

Dannetta Niemisto
interviewing
Spencer felt

me - When and where were you born?

Mr. S. - When and where was I born.
I was born in National Mine
In 1926, January 15. Up
close to the school.

me. - What were your father's
occupations?

Mr. S. - My father worked for the
Hercules powder company.
He was an electrician.

me - How many brothers and
sisters did you have?

Mr. S. - I have only 1 brother
and 7 sisters.

me - where did you go to school?

Mr. S. - I went to National Mine School until World War II broke out and I went into the Navy and after the Navy I finished my high school in Isthmian.

me - Did you bring your lunch or did you have hot lunch?

Mr. S. - Well in the winter time we brought our own lunch in the summer time we ran home and ate.

me - what kind of food did you eat?

mr. S. - well in them days it was pretty poor so we mostly had peanut butter sandwiches.

me - ok, Did you ride a bus to school?

mr. S. - No, I walked even when I was in kindergarten. It was over a mile.

me - were you in any organizations or clubs?

mr. S. - (coughed) yah I belong to a couple of clubs, UFW, a small club, the Brownstone club.

me - Did you have any favorite teachers?

Mr. S. - No I didn't have any favorite teachers.
(he laughs)

me - Did you have any favorite subjects?

Mr. S. - Mostly history, mathematics

me - Which one impressed you the most of your teachers and subjects?

Mr. S. - Not really any of them (he laughs)

me. - What did you do for entertainment?

Mr. S. - Well we would ski
ride in the winter
time and play ball
in the summer (sure).

me - What were some
of your jobs at
home?

Mr. S. - I believe all the
jobs at home were
mine even washing
dishes, cutting wood
chopping wood, planting
gardens.

me - What did you do
on holidays?

Mr. S. - We didn't do very
much on holidays
not back in our
day

me - what kind of car
did you drive?

mr. s. - well I ... learned to
drive in a Model A
Ford but I had driven
a Model T before that,

me - What sort of epidemics
were there?

mr. s. - There weren't any
that I can remember,
polio maybe.

me - Did the doctor come to
your house or did you
go and see him?

mr. s. - Well the doctors came
to the house. I can
remember when Doc. Hart
chased me through the
fields just to give me
(page 6)

Mr. S. - a whooping cough shot. He
(continued from
last page) caught me in the middle
of the field and I got
the shot

me - During the Depression
did your dad have a
job?

Mr. S. - Yeah he worked, not
very often. during, at
the Hercules Powder
Company.

me - When you were younger
did you listen to the
radio?

Mr. S. - That's all we had to
to was listen to the
radio.

me - Did you listen to
the President.

Mr. S. - I don't believe they
were on. I don't
think they maybe
once a year the
president would talk
yah. Ain't like today.

me. - Where did you work.

Mr. S. - where did I work. Well
I started off work
in a bakery. When
I was 15 years old
then I went into the
navy and I went
and worked many
places and I worked
36 years for the Cleveland Cliffs
Iron Company. [Page 8]

me. - What did you do there?

Mr. S. - I was an electrician,

me. - What was your most

funny experience in
National Mine.

Mr. S. - (he laughs) I don't know

(he laughs again) what the
funniest one was. I

couldn't really tell you
what the funniest. I

suppose on Halloween

we pushing over
out houses. I suppose

that was sort of funny
eh. (he laughs).

me - What was. When was your
worst winter?

Mr. S. - 1938 was a big snow storm. I remember that. I had to take my dad's lunch to the Powder Mill. On skis and I stayed down there 2 days. I didn't even get home myself.

me - Who were your best friends?

Mr. S. - Who were my best friends? I everybody - everybody my best friend.

me - How did you and your friend get into mischief?

Mr. S. - We never got into mischief.

me - That's not what I heard.

Mr. S. - Yeah I know but they used to call me the little rebel. I suppose, I can remember locking the teachers out of school (he laughs) I got disciplined for it. I got it 2 places. I got it at home too. (he laughs some more)

me - Were you in any wars?

Mr. S. - yah. I was in
World War II

me - what did you do
in the war?

Mr. S. - I was in the
navy a baker in

the navy. Over
seas in the Pacific,
South Pacific.

me - was there anybody
else in your family
in a war.

Mr. S. - No I was the only
one.

me. - Do you know any-
thing about the Carp
River forge?

Mr. S. - Pardon me.

me. - Do you know anything
about the Carp River forge?
(page 12)

Mr. S. - Not to much no
we went to see the
but I don't know
its just like the
Iron showing you
the what happened
under ground back in
them I worked
underground too.