushed and killed him.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Uh-uh.

me: Wow,

Grandpa: It took days to get him out because there was a mound of dirt on top of him.

the

me: were you scared to go back?

Grandpa: No, not really because I was young and you want to earn a living so you felt bad about it and tried to learn something from it, what to do and not what to do cause there's always a danger working underground but what else could we do, we had to go back to work.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: The mine was closed for one day and then we went back to work.

me: wow. During your life time where were you employed the longest?

Grandpa: For Michigan Bell. I worked there for twenty-five years. I started off as a building ~~care~~ and equipment mechanic in the building. I took care of heating and air conditioning for six years and then I had the opportunity to try something else because there was other jobs outside of working in the building which I enjoyed. I figured I'd like to be outside rather than being inside most of the time. (me-yeah.) But I took care of all the boilers and the air conditioning in Marquette.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Uh-uh. For approximately six years. Then I went outside and my job was called an outside plant technician. I did go into buildings. I took care of the air dryers would ~~dry~~ dehydrate air and pump ~~them~~ into the cables, the telephone cables, to keep <sup>it</sup>

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Grandpa: the moisture out because if moisture got in there, it would short out the hairs that, wires that gave you telephone service so what we did is it was pressurized to hold the moisture out so I took care of the machine that dehydrated that air. And when I caught up with that work, I went outside and I <sup>then</sup> located cable for contractors when they wanted to cross over our cable, I would have to identify and show them where the cable would be buried (me: yeah) so they wouldn't cut it.

me: Uh-uh. I remember going to Marquette and seeing your truck and that.

Grandpa: Uh-uh. I had that job for the remainder of the time ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> I worked for the company. (that I worked for the...)

me: Uh-uh. And why did you choose this career? Was it just a way to support Grandma and that?

Grandpa: Well, because Michigan Bell, or at that time it was AT&T, that's American Telegraphing and Telephone, they had good benefits. You had good vacation, holiday benefits, sick benefits, plus health insurance, and it had a good retirement, so it had everything you wanted and the pay was above average when you compared it to any other jobs ~~at~~ <sup>of</sup> that ~~time~~ <sup>sort,</sup> so that's why I choose it. And then later after I worked there for one year, your grandmother got a job. <sup>then</sup>

me: Oh yeah, she was a secretary, yeah.

Grandpa: Your grandma got a job because I heard of an opening for secretary and she put her application in and of out of seven people, she scored the highest so she got the job and of that time she was 37 years old and they

Grandpa: they weren't too reluctant to hire someone of that age but when she scored the highest test, she <sup>body</sup> got the job.

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: So then she worked there for twenty years.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: And retired from the telephone company.

me: OK. Did you ~~re~~quire any special training?

Grandpa: At Michigan Bell you always had training. As technology advanced, you had to learn the new equipment or the testing equipment you had so we were always going to school. I don't know how many times I flew from Marquette to Southfield, to Grand Rapids, to Traverse City and Detroit. We went to different schools that they had for training because as the telephone company advanced, we naturally had to be educated on the new equipment so I'd say about, oh, an average of maybe almost once a year we had to fly to those different locations and have special training for maybe a week, then they also had training locally here for different things. Equipment, if there was a lot of ~~equipment~~ people involved then they'd bring the equipment here and you'd have to have your special training here. Then we had driver's training which was once a year, you went through the same thing every year and you had a supervisor with you that rode in the truck with you, cause we'd done so much driving.

me: Oh really?

Grandpa: Yes. So you had a, we were always taught defensive driving.

me: Defensive, what's that?

Grandpa: Well, you had to watch what the other fella was doing, not only watching how you were driving and be prepared for anything that would come up, you know, like you had to drive so many feet behind a vehicle, you had to pass under only certain restrictions, of course, like hills and curves and a yellow lines you never passed, and these are some of the things they check on you. And you always, when you parked, you had to back it because when you came in there you had a better vision of what was the obstacles around you so you backed it where ever (he said wherever but i am sure he ment where ever) and you always pulled out forward where you would see, uh, you'd ~~had~~ <sup>have</sup> a clear vision.

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: there was a lot of little things I forget now like stopping at railroad crossings and if you'd seen a kid that was playing along the streets or something and it was obvious that he maybe might run out in front of you, you'd beep the horn a little bit so that he was aware that you were coming because Bell was very very strict on that, uh, driving accidents.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Oh yes.

me: I never knew that.

Grandpa: Oh, they had their own driver's training course and here I had driven already for 20 years but they still, they'd review you once a year on it, they'd give you a test.

me: OK. What special equipment or clothing did this job require?

Grandpa: Well, clothing it was mostly, when I worked outside it was just everyday outside ~~side~~ <sup>door</sup> clothing that you'd wear

Grandpa: on a normal day even ~~then~~<sup>if</sup> you weren't working and then equipment, well, it was always specialized to the telephone company like for locating cable, we'd have locators that would sound out through electricity running through the cable, you'd have a little ~~tone~~<sup>tone</sup> on there. You'd plant the cable which would ~~have~~<sup>put</sup> a tone on the cable, see, and then you had an amplifier where you'd go, say, you wanted to go a hundred yards down the road <sup>if</sup> to show where the cable was buried, you'd pick up those little beeps off the cable as you went around (me: Really?!). Then you'd mark it with paint or with flags, little flags then you'd take it that the cable was there.

me: Those are those little yellow flags you see all the time?

Grandpa: No, are's were orange, Michigan Bell ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> orange.

me: OK.

Grandpa: Like a soft ~~color~~<sup>orange</sup> orange was our color.

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

Grandpa: Will you read that once more?

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

Grandpa: Well yes, ~~it~~<sup>you</sup> did. You were working with the public. You had to be ~~also~~ courteous and you had to treat them with respect and try to answer all their questions and to solve their problems and to do, whatever their problems were you had to try and solve 'em or put things in working order as ~~soon~~<sup>quick</sup> as possible

Grandpa: so that they could use your service. If they were down service that meant that Bell wasn't giving the revenue from the long distance calls or any of their equipment that was producing money. And you always had to work with special equipment.

me: yeah. Do you have any stories, like?

Grandpa: Well not really, I located cable for over twenty years and I cut the cables, misjudged the cables once and it was a tow cable and it put everything out in Marquette and from Marquette going west. What happened was I put the tone on the cable but it, they had a steel gas pipe running there and the tone, seeing that the steel pipe had a better carrying capability, the tone jumped to the steel pipe and I mistook that for the cable, the cable went one way and the pipe went the other way, and right in front of K-mart there when they were building the K-mart, and rewidening the highway out, we cut the ~~cable~~ <sup>tow</sup> cable. So we cut the air base off, we cut <sup>↑</sup> the state police off, we cut anything west of Marquette.

me: Oh my God! How long was it all off?

Grandpa: How long?

me: yeah.



Grandpa: Oh it took 'em about four hours to get it back, what I had to do, see, my job I had a mobile phone, them days even at that time and I'm talking fifteen years ago, or twenty years ago almost, and I had a mobile phone in my van, see, and what I did was you go by radio then and I get the operator, and the operator would call my foreman and tell him what happened so they got a slicing crew out there right away and it took a matter of four hours before you got organized, then we had to find the ends because one end we had in the air and the other end was still buried so we had to find the other broken end.

me: Did you get in trouble?

Grandpa: No, nope because it wasn't really my fault. I can't control, I'm only as good as the equipment will perform and the tone jumped to the steel pipe ~~and~~ so I couldn't identify it.

me: Yeah, wow! What was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Grandpa: Well everyday it was a challenge because I had to locate that cable, when the contractor would cross it. And the law was he couldn't dig with a mechanical device within eighteen inches, either side of where I would mark ~~it~~ had marked it so I had to come in that close, I had to be precise otherwise he'd cut that cable I was responsible for it. But most of the times what I would do, unless it

Grandpa: was under the concrete or pavement, I would dig down and identify it and show the contractor that right here this, see, or watch while he was digging. But that was my job every day, that's all I did later was locate <sup>almost</sup> <sub>just</sub> cables. I'd go to the air base, to Big Bay, to Republic, to Channing, Michigammie, and sometimes as far as Sidnaw and Kenton and I'd go to monising and sometimes as far as Newberry. I had to think ~~a~~ while <sup>for</sup> because I've been off the job a while, for locating cables, see. Where ever contractor was or if the roads crew wanted to put signs we had buried tow cable along the road, I'd have to go out and locate the cable so they could put the signs back in, like say a snowplow would knock it out or however they disappeared they'd have to put new signs, I'd go back in there and locate cables so they could put the signs back.

me: Yeah. What was the most rewarding part of your career?

Grandpa: Well, the rewarding part was that you got good pay, you had good vacation plan, you had good holiday plans, and we had a terrific retirement plan, and we had a good health plan, and it was a clean job. You know, I didn't have to go out in the dirt and that. Dog! (He tells their dog to be quiet cause she's barking).

me: Yeah. OK, did any other family members work for the same company?

Grandpa: Yes, your grandmother did, your uncle

Grandpa: Bucky, or Jim, worked for the phone company. You uncle Ronald Sherwood did.

me: Really? He did?

Grandpa: My brother Jimmy worked for the phone company so there was what, that would be five of us working for the phone company and we all worked, your mother (he means grandma) and I worked in the same area, which was Marquette but your uncle Bucky worked in Milwaukee, Jimmy worked in Iron Mountain and your uncle Ronny worked here in Iron River.

me: Yeah. I knew you and grandma did, I didn't think all them did. Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

Grandpa: Well, not really. The only time it was dangerous if you were locating cable where it was underground, power was buried so it was hard to identify the two of 'em but generally you worked with the power company. Although one time the power company misjudged where their cable was buried and they cut it, and it was a, lightning had struck the ground in the front of you and that bacco dug down and cut that cable off.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Yeah, well there, more or less <sup>like</sup> a loud fire-cracker going off, you know, and the arc, what happens is once they, there's an armor on the power cable, and, ah, it blew a transformer out. That wasn't, it was

Grandpa: more scary then it was dangerous.

me: Yeah, and nobody got hurt?

Grandpa: Nobody got hurt.

me: OK. Please describe what your co-workers were like. Did you work, didn't you have a partner?

Grandpa: Well I did when I was underground, working underground in the mine you ~~was~~ always had a partner when you were a miner, you work together. And, they watched you like you watched them so neither one of ~~you~~ yous would get hurt. If there was a great danger, you always warned one or the other and being underground there was always a danger. you had to be alert and watch so that you weren't in an area where there was caving ground or where they were blasting, and when you were underground, the only light you had most of the time was the ~~the~~ little light on your safety helmet and you had to carry the battery on your belt so your field of view to look was only where the light would shine and you had to focus it by moving your head all the time when you did things. In fact when I worked underground after eight, nine years at times during the day when I'd come home even and I'd be looking for something in the dark or it was a little darker area I'd be moving my head trying to put the light on whatever I was looking for because you get so used to doing that being underground. so that was a comical thing. And

Grandpa: every miner did the same thing so -

me: I could just see you guys -

Grandpa: yeah.

me: OK. Could you describe any interesting or humorous events that happened during your career?

Grandpa: Well, not really -

me - Not really, uh-uh.

Grandpa: I mean not something way out of the ordinary. I did see accidents on the road when I was working for Bell. They weren't humorous, they were fatal accidents where -

me: Car accidents?

Grandpa: Yes, we were at Humboldt where it was just as slick as could be but I had to go and do some work that day up at Republic, I don't recall it was Republic or Michigammie, and this elderly couple slid in the path of another car because it was so slick and there was an older woman, I would say she was in her seventies, and then a fourteen year old girl that got killed.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Yeah, and I was the first one there so having a mobile phone in the van I called for the police and the ambulance to come from Marquette, and there was one woman, trapped in there, she couldn't get out, ~~she~~ I couldn't <sup>was</sup> open the car door.

me: Really?

Grandpa: Yeah, the mother of the girl.

me: Did you just stay there <sup>with her</sup> until they came?

Grandpa: Yes and I had flares with so I put flares out.  
me: Yeah, wow.

Grandpa: And more cars piled up, kept piling up because the cars were crossways on the road and they couldn't stop so there musta been about forty cars that piled up. Nobody else got seriously hurt but they-

me: Forty cars? Oh my God.

Grandpa: Yes. See this was about eight o'clock in the morning and when there was a lot of traffic so-

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: That's why there were so many cars out at that time. But the little girl, fourteen years old, was dead in the car, I didn't even know she was in there the car got hit so bad she was under the dash. We took her mother out, in the other car the elderly was dead because them days they didn't have a seat belt on and her head hit the windshield when she crashed so she was dead in the car too. And I helped the state police and the ambulance when they did arrive to take them out so that's always in my memory and another time in Ishpeming I, there was an elderly fella after a snow storm blowing snow with a snowblower and when I came up over the hill there he was laying in the middle of the street. He had a heart attack and he died.

me: Really?

Grandpa: And I didn't know where he come from, I didn't know his house so I followed back on the tracks

Grandpa: of the snow because he was a about a path a block he was blowing the snow off the sidewalk, see, so momentarily it stunned me because I had to figure out where he was living, see. So when I went to the door his wife was there and when she seen me and I said that your husband was laying on the street and I think he's had a heart attack you should call an ambulance immediately so she ran in and I already knew he was dead -

me: Uh-uh. But you didn't want to tell her.

Grandpa: I didn't want to go telling her what had happened so the fireman came up there with a fire truck and the ambulance came up but he was already dead.

me: Wow. At any time did you feel like changing careers?

Grandpa: No.

me: No, yeah.

Grandpa: No, I was very pleased with the work with Bell. Like I mentioned two or three times before, all the benefits were there and we had good working hours and the clean job so I see no reason to change.

me: Uh-uh. What was your biggest responsibilities on the job? Probably getting the thing right, hey?

Grandpa: Well yes, to make sure I found the cable cause when you cut cable, when I was locating cable, you put people out of service from hospitals from fire departments to police departments and if it was the tow cable, like I did one time, I put out the state police and people at the air base so it was very important that you were precise and did your job right. There was no room for mistakes.

me: Did you get any like special awards or anything?

Grandpa: Well I got, I was commended by different departments when I do work for 'em, you know. And say like even the highway department, or the Michigan State highway department, the air base or the Iron County road commission when I'd have to locate cable for them for their construction work or their maintenance work their supervisor would send letters and commend you that I did a good job, you know, that I was prompt and accurate like even with the air base I'd have to go out there and locate cable.

me: Uh-uh. Did you get any special awards for like that guy and that car accident or anything?

Grandpa: No, no. Other than being commended for it. And certain people after I finished the job would always thank me that I did a good prompt job and after it and very cooperative. Sometimes I had to go out of my way to, I mean beyond what the job called for but I'd do it and then they appreciated that. In fact they called direct to the company and ask for me without, you know, to come, that they'd like to talk to me about doing certain jobs, see, because they'd knew that I'd always give 'em what was best to my ability.

me: Uh-uh. OK. During your days of employment and beyond, what have been your favorite hobbies or leisure activities?

Grandpa: I didn't get that.

me: Like you hunted and that, hey?

Grandpa: Yeah, hunted, fish, and then later as my seniority built up and my time with the company and I was allowed more vacation time, I was allowed up to thirty days and your grandmother was allowed up to thirty days and then later it was even five weeks, you know, up to five weeks, we did a lot of traveling. Cause you know, grandma and I, travelled by vehicle from here to Alaska and back so we took two months off from work and did that,



me: Yeah, tell me about all them states you visited, like didn't you visit -

Grandpa: Well, we went through, I would say at least on 35 states, maybe more. Off hand I can't recall the exact number but mostly out west we travelled and, like every state we go through now, later years, I made it a habit of collecting license plates so you can see them hanging here on the shop wall that, I'd go to the junk yards and, for maybe 50¢ or \$1.00 you could buy the whole license plate just from every state that we went to and I have most of the states I've went through. Some of 'em they have to return the license plate when they get the new plate so it's hard to get the license plates in all the states. And I have Canadian plates too.

me: Yeah, I've seen that up there too.

Grandpa: Every province that we went through or territory in Canada I always got the license plate. From the Yukon to Saskatchewan and Alberta -

me: Yeah, I'd seen Ontario up there.

Grandpa: And Ontario. I'd collected all the license plates.

me: Yup.

Grandpa: And I love to travel. We spend ~~every~~ every year up to thirty days or more in Montana alone going out there to fish, of course visiting friends and relatives but to fish and go to the old gold mining towns and historical sights over there.

me: Yeah, and where did you get that petrified wood from?

Grandpa: That was in Mexico.

me: you went to Mexico?

Grandpa: Yeah, a while off. New Mexico.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: It was outside of the Petrified National Forest and we went on a ranch and there was just, it looked like a logger had ~~gone~~ in there and knocked all these trees down and <sup>went</sup> cut them in irratic size blocks but never took any of it so that's where I picked up all these peices of petrified wood.

me: Yeah, cause me, Chelli, and Anna have a lot of it, you know.

Grandpa: Have you? ~~Yeah~~ I gave you some, hey?  
yeah,

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: OK. Someday I've got more, I'm gonna give it to some organization, like I <sup>even</sup> should bring some down to the museum in Caspian.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: Just for people, cause around here how many people look at it? Like you've never seen petrified wood before and I have that big block right there by the heater.

me: Uh-uh.

Grandpa: That's over a hundred pounds.

me: Yeah. All my friends come and they're like what is this? It's

me: wood. And I'm like no, it's petrified wood and I always have to sit there and tell 'em about it.

Grandpa: Grandma and I picked a whole milkcrate full of chips and when you put it on a pile you would take it for wood chips. Well, it's wood chips but it's a petrified wood. When you pick it up then you know the difference.

me: Yeah, I like that stuff.

Grandpa: And I've collected rock from all over. I have, they call it, we went to the Crater of the Moon in Idaho and I've picked up a crate full of lava rock.

me: Really?

Grandpa: When you go there, it's just like walking on the moon. There's no trees or anything. All it is is the ash from the eruption of the volcanic action that took place and there's no pit or anything but there was volcanic action of some type at one time so it looks, just like your walking on the moon. all ashes.

me: Do you still have that lava rock?

Grandpa: Yeah, I've got a lot of it.

me: Is it packed away now?

Grandpa: No, it's under the snow now in the crates outside but someday when you and Anna come over I'll, you can pick.

me: Yeah. Show me some of that stuff.

Grandpa: Everywhere I go I pick up different ore rocks. Right there is a piece of rock from Montana from a quartz mine.

me: Really?

Grandpa: And I have a Yellowstone rock.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: And I have marble out there and I have a piece of granite. When you go to these different places where you mine it, I'll take a little sample of it.

me: Yeah, a little, yeah.

Grandpa: I like to collect those sort of things.

me: Yeah, I know. Didn't you go to a mine and get that little piece of wood up there?

Grandpa: ~~Yeah~~ Yeah, that little board hanging on the wall came ~~out~~ out of an old gold mining town.

me: Yeah.

Grandpa: And the reason I took it was to write on there the remainder. Just like I have that little, see that little donkey, that's part of a donkey harness. A wooden part of the donkey harness for pulling things and I got that out of an old gold mine.

me: Really? I love all this old stuff. I'm always looking around here. Oh. Were you a member of a union?

Grandpa: Yes, I was a member of the United Steel Workers Union when I worked in the mine and then I was a member of the CWA which is the Communications Workers Union of America so those are the two places I was a member of the union cause I worked there the longest.

me: Uh-oh. Oh. Well, tell me more about your travelling. Like you travelled with people alot, you and Grandma.

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Grandpa: Well, every time that we travelled, we always try to pick out a different route. Like here, if we go west, there's only so many routes to take. But we took US2 from Iron River and we went all the way to Seattle Washington on US2. I've always wanted to do that because I've always thought that US2 started at Sault Marie, see, I mean not Soo Sault Marie but St. Ignace<sup>500</sup> where you crossed the bridge then in later years I found out it ~~was~~<sup>goes</sup> all the way to Maine.

me: all the way to Maine?

Grandpa: Ya, I thought that was the beginning of it and I've always wanted to go as far as it went and, well we ended up, it didn't exactly end in Seattle, there was a little town above Seattle where it ended, I can't remember, the city above Seattle, north of Seattle is where it ended. But it was interesting to go around that route. And you go through Iron River twice on there. You go through Iron River Wisconsin too, see.

me: There's an Iron River Wisconsin?

Grandpa: Uh-uh, I always tell your Grandmother boy we've travelled for two hours now were still in Iron River. And then I took a lot of these famous highways like highway 40, in New Mexico and Arizona. Well, there's something about travelling that everybody should see and that's to go see the Glacier National Park, the Yellowstone, see your Sequoia National Park where you have the largest trees, go to your Redwood National Park which we did and then we went to Mt. St. Helens after the eruption and I went to Crater Lake where there's a crater believed to be caused by a meteorite. Now I never did study it or I don't recall what the background is on that but anyways we went to a lot of old ghost towns like Virginia City and Nevada City in Montana and we went to Reno Nevada where there's gambling just to see what it was all about, never interest me. I went to San Francisco where we went to China Town -

Grandpa: And we went over the bridge and under the bridge of the Golden Gate Bridge. And you see historic places like the San, ah, I can't remember the name of the prison there in, it's a famous prison in California now. I think it's a federal prison. We went right by it. Then you see the one cut in the rock.

me: Oh, that um, . . . . Alcatraz.

Grandpa: Alcatraz, yeah. You could see that beautiful from, when you crossed the bridge and then from San Francisco you could see it. And we went to the Fisherman's Wharf, that's where all the fisherman go out, they leave San Francisco to go out in the Bay or out in the ocean to fish and I travelled from Seattle Washington, we went all the way down to Longtop California on highway, California 1 and US 1 and then we took US 101 and we took highway 5 so we travelled all along the coast, your grandmother and I did. Went through all the little towns, right on the coast. In fact we spent many nights camping right on the coast, on the Pacific Ocean.

me: Were trying to talk my dad into going out west but he wants to go to Cedar Point and that but like me and my mom, I want to go out west and I want to see all that stuff but -

Grandpa: And we travel, I go out west to Montana a lot because of course we have friends and relatives there and I love to fish and when you go out camping or travelling there, there's not that many people, because Montana being the fourth largest state and ~~there's~~ only has about 800,000 people living in there so there's a lot of room to travel and there's not many people. I don't like to go where there's a lot of people. In fact when we travel, I always go around cities.

me: Yeah. And that's where Peter and ~~the~~ Linda live?

Grandpa: yes, Pete and Linda live in Gardner Montana and they both work in the Yellowstone Park with the park service.

me: Oh, what was the biggest deer you ever shot?

Grandpa: I shot several ten points but that's as big as I did as far as the rack was concerned but I shot one buck about 15 years ago that when we dressed it out the only way we could weigh it was to take each quarter of the deer and take your bathroom scale, see, and we'd weigh each quarter then subtract our body weight and when we got done, added up the quarters, there was 168 pounds of dressed meat.

abby: Oh my god!

Grandpa: So I don't know how big that buck was. I would say ~~around~~ <sup>it was about</sup> 250 or 260 pounds. I didn't realize it until we started to skin it out how humongous it really was. That's the biggest deer, I shot several 10 pointers, a lot of 8 pointers. When I was a kid that was our entertainment. And I just didn't wait for hunting season to come around. We ~~we~~ went hunting, in the fall we'd start in Oct. or Sept., Oct., Nov. and we hunted cause, ah, we ate a lot of venison when we were kids.

me: Uh-uh, still do.

Grandpa: And we still do. But now an days you don't hunt that way cause the fine is so great and then you have to conserve our game so that when you guys want to go hunting or fishing it'll be there.

me: yeah, you never took me fishing!

Grandpa: I know but your dad never came down to go fishing.  
me: cause you know that bridge -

Grandpa: On the river down there?  
<sup>the</sup> bridge?

me: Yeah, I want to go there and fish.

Grandpa: Well, I got the ice fishing shack out. I put the hole in there yesterday. we have one hole thats 20 by 40 inches wide and one hole thats 20 by 37 inches wide. And you have a wooden ~~heater~~ <sup>heated</sup> heater in there to keep you warm and you sit there just like were sitting now and fish and you can see all the fish come in the hole. I've got it on Chicagoan lake.

me: Yeah. Didn't you and Grandma ~~also~~ also canoe a lot?

Grandpa: Well we did, once. Grandma panicked and she grabbed, we were in deep water, she went and grabbed a branch on the shore. I told her not to touch anything now when we go through these rapids, there was a deep hole, we were at the end of the rapids. And she got panicked cause we were going up close to the shore and grabbed a branch and wouldn't leave it go and it just polled the canoe upside down but we had life jackets on so there was no danger except that she did get awfull scare and when I was scared was that she could tangled, I had an anchor rope in there so we could anchor the canoe when we wanted to, you know just drop it in the water and then stop for a while. I was scared she'd get tangled in that rope, even though she had a life jacket on, and drown.

me: Ok. In closing do you have anything else that you would like to add?

Grandpa: The only thing I can say is that you should be the best citizen you know how to be and that you should work hard to preform the best that your capable of doing and always remember to treat the other fella like you want to be treated and you should have no problems



Grandpa: and by saying these things I feel that you should really consider them because you only come in this world one time, you only make one trip to this world so make it good.

Abby - OK. Thank-you.

grandpa - OK Abb.