

Ron Talbacka's interview  
with  
Ron Talbacka Sr.

me: My name is Ron Talbacka and I'm interviewing Ron Talbacka Sr, at his home.

me: Where were you born and raised?

Dad: I was raised in National Mine and I lived there since 1938, went to school there and I lived on a farm there until 1965.

me: what kind of chores did you have?

Dad: Oh, chores, there was all kinds of chores, wood cutting and hauling, barn chores, hay season, potato picking, pulp hauling, firewood.

me: Where did you haul most of your pulp from?

Dad: There was a old swamp by the Greenwood mine.

me: Who all helped you haul wood?

Dad: Usually by myself, but my dad helped some times.

me: Who all lived on the farm with you?

Dad: grandmother, grandpa, my brother and I, and my mother and dad.

(me: What kind of farm equipment did you have on the farm?

Dad: An old 1929 Model A truck made into a homemade tractor, a horse for doing farm work with, then grandpa got kinda modern and bought an old iron-wheeled tractor, which was no good.

me: what did you have for a family car?

Dad: Grandfather had a Model A, My father had, oh several of them, old 1937 Nashes, Fords, up into the 50's when he finally got a newer model.

me: what kind of cars did you ~~and~~ and your brother have?

Dad: I've had 37 models, 1940 Fords, 1946 Fords, and my brother was kinda chevolett man, he had a 56 chev, and before that he had a 51 mercury.

me: what did you's live off of most of the time?

Dad: Well at the farm we raised most of our own stuff, we had potato fields, beef cattle, chickens, hogs, and a few geese running around.

me: where did you do most of your hunting too?

dad: Oh, Hemmings lake, up in the Green hills,

me: did you hunt all year-round or just deer season?

dad: (laughing) Just Deer Season

me: how many ~~and~~ guys stayed up there with ya?

dad: Oh, there was up to 9 people in that tent.

me: what did you use for getting out there?

dad: Gus keto had a old 1 ton international truck, if the snow was deep we'd use that.

me: what kind of friends did you hang around with in National Mine during your spare time?

dad: ~~to~~ Jug Ostala from stoneville, Dudley and Bruce Nelson, ~~and~~ from No. 8 location, David Mannikko from down by the school there, Alvan later, my next door neighbor.

me: what did you do for entertainment?

dad: well, for entertainment we used to slide on cardboard down the bluff, ski ride on those poor pine skis we used to have, go swimming in the summer time, when we had time, which was kinda treat to go.

me: where did you go swimming too?

dad: Old Lilly Pond over in Mitchell hill location, eby creek, No. 3 Pit.

me: what kind of bikes did you use for getting around?

dad: I got my first Schwinn bike, well I was a little bit too small to ride it so I pushed it for 2 or 3 years before I could finally ~~get~~ get on top of it.

me: what did your friends use for getting around, or did they walk?

dad: Most of them walked.

me: Did most of em' live right in national mine?

dad: Oh, they were more so on the outskirts.

me: Where did you buy your groceries from?

dad: Down at the old National food store down in Fishpening, next ~~to~~ to the butler theatre, for 20 bucks a week you could fill the back seat of our old 37 ~~chev~~ chev.

me: How much a week could you go down to Annala's store, or could you go anytime?

dad: Wadya mean?

me: well did your parents let you go down there anytime you wanted or ~~it~~ only allow certain times?

dad: Maybe once a week we could go down there with a nickle.

me: How much could you buy with that?

Dad: I thing bubblegum was 2 for a penny at that time.

me: When you first moved off the farm where did you live, and where did you work.

dad: Well when I moved off the farm I moved out here south of Ishpeming out in Green creek Location, that was 1965 and I been here ever since.

me: where did you work most of the time.

dad: For P+M contractors in Ishpeming since 1959.

Before that I worked in a garage for 2 years, and 1 summer at the air base.

me: When you got older, what was the first kind of snowmobile you had?

dad: In 1964 I bought a Huski snowmobile from Kroon Forest Products, I had that until 1966, then I bought a scorpion from Kroon Forest Products.

me: where did you used to go ridding too?

dad: Oh, we'd go out to the Greenhills and stay in an old tin shack out there & stay for a week or 2 at a time. Later on we got better machines back "68 & 69" and take longer runs like down to Ralph & Republic.

me: who used to go on the rides with ya?

dad: Oh, usually a gang of us, Norman Holmes, my brother Jimmy, Louie ~~My~~ Myers, four wives.