

1.
My name is Cassidy Carr. Today's date is Nov. 7, 1996. Today Katherine Koski will be talking about her school life & teaching career at Ely School. We are at my house in Dicrite.

Me: What is your full name & birthdate?

Mrs. K: Well, my name is Katherine ^{Hopper} Koski, I was born April 25, 1943.

Me: Okay, where were you born?

Mrs. K: I was born at the Ishpeming Hospital.

Me: Well, I mean, so you were born in Ishpeming?

Mrs. K: Mhm.

Me: Okay. Tell me about your family

Mrs. K: You mean my parents & so forth?

Me: Yeah.

Mrs. K: Okay, my mother & father are Loyd & Elsie Hooper. My father has been dead since 1972. My mother still lives in Greenwood, by the 41 club, I have 2 brothers & 2 sisters, one's my. the I'm the oldest of the 5 children. My sister Sandy is the next in line, and she is a school teacher, teaching Art down in the Flint Area, just south of Flint. My sister Linda lives in Greenbay she is also a school teacher, she teaches learning disabled. My brother Loyd who is the 4th child is a doctor in Ishper. ng, a family practices doctor and my brother Larry the youngest of the group is a family practices doctor in ^{Tomahawk} Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

ME: Okay, where did you attend kindergarden & grade school?

Mrs. K: Okay, my family moved to the Ontonogan Area for a number of years & I attended the Ontonogan Area schools from kindergarden until the middle of 5th gr.

and we came home to visit my grand father for Christmas Vacation and never went back. My grandpa talked my folks into moving in with him because he was lonely. He had lost his 3rd, 4th whatever wife it was and didn't like living alone and so we moved back, my parents went & packed us up and we never went back to Ontonogon and the first, well right after Christmas Vacation then was my first day at the Ely school in the middle of 5th gr.

me: okay. Describe a typical day at Ely as a student.

Mrs. K. Okay, as I said I was in the 5th grade when we started and we were in the old part of the building. So I never had any experience.

me: the one before the fire?

Mrs. K.: no, the one before the addition came on.

me: oh, okay.

Mrs. K.: The addition was put on I think in 1954, or something like that. and we're right now the lower elementary, where the first & second graders are and we were in the upstairs section there were 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders up there. My class had about 18 students in it. And I guess I would describe it as typical except we all hoped for the fire alarm where we could all go down that chute because we could go down it.

we'll have to check this

interesting - include

put in >

me: you guys actually got to go down it?

The lower elementary was made up of first & second graders & the upstairs section of the building was 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders.

Mrs. K.: We got to go down that chute! We had to practice.

me: I have some additional questions about it.

Mrs. K. Okay

me: Did you have homework?

Mrs. K. Oh, certainly. Certainly. I don't remember what kind it was. I remember

Mrs. K: we had, lets see, we had Mr. Salmi in the 5th grade, Rudy Salmi, and then we had a Mr. Gleason in the 6th grade and then we had the two Larmor brothers. William and Gilbert were 7th & 8th gr. teachers. and boy! you were scared of the Larmor brothers because they were very very strict. They moved over to North Lake after I was gone but they were there that time span. And I guess we were pretty happy group because we all got along pretty well and we got to know each other very well, in our classes and we, I can remember my first experience, the first day at Ely. Fortunately, I had a couple of cousins in my class, a girl & a boy so I felt right at home, right away. I didn't have any problems with fitting in but I can remember Marvin ^{Niemi} Neme was in 8th grade at that time and he's now a trucker. He lives in Clarksburgh, and he took my shoe, somehow he got my shoe, and he threw it out ~~the~~ window and of course harrassing the new kid, and he walked up to me and he pointed his finger in my face. He was a big burly eighth grader and he says "I know who you are. You are Kitty Hooper" and I was so scared of him I thought oh! God my life is over this boy's going to kill me and he really was a gentle person but I sure didn't know it ^{include grade} at that time. We would get, they had punishments like putting us in closets if we were bad or underneath the desk. I never had to do that, I was a pretty good student,

me: Is that how you handled, is that what they did?

Mrs. K: That's what they did, that's what they did. Yeah, Yup they went into the, they were locked in the closet but, and I don't remember if

it was my class or another class but we all kind of got a chuckle out of this because it was one of the Larmore brothers that locked the kid in the closet and he went in to eat his lunch and the kid had eaten his lunch!

include

We both laugh.

me: what he do to that?

Mrs.K: I don't remember but I can remember we thought that was the biggest joke on him in the world.

me: Speaking of Lunch, what was lunch like at school?

Mrs.K. Oh! Wonderful. We had wonderful lunches and I'm trying to remember. I can remember Mrs. Oulette and Mrs. Letinin locked there. Those two I can remember for sure. And everything was homemade.

me: Not like the cut-

Mrs.K. Not like the, put 'em in the microwave and heat them up kind of things.

me: mm-hmm

Mrs.K. and that's actually where I learned to enjoy a whole bunch of things, we'd have, Shepard's pie and we'd have, we'd have homemade mashed potatoes and chicken sometimes and we'd have pot pies a fair amount of time and stews and beans and wieners, I still like beans and wieners too this day because they were just oh something we had there. They always, and homemade cookies and homemade cakes and every thing you can imagine that was wonderful.

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Mrs. K: It was a very different kind of lunch than it is today for kids, not that today's is necessarily bad, because I guess that's what the kid's want, but I remember with great fondness,

me: No, No! Definitely not

Mrs. K:))))

and yet a lot of kids, even with us, threw things out, because they didn't like having the nutritious thing, so I guess and we would go downstairs and eat at those little lunch tables and we'd take turns you know between the high school kids and the elementary and then we'd go out for recess and we'd run around the yard and throw each other in the snowbanks and stuff like that, just like kids do now.

me: Well, so how would it be handled, would use tickets or money?

Mrs. K: For lunch?

me: Yeah

Mrs. K: I'm pretty sure we had tickets.

me: Okay, Did you ever go home to eat?

Mrs. K: No, I lived by the 41 club and so it's about a five mile trip, and so we automatically just stayed there. I think some of the Diorite kids went home, I don't really remember, I just remember lunch was fun.

me: Not that common?

Mrs. K: No

me: Okay, was? oh yeah you already answered that one, what was recess like?

6.
Mrs. K: Well, it depends on what grade you were in. For us we'd just go around, go outside and just stand around and visit when you were in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade you're too big to really be on the swings and things like that. But we'd walk around the yard and we'd chase each other and you know play games sometimes and stand around and visit.

me: Where were jackets kept?

Mrs. K: If I remember correctly they were kept, there were big closets upstairs.

me: In a coatroom?

Mrs. K: In a coatroom in each room, there was a separate room and I'm pretty sure the jackets were there, if I remember correctly.

me: How were you taught to read?

Mrs. K: Oh, I have learned to read obviously, in Ontonagon and I know I learned the phonics way - method of reading and I was always a pretty good reader so I didn't have much trouble with it, it pretty much came naturally to me.

me: How did you get to school? Did you walk or ride a bus?

Mrs. K: No, we had a bus.

me: Okay, what was it like?

Mrs. K: Donnie, was it? No, it was, Mr. Junak, Steve Junak was our bus driver and I can remember he used to hollar when it got too noisy. "Quiet! Down Back there" Of course we'd mock him all the time "Quiet Down", we'd say. But I think Steve

7.
Mrs. K.: was my bus driver for quite the bit of the time. And Donnie Grund worked at the school even then. *include*

me: whoa! He just retired. Somebody else in my class is going to be interviewing him, or already has interviewed him.

Mrs. K.: He's going to be interviewed? Yes he was there, he was just a young pup when I first started there but it's just like he grew, he doesn't look any different than he did back then and that was 1950 something, 40 years ago. He still doesn't look that much older.

me: How long was the bus ride, usually?

Mrs. K.: It was about fifteen minutes maybe. We didn't have a real long bus ride, we didn't have to, where I was from we didn't have to pick up a lot of kids we took, there was about two or three bus routes and we didn't have, we pretty much had a straight line shot,

me: What were your holiday celebrations at school like? Did you get gifts or anything? They were celebrating a lot more.

Mrs. K.: I think so, we always had valentines of course and we would wait to see if the boy that we liked gave us a big valentine or a little one, *include* And in fact you asked me to bring some memorabilia and I was looking through this thing and I have all these valentines taped into this scrapbook.

me: I had one of those 'cause like they have packages they'd give you & you put them in there. I have one of those somewhere in my room.

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Mrs. K.: Okay, they used to have little fuzzy things, little designs on them, they weren't little tiny things like they are right now.

me: They weren't cardboard?

Mrs. K.: No, they weren't cardboard, sometimes they would be opened up but they had fuzzy on them or real fancy designs.

me: Did you guys just make them?

Mrs. K.: No, no we bought them, we bought them. And then we always waited to see if we got the one from the person we liked and we'd always make a big box to put them in. And as far as Christmas we'd always had a Christmas program at the school. And each, if I remember correctly, each grade put on a program. It wasn't a whole schoolwide program. Each class had a turn and did something like the little Kindergardeners did there thing and it would go on up to, And my poor folks they had so many kids in school that they had to sit through everything, everytime because there were always varying ages of kids that they had.

me: So there wasn't just one big one?

Mrs. K.: No, No it wasn't that much longer.

me: That was my next question, too.

Mrs. K.: I don't know if we exchanged gifts. I think we exchanged gifts with individuals. You know with friends and things but not any bigger than that. Money was in short supply for most of us.

includes x grade

Mrs. K. And we didn't have it.

me: Yeah, Cause I heard, Mrs. Richards my teacher said that some of the teachers gave you big baskets of stuff.
(it was small bags)

Mrs. K. ~~It~~ uh-huh, Christmas baskets, I don't know about that, we never got one. We always had enough money for food and things but it wasn't, it was that we didn't have extra money to buy presents for our friends. We wished one another Merry Christmas and that was about the extent of it.

me: Okay about Basketball programs, were there any other kind of programs for anything?

Mrs. K. Well, there was always an Eighth Grade graduation. That was a pretty big deal. They treated it very much like a high school graduation. They had speakers and songs and everything. We also had assembly programs that came to the school to this day, his name was Cowboy Bill, was it? And I can remember him coming in and singing us songs. And one of the things he said was "he yawned and he said "Do you know that a yawn is the second most catching thing in the world and somebody in the front row said "What's the first?" Which of course he knew they were going to. And he grinned and said "A smile." But I can remember he was there. On Wednesday mornings for at least an hour or so we always had a break because they ordered films and everyone in the school went and watched the movies. I can remember one showed us how to make bubble gum.

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Mrs. K.: And they had this big pink thing that looked like something 10.
gross, gross, grussome that was going to eat us up. It was going
round & round & round. And some of them were kind of
boring but we loved it because we had a treat from
the regular routine. And then on Friday afternoons
for about an hour and a half we got out early and
we were released for Y-H from school. And we
learned how to sew. Mainly how to sew. It was a sewing class
And the boys went down to the woodshop which of course
we were never allowed to do. And I can remember
this one boy brought me a Knick-Knack shelf and oh!
did I get teased about it. Because he had of course
this crush on me and I got this cute little Knick-Knack
shelf that I hid. He presented it to me as his love-tribute
I guess. But on Friday afternoons, I think it was at
1:00 clock or 1:30 until 3 we did that. Which is similar to
a home-economics class and actually are teachers at our school
are our Y-H teachers. And there was a show at the
end of the year and I can remember the first thing we
had to do was a dish towel and all we had to do was hem the
ends and I couldn't sew a straight line to save my soul!
me: Neither can I!

Mrs. K.: I must've ripped that out a hundred times.

me: I'm so glad this year, because we don't have to go to home-ec
if we didn't want to, because I can't sew anything at all.

includes x quack

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Mrs. K: Oh! I love to sew. I learned how to enjoy it. But it was that first thing I just can't, that's a hard thing for a girl to do is to make that go down a straight line. A seam is much easier than putting that quarter-inch hem and pinning that thing and basting it first. Right now I would ~~never~~ never dream of doing. But I did learn to love sewing as a result of that. So, I don't remember what I made except for that towel. I think we had to make an apron. And nobody wears aprons but we had to make an apron and...

me: What, did, so was the Ely Carnival there yet?

Mrs. K: No, not that I remember.

me: Nobody really knows when it started.

Mrs. K: No

me: Okay. Who's your favorite teacher & why?

Mrs. K: Well, I only had the four at Ely, and that's a tough choice. Probably Mr. Gleason, the sixth grade teacher. The fifth grade teacher, I had come in at the middle of the school year of course so I really didn't get to know him very well. And Mr. Gleason died shortly after that. Just a sudden, he wasn't that old. He was a fairly young man and he died an early death and I can remember feeling really upset about that. So I really liked him but I also liked Miss Hinstala who was the first grade teacher and she was the cheerleading advisor and I was a cheerleader and she was also ~~my teacher~~. Sewing teacher for the Y-H. So I got along really well, Virginia Hinstala is her name. I got along really well with her.

Mrs. K.: And we had, at that time we had several, I don't remember all their names but several young teachers down in the lower elementary that were good role models for a lot of us girls. And we thought they were pretty special.

Me.: Oh, what was your favorite grade?

Mrs. K.: My favorite, pardon?

Me.: Your favorite grade that you liked.

Mrs. K.: I don't know that I could pick one. I, right through grade school and right through high school, I loved school. So I never had a favorite or less favorite because I just, I ^{good grade} enjoyed school all the way through.

Me.: Okay, that's good. In 6th - 12th grade did you have to change classes?

Mrs. K.: We didn't change, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th. We changed classes when we went to high school and we were, we were bused into Ishpeming, at that time. We were called tuition students to Ishpeming, ^{include} And it was a whole different thing because I went from a class of, a graduating class of 18 at Ely into a high school of, freshman class of 160 something. We graduated 169. So it was a real culture shock to me to go to the high school from a self-contained classroom to suddenly all these new people and classes and not knowing anybody or anything that was going on, I didn't know the difference from basic Math into Algebra. They just said do you get good grades? And I said

Mrs. K.: Yeah. And they said well we'll put you in Algebra then. And I said okay.

Me: What time did you get up for school?

Mrs. K.: Probably around, it had to be around 7:00, I would say. 'Cause we got to school, some of our kids had 8:15 classes at high school. Are you talking about high school or grade school?

Me: I'm still talking about grade school.

Mrs. K.: Oh, still about Ely. Okay. Probably Seven-Thirty, Quarter to Eight. I imagine. In fact, I brought some of the pictures and I have one here, but this is later but are kids standing in the bus line.
(Gets it out)

include Yeah, and we always lined up from oldest from youngest. And that was eighth grade and I think I'm the one on the end, Yeah. And so that was our crew of kids that went to school at that time. But we got there for 9:00. So, you know your asking details.

Me: Yeah, that's when we used to get there. When did school end around?

Mrs. K.: I think it got out at Three.

Me: That's about...

Mrs. K.: It's about the same. That hasn't changed maybe Ten or Fifteen minutes but I think the time in school has pretty much stayed the same over the years.

Me: Did you ever have any field trips at school? Describe.

Mrs. K.: Wow! I don't remember taking any field trips. We may have.

Me: Where they uncommon back then?

Mrs.K: Mmm-hmm. Yes, very much so.

me: How many people were usually in a class?

Mrs.K: Oh, between 15 & 25. Are's as I said was 18 and my brother said his was like 14 or something like that and he graduated, when he was there for several years, quite a few years later. So the classes stayed pretty much the same in size.

me: Yeah. Was there a dress code at Ely?

Mrs.K: No, but girls, there wasn't a code per say, it was just unheard of for girls to wear slacks. Even all the way through high school. We wore skirts or dresses all, every day. There was no such thing as slacks. Blue Jeans were out of the question in high school.

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me: Did you ever, were there even slacks around?

Mrs.K: Oh, yeah, Oh, yeah there were slacks. We didn't wear blue jeans very often, actually. They didn't have the blue jeans that they do right now like the Guess? & all the fancy things like that.

me: What, was there a strict code that you were forbidden to wear slacks? because...

Mrs.K: We just never did. I didn't know if it was any thing that was written, ~~we just never~~ It's just our parents raised us with the idea that girls wear dresses and boys wear slacks.

Mrs. K: And so we didn't have the slacks. The slacks were for when we came home from school then we would go upstairs and change clothes.

me: What kind of activities did you do during class? Did you have to do drills?

Mrs. K: Oh yeah. We did the regular spelling book like everybody does these days. On Mondays we'd look up, or study, look at the words and on Tuesdays we'd do exercises and on Wednesdays we'd have a practice spelling bee and on Thursday we'd do exercises and on Friday's we'd take the test. If we didn't get an A on Wednesday. But most of the time I got an A on Wednesday.

me: That's kind of what we do only we cram it into 1 or 2 days.
Yeah. In Ely it was 1 or 2 days.

Mrs. K: Aah. Yeah. Okay. Oh we had the books and we had the math exercises. I think the education itself has pretty much stayed the same. When I go back and look at what they do in elementary, of course I've been a high school teacher and I don't see that much change in the kinds of things that are done.

me: What kind of grades did you get?

Mrs. K: Very good. I was A-B student. Mostly A's. Um, I was the Salutatorian of my 8th grade class and then when I went to Shpeming. I was Valedictorian of Shpeming so I think I got 1 B in high school. Grade school wasn't quite as good I don't think but....

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me: How old were you when you started school? Like kindergarden...

Mr. K: I would have been 5.

me: Did Ely have Physical Education classes, Art, and music classes?

Mrs. K: Yup, Oh that's something I remember, The Art and Music classes

not

conclude

were taught by the teachers themselves. It was not a special teacher that came in. But I can remember in 7th grade almost every day we square danced in the gym. And we would go in and Mr. Lamor loved square dancing and we'd have like two or three circles of people or squares as you called them. And we'd hurry up to get out there so we could get in what we called the good square where all the cool boys were. Instead of the boys we didn't consider quite so cool. And we'd square dance alot. And we'd go in sometimes and play basketball of course. Just the typical kind of things.

me: Was school spirit a big thing back then?

Mrs. K: Oh, very much so, very much so, we had basketball games, we had 5th and 6th grade, and 7th and 8th grade basketball teams

may want to take pictures of x include it back

and they played against one another and in fact I have some old clippings here that I thought you might for junior high loop and here it talks about St. Johns and Champion and Diorite and St. Michaels and Neguannie and Gwinn. Well its got Gwinn dumped National Mine and Republic. So we had the standings of all the schools here and we were called Diorite at that time. So I brought some of those and we had a

Mrsik: tournament and we would sit in the corner of the gym, you go down from the girl's locker room and that wall and go down to the corner and that's where we sat and the cheering was very different then. To get people fired up and we would get out there and mainly get people excited. Here are the four cheerleaders when I was in 7th gr.

Me: there were only four?

Mrsik: There were only four. Four in the 7th and 8th and four in the 5th and 6th. And these two gals were a year ahead, they were 8th graders. And this other gal and I were 7th graders. Here's a basketball banquet that we had. And that's me, I wrote it on the back. And here's Nancy Stetson. She's a year older than me, believe it or not. And this is Miss Hinsale, the one that I talked about. And this is a group of us girls having a going away party ~~for~~, one of the girls was moving all the way to Ishpeming.

me: where was that taken?

Mrsik: that was taken outside ^{Hamari's} Hamari's Motel which is just after you come out of the highway where Drasher's used car lot is, whatever it is?, Right next to, coming to Ishpeming next to the Evergreen drive in the business there that has used cars right now. It was in the house next door to that. And I was chuckling at all these kids I was remembering. You know Mrs. Robar or Mrs. Melacovitch?

me: Oh that's her? Wow.

Mrs. K: Yeah she was a friend of mine. she lived down the street she was one of my better friends, yes. And you know Mrs. Kangas from National Mine?

me: Does she live in Diorite?

Mrs. K: Yes.

me: Yeah, I know her.

Mrs. K: That's her right there.

me: Whom? Every body looks so different.

we'll have to include this!

Mrs. K: Let me see if there's anybody else here. Oh, I'm here.

And this is a picture we had of a Christmas program where we were singing.

me: Right on the stage too.

Mrs. K: Yeah, right on the Diorite stage. And I brought, oh we had Spelling contests and I brought an old certificate. I didn't know what kinds of things you wanted. These are all articles mainly here's a spelling contest one we entered. Here's a basketball. We were really really ~~really~~ all excited about basketball so here were five there. And I had in my old 6th, 7th 8th grade handwriting some of the cheers that we used to do which are as you can see really different from the ones you have right now. ~~///~~

Me: I'm going to have Mrs. Richards take a look at these.

Mrs.K: Okay.

Me: I can put your names on the

Mrs.K: Yeah, I put my name of the bottoms

Me: And then I'll bring it back

Mrs.K: And this is my Diploma from 8th grade. And we had of course the big D that we wore on our uniforms, All the time. So you can take those, I'm sure she'll get a kick out of these but like Ching a locka Ching a locka ching Ching Ching. As you know is one of them. I think a lot of the old ones well, Twirl my Turban man a lice here comes Diorite Super Five! Are we in it? Well I guess. Diorite, Diorite, Yes, Yes, Yes.

Me: Those are cute. Were girls encouraged to go into fields like medicine and engineering like boys were?

Mrs.K: no. no. Girls pretty much at that time, it was again unspoken but we had three ~~of~~ occupations that we could probably go into. Secretary, teaching, or nursing.

Me: That's what Mrs. Richards said. She said it was that three same things.

Mrs.K: Unless, you were real gutsy and pushy. And I wasn't. But I will say and I'm the oldest in my family but I did go away to school and I did get a degree which was rather unusual and I think, I feel proud because I think as a result of that both of my brothers went on and they got degrees as doctors. But I don't know I think if I had, had an open choice I might have gone in to law.

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Me: Really? Wow, I'll be asking you more about that later on.
Where you ever a troublemaker?

Mrs. K.: Me? No way. No. Never caused any trouble at all.

Me: Where any minorities in your classes at Ely?

Mrs. K.: No. No. Unheard of.

Me: What sports activities did you participate in?

Mrs. K.: Girls were not into athletics at that time. Even all the way through high school. We could be cheerleaders. That was all girls could do. We weren't even allowed to run track.

Me: What about basketball?

Mrs. K.: Nope. Absolutely not.

Me: Well, my next question is what sports did boys and girls participate in together?

Mrs. K.: None. Girls didn't participate in sports. Period. All the way while I went through high school. As I said except for cheerleading and even in a high school there were four varsity cheerleaders and four JV cheerleaders. And that was it.

Me: So you weren't allowed to be in basketball or anything?

Mrs. K.: No.

Me: But what were the sports that boys could participate in?

Mrs. K.: Football, track, and basketball. And as far as. (Phone Rings) machine turns off.
Turns back on later

Mrs. K.: I think they had things like maybe the boy's golf and stuff but we didn't pay attention to that to much. The only things we really went to were football, basketball, and track....

me: Baseball?, In the summer?

Mrs. K.: We're not connected to the school but probably on the outside. We did play girls softball, we kind of did some of that a more of a minor thing but I was not connected to the school.

me: Not very important. Okay. What were some of the games you played at recess or as a child?, Explain.

Mrs. K.: As a child of course you played the typical things like kick the can, ring around the rose. Statue.

me: What's that?

Mrs. K.: You twirl kids around and they stop in mid-air and somebody goes and tells them what they look like and the person who's the guesser has to go up and press a pretend button on that person and they have to act like what they are and they have to guess.

include
I, ~~the~~ taught my nieces and nephews that and they, they love it. They hadn't heard of that kind of thing.

me: What were some of the games you played... er never mind. Okay. So that's basically what you played?

Mrs. K.: mm-hmm.

me: What did you do on weekends?

Mrs. K.: Well, we didn't go to far. In Elementary school we played around. We had our neighborhood. Our neighborhood friends well, I didn't have too many because there weren't too many that lived in that area. I had to walk about a mile to get to each one. And I would play with my sisters and brothers and later on we'd have television but we didn't have television before that. Did homework.

me: Did you ever work?

Mrs. K.: On a job? Oh yes as soon as I turned sixteen. In fact I was holding down two jobs for a while. I worked at a drive-in theater. Doing popcorn.

me: I sit that old one...

Mrs. K.: At the Evergreen. That was before it was X-rated. It got to be X-rated in the future years. but before then... And then where you know where the Tippetts live right now next to the 41 club? That used to be a restaurant. And

included I worked there. I worked there as a waitress and then I worked at the 41 club as a waitress. Well, I also sold nightcrawlers. Nightcrawlers in the summer and we'd have a business, a thriving business going.

me: Kind of like lemonade only different.

Mrs. K.: Yeah, we did that too! We'd go down sometimes on the corner of the highway with our lemonade and people would stop and buy it.

me: What was church like back then?

Mrs. K.: Well, we went to the Finnish church and I was in elementary school and there was actually a Sunday school through the Bethel church held in the auditorium of what's now the Kindergarden at the Ely school. So we went there every Sunday and I taught Sunday School after I got a little older. So when I was in like 7th or 8th grade I was teaching second and third graders Sunday School. So I'd come up with my lessons every week.

include

me: People that age taught it?

Mrs. K.: Yeah.

me: Wow. How's it different from today? Is it more strict?

Mrs. K.: The church.

me: Yeah.

Mrs. K.: Or Sunday school. Oh it was just that it was a whole different setting here. Mrs. Tacca I can remember being in charge. She was the administrator of the Sunday School. So I had all these little kids and I don't even remember who they all were. But it was rather casual. We'd do our lessons and we'd have them color and stuff like that and we'd kind of have a prayer at the end of it. Of course I went to Communion in town but my Sundays consisted of coming over to Dionite School.

gone

me: Okay, did you eat big Sunday dinners?

Mrs. K: We would usually, one of the things that was a big thing in my family at that time was Codfish. We'd have Codfish breakfasts. Codfish and eggs and then in the evening we usually had real light like mum would do tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. So no, we didn't really have a big deal for Sunday.

me: Besides church what did you do on Sunday?

Mrs. K: Oh, I would imagine something: homework, sometimes playing with the kids sometimes reading whatever needed doing but we didn't go very far. We had 1 car in our family. Sometimes we'd visit the relatives you know we had several families of relatives but it was always family oriented. I never did very much with my friends because none of us had transportation, it was all the family.

me: Yeah. What was your relationship with your family like?

Mrs. K: Well we had a large family and I was the oldest so I did a fair amount of babysitting. I loved my brothers and sisters very much. We had a very strict family. We'd go to town shopping once a week. Unlike Thursday nights and the whole family would go. And we did a lot of things together.

me: How often did you fight with your siblings?

Mrs. K. (Laughs) Lots. Mostly my sister Sandy. We, Linda was eight years younger than I, and Sandy was only four so she and I ~~fight~~ would fight. In fact my brother loves to tell this story to his sons when they would get into squabbling. We'd be upstairs and I'd go into her room when we were arguing and I'd pull her hair and then I'd run back in my room. And then she'd come in and she'd punch me and we'd be waiting to hear my ma and I'd go in there and maybe kick her and she'd squeal and my mother say "You girls quiet down up there." And I'd say "I'm in my room" and Sandy would say "I'm in my room." But she'd eventually catch on you know. Because we could never, we could never keep it quiet. It always got louder and louder. And we had a window upstairs that we could sneak out of because there was a roof right outside. And we'd sneak out that window and walk out a ladder to get outside. And mother says to this "I always wondered why I never saw you go out but I'd always see you come in." And we weren't sneaking out to do anything wrong it was just fun. You know + was great to go out that way

include

me: Okay. Remember any family vacations?

Misk: I can remember going to Mackinaw Island one time with the whole family. And another time and I don't I think this was a separate vacation I can remember crawling around the U.P.

Mrs. K.: and we went to, we stayed at a cabin and ever since then I've wanted to stay on a cabin on Lake Michigan because that's what we did that time. And a couple of summers we had, my dad worked for the D.N.R. and Art and Charlotte Letina took these boys George and Bill and my mom and dad took us and we all went and stayed in this housekeeping cabin together for like two different summers and we had a ball. Lots of times on the weekends the adults would play cards and so we'd be shoved together and I spent a lot of time well Bill still lives in Diorite over on the other side you know Gloria and you know what are there names Jeanette, the Grand girls there mother, there step father was the son of my folks best friends. And so we'd go over quite a bit and just sit and we'd end up stuck together babysitting, Bill and I. So to this day he and I see each other. I'm the only person that ever calls him Bill. Everyone else calls him Art because when his dad died he took on that name. I'm the only one he lets call him that.

me: what'd you do together with your family or friends?

Mrs. K.: then?

me: Mm-hmm.

Mrs. K.: We'd go to ball games. My folks were very big about coming to all the school events. We spent a couple of nights a week

MRSK: at the school for basketball games during the winter. And my dad would coach us and we did a lot of, oh I know what we did a lot of, Sandlot baseball. We did a lot of especially when I was older. We just play ball and play ball. We'd get a game together and my family always had the equipment so the kids would come to the door and say can you come out and play and it was all ages you would get kids from 8th grade down to fourth grade. It didn't matter or 12th grade, not 12th grade I don't think it got that old, but 9th graders. It was a span of about seven years. Then we'd all play together and you'd just take it easy on the little kids so they would learn. And that went on from my brother's ~~and~~ ^{and} sisters too, all the way through. I told the kids one time if you don't let me pitch I'll take my bat and ball and glove and kick you out of my diamond and you can go home.

include

ME: Okay, so that's pretty much the same as before. Where'd your family go to shop for groceries and ~~clothes~~ clothes?

MRSK: Okay there was a grocery store that was called the Miracle Center grocery store and right by the cemetery

include

ME: Oh, okay.

MRSK: that was the biggest grocery store around at that time. And that's the building there. And we went for groceries there every week and we would go to town and as far as clothes were concerned

Mrs. K. I didn't get very many. But we'd go, there were two dime stores in town next to each other. One on the corner and one that's now the fitness center. That was another dime store. and there was a Penny's store where, across from Old Tsk that was a Penny's store so we'd go in there I spent a lot of time in there and then there was a clothing store across from the style shop that we would go into. ^{Cately's} ~~Craig's~~ I think it was called, I didn't go in there very much because it was pretty costly.

me. Okay, did you have hobbies or handicrafts?

Mrs. K. I did some sewing, I did a lot of dishes you know we had a lot of kids and so.

me. That's my least favorite chore.

Mrs. K. Yeah, lots of times it's taking care of kids and you know doing stuff like that and doing my schoolwork. I spent a lot of time. Especially when I got to high school I always get angry because people would say "Well you were so smart and you didn't have to work. All the way through high school I went home, I get home at 4 o'clock I'd go up. Sometimes I'd watch "The Edge of Night" which was a soap opera on

me. I've never heard of that one.

Mrs. K. I was on until four o'clock and I'd watch that then I'd go up in my room and start on homework and I had a list that I would do and I had this really neat desk with the cubbyholes and I would go down and help mother with supper and do the dishes and do a few chores and then be back up in my room and I would study until about ten o'clock. Every night of high school.

included

me. So about how many hours did you study?

Mrs. K. 3, 4 hours a day.

me. Yeah I spend about 2 hrs. Sometimes I get mad when I have to spend more than that because it's already a lot.

Mrs. K. Yeah, I know. But I worked really hard and it paid off but I did spend a lot of hours on it.

me. Okay, what was the price for a movie?

Mrs. K. Gosh, I don't even remember. We didn't go to the movie very often to be honest with you. I never had a ride to town. I can remember it was a really, really big treat when I would go down and I had a, my cousin moved to town when she was in like eighth grade and I would go down there sometimes and stay at her house and we would go down and it was probably 50 cents. I can remember when we lived in

Mrs. K. Ontonogan my mother would give us change and I would have to take my sister, I would take my sister, were talking about not even a dollar bill, were talk about change, we would get in the movies and have popcorn and pop for under a dollar.

me. What about pop and a candy bar? How much did they both cost usually?

Mrs. K. I think a candy bar was about a dime and I think a pop was about the same.

me. Did you go trick-or-treating on Halloween?

Mrs. K. or yes ^{But} ~~we~~ we didn't have very many houses to go to. We only had like eight or nine houses in the neighborhood. Then we'd Dad would take us in the car over to my cousin's house. *Include* But we didn't go like the kids do now to a neighborhood and do the whole neighborhood and then get in the car and go to a new neighborhood. And do the whole thing.

me. This year I think was my last year but I went with a couple of my friends and we went around Dionite and at 5:00 we were done & I'm tired & we have all this candy & I will have most of it. Then they decided to go to Humbolt but I didn't go with them because I wanted to go home and watch t.v.

Mrs. K Well what we'd do is we'd get cold and we'd dump out our bags and we'd count what we got and everything and that was great fun. My sister's Sandy's pile would be there and mine would be here and Linda's would be here and we'd be checking out to see what we got.

me: Trading?

Mrs. K: I don't know if we traded. Maybe a little bit

I didn't like to force I know that but we pretty much hung on to our own things. You know the funny thing is I still see my nephews doing that. I went over there the other night and one of them was in 5th grade and the other's in second grade and they had these piles dumped on the floor and they were looking at what they had. So it's not so different

me: No it's not. I came home and just dumped it all to see it. I sort it into good & bad piles I can give to my brothers.

Mrs. K: Okay (Laughs)

e: Okay what pranks were pulled on Halloween, if there were any?

Mrs. K: Not really. I can remember the stories being told about Diorite.

Mrs. K. My mother's generation where they would take they took somebody's outhouse that was sitting on the edge of a cliff and they'd knock it over and one time they did that and a guy was in it. And I don't know if it was true or not.

Me. I heard that a couple of years ago.

Mrs. K. And I don't know if it's true. You see my mother lived in this house when she grew up. So all of the things she remembers of are from Diorite because she was born here and graduated from high school here. So she has all kinds of memories and these friends that she was good friends with that in Diorite that she still talks about.

Me. She went to the high school here?

Mrs. K. No, she went into Ishpeming too

Me. Okay so it was Ishpeming. What did you listen to on the radio?

And who were your favorite music groups.

Mrs. K. We listened, when I was young to soap operas and situation comedies and mysteries. I can remember The Shadow. And Figaragee's Closest Amigo & Molly we had Figaragee's Closet and the Amos and Andy were great to listen to.

Mrs. K.: Gurnsmoke started on the radio.

me: What's that about? I never heard of that.

Mrs. K.: You never heard of the Gurnsmoke? Oh god that was a long running television show too. The Cowboy & Matt Dillon and Kitty and Chester. Your old timers know. It's an adult western and macabrous. And it was on television for years but it started on radio. And we had tall pedestals like thing that had the radio on and we would go in on the evenings (before television this was) & we would for example the ^{Inner Sanctum} Intersactum was one of the mysteries and it would be on at Seven O clock so we would all be sitting in the front room, listening to it and I tried playing some of those to my high schoolers and the funniest thing is they got bored. We were just fascinated but to them if you; if they didn't have something to see, see they wanted to be entertained and the listening skills have gone away, too with that. But they also had, I think its the Guiding Light that started on radio.

me: Wow, that's old.

Mrs. K.: I'm pretty sure ^{was} it the guiding Light. So yeah we listened to those

include

Misk: and then in the mid-fifties, television came in. But we never knew whether we'd be able to watch television at night because we didn't know if there was going to be good reception or bad reception. It wasn't a matter of choosing, it was a matter of television choosing whether it was going to let you watch it at night.

me: That's my next question. What was television like back then?

Miski: It was real smoky. Or fuzzy like snowy. And we got a screen, a plastic screen that we put over the top of it with blue on the top and red and then green and supposedly it filtered out some of the snow and gave a tint of color. Because it was black and white. And it'd kind of give a - I can remember putting the screen on there and saying Oh, yes this makes an improvement, I doubt it. And they had Captain Video.

include

me: Oh, I heard of that.

Miski: which was like a, I think, it was a science fiction kind of movie, show. But at that time they were not allowed, see television was fighting against the film

Mr. K. industry a lot at that time. And also against radio.

Radio was a little more receptive to it, But movies counterbalanced that by refusing to let television do anything in conjunction with it. You know if anybody, of course if a film star was on a television show that person was blackballed from film. So you had 2 whole different things.

me: That's different than it is today.

Mrs. K. No, it isn't. It's very different. They've learned to get along right now. They even make movies for television. That was unheard of then.

me: When did you get your first t.v.?

Mrs. K. I would say around 1954, or 1955. We had gone on a trip to Holt. One of the very few trips we made out of the W.P., to visit my uncle and aunt and they had a television and I can remember I was so excited because I was going to see this, I never could imagine how you could have this box right in your front room that you could see pictures off. And I think I spent that

Mrs. K. whole weekend vacation sitting in front of the television set being absolutely amazed that you could do that.

me. Did anybody you knew had one then?

Mrs. K. We were one of the first to get it, I think most people got it about the same time, but I never went to visit that many people anyway. You know we didn't spend that much time, we'd be outside but not so much in the house. Not where I lived we didn't, I didn't have that many friends in close approximately to me.

me. Describe any role models you had.

Mrs. K. Michelle Robar Milacavitch was a, Mrs. Milacavitch was two or three years older than I was and I can remember she talked me into wearing Bermuda shorts for the first time and I thought "Oh these are so ugly" You know the longer ones, Cause all you had when I was a little kid were the short shorts. And then it went to the Bermuda shorts, and I can remember being up in her bedroom and she was saying you got to try these on so I put on these Bermuda shorts and I said "Oh" but eventually I wore them, so she was kind of a

Mrs. K. model. Ms. Hingula that I talked about, the lower elementary teacher, she was a role model to me because she was such a nice person. I also liked some of the film stars. We used to go home if we, when I lived in Ontonogon we'd go to the movies every weekend. And we go home and act out the movie. And June Alison was just so neat in my book we'd act out all these film stars and June Alison. Probably people like Betty Grable which you don't even remember. Never had seen. These are from, well this would be the late Nineteen-forties and some of the old ones the Greatest Show On Earth. And things like that. So yeah sometimes the film people. Not too much in the line of music. The first music that I really remember was the early rock and roll when Elvis came out. And the later the Beatles. But Elvis and Chubby Checker and the Everley Brothers. And Pat Boone was just oh! man he was a dream.

me: What do you remember about Polio?

Mrs. K. There was a little girl over the hill from us

include the role model names

MRS K: Who was my sister Sandy's age who had had polio. And she had one leg shorter than the other and it never grew. She was just a little thing. And she had a brace on her leg. That is my most moving memory of polio. Was somebody that I actually knew who had it. I know that everybody was really scared about and we couldn't go swimming at certain times of the year. They were worried we were going to get polio from it and they thought it was caused from the dog days that was the big thing that you'd get polio from certain times of the year going swimming.

include

me: Did you ever get a vaccine for it?

MRS K: Yes. Right after, I remember going in, was it a vaccine on the arm or was it the sugar cube? I think it was a vaccine on the arm. Joan A sock I can remember when that first came out when they started talking about him. I think that was 55. And they talked about what a miracle worker he was. And it's a wonderful thing because Sock has come out of retirement and is working on Aids right now.

Salk

me: Wow. So he's a doctor around here then?

Ms.K: Yeah, well not around here he was a nation thing. He was a big name. Jonas Salk and he came up with that Salk Polio Vaccine and I can remember our families were very happy about it. And our parents, my parents whisked us right away to get a.....

me: What about whooping cough?

Ms.K: I have no memories of whooping cough.

me: You or anyone around weren't affected?

Ms.K: No, okay I can remember the mumps and chickenpox.

me: What happened with that?

Ms.K: I remember going outside and my folks would take pictures of us with our puff cheeks. We just sneak out our door.

me: With the mumps?

Ms.K: With the mumps, yeah. Cause our cameras didn't work inside. We didn't have a camera with a flash. You just had outdoor cameras.

Mr. K. And they were big box kind of things. Yup, we had to go outside & they took a big picture of us with puffy cheeks

me: What about chicken pox?

Mr. K. Chicken pox too. I think most of us kids had at one time or the other.

me: The day before the Christmas pageant I had a big part which I missed because of chicken pox, I was so mad.

me: Tell me something about post war area. I read about that.

Mr. K. Post war area? Well the post war I think they're talking about is post world war II. And I was born in 1943 before my dad went to the war and in fact my dad never saw ^{include} me until I was three and a half years old. My mom was pregnant and he went to military training and he was gone several years and he never came back until I was about three and a half. And we were living, you know where Mr. Stetson lives?

me: Okay, lets see.

Mr. K. Over by, yeah he lives in a house next to Mrs. Grand, Mrs. DeGrand.

Me: Oh, okay.

Mrs. K: And my grandparents, my dad's parents lived there. They moved there and my mother's parents lived here. And my mom and I lived in the house right across the street on this corner. And he we also lived at one point in the what was called the Mulasia Hall so we lived over there at one point. And Mr. Surgula who has since died. George ^{Syjala} Surgula says he used to tell me he'd say I always had a soft spot in my heart for you because when you were a little girl you crawled on my lap, we lived in there house there you know in an apartment in there house, and I crawled in his lap and I was playing with his shirt and I said Uncle George, why don't I have a daddy like the other kids? And my dad came back and my mother and I were gone some place and he left a note for her and then I saw him and then I ran away and said That ain't my daddy and my dad's feelings were so hurt. Cause I couldn't admit to that. And so he came home and

Mrs. K. things were really, really different I can remember him doing things like he built this big, he was going to build this huge fort. My dad was really into things. He built one of the ski jumps over here. They had a ski jump.

me. Yeah, they were really big back then,

Mrs. K. Really big. And my dad was instrumental in starting that program here in Diorite because he really wanted to get the kids into that stuff. He was going to make this big fort. He piled up all this snow and these kids started using it as a sliding hill.

And he said well if your going to do that then I'm not going to build the fort then. So he was just looking for a way not to build the fort + I think but yeah we lived in this area and I can remember those times until like I was four and a half when we leaved.

me. I skipped a page. Where did you live?

Mrs. K. I lived in several places in Diorite when I was very ^{43.} little. And then we moved to Ontonogan and we lived in two different houses there. And then we moved back and my mother lives in the hill over by the GC Club. And she still lives there. So ever since about 1954, my mother's lived there.

me: You know what happened? During Finfest she came by with your Finnish relatives.

Mrs. K. Oh she was very pleased because she was able to come in and show the people from Finland. His father, the man was seventy, now, and his father had lived here. And he wanted to see where his dad lived. He had this real need. He was real thrilled that he got to see that. He was just happy as can be.

me: When you lived in Diorite were you close to, well yeah you were right there.

Mrs. K. Yeah, we lived in several different apartments. But that was before I started school, so that was when I was real little.

me: Did you get an allowance?

Mrs. K.: Yeah. We had an allowance every week, then we got paid for our report cards. And our report card day was, if you got, if you were in kindergarden and you got an A or Outstanding, you got one penny. And when you got to first grade, you got two ~~cents~~^{pennys} for each one. So it was when you got to fourth grade it was five pennys for everyone. And then when I got to high school my folks gave me a dollar for every A. And we only got four grades. So I could get up to four dollars for a report card, which I always did. But in eight grade, we got nine cents an A. But that was big time money. We didn't worry about it. That was cool.

me: Did you or anyone you knew take summer classes ever?

Mrs. K.: No.

me: There weren't any summer classes ever?

Mrs. K.: I don't think so, no.

me: How did you celebrate holidays at home?

Mrs. K.: We always had a big Thanks giving dinner, Turkey, and mashed potatoes.

45.
Mrs. K.: and turnips and pumpkin pie and everything. My mother
doesn't cook much now but she was a good cook and of
course we had so many kids that always had lots of cooking
to do. Christmas, we would get up really early in the
morning like about 5:00. My dad would get us up
because he was too excited. He'd slam doors and never
let us sleep in. Yours too?

me: No, I have to wake my parents up.

Mrs. K.: We were always up. In fact I had an uncle who
thought I'm going to go over there one day, this
Christmas and wait around the corner and when
they get up I'm going to be there so I can see
Christmas with all these kids because he didn't
have a bunch of kids and so he drove
around the corner really early to sit and wait.
The lights were already on, everything was opened
already. He was so disappointed. But of course
we had the five kids and we would come down
and Santa Claus would leave a pile for each
of us with our name on it. Then we had the presents
under the tree and we would take turns. And the
little kids would have to bring presents to every one
in turn. It was dad's turn now, it was mom's turn
And everybody bought something for everybody else.

include

Mrs. K. And it didn't have to be expensive. But you had to buy something. And I can remember when I was in high school, opening a package from one of my two brothers. One of them is twelve years younger than I am, the other is sixteen years younger than I am.

There was one crystal earring and it was absolutely gorgeous. One of the most beautiful things I had ever owned. And he looked at me and said "I didn't have enough money for both of them so for your birthday, my birthday, in April and I believed him. Then I opened the present from my other brother and there was the other one."

include

Me. Oh, cool!

Mrs. K. One time my father had gotten gifts from the two boys and my dad was really special. And he opened it from the first boy and it was a wallet. And daddy always made a big deal.

Oh it's the most beautiful wallet and he'd talk about the stitching and everything. Take everything out of his old wallet, put in it, I love that wallet. Opened it up from the second brother and it was also a wallet. My dad never even missed a beat. A wallet for the other pocket! And he took out that

Ask: first wallet, he took half the things out of it he took half the things out of there he put half and he went through everything again, describing how beautiful that wallet was. And he put one in each pocket

me: Did you have a favorite toy or doll when you were a kid?

Mrs. K: You know the one I remember, the most. Obviously we had dolls, I don't think we had barbies at that time. But my mother had a doll that she had when she was little and her name was Joycee. And she's an antique. And my mother still has her. And she's in really good shape. All the grandkids have played with her. She's got a wooden head and a cloth body. And wooden hands and feet. And a cr:be. And we used to love to play with Joycee.

include

me: What were your afterschool chores and jobs?

Mrs. K: It depends on the time of year. I did dishes of course and I vacuumed and I'd dust and I don't know if I scrubbed floors or anything. We had to weed the garden ~~and~~ when it was summertime. Every day we would get up in the summertime and there would be a list of chores that we had to do

Mrs. K. before we could do anything else, would be like weed two rows in the garden, haul two wheelbarrow loads of this, clean out the black shed. You know clean worm cans whatever my folks had come up with. Each kid had a list of chores. Depending on their age. You know, the difficulty would get more extensive.

Me: And you already told me about your jobs. What were some of the best memories you had of Upper Michigan when you were growing up?

Mrs. K.: We had winter and summer. Summertime was easy. We did a lot of baseball and you know playing with the kids. Winter we had a ski hill across the road that we would go up to quite often. And we used to love, we made our own we had to park thing and maybe we would go down ten times and it would take the whole afternoon because we had to go through all the deep snow to get back up. And then we had a spot across the road that was kind of a swamp and we could clear that off and go

Mrs. K. ice skating. And I can remember coming home with my toes froze and I'd go in the house, have you ever had your toes froze? And they hurt so much?

me. Yeah after halloween my toes were froze and I took a shower and that was the fastest shower I ever took.

Mrs. K. Yeah, oh do they hurt. It's unbelievable. So we did a lot of that. We never packed our, or have our driveway plowed. They didn't have snowblowers and things. And we had a long driveway and so we would just start parking in the fall and we walk on this pack part all the way up and if we go off you'd go down in a foot of snow.

me. Wow.

Mrs. K. so we'd go up carrying our groceries and stuff like that.

me. kind of neat. Okay, what are some of your most vivid and favorite memories of Ely as a student or a teacher?

Mrs. K. As a student I guess it was the close knit group that we had. The kids always had fun. We had a lot of laughing yet we had to work but everybody got along very, very well. And as a teacher

quote

Mrs. K. I taught at Ely only one semester and I [tape stops]

[resuming] off the lunch room I had a little tiny room and I taught remedial English and reading to kids and K-8 believe it or not. And then about half way through the semester I also took on math. And I can remember these boys in eighth grade, 7th and 8th grade boys would give me a hard time about having to do their work. When they'd come down to my room they'd give me static all the time, and they were macho men and so I made a deal with them one day I said "I'll tell you what if I can beat all three of you in arm wrestling, will you pay attention from now on" And they said yeah, yeah. I put all three of them down and they didn't dare back down. And I see one of them ever to this day. And he's a big, strapping guy and I say you want to arm wrestle when ever I get mad at him and he's 'na no' But he said we made a bargain with you and we have to ~~keep it~~ keep it. In fact we talked about it. If she's that good, we made a bargain, we

include quote

Mrs. K: have to keep it.

me: So they did?

Mrs. K: They did.

me: okay, did you have any pets as a student?

Mrs. K: We had a, always had a dog in our house, we had a dog named [?]Geronimo one time and we had a dog named Lucky at one time.

me: Really? Cool.

Mrs. K: Lucky got hit on the highway one time and he came limping back and he went into the back shed and we'd just go out and bring food and stuff to him about a week later he got up and he was fine.

me: What was the best thing about attending Ely?

Mrs. K: Everything. It was fun, we loved the basketball games and we had an extremely wonderful school spirit, it was absolutely marvelous. We were very, very close knit group.

me: I have one more question for here, can you - so do you have any memories about World War II?

Mrs. K: No. World War II I was too young. Then they had the Korean War which is in the 1950s and I wasn't really involved in that one either.

me: Can you tell me anything about the Prison Break of 1953?
I looked that up.

Mrs. K: Nope didn't know any thing about that or those kinds of things. One of the things I do remember when you're talking about political, I can remember we had a mock election when Adlai Stevenson and Dwight Eisenhower were against one ^{another} ~~another~~.

me: We just had one of those. Clinton won.

Mrs. K: I can remember we were really adimint, I voted for Adlai Stevenson, I can remember that we had campaigns and everything.

me: Is that the one where they already printed the headline?

Mrs. K: No, that was before. Let's see this would be in about 1950, 54

me: So you voted for-?

Mrsk. I voted for Adlai Stevenson. And he didn't win.

me. Was he a democrat or a republican?

Mrsk. I don't remember. I know Eisenhower was the general, the big general from the Second World War. And he became president as a result of that. As far as politics and things are concerned that's the only thing I really remember. We were kind of shielded from a lot of things like that.

me. Do you have any information on people you know or were related to in the Barnes Hecker tragedy strike of 1946?

Mrsk. I have some cousin kinds of things that were in that. Yes it was.

me. Do you remember how it affected school or anything?

Mrsk. That was before.

me. Oh, I got that was too early. I know you weren't involved in it.

Misk: I was instrumental though in what what we did was get a memorial for it and helped raising the money to get that memorial.

me: That was nice. What was that like?

Misk: It's, now they have it. They had it at a place by the Evergreen for a long time. But it was just a stone type monument, to these guys.

me: What other diseases and immunites did you live through?

Misk: I had an ^{appendectomy} epidectomy.

me: What was that?

Misk: Which is your appendix out when it was very little. I had my tonsils out.

me: I had my lymph nodes out. Now I have a scar.

Misk: I had the measles of course and the mumps. The usual things. But other than that I was very healthy. In fact when I went to high school,

s.k. I went through four years of high school and never missed a day. I was tardy one day because school started at 9:00 and at 9:00 I was on the operating table at the hospital across from Ishpeming high school getting planter warts taken out of my foot. At 9:20 I was sitting in class. And I stayed the whole day.

grace

me: Wow.

Wsk: Number one, I didn't have a ride home but it was very painful when the anastatic started wearing off. But I went in on the bus and instead of going to school I went over to the hospital.

me: Did you ever win any special awards at Ely? ~~Did~~ ^{go to} high school later.

Mrsk: Well I was Salutatorian of my class and they had things like citizenship awards and stuff like that. But that darn Sharon Surgula won the spelling award on me. So I didn't get that.

me: What did you do on a date and what was your age?

Mrsk: They had dances at Ishpeming high school and my first date had must have been in ninth grade. But I didn't date very much. I never dated very much all the way

risk through high school but we would go down to the dance
 in Ishpening. And kids would be out in the floor and
 there would always be a ring, you know where the fire is
 where you take a bow? If your in the basketball court?
 And that was full of men - boys, all the time. And then there
 was a row of chairs back, or benches, gym benches that were
 there and then there was a walkway and all night everyone
 would just walk round and around and then they'd
 stand there for a while and sometimes they'd sit for a while
 and then we'd get asked to dance or something like
 that. But we usually went there when we went someplace.
 Or else somebody'd say Can I take you home which meant
 to give you a ride home and we'd used to have to burn
 rides into town all the time so we thought that was a big thrill.
 We didn't get asked very often because most guys are
 age didn't have cars. So they would take home the girls that
 could walk.

me That's my next question How old were you when you first
 started driving? Your first car?

Mrs. K:

I started driving early because I had gotten good grades and my birthday is early in the year so I had my ~~license~~^{license} right after I was sixteen but I didn't get the car very often. I was allowed, and my dad would say "To town and right back" and that's it. And we only had one car. So I got the car very seldom. The first car I ever had believe it or not, I got when I was about twenty-five years old. That was it, I got a 1965 mustang when we were ~~going~~^{going} down in North Carolina when I got my first job. And that was the first car I ever owned.

Me: Okay, what would be considered a rare treat or special trip back then?

Mrs. K: A rare treat for us was ice cream because we had a refrigerator that had that little, tiny freezer up in the corner. And when you feed our whole family...

Me: What do you mean by corner?

Mrs. K: It was just in one little corner. You haven't seen any of those old fashioned ones? It was about as big as a

Misk: bread box and my mother had to buy food to feed our whole family to keep in that freezer. So in the winter it was a little easier because she could keep things outside, in a box outside that she would keep things in. But we didn't get ice cream and stuff very often at all. And we really didn't have that much candy. A big treat for me, I must have been in eighth grade and I went over to Darlene Hammani's house and they made Appaian Way pizza, I never had a pizza in my whole life.

me: You didn't?

Misk: No, this was the first pizza I ever had. I went home and I told my mom, "I found this wonderful thing and I made her buy it and I showed her how to make it and make the crust right. And they still have the Appaian Ways, their in a box and you got the crust mix in there, and the cheese and the sauce. And that was the first pizza. And their house was the first ^{real} sauna I was in

me: We have one at camp, where did you go to high school?

Qs.k: Into Ishpeming. Starting in 1957, I went there from '57 through '61. I graduated in '61.

me: How many students were in your graduating class?

Ans.k: One hundred and sixty nine.

me: Exactly?

Ans.k: One hundred and sixty nine. I can remember that.

me: Okay what year did you graduate in — oh '61. Did you win any special awards?

Ans.k: I was valedictorian of my class. I also won a state finalist award for debate. I was a debater. And my partner and I when I was a sophomore took the state championship. Other than that, they didn't have a lot of things. They didn't have things like they didn't have Business And Professionals Association. They did have Forensics but I didn't do very well in that. But we did have debate. And of course girls weren't allowed ever in any of the sports so I wasn't able to do that.

include growth

Miss K. I did go to girl's state. I was elected by my classmate to go to girl's state as a junior.

me Girl's state?

Miss K. Yeah, it's through the American Legion and kids are still going, Westwood is still sending one. Or the American Legion sends one. And you go to, I went to the University of Michigan for it between my junior and senior year and you have a mock government thing set up. And that made a big difference in my life. That made me decide I could go to the University of Michigan and I did. And I had made up my mind when that's where I want to go to school.

Yay!

me Okay, how many students dropped out before high school.

Miss K. I think we had one family that never attended high school. And then we had a couple of them that didn't make it through. How about in high school?

Mrs. K: That's what I mean. From the Ely. Some kids moved away, I think there were only about three or four that did not graduate.

me: Okay, where did you attend collage?

Mrs. K: I went to the University of Michigan. And then I got my Master's degree from Northern Michigan University.

me: After collage, what did you do and where did you go?

Mrs. K: Okay, my husband was in the military at the time so we traveled around the country quite a bit. I did some substitute teaching down in Arizona and North Carolina. And I taught service men in North Carolina for a year. That was my first real job. And then we came up here and I did that remedial teaching I was telling about over at Ely, and then I got my teaching certificate I need only a bachelor's degree at that time. and then I went back and I did my student teaching at Negaunee and got certified and I taught in community schools full time for a year and a half. About 5, 6 classes a week.

me: Around where?

Mrs. K: In the Ishpeming - Negaunee community schools,
the night school program... Did your mom go through
that, I think I had her through night school.

me: My mom? I don't think so because she used to
live in Minnesota then she came over here.

Mrs. K: Yeah, 'cause a lot of adults go back and
get there education through night school.

me: Okay, first of all how many years did you
attend collage actually?

Mrs. K: I started in '61 I graduated, got married, took
some time off and took night school - but I
graduated in '67. Then I went back and I
got probably about 8 or 9 years of collage
in all together.

include Once I finished doing the teaching and the night school
program I got a job in National Mine. For a one
year leave of absence, Mrs. Hebert had her first baby
and they hired me for that year, they said "This is a one year job

Mrs. K: Are you willing to take it " I couldn't find a job up here I said I'd take it. And in that year consolidation came through ..

me: Consolidation?

Mrs. K: Yep, the consolidation to form Westwood.

me: Oh, yeah.

Mrs. K: Okay, Mr. ^{hindberg} Limburgh came and said "We're happy with your work, will you stay on with us?" I stayed till I retired. So I started in '72 ~~and~~ supposedly as a 1 year job at National Mine and when the high school opened I moved over to the high school and I was there until I retired in 1995. So for 23 years I stayed on that job.

me: Did you teach at any schools between, or before that?

Mrs. K: No just the U.S. and I subed in I shpening & Nequance and quite a few places.

me: And what courses did you take in collage?

Mrs. K: Well, I got my degree in English but I started off to be a Math teacher. And what didn't materialize, Calculus hit me like a lead balloon And I ended up getting a degree in English and I had English and I had psychology and I had quite a bit of speech. I was going to be a speech therapist at one point, correcting stuttering and stuff like that.

So I took some classes in that. But when it came down to the nitty gritty, for me it was a matter of making a mediate decision. My husband was in Vietnam and I went back to finish my degree and I was afraid he was going to get killed and I had a child and I said my husband will either be back or not in a year but I have to have a degree what can I get it in. Well she looked at my stuff and said you can get it in English and I said fine. And that's how I ended up in English believe it or not.

me: Okay, now I'm going to focus on your teaching at Ely even though it wasn't a main part of your career It will be in the book.

me: When did you begin teaching at Ely?

Mrs. K:⁴⁺ Ely?, It was January of 1969.

me: What were you teaching?

Mrs. K:¹ I had a bachelor's degree but I didn't have a teaching certificate, there's a difference. (I taught remedial.)

me: Did you go to any classes then?

Mrs. K: Yeah, I went then in the fall and then did my student teaching.

me: How long did you teach there?

Mrs. K: But I taught there for only one semester I got 9 hrs. a week at the start than the woman Mrs. Jones had a baby and she had to leave so I took the maths on. I was teaching like 15 or 16 hrs. a week was all! What would happen is they would send kids down to me. Everything from first grade up to Eighth grade. And I would have different groups that would come in.

me: What was a woman's salary when you first started teaching?

Mrs. K. That's a good question. I got paid by the hour and 66.

I can't remember what it was.

me. Was it different from mens'?

Mrs. K. No.

me. That was earlier, probably when you were a student.

Mrs. K. Yeah, at that time teaching had pretty much evened out where men and women got the same.

me. What kind of certificate do you have? well you told me...

Mrs. K. Yeah, I have a bachelor's degree in English, a master's degree in education, and a teaching certificate of course.

me. Where married women teachers permitted when you started?

Mrs. K. Yeah. I did however I was going to do some substitute teaching in Georgia and they allowed - at that time they were really cryin for people - if you had two years of collage you could substitute teach. And even less than. So I applied to substitute teach down there but would you believe

67.
msk: if you had less than two years of collage you'd make
Six dollars a day.

me: Was that normal pay?

msk: That's what a substitute got. If you got more than two
years you got eight dollars a day. So I was qualified
to get eight dollars a day if I substituted tonight.
And I never got called and I never got called and
I finally got called. And I said I'm pregnant, and
I'm starting to show, would that make a difference?
And she said oh, yeah we can't have you.

me: Wow. So basically in the south only. But you could
substitute teach without two years. That's weird.

me: What grades did you teach subjects?

msk: In Ely?, First through Eighth at Ely.

me: And subjects? English?


msk: No, it was Remedial reading and Remedial math.

me: What kind of activities did you teach in class like?

Mrs. K! It depended. We would do exercises depending on their math skills and what they needed and I would work with the teachers and look at what kind of things they had. And with the reading it was like phonics and questions and taking some standard tests. I can remember one time this little boy, he was a second grader, and I was, he was having trouble with the words to match the picture. We used to have things where they had a picture of something and underneath there were four words and you'd have to circle the word.

include

me: Yeah.

Mrs. K! Well there was this picture of a lamp down there. And they had the four words and I said why didn't you circle that as a lamp? It's got the  on it. I was trying to figure this out. He didn't know what a lamp was. He had never seen one.

me: And this was in the...

Mrs. K! He had never seen any lamps - He didn't have any lamps in his home. He had no idea what a lamp was.

me: Wow. So what happened.

Mrs. K! ^{Started} ~~He~~ began to realize it may not be much his reading as his lack of exposure to what was going on in the world so later's

07.
Mrs. K. to that extent has certainly improved that. You know people see that there are lamps and clocks and stuff like that. But he didn't anything. And I also at that time had a noon hour of volunteer chess club, kids would come in and we'd work with chess. So the kids loved that. They'd all come in my room and I had these chess boards and I didn't know that much about it but I could teach them the basics of it. So I did, I was the volunteer chess coach at that time.

include

me. Okay, how many students were in an average class at Ely?

Mrs. K. Well since it was remedial I would have them down in groups of one to five. It wasn't a whole class. And this was in the very early stages when they started to realize that remedial help was important.

me. Describe an average day at Ely when you were teaching

Mrs. K. I was locked in a little corner and at ten o'clock three kids would come down and sit there with me for forty-five minutes and then they'd go away. And I would sometimes be there for two hours and sometimes I'd be there for, since I only had 15 hours I wasn't there for the whole day.

me: Did you have extra jobs there to do?

Mrs.K: No, that was it.

me: How many hours- oh you already said.

Mrs.K: Very, about 15 was it.

me: What was lunch like for you and the students.

Mrs.K: I don't know that I was there during lunch, I think I came either mornings or afternoons. I missed the lunch period except I'd see them once in a while if I was hanging overtime, I can remember it being very noisy. With all these little kids screaming across the lunch room.

me: I should of asked you- when you were first a student at Ely what was your cloathing like?

Mrs.K: We wore cardigan sweaters, buttoned in the back, and little scarves.

me: What was your cloathing like when you were a teacher

Mrs.K: By that time things had loosened up so were teachers could wear pantsuits and things like that, but I think I wore mostly I wore skirts.

me: What are some of the major differences between Ely now and then?

Mrs. K:

Well, I think the fact that it is not as tightly knit as it was then because everybody went to Ely then had like the basketball, the families had all known each other for generations and right now you have people coming in from all over and so the parents aren't as close knit so the kids weren't as close knit either in that sense of the way. We had a little, when I was there was a little community, like a little family, the whole of Ely. And god, they've been there for generations. My mother went there, all of my mother's sisters and cousins and everybody. So it was as if you knew one another a lot better at that time. But there weren't the opportunities. Computers are certainly a big change. The special education classes so that more kids are getting the help they need other than just slipping through the cracks. Back in my time, if the kid had a learning disability problem, we just said he's stupid, he shouldn't be in school and he dropped. And that's why kids dropped ~~out~~ before they got to high school.

include

me: Are students' attitudes different now? In your opinion?

Mrs. K: Well I taught for twenty-seven years and what I see is

me: That there's a typical thing there up and down. There always are the good kids always no matter what generation you've got these marvelous kids who care about school, care about their families, care about doing their best at things, are very respectful. You always have kids who don't give a rip about anything. But the kids in that category have changed in that they are more openly defiant, they are more cruel. Yeah, they're destructive. And I don't think they were destructive before. They would do things but not to the extent.

good people

me: Do you think teachers let them get away with more?

Mrs. K: I think it's a matter, well number one you're not allowed to be. You're not allowed to hit a kid. Back when I was a kid. Like what I said about putting a kid in the closet, you'd never be able to do that anymore. Or put a kid under a desk you'd never be able to do anything demeaning.

include

We used to have to stand up by the chalkboard with gum on our nose.

me: I heard of that.

Mrs. K: You know all these little kinds of things kids would do, that you can't do anymore.

ms. k: But I think the biggest problem ~~remains~~ is home.

Homes aren't as close. If I called a parent in my later years and complained about the kid, I would get criticized. Well I understand that your not very interesting or I understand that you show favorites. And yet a lot of parents aren't like that. "My child wouldn't do that." And the kid ends up getting picked up by the cops one night and they don't understand it. Of course it's the cop's fault.

me: How many men taught in an average elementary school?

ms. k: When I was there it was pretty much a rule that women taught K-4, automatically. Very rarely had a man. And men then, we had 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. But not all of them were women. In high school it was a mixed bag but the women had English and Home-EC and business and men had science and math and social studies. And you know what? It hasn't changed that much.

include

ms. k: Mrs. Matkon has been the only home-EC teacher I've ever seen at Champion and National Mine.

ms. k: But I don't know that many men who would want to get into home-Economics teaching.

me: No, I don't either.

Mrs. K.: But it's kind of a gender type of thing.

me.: How did you handle unruly children then? Were there detentions?

Mrs. K.: Oh, we had detentions in the last year or so. I called home sometimes. I used more than anything, more of a sense of humor. I'd pull kids lots of times out of class and I'd talk to them and I'd pull somebody else out of class.

me.: Is this Westwood or Ely?

Mrs. K.: At Westwood. At Ely it was so small that we didn't have that problem.

me.: Plus you only had a little class.

Mrs. K.: And I'd only have them there for twenty minutes or so. But like I said I am-wrestled those boys. So that was the way I did that.

me.: That was a good one. Okay, were you involved in a teachers union ever? Describe it.

Mrs. K.: Okay, I was the president one year. I was secretary for a year or two. I've been my building representative for several years and I was on the negotiating team for a couple of years. But teachers unions aren't really militant, they're not like your other groups. Much less pushy than other unions. So it's a very kind of loose run union and the year that I was president of the union was a year where we had a contract so we didn't have to fight over a contract and I was very tactful, so I was attempting to build some bridges between us and the school board and the administration.

25.
Mrs. K. And I think I did my job in doing that. I think unions have over the years been very valuable. I don't know to what extent now, the really strong militant ones are helping. But they, if you were to read anything about the conditions when unions started in the 1800s, the child labor and they had just horrible things in those times for the working people. And so that was ~~so~~ needed, and you had to have enough money to live and now when I started teaching I think my salary back in the 1970s I think I had made 1000 dollars a year, as full time.

me. Well what would it be about now?

Mrs. K. First time teacher it's probably about 25,000.

me. Much less.

Mrs. K. Yes, so it's much different than it was, then.

me. Who was your favorite student that you taught at Ely & why?

Mrs. K. My favorite student?

me. If you can remember.

Mrs. K. Well I can remember some of them, I don't remember all of them. I don't know if I could pick one out, even if you would ask me over the years in all of my high school teaching I have some that really stand out in my memory as being special but a favorite one. †

Mrs. K: Don't think I could possibly do,

me: Okay, that's alright. Okay Tell me the best thing there was about teaching at Ely.

Mrs. K: The Ely was my foot in the door to teaching. I guess two things: Number one: it got me started. And number two; it showed me the problems of the weaker student and I had always been a real strong student and so I took too much for granted. And to that extent, I think it opened my eyes to things like people don't have lamps and I had never been aware of that kind of thing before. So it was really, it really helped there. It helped me move into the other area and it was like old home week I went back to my school and there's nothing more special than taking someplace that was special then taking someplace that was special to you and be able to go back there in a different capacity.

me: Good answer. Tell me something else interesting about teaching at Ely.

Mrs. K: It was kind of fun for me because my brother was in eighth grade when I was doing my teaching there. And so I got to see him and then I had another brother who was in like about fourth grade. So my two brothers were there. It was kind of fun to see them in the same building as they were. My daughter hadn't started school yet. Or had she. She might of been in kindergarten. Come to think of

impt
rank

22.
Mrs. K. So that was a neat part of it and being able to work with my brother's friends and stuff like that.

me. Okay I know you did research for the G. V. Centennial. I have some questions for you.

Me. Have you ever heard of Dexter school?

Mrs. K. Yes there were in those records that I did they had like three or four different schools that were located. And I can tell you who you can talk to about that who knows pretty much, they had a Dexter school & they had a something number one, something number two and a something number one, there was one that was located, you know where Andersens live out there on a hill, just down the hill going up toward Clarksburg. Apparently there was a school there.

me. Yeah there's all these little schools.

Mrs. K. And there was a school in Clarksburgh it was a really tiny thing. But Margaret Mullins would be the one to give you more information on that. Margaret Mullins.

me. Maggie Mullins? Yeah she was on our list. I don't know if anyone did her.

Mrs. K. If you haven't her husband's name is Raymond. She has a wealth of information on that kind of stuff.

Ms.K: I would definitely tell Ms. Richards to talk to her, she really, I know a lot. And another person who knows a lot is Jean Warlin.

me: Yeah, someone did her.

Ms.K: Yeah, she's been around forever. When I first started at Ely she was teaching second grade but she didn't have a certificate at that time. But she taught my sister. So she was very young when she started.

me: Do you know anyone who graduated in 1919, the first graduating class of Ely?

Ms.K: I may not had an aunt that graduated in that time, I don't know what year she exactly graduated.

me: Did you attend the present school or the first one before it burned down?

Ms.K: When did it burn down?

me: We don't know.

Ms.K: It's the present one. It's right after the addition was put on. So there was an old part and a new part. And I moved here right after, like the year after they put the lower part of it on. Before then it was just the big part, the two story part. And when my mother went there they would have three or four classes in

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Mike: a room like, kindergarten, first, second, and third in one room and so forth. And they used the chute for fire escapes too. It's the school that's here now, no question about it.

me: Is the previous school built on the site of the burned down building?

Mike: I don't know, I don't know anything about a burned down school.

me: No one seems to. Okay here's an interesting one. Why do some people call the school Ely & some call the school Diorite school? Did it change?

Mike: No, it's always been that. Diorite of course is the name of the town that it's located in.

me: Yeah but some people called in Ely and some Diorite...

Mike: We always called it Diorite when I was there we called it in our cheers we referred to it as Diorite because that was the name of the town. And it was only after consolidation that it really became Ely. But you see Diorite is the name of the town, Ely is the Township. So it's Ely Township School in Diorite. We always used to see that

include

Mrs. K. Sign, ETS, up on the stage and we always used to say 'Eat Tomato Soup'. He goes to Eat Tomato Soup school is what we always used to say.

me! Is there anyone else you think I should interview besides those two people?

Mrs. K. My mother might have some answers for you because she had a sister and a brother who taught way back. My uncle probably taught in the 1940s and he's dead now. So my mother's name is Elsie Hooper.

me! So I'll ask Mrs. Richards about that.

Mrs. K. So she went to the Ely school and graduated from there in about '37. 20 years before I did and she went into Ishpeming from there too. And she had her brother as one of her teachers.

me! That would be interesting.

Mrs. K. I had a brother who went to Westwood when I was a teacher but he refused to take my class. He'd walk down the hall and say "hi" and ignore me.

me! Do you have a specific quote or saying on Ely that you can leave me with? Actually, I have a few more questions.

Mrs. K. A quote or a saying? All I can say is that I remember Ely well.

Mrs. K! great fondness and enthusiasm. Dionde. Cause that's what
that was called then. 81.

me! I have a couple of questions beyond Ely.

me! How long did you teach at National Mine?

Mrs. K! I think it was three years. I started in '72 and the high school
opened in '74. I think it was two years, two to three years.

me! What was it like there.

Mrs. K! Well the first year was totally different from after that.
Because the first year was the old National Mine school
there were only about fifteen to twenty kids in a class
just like we had in Ely, but only they were it.

And I taught ninth grade, 11th grade, 12th grade and
Speech. The only one's I didn't have. And
of them I had. Every ninth grader, all the 11th graders and
all the 12th graders. ~~So~~ And the 11th graders had speech

and journalism. So I taught the juniors twice a day. And then
the second year when consolidation came through, we
had the half the kids that were now in our consolidated
district go to Champion and half go to Nathan mine.

And we had all kinds of kids roaming around and
all the kids from West Ishpeming and I believe it or not
was the first basketball coach that they ever had and they

Included
Ms. K. asked 'would you cover basketball and I didn't know
diddly about it when I started it I had no idea what
to do. But we had a program and we played our first
games that year and it was different because we had a lot
more kids and I had a lot less subjects and it is kind
of a blur because then we went to Westwood and we
had thirty something classes and nine week sessions
and we had had mini-classes and I taught lord
don't know. My sister in law had to come and show
me her report card so prove I had her in class because
we had so many kids that would come in at a particular time.

me: Is there anything else about Westwood?

Ms. K. I think that Westwood is, of course I've got a little
fondness for it because I've taught there for so long.
But I got a great amount of pride at having taught
at Westwood. I feel all the kids that have been
successful from there maybe I have a little to do
with

me: I think you taught my brother.

Ms. K. Yes, I sure did. Diller, he was a freshman.

All I can say is that I'm really honored. I think we
have one heck of a school.

Mrs. K: And I hope it continues and we continue to support it. 83.
I still support to help it.

Me: One more question. Are you still involved in education teaching despite your retirement?

Mrs. K: Oh, yeah. I substitute teach. In fact I'm going in Monday, Tuesday and maybe Wednesday next week. I worked a day and a half last week. I gave a workshop last Friday to teachers around the UP on writing across the curriculum.

me: How often do you do workshops?

Mrs. K: That was my first and I'm hoping I'll do it again. I'm involved in the testing program at Westwood and I've administered the High School Proficiency Test. I help out at ball games and swim meets and track meets. I also do some home schooling if a kid is at school because of a doctor's excuse.

Right now I'm tutoring some on a private basis. Two or three people who's parents have hired me to

me: where done tutor ~~total~~ A little second grade girl who's had trouble with math. And I taught a young man who wants to get into the teacher education program.