

Jenny Bleau's
interview with
Lempi Warlin

This is Jenny Bleau interviewing my great grandmother Lempi Warlin, on February 20, 1993 in her home in Negaunee, Michigan. The purpose of the interview is for Red Dust at National Mine School.

Me - When and where were you born?

Lempi - I was born in Humbolt, Michigan in 1909, September the fifth.

Me - Okay, what were your parents' names?

Lempi - My father's name is Peter Koski and my mother's name was Hilma. They came from Finland, in 1907 to Ishpeming, Michigan.

Me - Okay, what are the names of your brothers and sisters, if you have any?

Lempi - I had four brothers and four sisters. My sisters' names were Lydia, Allen, and Saima. That's only three sisters, alright, I had four brothers John, Waino, Peter, and Arthur. Arthur died in his infancy he was only two years old, died in the flu epidemic in 1919.

Me - Did you ever see him?

Lempi - Yes, ya, he was at home, he died at home, my mother fixed him for, my father made ^{him} the casket and my mother washed him and made him white out fits for to where in his casket and my father buried him, we couldn't find no minister. My father buried and dug his grave and buried him in Humbolt.

me - Were you married?

Lempi - Yes, I was married in 1931, to Frank Ludwick Peterson from Misula, Michigan.

Me - Where did you get married at?

Lempi - We got married in Republic Parsonage. That was the habit them days because nobody could afford a wedding and my mother was a widow and my father died when he was in 1921, and I got married in, in 1931.

Me - Did you have any children?

Lempi - Nine children, Benjamin born in 1932, Abraham born February 12, 1934, Norma Lorane, that's your mother's mother, and Marie, Mildred, Julia, Armeilia, Esther, and Eleanor. That's two boys, two older boys, and seven girls.

Me - Wow! Okay, what did your parents do for a living?

Lempi - My mother ~~was~~ a school janitor in Black River for 21 years until they started bussing and my father worked in the mines and he died when he was thirty-four years old and at that time they worked ten hours a day and the wages were to start with one dollar a day.

Me - Where did you go to school at?

Lempi - I went to school in, in Humbolt Township District Number Five Elementary School, eight grades, that was the limit.

Me - There was no high school?

Lempi - No high school, we would a had to go to Ishpeming and experience my older sister Lydia had in Ishpeming, she went four months in high school my and my mother didn't have money to send us. (she pauses) That's when I wanted to, I started corresponding ^{schools} with Washington School of Art in Chicago and it ended up that I come acquainted with, I got a letter from a fella by the name of Walt Disney.

Me - Oh!

3

Lempi - And um, I corresponded with him and we ended up as one of the top classes in the Art Exhibit and we were givin' a free ride to Chicago and he had wrote to me and said Although I live in Missouri, my mother and I am going to be there and my mother and I will meet you at the railroad station if you come there. That was the only transportation we had, but my mother said you go there and you'll never come back.

Me - So you didn't meet him?

Lempi - I didn't meet him, I never met him. Although we were in Los Angeles when he started the Disneyland over there, But I never seen, I never looked him up, there's no point to it, I was married anyhow and had a house full of kids then. (We both chuckle)

Me - ~~What special memories do you have of growing up in this area?~~

Lempi - Oh I have many nice memories. On the farm we were very secure and we had to go to bed at 9:00, summer and winter. The birds were still jumping in the trees when we went to, we could hear the Whippoorwill Birds singing on, on a branch right next to our window, but we could never see that bird. He was sosly he'd hide in the leaves. (we giggled) They were really cute! And I had a happy childhood as far as that goes. I had, there was nothing to do and we were content, not a dull moment, ^{we learned to milk cows} we learned to do things that all the other kids had to do. So we didn't have much time for being out of things to do, my mother was that kind we had to do something, cut carpet rags for her as soon as we were able to hold scissors (she giggles) and knit stockings or mitts, we had to do our own soon as she made sure we did.

me - Did you enjoy doing that?

Lempi- Ya, sure did!

Me- What did you like about it?

Lempi- Oh, it was something to do, There was no tv, no radio, no nothing, and we didn't miss those thing because we never had seen one. (she chuckles)

Me- Oh!

Lempi- Ya, Then when we moved to the farm from Humbolt. Humbolt in 1912, I mean I was born in Humbolt. Alright, we lived close to the highway across the street was a big General Store and next to that was a Lutheran Church, next to that was the city hall, next to that was the railroad station. We'd watch the trains go by four times a day. Now, there is no railroads, there is no houses there in the location we lived in was a mining location and there was about twenty or more homes there. There's none there now, except in the Red Kettle Antique shop, or whatever. And we used to wave, we would get on the porch when it was time for the train to come, we could hear it blowing at the station. We would run to the front porch and we would wave with our both hands for the conductors, they would take their hat off and swing it at us. (we laughed) I think they looked for us just as much as we looked for them.

Me- Ya!

Lempi- Ya, well we moved away in 1914 and we moved from Humbolt and one neighbor from Black River, he had a horse and sleigh and he come and we moved in December of 1913 and they wanted us to stay for the Christmas holiday, this was the day before Christmas. And we stayed the Christmas holiday at their house and that was an interesting Christmas, which I always treasure, it's very out standing, that lady had every thing set there

5
She had beautiful lace curtains, log cabin, a big long cabin, at one end was the bedroom, one end was the kitchen and the living room was in between. She had a big, big table set with a white tablecloth, all the candles with their holders, the old fashioned kind that clip on like clothespins into the tree. They had them all in a row there and then my mother and her, they set up us her children, five of them, and four of my, me and my sisters and brothers sat all around the Christmas tree. Just in the middle of the dining area, alright here was the big Christmas tree and then they lit the candle and we had to sit in one place with our hands crossed, sitting on our knees and when they got through lighting all the candles and clipping them on the tree, then we all stood up and formed a ring and went around the Christmas tree singing. And then we went when we got home the funniest part was, there was, of course we were used to outside toilets but we didn't have one yet. Father didn't have time to build it because we were so far out in the woods. About 10 miles from the railroad station in Humboldt. So what we had was a couple of trees, that were part of trees and two trees next to each other, that's where they had (the phone rings). As I was going to say we didn't have no outside toilet we had to go with a tree, part of a tree cut down across another tree nailed on and a Sears Roebuck catalog hung up for toilet paper. And we didn't have no, that was our outside toilet until spring. Then one of the neighbors came and helped to build one. Because father worked 6 days a week, 10 hours a day and a dollar a day to begin with. And he had to stay in Ishpeming because it was too far and no transportation. He'd stay the weeks in Ishpeming, Saturday after he work many hours he hopped on the train to Humboldt and walked 10 miles to the farm. And later on he bought a bicycle that he'd use in the summertime. He would stay all week in the rail-
gonna bring it home, that monster is kill me he said. (we laugh)
one day he decided he's
from Hooper's in Republic. And
and we had some kind of clay
and he came home and said he is

Me - Did he get hurt?

Lempi - No, he didn't get hurt, but he ripped the pocket out of his new suit, so then Jonas Hingala came along and said is that your motorcycle, I heard you were buying a motorcycle I came to see it. He said yes it is mine, but I'm gonna sell it. I'll buy it and he did. He was working in the mine as a single man, he had money, so he bought it and that was the end of the transportation. And he had ordered a car then from Hooper's but he died before the car came out. He had to pay it so much a month ahead of time, it was paid for but what could he do? He expired in January and in February of 1911 he got a notice that his car was ready but he couldn't take it so that's one thing that I was really attached to my dad, although, he wasn't home much but he was very religious and we had to learn a Bible verse everyday and as soon as we were able to talk, we had to listen all the time. We learned the Lord's Prayer and we learned the Commandments and a lot of things, it was like a Sunday school and he would read the Bible for us every Sunday morning and Sunday

Afternoon he had to leave, walk back to Humbolt and get the train to Ishpeming and then walk to his Boarding House that even wasn't right there (she giggles)

Me - He did a lot of walking, heh!

Lempi - Yeah, he sure did, no wonder he died when he was 34 years old.

Me - (I giggle) Yeah!

Lempi - He died in 19, he had lived on the farm not too long, about 5 years, then my mother

got left alone with 6 kids, my brother was only 9 months old and then the worst thing that happened a year later my mother ^{got} pneumonia in January and Dr. Van Riper had come there and in the day time and the teacher was there interpreting, we had to teach a Boarding House every year and the doctor told the teacher that she wouldn't live 'til morning and these kids can't be left here alone and she said well I'm going home tonight it's Friday, I'm going home, so then one of the older girls had stayed, Mamie Bimola stayed with us and then the teacher said you get Papa and Moomoo Bimola so then I was only not quite 10 years old and my sister said you go and my brother ^{said} well I'll go with her so I can take care of her in a January storm and that's when the 2 kids got lost in the woods, was all night in the woods and we slept under a fall tree, where the snow didn't hit us too bad. In the morning when I awoke, there was only a little hole where the sun shined on my face, so I started looking for my brother in that snow, grabbing for him and I finally found him. He had pulled his cap over his face so the snow won't go in his eyes and I took that cap off over his eyes and said, hey, wake up the sun is shining. And he said Oh, Oh, I thought I was home. The lantern had gone out, that's why we got lost, the wind was blowing so hard and then when we looked at the opening there we could see our way, we were following the opening because there was pine trees on both sides, we followed that opening then that where we went wrong, we got to the opening of Nick Aho's farm, Nick and Anna were living there then, and Papa and Moomoo Bimola were just a little ways off and we had to go on our hands and knees part of the way, I said look at the smoke that's Anna's and Nick's house the smoke is coming from there so we went towards the smoke, we got to their house and there was Vanner Bimola, he had come there, he had went home for a rifle, he said there's two cubby bears coming towards your house, he walked to his father's and mother's house to grandpa Bimola's and come back with his gun and didn't get to use it

Me - He thought you were the bears?

Lempi - Two bears, yeah, they sometimes wander off you know, especially in a storm and Anna took us in and gave us breakfast and Vanner went back to his Grandpa's with his gun and fixed up his team of horses and they put in the back of a sleigh some straw and then some sheep wool covers and we went under the fellers, they called them and Papa and Moomoo took us home, the horses were just foaming it was so hard for them to tramp through the snow, you know because there was many places where the snow was drifted so high but the horses had to go through it, we got home and my mother was doing a lot better. She could not stand up but she was able to talk, boy were we glad because we told Moomoo, if my mother is

dead, I'm gonna come to your house. (she laughs) Well, anyway she 7
got better from there and that worry was over, but we were very
conscientious about my mother, she had to leave at 6:00 in the
morning, first, she'd stop at the barn to give water for the cows
and give hay for the cows, then she'd get 2 pails of water and
carry them to the schoolhouse, no water up there. And she'd put it
in the water tank and then take care of the furnace and dust the
seats and then come home, go and milk the cows before we went
to school because we had a baby in the house all the time. Well,
we had a teacher too, but she didn't take part in the work you know
and a lot of times my mother, when she left in the morning she
always had a kettle boiling in both rooms, front room stove and
kitchen stove and she'd have her coffee made and she have a cup
of coffee and she'd leave the oatmeal pot on and put the oat-
meal in there, put the chair by the stove and I with a big spoon
would watch the oatmeal, she said when it starts boiling real hard,
blow on it and put the spoon in there, then move it aside, but don't
move it while it's foaming because you'll get in your face and get
it on the stove. You don't want to dirty the stove so that's what
I would do, I learned how to cook oatmeal. (we laughed) Yeah,
life went on, after father died it was the same thing she would
carry the water in the evening into the barn. She had to carry the
water into the house and carry the waste water outside. We had
a honey bucket inside and that was always full. (she chuckles)
If you know what I mean? Mother had to empty that all the
time, that was a chore too, but that changed after a while.
When my brother got out of the Army he put in a bathroom for her and
he put in water for her and my husband built her kitchen cabinets
and she had everything she thought she was, and he put in a
phone, and electric lights, where before we had kerosene lights.
But the teacher that was with us for 3 years — Jarvala from
Republic, she bought me a crochet hook and some crochet thread
and she showed me how to crochet, thanks to her. You know, my
mother didn't have time for that she would knit all the time or
be wacking with the carpet looms. Woop! Woop! Woop! You
know, ya and we had to be cutting carpet rags for her as
soon as we were able to. She would sell carpets and she'd go
and deliver babies in one house she delivered 7 children
because the doctor didn't get there because of the thick snow
he couldn't get there, and it was my mother who would go
there, in the middle of the night, it was quite hard for the
people, and they, my mother didn't expect any but they'd
always give either some eggs or my mother didn't have

chickens or either meat or milk, in the winter time our cow went & dry they give milk or whatever. She'd sheer sheep in the summer time for 4 different families. One family had 19 sheep and my mother would go there early in the morning and be gone all day and we were left by ourself we were nothing but knee high to a grasshopper. I tell you I learned a little bit about taking care of myself as well as others we had to help each others, I was always responsible for the baby, my sister had the biggest responsibility she had to make sure that we ate, she did her best, can't complain.

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

Lempi - Well, I came to Ishpeming when I was 15 years old, and I got, I had a hard time getting a job because I had no references, naturally, and one day there came a lady to my Aunt's house and she said she wanted me to go baby sit for them and maybe longer and she told these people I was in the front room changing diapers for her baby and dressing her up because she had just woke up and she told, she better go back to the farm and marry a farmer and take care of them "shittails." And, (she laughs) that's the truth and did that ever hurt, I had tears running down my cheeks and I couldn't go in there and talk to her and they didn't even ask they left, naturally, I think I would too, if I was told that, she don't know how to do nothing. Well, I wish my mother would have heard her. I never told that to my mother, I kept it to myself. Alright, cows and boy friends were out of my mind, I wanted a job and I did get one in the Ishpeming Hospital and I worked there all winter and that ended up my sister coming with her people that she worked with from Florida, they'd come back to Ishpeming, my sister came to see me and the next day Dr. Maine come and took me to, out of there and said you're gonna work for me, your going to train for nurse mate and chamber mate, so Dr. Heart was my instructor on that and he died of a heart attack before he could give me a certificate ~~but~~ but Dr. Maine didn't care he didn't want it any ways, and they moved to Florida, they sold out and my sister went with them, she worked for them 6 years. And me, well, I found another job with Casper's, I worked at the Casper's Store for a year and then I went to work for Moses Lubakka, and I worked for them a year, and I was doing shoveling, and cutting wood, and milking a cow or whatever had to be done I did it. One morning, Dr. Van come along and said I see you doing this every morning, when I come here 2 times a week. and you shoveling snow so you

can give me gas and change the battery in the car because the 9 batteries would run out faster than they do these days. And they had to be hooked up to a machine and I knew how to do that and because the man, Moses, worked in the mine and they left to go to Esko Minnesota and they sold out after a year and I then went, Dr. Van got me a job in Morgan Heights, so then I worked there all winter, next Spring I ended up with Pluracy and ended up 3 months as a patient and Dr. Laakang wanted me to work for them, Helen was working for housekeeper for them and she was getting married and I said no way I'm getting out of this place. He said you're gonna have a hard time getting a job until you've worked here I said well, I'll have to go on from here I did get a job somewhere and jobs were not like these days where you don't have an education, 8 years was not much schooling even them days, and now it's harder 12 grades, don't mean much, now you have to go college. I wanted to go to college, that's where my education ended, 8 grades.

Me - Why couldn't you go to college?

Lempi - No money, I couldn't go to high school even, I wanted to, that's when I started corresponding with Washington School of Art in Chicago and ended up by getting a letter by Walt Disney and corresponded with him for a couple years and doing my lessons, our drawings got to be in the high bracket. His was closer to the top than me, but he told me if you want to come to Chicago I will meet you because we gotta reward, transportation to Chicago to Washington School of Art for the exhibit, big exhibit, so he said my mother and I are coming from Missouri. I have an Uncle and we're gonna stay with him and you can stay with us, my mother said so, we will meet you at the Depot. (she chuckles) That was the end of my correspondence with him because I never saw a letter no more. My mother said no way are you going, you'll never come back. He'll take you to Missouri. (We giggle) I was only 16 years old then when I _____ . We corresponded for a couple years in Washington School of Art. That went that way and my mother burnt all my drawings and letters and everything. I was always drawing since I was little, I had all kinds of them, she went and house cleaned. (she gives a little laugh) So that ended that one.

Me - How have Ishpemin and Uegaunee changed from when you were

growing up?

Lempi - Oh, Ishpeming and Negaunee were the cleanest towns and here in Negaunee I was working for Merdell and Morgan, I can't remember their last name, anyways, I work for them one year and he was a drill press operator for North Range Iron Company and he was in Canada when I started to work for Merdell. And well, anyways, on my days off, I would go to the park there, that was called Jackson Grove and they were building a picnic ground there. That was an entertainment center where they had candy, coke and different clubs and churches would have their annual picnics there, they used to want me to share, come here and sit with us. We have hot dogs, hamburgers, and whatever they had there for the picnics, Sunday School picnics, Methodist church, they were the friendliest, yeah, they were real friendly, they would bring me something they knew - we knew that you were for Morgan Gwinn, he was a cousin, ~~uncle~~ uncle was a big name in Ishpeming, that's a big name around here too, especially around North Range Mining Company, that's where my second husband worked, but then it when belly up when Rich ~~was~~ was dead by then, I mean this was years and years later. Well, anyways, Negaunee was the cleanest town I ever seen, not a cigarette, you couldn't even see a man smoking on the sidewalk. Clean, no garbage. Really, it shouldn't be there, it doesn't have to be there, but no ladies smoked and they were talked about behind their backs, because we knew who smoked and who didn't. (We chuckle) I didn't stick around anybody who smoked because it bothered me, it still does, so, that's the part about Negaunee and Ishpeming, when I worked at the Ishpeming Hospital in Ishpeming there for that one winter. I never went no place, I didn't have no over shoes or heavy coats and stuff to go out with, and the others girls always went out and they said why don't you go out? I didn't want to complain to them, it wasn't their business, I stayed in and enjoyed myself, I got a book or what ever and I was afraid of the big buildings you know. (We laugh) Nothing to compare to L.A. or San Francisco or Chicago I've been to them and I'm not afraid of the buildings. But, dark, I like to be away from the dark because we had to go so early

to bed that... and when we were kids and it stayed with me yet 11
even, I go to bed on a certain time, not 9:00 by 10:00 I changed
it to 10 last year. I figured that I'm 82 years old, I can stay up. I
just got into the habit now, but I still wake up about 6:30, but I don't
get up all the time. Just let the time go by. Now, what's the next?

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

Lempi - Teenagers? I never was a teenager if you ask me. (We giggle)
I had many good friends but we didn't have any kind of enter-
tainment. We had to just, I really don't know what we did. Nothing
really, nothing exciting to do. We didn't have no radio, no tv, no
nothing so we just, we didn't miss what we didn't have, naturally.
And now what we have, we ain't satisfied (we chuckle)

Me - Where did the kids like to hangout in town when you were a
teenager?

Lempi - I never went out, I never went out to town, never, never stood
in street corners, I never went and I never went to shows, naturally,
it would be late, it would be dark and I was scared of dark, I'm not
now, but I still don't go out.

Me - Do you have any interesting or humorous stories to tell about these early
days in Ishpeming or Negaunee?

Lempi - Interesting? I had two girl friends and I worked for, I got a real bad
cold and I went to see the Twin City Hospital, that was here at that time
I went to see the old doctor that was there and my girl friend
told me that I was staying at her place because I couldn't have
room with the people that I worked for, Morgan Gwinn, so
I would go to Blanch's house for night always, I slept with
her and she said she'll come and pick me up she said she has
a date and well, a car stopped there and a girl from there called
and said come on Lempi, so I thought that Blanch was in there
when I got there, there was her boyfriend and two other people,
I don't want to name them because they're popular figures,
their parents were anyway, indifferent things and there was
two couples in the back seat and one man in the front seat. He's
somebody from Marquette, I don't know his name but, well
they told me you sit there, I said well you can take me to
Blanch's and they said Blanch is not going tonight, Blanch
is working, I said oh, well still I can go up there, I go
in her room anyway, so instead they went out in the woods.
They went close towards Palmer somewhere and stopped there
and well I got left in the car alone with him and he said will
you get in the back seat? I said no way I just got new shoes
and I have to buy my own clothes and shoes. I said, I had a

lavendar silk suit on you know. I said I'm not getting out, I'm 12 not getting out of, I'm not getting in the back seat, it's good enough here. I said them others are coming back, I don't know where they went. Well anyways, he got out of the car, he went on my side of the car and was placed close to a, it was sideways like near a ditch and he had white suit on. He got out and went on my side, opened the door and said you get out and he got out a revolver and said this will make you get out. I said I'm not getting out. He said you better because I'll use it, I'm gonna make you get out. I said well move over so I can get out. How am I supposed to get out of that squeeze. So he opened the door real wide and stepped back and I had that quart medicine bottle in my cloth purse, and I took a hold of the double-end of it and I thought, I gave him a good swing, hit him right over the head and he fell right in under the car and slipped right into the ditch. I thought, then I looked and I saw like blood, the gone went off see, and I thought Oh my Gosh! I thought I was shot and I felt around, I'm not shot I thought to myself and I screamed, I killed a man! (we laugh) And quickly the girls and their boy-friends came and stepped there. I was kind of a little dazed by the back, leaning against the back of the car in the front. And the other girl said let's get out of here, we don't know nothing, not a word to anybody! Oh that took me up, and they were running as fast as they could and I screamed back You come back or I'll have the Police after you and they come back and I said he's not dead, she said well look at all the blood, I said that's not blood, that's red cough drop medicine (we laugh) It was all over my lavendar silk suit and I thought how am I ever going to get in the house without anyone seeing me? Well, it turned out that they lifted him up and put him in the back seat and we all got in the car, they drove, they left me home they took him home and the next day his father calls up to my job and tells Mrs. Gwinn, I want to talk to Lempi Koshi and she said yeah, she's working here and they said well I wanna talk to her. She come to me, I said I have nothing to say to that man or his son. She said well I am glad I hope he got some sense in his head.

He said I just paid 1500 dollars for one episode of his and 13 after this, there no guns. He said I'll pay her for her clothes and stuff, if he done any damage and I said I don't want his money, he said I'll buy you new outfits and whatever, whatever damage she wants I'll pay it. I said no I said he got the lump on his head ^{about's what he'd perceived.} and the lady went and told him. I said I don't want him coming here, I don't want nobody. Well anyway, these people lived, Morgen Gwin and his family, went to Talsa, Oklahoma and I was without a job again. How about that?

Me - Interesting!

Lempi - That was interesting and I don't know who this fella was from Marquette and I don't care. (we laugh) What's difference does it make now? It didn't then why should it make any difference? But that's the trouble nowadays, people, it was starting then already, they should have put a stop to it. And I'll tell ya, I made clear of Blanchard her girlfriends! I had nothing to do with them ever, after. No more.

Me - Okay, how old were you when you found your first job and where did you work?

Lempi - I was 13 and I worked at the Ishpeming Hospital for one winter. I was 13 years old and I went to work as a vegetable girl and ended up doing part of Mrs. Weber's heavy work and Mr. Harvala, that was the maintenance man there at the time and he told me he said don't do her work but I wasn't going anywhere, I told him well I might as well do something

Me - Did you like it?

Lempi - Yeah, I didn't mind it! It was a job my mother said when I left home, I had in a paper sack everything that I owned. A change of clothes, and a night gown that's all. That's all I didn't have no suitcase or nothing. My mother said when you get a job you hold onto it and don't come back. She didn't mean that I couldn't go to visit her, but my mother was strict like I said,

and I think it was good because I had that in mind when 14
my Aunt tells me I can't do anything. I had to prove my-
self, to myself that I can get along

Me - What kinds of duties did you do on that job?

Lempi - Just cleaning vegetables and taking care of the maintenance
people's dining room, that was my job. Set the table, clear the
table, clean the floors, and wipe off the table and wash the
dishes and put them back on. And then I would set trays
on a, I don't know what you call that, a cart like, set
trays there, you know. And then the food was put on there later,
I didn't have nothing to do with that, I wasn't allowed to,
I was only 15. And then when the trays came in after they
were used, I had to clean off the trays and the dishes and
the other lady would do the dishes. And the trays you know

Me - Does anything stand out in your mind about your first job?

Lempi - No, nothing really exciting the jobs were all right.

Me - Were you ever in the military?

Lempi - No.

Me - What made you not join the military? anything?

Lempi - No, I didn't know about it, of course later on when I got mar-
ried, my grandpa Charlie Peterson, he was in the Spanish-
American War in 1889 and until they discharge everybody,
And he had his day and he come out safe. And talking about
military, two of my uncles were in France in the first World
War and two of my brothers were in the second World War,
and they were all over. One of them went through all of the
Islands in the Pacific and then two of my sons later on they
during the Korean Conflict but were in both Germany they
were in occupational force there was not Army, there was
no war going on over there. But Abraham when he got through
his draft time, 3 years in Germany, they wanted him to
re enlist into the Secret Missile Program and that's where
he got killed. They used motorcycles for transportation to
camouflage from the Russians because they wanted to

15
know where the Secret Missile Program was and they were
cruising alt over in the air trying to find out and they were looking
for vehicles with two lights and these had only one light see,
And that's where he got killed on the motorcycle, he didn't get
shot at, in 1957, That's 36 years ago, and he buried in the
As I was saying, Abraham was buried in the Golden Gate Military
Cemetery in South Central San Francisco. We were living in Berkeley,
California at the time, across the bay and the second hard blow came
two months later when my oldest daughter died and ^{that was} really too
much but I did over live it. I stood 24 hours by her bed side and
watched her die and she told me only God can help me now, And I'm
glad my children call me Ma already because we were always
together. And those were her last words. So life goes on, and the
Army still goes on. I've had 4 grandchildren in the Army after
they graduated High school and there's 2 re-inlisted that are
still in the Army. Marie's son was in Tokyo, Japan several years
and my daughter Esther's three sons were in Germany 3-4 years
and two of them had re-inlisted, One is a military Police in North
ern California and the other one is in North Carolina, as far as I
know, and I have a great grandson who is going to get through
his Navy Basic Training this month. So life goes on and the Army goes
on.

Me - Were you talking about my brother right there?

Lempi - Yeah, Johnnie Bleau!

Me - He graduated from Boot Camp last month.

Lempi - Oh he did! Oh, I thought it was this month. ~~He started~~

Me - He started school on Monday.

Lempi - Oh, well now I know something I didn't know. (she laughs) Next.

Me - How many total years did you work?

Lempi - Huh?

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

Lempi - About 7 years before I was married. I was 21 when I got married,
like I said I never was interested in boys (she giggles) or getting married
either.

Me - Did you ever work after you were married?

Lempi - Oh, of course, ~~Oh~~ not until my husband left in 1949. I work for Bentoes
for 6 years and then we went to L.A. then I worked in the Royal Cafe
until they closed it because they didn't have any kind of

benefits because they were open only 5 hours on 5 days and it was in a factory area on Avalon. And then when they closed that, I went to work in the, across the street, Hoffman Candy Factory. I worked there 3 months and the older lady got hurt over there and when she went in the hospital, she didn't have no benefits, so they closed that for awhile, but it's still going today. So what next?

Me - During your lifetime where were you employed the longest? Where were you employed the longest at? Where did you work the longest?

Lempi - Where? I think I worked for Bentoes the longest.

Me - How long was that?

Lempi - Over 6 years, I took the baby when it was 2 months old. I think it's the longest steady block of employment I had.

Me - Why did you choose that career?

Lempi - Well, I really don't know. My children were all starting school, so these here people come and asked me if I would take their baby and I said sure. Then I had 2 other ladies that brought their children during the day. One brought after 5:00 in the morning, she'd bring here 2 children, they were still asleep, and they would go and sleep in the crib. Where there was, my children were out of it a long time. And they would pick up their children during the day and that went on for 6 years. I took care of several kids there during the day. I had 9 of my own but I had quite a few others if I named them all. But Bentoes boy I had the longest. And then a couple of redheads I had and then 3 from 1 lady. She owned her first land she had 3 by the time that I remarried and came to California. I mean came to Michigan from California that's 23 years ago.

Me - Wow, can you describe the details of that job?

Lempi - Well, there isn't much details. It's the general things with children. You feed them, you see that their ~~things~~ clean and see that they go to sleep when it's time for them to go to bed, and sleep in the day time. And nothing really to explain about that.

Me - Yeah, did that job require any special training at all?

Lempi - No, and in the candy factory we only stayed a few years in Los Angeles, when Abraham was drafted into the Army, we moved back to Berkley. People that were living in my house, they were moving out so I thought it was a good time to move back there. At least I didn't have to pay rent. (she giggles)

Me - Yeah, did that job require any special equipment or clothing?

Lempi - No, well in the candy factory and the Royal Cafe, had to wear a black skirt and white blouse and something on your head. It could be a white kerchief and white apron, that's all. And I didn't get any training. They had trouble with people working there

because there was no benefits and that's how it got to the authorities and they closed that for a time, until they got new arrangements made. And they started on a different scale and they're still going on today.

Me - Did that job have any special rules or regulations you had to follow?

Lempi - No, those were the only rules, they were in both, the same thing. I could wear the same clothes, same kind of clothing and what ever. And I worked in the Candy factory only 3 months, when a woman 70 years old fell and got in the hospital and they found out she didn't have no benefits, the authorities closed that place for a little time. But like I say, they're still going good. The Hoffman Candy is famous for its candies and different seasonal candies that they made during their, they make candy bars and suckers and every thing any candy factory would want. The interesting part was first, when I went in there and I walked out into the, and walked into the and I seen on the left side was a long table and on that was great big piles of different kind of like dough. One was pink, one was yellow, and one was white and one was chocolate. And these were by the men that worked there in white uniforms. They worked there and they took a little dab off of that and rolled a little sausage and then cut into pieces and put them on a tray and that tray I would take to the 4 ladies that were dippers. Some of them had worked there 20 years. From 25-27, the 4 dippers were old people and they sat on tables that had on the inside on the center was a place for hot chocolate and it was kept warm. There was heat under there and they had the big tray on one side that I would bring in from the dippers, each one a different color. Alright, those are the things that they put inside the chocolate, different colors. Alright, some had different kind of real dark, or light or medium and so on. The covering for them, for the chocolate and that's where they were dipped and the lady would go make a mark on them. If there was cherry chocolates, they'd put like a cherry there with a stem and they would mark every thing and at that time I could tell what chocolates were what, I knew what the inside was, but I don't any more. I don't eat chocolates, anyways, but I did bring home, we could get, they brought the, This old lady's job was to bring, she would go by everyone and they'd put the trays full of chocolates that were dipped into that wagon like

thing with wheels on it, they would come way high, about 18
4 feet high when she got done with everyone and then she'd
take it to the elevator and when she was getting in the elevator,
something happened, and she passed out and she was taken in the
hospital, but people kept on working there because they didn't
have no benefits. One lady who would sit with me at lunch time,
we took our bag lunches, we didn't go to the expensive cafeteria
that would come there on wheels, you could get anything you
wanted there but with a price. Her and I didn't and she told
me how she worked for the Nabisco Company for 27 years and
no benefits and they joined a union and the Union Attorneys got
her a big sum of money, where she was able to buy a home
for her mother that was in a wheelchair. They didn't have
to live in a cramped up apartment anymore. They had a nice
little grass porch and ground level, the building and she, her
mother could sit there in a meranda and watch the cars and people
going by and talk to different ones and she said she's very happy
now that she's got little money stashed away, although, she
bought a place and got her mother comfortable. That's what she
lived for and that's what she worked for but she would never have
saved that much with the wages we were getting in the candy
factory, but it's different now. Like every place else, changes are
coming. They sore are with the new president if this works out.
He's trying hard. If this don't work out, he'll try something else,
that's his job, so, what's next?

Me - What was the most rewarding part of your career?

Lempi - Well, it was being a house wife, domestic, with that goes children,
Wall to wall kids all the time, when my own went to school, I had
8-9 kids to take care of during the day, that were preschool, babies
onto, so that was an interesting job I could do, didn't have no
education

Me - Was there anything challenging or difficult about that job?

Lempi - No, no problem.

Me - How did the duties of your job change over the years?

Lempi - Well, I haven't had jobs since I came out of California, I
was going night school for nursing and I got through L.P.
training and when I got remarried, I, my husband said my

wife is not gonna work. He worked for North Range Mining 19 Company for 45 years. All he got was no pension because they went bankrupt and no pension. His social security wasn't so much because they had worked, the years that counted for social security. He had worked only about 5-6 months a year, so it was a minimum income that he had, 134 dollars a month and I was too young to apply, cause he was older and he quit when he was 66. They wanted him to work 'till fall but it's a good thing he didn't because in the fall they went bankrupt. That's why he didn't get no pension, but he had 13 weeks vacation that they paid for us.

Me- Did anybody else in your family work for the same company? Or did the same job?

Lempi- No, none of them worked, no, no, because I came here from there 33 years ago. I left all my jobs behind. I wanted to go nurse's training in Marquette and my husband wouldn't let, I wanted to get driver's training. He said you don't drive, I drive my car. I had a car that my son that got killed in Germany, I had that in Minnesota but I gave it to my son up there and whatever he did, he didn't drive it, I guess he sold it. So, whatever. That's why I wanted the training so I could of got that car, he had it, not only a year when he got drafted.

Me- Were you ever in any dangerous situations when you worked?

Lempi- No,

Me- Could you please describe what your co-workers were like?

Lempi- Oh, they were friendly, where ever I worked they were friendly to me and at the Royal Cafe they wanted me to come back but I was working, I liked the candy factory better because to me it was more challenging and I wanted to get into another. Instead of waiting on the ladies, I could of got something else, you know and they were talking to me that we would like to have you trained for each kind of assembly line and in the candy bars when they were wrapping them and in every

section but I didn't get to all of that because the same 20 thing happened to them when that lady got in the hospital, no benefits, so they didn't count for social security. All that time went for nothing but I guess that's the job, you know. They paid me what they paid the others, that's the thing - no control. That's why the candy factory got along good. That was a stop.

Me - Can you describe any interesting or humorous events that happened when you were working?

Lempi - No, there was a disappointment two ways, isn't that enough in L.A. Two places.

Me - Okay, at any time did you feel like changing to a different job?

Lempi - No, no, at the circumstances that were there, it couldn't be helped and when the candy factory closed, that's the time I decided to go back to Berkeley and that's 500 miles away. So...

Me - Why... go ahead.

Lempi - That's all.

Me - Why didn't you feel like changing careers?

Lempi - No, I liked what I was doing. I liked it in the Royal Cafe, and.

Me - Okay, what were your biggest responsibilities when you worked on them jobs?

Lempi - Nothing that I know that would make me feel that those were demanding. I always felt when you do a job, where ever you work for you follow their rules, just be there on time.

Me - Were you recognized or given any awards from your employer?

Lempi - No, I didn't work either places long enough, (she chuckles) to get anything and reward and no benefits, ain't that better than a reward (we laugh) backwards!

Me - Yeah, during your days of working and beyond, what have been your favorite hobbies or leisure activities?

Lempi - Well, my hobbies and most past time was my family. My family came first after their dad left, took off after I got out of the hospital, surgery well I had, the

baby was only 13 months old and I had to go on welfare. It because he didn't help me and I had a clerk lady had been working for me 5 months before because I couldn't do anything. I couldn't move around much and then after surgery, I still had her for a year and a half until the doctors released and said she could go. The Doctor's Rotary Club paid for the clerk lady. My husband, I didn't know where he was. Yeah, that was a treat wasn't it? But as it is I wasn't gonna grieve over that because I had children to raise. And my church was the only recreation I had and singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School for almost 30 years in Berkley and sang in the choir all the time. I was secretary for Sunday School 5 years, but I left all that behind and Isaac came from Michigan, his wife had died and he wants me to come to Michigan and marry him. I said no I can't right now, my kids just started high school and I got to be here. I said if you're still single in the spring, I'll talk about it then. Well, when he went back home and he sends

me an engagement ring, so in the spring then, I came, first of all I came in the spring because I couldn't get my house sold, I couldn't sell it no way because of the Community Property Law, my baby had to be 18 years old and she was only 11, so I just rented it out in the Spring and I came with the girls up here to my mother's. My mother was in the hospital, took care of her for three weeks and well, I got married with Isaac and I lived in Michigamee. In Michigamee, 30 years ago, when I taught Sunday School up there too and the ladies start to form the circles in our, Mrs. Luke was the president and I was the vice-president. I also was selected to be the leader of the Sarah crew. The Finnish ladies and we got our instructions, books, and lessons from Soumi College from Dr. Wajerelli, then being the president of _____ and for several years that went on. Sunday afternoons we'd have meetings at different Finnish peoples houses.

which I remember all them, most of them are 22
since called away to rest but there's still a few
of us left here, and that was in the newspaper not
too long ago, 30 years ago in Michigamee, and Lempi Wailin's
name was there (she giggles) wow!

Me - That's nice, heh?

Lempi - Yeah!

Me - That's rewarding in a way.

Lempi - Yeah, it sure is, it really lifted my spirits. Although they're
never under the table any ways.

Me - Do you have any special ~~memories~~ stories you want
to tell me about your hobbies.

Lempi - My hobbies? Not really.

Me - Okay, Were you ever involved in any clubs, or sport
leagues, or organizations or stuff like that?

Lempi - Yes, I belonged to the Anderson and Begett Auxiliary
in Michigamee for quite a, all the time I was in lived in,
about 15 years but since then they have joined hands with
Champion, so it's expired as far as we're concerned so now
I don't belong to any kind of a club.

Me - Did you like being in that club?

Lempi - Yes, it was very interesting. I had a citation from the state
department of and I also got a pin that they gave me for
outstanding hours in the auxiliary. I helped make quilts
for the Newberry Hospital and every year I would make
hankerchiefs before Mother's Day, crochet around them with
different brilliant colors and fancy ^{things} and Mrs. Warjanin
would take them to the Veteran's Hospital in Iron Mountain
where they could distribute these hankerchiefs to their
sweethearts, their mothers, or whatever, the men that were
there and they were happy to have them, and I made
some mittens and were given to the auxiliary to some-
body, I don't know who but any ways I don't do that
any more. And I like to crochet. Right now I'm making a
tablecloth for one of my daughters. It takes 12, 400 yard
spools of thread. I'm half way through now so I'm looking
for something else. And I've made a few pot holders and

made quite a few snowflakes around here too and I 23
got many, many, many patterns, many different
kinds and I make only about 6 kinds every year
and most of the people I give away were 40 butterflies
and snowflakes in these apartments there, 80 apartments
in this housing here that I'm living in and they all had a
big smile when I gave them to them. Nobody refused,
(she giggles) including my granddaughters and your mother
and different ones and in the mail when I sent, instead of
Christmas cards I sent 2-3 snowflakes. Then I got a letter
from my sister. It said well thank-you again for the
snowflakes you sent, I can't make those anymore. But
she said I appreciate it, we haven't seen a snowflake
around here, so I thought to myself, well you seen 3, I
sent you 3. (we chuckle) And I sent some to many different
parts of the country. Mildred, my daughter, Juliana in
Los Angeles, and by the way Timothy come out of his
work throwing that riot, he didn't know what was
going on when the street was flooded with people, he
wanted to get to his car. He never got there, he got
into the hospital instead and he been having surgery
many times, critical condition for two weeks and
but he's made it, he finally got the last surgery, but
he cannot work for 6 months. Yeah, that's many
months ago when they had that riot in Los Angeles. I
tell ya I was, I really thought that, and he told me
when I called him at the hospital in the big
General Hospital in Los Angeles and he said Grandma,
I think I'm going to die. I said no I won't let you,
you're not gonna die, you're too young to die and
so am I. (she laughs) At 82-3 years old and I'm
too young to die but if it comes tomorrow, I'm ready
to go. Like Uncle Paul said you're gonna get to be a
real old lady, he was in the caving in Humbolt Mine
And he stated my mother's, he had been in the hospital
but they didn't keep him anymore and he was
staying with us for about a year and one of my
cousins died when she was about a year old and

she was buried in Champion in the Watery Grave 24 and when we all had gone there, we didn't have cars or anything, we went with the horses and he went too although he was crippled, couldn't even straighten out and he was blind from that and his partner, Mr. Mickola, wasn't as lucky as he was, he died and left 3 little children and one of his children stills live in Michigamee. He married and all that. Well anyway, when my uncle seen that watery grave he said that's the last Koski that's gonna be buried in the watery grave. I have a lot of land I'll give, I'm donating as tomorrow, I'm donating Humbolt Township Cemetary up there where I will be buried. So it was. He gave part of his land and it's a cemetary and they made a nice dedication in memory of him, a white stone on his grave and on that is written about Paul Koski, my uncle and he died at my home. My mother took care of him although she had 3 of us kids were little. Yeah, I remember him going to the outhouse. We had a outhouse and my sister and my cousin both were, he was blind, see you had to bring him there, they brought him there and locked the door on the outside and run away and I don't know how long he was there before he was discovered. But he told me, Lempi, I want you to be, you always sit with me on the porch everyday and I teach you songs, which he did, many songs, I still remember them in the Finnish language and I would go and he ask me are you still there Lempi? And I would say Oh, yeah, I'm not going until you get out and then when he got ready to come out, I would just let the door get open and he would come out and I would have to take his hand and lead him back to the house or either my father built him a little shack because the children

when they cried in the night that bothered him ²⁵
so my father built him a little shack in the backyard
and that's where he died and that's when he told me
one day, he said one day the angel soon is gonna
come and get me and take me to heaven, and I
told him please take me with you I don't want to
be left here alone without you. He said no you're
too young, you're gonna live to be an old lady.
How old I wonder sometimes, I don't feel old yet, but
I will be maybe tomorrow. (we chuckle) Yeah, that's
the way it went. Yeah, that's the first death I seen.
In the funeral everybody was going to see him and
I wonder what in the world happened? And well
that morning when he had died nobody told me
and I went to get him ~~like~~ I usually do. I went
outside and stood by the screen door there and
I tried to look inside there, I couldn't see him
and the sheet was pulled over him, and I thought to
myself, well, the angel came and got him! And I
kept looking up there and I couldn't see any angel,
And I sat down and there was only 1 step to go into
his, there's only a little step there, I sat, I looked
at the flowers and water was dripping out pretty soon
I was balling! I could hear my mother calling and I
thought well, this ain't gonna do, I wiped away my tears
and my sister, Lydia come there. She said mother wants
you to come in. She said did you go in there? I said no
I can't reach the book it's too high. I said you know it
was put high for older people to reach. I don't go in
there, I never been in that shack. But the funeral
day I snuck in. I went and stood on a chair and I
thought what in the world are they looking in that big
black, box? and some lady said you better get down
and she come and lifted me and took the chair
away. My mother took me inside. I never seen

my uncle in the casket but I thought what in the world is this? And they buried him and I didn't know what was going on. That's not the first time I was to a funeral cause we had been to my cousin's, and then Oscar Pilkey was killed in the mine. He was brought home from the mine. We were up there my mother and all of us kids were there. We were gonna go to look at house being built. My uncle was building a house and we were gonna go there with coffee and stuff. Alright, and knocking on the door there was the Police and they said we come to tell you that your husband got, she said he died and she said yes, he died. One of the boys called out Oh, that's a punishment because we didn't obey you and he was balling. He went after the Police you know, balling, punishment, punishment! Terrible thing heh, for a kid to think but that was straightened out but he was brought home then, the casket was brought and well, we didn't see that, but anyways, we went there on the date of the week and mother brought some stuff there and we went too and then the girl, Lyna, she said let's say the Lord's Prayer and ask the Lord to have my father raised from that casket. I said okay, thirteen steps to the open stairway and we went on kneeled down on our knees and said the Lord's Prayer - Lord please, in Lyna's father to raise from the dead and we got up to the top step, she said I don't wanna look, why don't you go and look? I said no, Jesus said after the Resurrection, it isn't Resurrection now, and she let out a big scream and started balling. Here comes my mother and her mother and they said what's the matter? And she kept on balling, Oh, she kept on balling but her father stayed in the casket. Anyway, she chuckles) That was the craziest thing I ever heard and then I got a paddling from my mother. She said what did you do to her? I tried to tell her nothing, nothing. And then I told her I said I told her it's not Resurrection Day, he's not gonna raise. She said well you shouldn't have said that. I said well she gotta know it is

26

said you got to know something to keep your mouth shut. (we laugh) But, that was the truth and she said she could of went and looked herself, he father didn't get out of that casket. He was all smashed, his legs were broke off and everything and here they brought him in a baggie through the house, had to wait for the train to ship, they sent for the undertaker, the undertaker brought the casket on the train. They didn't bring him, no use to bring him anywhere, they didn't need no death certificate then, he was buried in Humboldt Cemetery, he was one of the first ones, my uncle wasn't the first one. Yeah, and in there is buried my father and mother and a lot of my uncles and Aunts and there's buried my first husband, Frank and Benjamin Peterson, they're all there. I bought lots, three lots that I was able, they could sell that were close together. So, that's gonna be my happy home afterwards. What else do you want to know?

Me - Um, what were your fondest memories of your days when you worked, overall?

Lempi - Fondest Memories? I think they were at home when were in Black River when my father would come home on the weekends. We had a little service on Sunday morning, he read to us and we had to tell our Bible verse for the next, what he had told us to study. My mother had to see that we learned them. We had learned them when we were small, the Lord's Prayer and my father and mother would sing. I think that was the most inspiring thing and one, before Christmas one time it was, it had snowed and it come a nice moonlight night and my mother said, it was Saturday night. she said you can go out for a little while and I'll call you in when you have to come in because your father will soon be coming home and he won't appreciate you being out in that sparkling cold and there was big tall Christmas tree on both sides of the road when we looked down the road when we were skiing. Near the school house there was all high trees, spruce trees and they had

snow on every branch hanging down and they sparkled as
like anything. Oh, it was so beautiful, that site is never
out of my sight, I don't care if I live to be 100, that's some-
thing I like to look back and then we heard my father singing
he was about a mile away when he'd get up on that big hill there.
And he would be singing. (She starts singing)

Me - Was that in Finnish?

Lempi - Yeah,

Me - What did it mean?

Lempi - It means Hosanna, Davedin poika, davedin, that's Jesus, it's like
thanking Jesus for, that comes in the name of the Lord. The
best I can do to explain it and that's all it has to do. It
has to be, it's just like a credit and praise you know. At the
same time. I really don't know the meaning of Hosanna. I'm
a poor Finlander in that. I might know a lot of other things
but I just don't, nobody ever explained what that means
but we knew that father was not far from home, about
a mile away from home and we could hear him and
he'd sing like those trees sparkled they're so nice. It was
Christmas. It was the best Christmas I could ever ask
for. We didn't have no stockings, one Christmas,
Lydia was going school then. She come home she
said we gotta hang stockings. So, I told her no,
there's no Santa Claus, father said there's no Santa
Claus. Well we can try. Alright, she hung up the stock-
ings for everyone of us, including the baby and in the
morning she woke up, come on, wake up let's look in
the stockings. I look in my sock, John looked in his,
nothing. Well, Lydia said maybe I, my stocking got
something, it got something in it, she was feeling potato
peelings. (We laugh) I think that cured our Christmas
stocking hanging. Yeah, we didn't really believe it
anyhow, father didn't. He said Santa Claus is a robber
in his name to steal the money out of people's father's
wallet, when they work. Oh, I miss my father so much
especially in school when other girls would come in,

my father bought me new shoes and that is some - 29
thing I hardly ever got was new shoes. They were always
hand-overs from someone else and the same thing with
clothes and I remember how he used to bring stuff for
us at Christmas and my girlfriends would say my father
bought this and my father bought that and then when
it come to different programs, their fathers would be
bringing and I felt real sad to my heart, deep down, but
I didn't dare tell anything because I didn't want no one
else to feel sorry for me, no way. I just went along,
did the best we could and we had good neighbors, they
had my mother with everything like somebody was getting
a baby. In one house she delivered for 7 children, two
houses. Yep, because the doctor couldn't get there because
of the snow drifts and he would come in a horse and
horse buggy like and that was hard. That horse would of
wore out so they didn't dare to come but then he would
come maybe the next day or whenever they drove the
snowplow, that's the only time they drove the snowplow,
was when somebody died or somebody was born. Great
hey, I used to go with the doctor to interpret different
places you know and when I got older and I was able to
manage a little bit of English, enough to get along but some
of the old folks didn't have no children at all. They lived
alone and they had to have somebody to interpret and the
doctor needed to know where that person lived. Yeah, yeah
that was it, there was a lot of other interesting things but.

Me - Is there anything you want to tell me about 'em.

Lempi - Well, did I tell already about the night we spent in the
snow with John, my brother, when mother was sick,
year after my father, that was bad; but there were many
good times too. Yeah, but a lot of times after father died,
father had always because transportation was almost
impossible in the winter time, he would always have
from Koski Merchandise Company in Ishpeming. They

would come with big truck and bring 5 pounds of, 30
500 pounds of flour, 100 pounds of sugar, 25 pounds of coffee
and all the prunes and raisins and beans and rice and
cookies and _____, what you call toast. They were in
a wooden barrel, big barrels, bring a big barrel of toast every
year and then for the hot cows and the horse and that one
horse, he would bring their feed, you know oats and then
the feed for the cows and well, when he died, we run
out of stuff and no money coming in and boy we had more
than one pancake and more than once a day we had just
oatmeal with milk, that's all but then one Sunday after-
noon here come many wagon, many horses with full of
people and we wonder what was going on you know, that
there's no funeral, there's no wedding, there's, what's going
on? And they stopped at our house, well, we thought first
when the sleighs and the horses would come in the yard
and soon there wasn't any more room. There was people
from way up by our house, on the side of the road up to the
schoolhouse and then some of the neighbors started
coming. Well, they gave the biggest party I ever seen,
they brought food of all description, and then later on
they had a service in the schoolhouse because they all
wouldn't fit in a house. They had to come by turns. The ladies
cooked coffee and they had coffee in the afternoon and
they'd be all left and did they ever leave the big pantry
behind, flour and we were almost out of flour and oatmeal
and stuff that we used, coffee, he had and the other half
the income was 10 dollars from janitor's job in the schoolhouse.
10 dollars a month and they had to carry the water from
our house. That was no treat and the school teachers. Well,
my mother was one of those people that there aren't any more
like her, they don't come like that. She did the work of 2-3
people, every day, besides the janitor's job, taking care of the
cows, carrying the water into the farm and carrying the water
into the house and all the waste water outside with a
honey bucket besides for recreation (we chuckle) Yeah, yeah,

She delivered babies and sometimes in the middle of the 31 night in the stormy January night she'd have to go to a neighbor's and deliver a baby, ^{because} the doctor couldn't get there, too much snow, he couldn't get there until the snowplow, he'd come but he would maybe come a day later, maybe two days later, when the township snowplow went through, the only time it went through was somebody died or somebody was born, the rest of the time you took care of yourself and my mother was the one who would go to different, when something happened, something happened to the neighbors they would bring their kid over and say look my kid has hurt her leg and my mother looked at it and said well, you better leave him here and she took care of that leg, cleaned it up and took the old bandages that were there she said these are no good you know too long in, so she took care of, the next day it was clear, no more pos, the boy went and his foot was still alright. (we chuckle) There's always a happy ending to everything. As life goes on we find that. Yeah, we have so many memories to look forward to. I'll be 84 years old in September and I like to remember a lot of the things I forgot, but maybe they're better off forgotten. (we laugh) Yeah, yeah, I don't know anything else to say, what's your last question?

Me - My next question is, were you a member of an union?

Lempi - No, they didn't have no unions, no social security until 1936.

Me - Um, If you had to do it all over again would you change anything or choose the same jobs and stuff?

Lempi - Well, I don't know if, when I look back, yes, I could of did changes, let it be what it is, don't do it all over again, why not, I, what I wanted or what I thought best?

Me - Do you have anything else you want to add before I close?

Lempi - Yes, there is something else, I'm very proud, I have 33 grand children, and 30, I mean 40 and a half great-grandchildren, and 1 1/2 great-great-grandchildren

and looking for more. Why not? Yeah, that's some- 32
thing that I never thought I could reach. I had wanted
so badly, all the time to be able to see my children
grown up and most of the time in our life, we spent
waiting, waiting for this. You wait for your children
to be born, you wait for them to walk, to talk and to
go to school and to graduate and be confirmed and
to get married and hopefully then grandchildren. You
start waiting all over again, the same old cycle and
that's life for you at it's best.

Me - Any thing else?

Lempi - I can't think of anything else now. I think we have
quite a bit there. Are you gonna go through that
tape before you leave?

Me - Yeah.

Lempi - Okay.

Me - Thank you.

Lempi - You're welcome.