

Danielle Pellow interview with
Margaret Mullins Feb. 1997.

Me: What is your full name?

Mrs. M: My maiden name was Gustavson you want to know
that to, or my married name.

Me: How do you say that?

Mrs. M: Borgohild

Me: ~~Borg~~ Margret Borgohild

Mrs. M: yeah. That's a Noregian name.

Me: And what's your maiden name?

Mrs. M: Gustavson and I'm Mullins now. And I was born in
Atlantic Mine.

Me: Where?

Mrs. M: Atlantic Mine. That's up by Houghton. That's where I
was born.

Me: When?

Mrs. M: July the 31, 1913.

Me: What is your husband's name?

Mrs. M: Raymond

Me: How many children do you have?

Mrs. M: 3

Me: What are their names?

Mrs. M: John, Katherine, and Micheal

Me: What are your parents names?

Mrs. M: Oh my mothers name is Clara Carlson and my fathers name is Charles Gustovson. We spelled our name always with a v not an f. Most people put a f but we put a v.

Me: Did you have any siblings?

Mrs. M: I have 3 sisters.

Me: What are their names

Mrs. M: No, not 3, 2 sisters. There are 3 of us. Helen Swanson and ~~Charolette~~ Charolette _____.

Mrs. M: What schools did I attend?

Me: yeah.

Mrs. M: Well I started the kindergarten in Diorite in 1918. And how did I get to school. Well I walked a goodly distance.

Me: How far did you have to walk?

Mrs. M: Well, for a little kid it must of been 1 mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 miles.

Me: really!

Mrs. M: Yeah.

Me: How many kids attended Ely while you were a kid?

Mrs. M: Oh gosh! I don't know. There were lots and lots when I started because at that time there was a high school too. Diorite was a pretty good sized town. There was a mine, there. And I really don't being only 5 years old when I started its hard for me to remember, But there was a lot of kids. The high school was upstairs and there were 3 big rooms downstairs for the grade schools. As to how many were there I couldn't tell you.

Mrs. M: There must of been 75 or 80 anyway. In the whole school I would say.

Me: How many years did you go to Ely?

Mrs. M: Well, I started there in kindergarten in 1918 ~~and~~ til 1919. I think I went there for kindergarten and the first and the second grade. Then we moved. In 1921 we moved to Amasa. A-M-A-S-A.

Me: Where is that?

Mrs. M: Don't you know the Upper Peninsula.

Me: Sorta.

Mrs. M: Well, thats close to Crystal Falls and Iron River.

Me: Oh, I know where that is.

Mrs. M.: But you can also go ... if you go up here to Covington and go across through on 141 and get there. I went to Amasa for one year. Then I went to Iron River. To the Lincoln's school in Iron River for another year.

Me: Oh, you moved around alot.

Mrs. M: yeah. And after that the next year I went to the Salisbury school in Ishpeming, for one year. Then we moved back to Diorite. And then I continued oh lets see probably the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in Diorite. Then from there I went to the Ishpeming

Mrs. M: High School for four years.

Me: Oh, because there was no.....

Mrs. M: There was no high school there at that time, you see there was a mine up there and that closed in 1921. That was the reason there were so many people living in that town at that time. And there were a lot of company houses that were built there and there was a great big store there. And a town hall and a church and a _____ room and several boarding houses. It was quiet a town.

me: Oh and then in 1921 everyone moved?

Mrs. M: In 1921 the mine closed. So then my father got another job at the ~~mine~~ Diamond Hills. Because he had done that before in his lifetime. That's what they drilled for iron ore. They would go down way down in the ground and they'd find where the ore is and get those core samples up, and tell you how good the ore is. If there is enough ore there, that's where they put a mine. See he drilled for the Blueberry Mine too at one time. See, so anyway well, I get ahead and behind myself but in 1927 I started high school in Ishpeming. And I went four years and graduated in 1931. And my husband graduated in 1931 also. He didn't go to Diavrite. He went to there was two little schools over here in this area that he went to.

Me: Did he graduate from Ishpeming High School.

Mrs. M: Yes, in 1931 same as I did. Yeah. And I talked to a lady yesterday. She is older than I am. His cousin, she is 90. And we were counting how many schools there had been in Ely Township, as far back as

Mrs. M: we could remember. And we come to the conclusion that there were nine schools in Ely Township at various times.

Me: nine schools?

Mrs. M: nine schools in Ely Township at various times. They weren't all in existance at ~~was~~ the same time. But there were several at one time. And when I went to Ishpeming high school we drove our own cars to school. That's how we got there.

Me: Oh you had your own car.

Mrs. M: We would car pool see. And I drove and then we'd ride with others, we'd take turns. And the township would give us each \$10 a month to spend on gas or boarding in town or whatever, you do. So if we car pooled, we could keep our money. We used our car for a week. Then the other fellow would use his car for a week and so on. So that there was probably five of us that rode together. And that's what we did all through school.

Me: How many teachers were there?

Mrs. M: In Diorite?

Me: Yeah

Mrs. M: Well, I don't know. My first teacher that I remember was Norma Ross. She was ~~to~~ from Marquette and I had her for kindergarten. And there was one called Ms. Gincerst there and I don't know where she's from. And I don't know. There must of been another teacher because there was another room. But how

Mrs. M: many teacher there was in high school I don't know. I have no idea. Because I was too small to remember that. And when I came back and could remember something there was only the kindergarten through the eighth grade, at that time see. So in ~~the~~ fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade there were only 3 rooms and three different teachers for a year. Well, then sometimes one would quit or go somewhere else and there would be a different one. I had Ms. NanCarol and Henry Bully that I remember mostly. Mr. Bully taught the seventh and ~~eight~~ eighth grade. And Ms. NanCarol was like the fifth and sixth grade, I had her for that. In high school there were many teachers because you changed classes. See, when we went to the Ely Township school there was no changing of classes. We knew nothing about that until we got to high school. And we had no gym. So we knew nothing about going to gym, see. Until we got to high school. And of course then there was a swimming pool there at the high school too. But we already knew how to swim because there is a lake there at Diorite. We always swam there. So we didn't have to learn how to swim at school because you know, we already knew that. ~~Learned~~ Learned that ourselves.

Me: what were the teachers like?

Mrs. M: Well, I guess they were.. I don't remember having any problems with them. Well, really at that time you didn't complain much. It's not like now, if you did ~~what~~ what was wrong then you had to suffer the consequences. And if you came home and were punished in school then you probably got punished at home because you didn't behave right in school you know. That's the way it was. Well, I managed to do pretty well and I didn't get in trouble really.

Me: How would they have punished you at school?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't know, I guess mostly they put you in the closet or especially in the grade school you know. Put you in the closet or something. We had one lad that... he was full of the digins he used to... the girls would wear braids and that you know. And he'd... we had those desks you know with the ink well in the corner. And he'd get a hold of of of the girls' braids and he'd dip it in the ink well. Or else he used to eat the paste. And the teachers ~~to~~ thought he was going to get sick. He ate the paste. Of course he didn't get sick. There was no ~~poison~~ poison in the paste. Do that ~~to~~ just to torment her. Oh he was always full of tricks, doing tricks like that.

Me: Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't really remember that. I don't think I had a favorite teacher really. In high school I had one that I thought was pretty nice. She was an English teacher. Her first year teaching was when I started high school. She was called Ms. Mezrol Francis Mezrol. She was a very nice teacher. And I had a German teacher called Emma Conrad and I liked her pretty well too. But then I had a book-keeping teacher called Helen — but she was kind of crabby. (Laughter) But she was a good teacher. But other than that I really don't know. I guess I just went to school because I had to and put up with whatever was you know came along because I don't remember complaining too much it wouldn't of done me any good anyway. Because I had to go to school. I wasn't allowed

Mrs. M: to quit school. You know I had to finish. You knew that so, that was it. What else do you want to know?

Me: what was your favorite subject?

Mrs. M: Oh in grade school I always liked Geography and World history. I like that. Geography is always interesting. I like that. And I didn't mind spelling. That was pretty good. Well, I don't know if in high school I had any favorites. The first year of high school was hard because we changed classes and we were not familiar with that. Never having done that at all and never knowing anything about it. And didn't realize, see there was three floors in Ishpeming High School. The 100s is the first floor. The 200s is the second floor and the 300s is the third floor. We never knew that. See, so you had to learn that when you got there.

Me: Did you have trouble finding your way around?

Mrs. M: Yes, you got lost. That's right. You got lost. It took a couple of weeks until you really got used to it.

Me: In what grade did you start doing homework?

Mrs. M: I don't know. Probably high school. I don't remember doing much homework in grade school. I don't remember doing much homework. But in high school there was always homework.

Me: what was your homework like and did you like to do it?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't know if I liked to do it, but it was something I had to do. You did it. I don't know that I liked it really. We always did it.

Me: What did you write with?

Mrs. M: In grade school of course we had pencils all the time. In high school we used pencils too but in book keeping we had to use ink. And there were no ball point pens and that at that time you know. You had to have a pen with a point in it you know and you had an ink well. And all your book keeping was done in ink. That's how you done your book keeping.

Me: Was it messy?

Mrs. M: Yes kind of. Yes it was. Sometimes the pens didn't work very well. I don't know if you've ever used a pen point. It would catch a little bit of fuzz or something and then it would make it messy when you wrote. You would have to clean it.

Me: We had to use something like that for last year.

Mrs. M: There was a little slit there and that's where your ink was stored. If there was fuzz, it would drag that on and it would look terrible.

Me: What did you write on?

Mrs. M: Well, we had we had pretty good paper as far as I can remember. In book keeping we had a set of books

Mrs. M: With nice paper with blue lines. Otherwise we had nice paper at least in high school. Otherwise in grade school we had rough paper with lines on it. You know that regular tablet paper that was kind of rough you know what I mean. Because we wrote with pencil and it didn't make much difference.

Me: What was your lunch like?

Mrs. M: Well, when I went to grade school I just lived across the street from the school so we could go home and have lunch. But in high school we were allowed, the old school was there not the new one, The old school burned. The year that it burned was the year I was entering my senior year. That was 1930-31. And when I started high school in 1927 and we were allowed to use the cooking classroom. And there were some gas burners in there, and we could bring something to warm like if we had, we could bring a can of soup and we could warm it on the stove with a little pan, but you had to clean up after yourself. Us girls could do that, but the boys brought mostly sandwiches unless they had a sister that was in a class like that. And if they brought something from home she could warm it and then share it with her brother, and then you'd have to take it out to the boys' lunch room, because the boys and the girls didn't eat together. The girls ate in this cooking room. And my sister, she started school after I did so she started in '28 so after we got to school

Mrs. M: together we would get like a can of soup ~~at~~ or a can of corn or a can of tomatoes or something and we'd bring some bread and butter from home and we'd heat that. And that would be our lunch. And once in a while if we were rich we could go across the street to Mrs. Robarb and we could buy a pasty. For 15¢, and a bottle of pop for a nickle. And you were really rich, that was 20¢, you were really rich if you had 20¢ and could go and buy your lunch there. Yeah it was cheap but in those day you know it was not cheap. It was pretty good. So that's what we did all through high school. But then in the last year when the school burnt down we traveled. We traveled where we had classes. The YMCA was there then that's where the senior citizens' is in Ishpeming now there was a big YMCA there. And there were classes in there and across the street there was a lodge up there a big lodge room. There were classes there and there were classes there, And some of us had to walk to the grammar school which is no longer in existance. There were classes there also. And a couple of stores downtown were empty and they set up classrooms there. And we walked and we carried our coat and books around town. We had like 15 minutes between classes. We had to hurry up. And when graduation came there was no school to graduate from. I graduated from Ishpeming Theater. (Laughter) In 1931 I graduated from the Ishpeming Theater. I don't remember where we ate. We must of had a lunch room somewhere. We had to carry our lunch from

Mrs. M: home then. Because there was no way of us warming anything. Sandwiches and something to drink. That was it. No hot lunches in those days.

me: Did the school ever provide you with a lunch?

Mrs. M: No. Never. The school never ever gave us a lunch.

me: Where did you keep your lunch?

Mrs. M: Well, there was a cloak room. But I guess the last year we had to carry it with us, because everyone had a ~~box~~ briefcase or a bag or something I don't particularly remember. See you had to carry all your books with you. All day.

me: You didn't have locker breaks or anything?

Mrs. M: Not then. In the old school we had a thing called a cloak room. And everybody hung their coats in there on hangers and there was a shelf where you could put your hat on or your lunch box or whatever in the cloak room. As we traveled along like that we had to carry everything with you. I don't remember, we must of had a specific place where we ate but I don't really remember where.

me: Describe recess.

Mrs. M: Recess. Oh, I don't really remember how long recess lasted when we were kids. Probably 20 minutes or something. And we used to play tag or Pom Pom Pull Away or hide and go seek. Things like that. Or in wintertime we'd make a great big circle out in

Mrs. M: the snow. And I don't know what we used to call that. Something about a goose. or something I don't really remember. You know we made a big circle and then we went across like this and we ran there around it. I don't remember what it was called. But I remember that we did that you know. ~~When~~ When the snow was deep we made this big circle 20-30 feet around you know and then we played sort of a tag in there or whatever.

me: What was that other game?

Mrs. M: Pom Pom Pull ~~the~~ Away. Everybody held hands and make a big long string. And then you'd pull and they wing you or something. It was kind of hard to follow.

Me: What were your desks like?

Mrs. M: Well, we had a desk that had a little of a slant to it and there was an opening. You put your books inside of there. And then we had a seat folded up and then we put it down. That was in grade school. Then in high school, we had the autotorium which was like your study hall or whatever. And there were the same kinds of desks in there. And you were assigned to one. It went by your initial. If you were a A then you were way on the end. Mine was G so I was kind of in the middle. And it went like that. You were seated alfabetically.

Me: Were all the desks in the different classrooms like that?

Mrs. M: Yes, all the desks were like that. We didn't have tables except in the sewing room we had tables. And in the cooking room there were tables but in other classrooms we had desks like that. This was long ago when I went to school. Now there's tables and chairs. We didn't have that.

Me: Describe your clothing for winter and summer.

Mrs. M: Oh in the winter you had wear arctics and you had to wear long underwear and you had long stockings on and tights or something you know. There was a lot of snow to go through. Things were not plowed like now, you struggled through the snow you know to get there and you had heavy clothes. You always had to have a good cap on your head and mittens. You dressed pretty warm.

Me: How long did it take you to get to school?

Mrs. M: Well in grade school when I went there for the last time I just lived across the ~~4~~ street so that didn't take very long. But when I was in kindergarten I walked a mile or two miles then I remember I had a gray bonnett. It was a gray angora. You know what angora is like? It's fuzzy like a little kitten. And a pussybonnett ~~was~~ gray with red roses tied to it. I don't know what kind of coat I wore but I remember walking and my bonnett got untied and I didn't have enough sense to tie it. I froze my ~~ears~~ ears that time. I don't remember how long it took see I was so small then when I walked that. It must of taken $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour or 45 minutes to an hour. It took a long time because I took ~~short~~ short steps at that time. I don't take very big ones now either.

me: Did you have to wear a dress?

Mrs. M: Well at that time girls always wore dresses.

me: Oh so you didn't have to you wanted to.

Mrs. M: Well that's the way we dressed. See that's the way we dressed. We had to look half decent. The boys wore dress pants or quite decent pants and ~~and~~ they didn't go to school with holes in their knees or raggedy shorts or things like that or those T-shirts that are about 3 or 4 sizes too big. They didn't wear that. Your clothes fit you and you had to look decent. My mother made most of my clothes. My mother sewed my clothes, I didn't have a store bought coat until I was a sophomore in high school.

me: Did the school ever have to send you home for not wearing proper clothing?

Mrs. M: No. Never.

me: Would they if you didn't?

Mrs. M: I don't know because I didn't see, Even though they were poor they, if they had holes they were patched or that so they looked, that was during the Depression and that and they always looked neat and clean. That was one thing you know but they didn't. Now a days they don't dress very nice and they don't look neat at all. You always had to look neat. Your clothes fit you like they should.

me: Did you go on field trips?

Mrs. M: yes ~~and~~ we did that in grade school yes. I don't remember in high school. I think we did a couple of times for a science class. I think we went out one time

Mrs. M: looking for leaves and things like in the fall. For science class you know. I think up by the Mather Cottage where that used to be. We went up there. There was so many different kinds of trees up in there. But in grade school we used to take a walk like around, there is a lake there in ~~Clarksburg~~^{Diorite}, we used to walk around the lake and on the railroad track. Different things like that. I remember once I was in first or second grade. My teacher was Margerat DeCaire and she lived in Clarksburg and her folks lived on a farm and they had some sheep. One day she took us all, we walked from Diorite to Clarksburg ~~which~~ which is probably two miles or 2 1/2 miles. She walked from Clarksburg to Diorite to teach us. She walked up to her farm, and showed us the sheep and everything there. She walked back with us and then she walked home again. She walked back and forth 2 times for us. I remember going there to her place. They had a nice farm. We looked at the animals and things that were there. That was in the first or second grade.

Me: Did you ever go on a bus?

Mrs. M: Never. We had no buses. No buses. Lots of people that went a little before me, they boarded in town. They found someone they could board with if they had a relative in town or something. They'd get down there on Sunday night or Monday morning and then they'd come home on Friday night. They boarded in town. But we drove. There was like five in a car probably. The car was full. And we drove.

Me: Describe any memorable holiday celebrations at Ely.

Mrs. M: Holiday celebrations. One thing I remember but it was not a celebration but we had a school ~~board~~ board member that decided we were going to have school on Christmas Eve. And my father said, everybody had a part or a piece to speak or something. You had a little play or a little poem or two to memorize and then you had some groups singing. Well, anyway we were in the program but my father said that we didn't have to go to school on Christmas Eve so we didn't. So whatever program we were in, we didn't take part in. That's one thing I remember about that. Other than that I don't remember. Well we used to belong to 4-H. Know what that is? When we were in Bidrite in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th we belonged to 4-H. There was sewing, and for the boys they had what we called handicraft. They made things out of wood. Like little end tables and smoking stands and a little chest to store things in. The older that you got the bigger project that you worked on. We had canning and gardening and things like that. Well then we always had a 4-H day down at Northern. And we went there the 4-H and our eighth grade graduation took place at Northern. All the kids from our township or from our county they were all from the little schools around. Not Ishpeming, Uegance or Marquette. They had their own. Or Champion they had their own too but there were a couple of schools around. We were under the supervision of the Marquette County School Commission. Our ~~eight~~ eighth grade, our eighth grade graduation was at Northern Michigan along with this 4-H day which was a big day. And our parents or teachers or someone would bring us. You parents would come too. You see because we had to get there. There were no buses.

Mrs. M: That was a big day for us. To go to Northern and we ran around like little nuts. There was a big gym there and that was something to us because we never seen it like that. We exhibited whatever we made in the 4-4 or whatever and then we got judged and we got prizes. Then the eighth grade graduation there was a little ceremony. The county school commissioner was _____ Anderson and after that it was _____ Williams. They presented the eighth grade with their diplomas and that was quite an achievement. And lots of kids then didn't go on to high school. When they got their eighth grade diploma that was it, but I was not allowed to do that. I had to finish.

me: Did you give any gifts to your friends?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't know. We might have. It really wasn't at school. We kind of did it at home. I don't remember giving anyone anything at school except sometimes we brought the teacher something but not anything that amounted to too much. You know it was Depression days then and people were poor, poor, poor. It's not like it is now. You know.

me: Were you a model student?

Mrs. M: Well, I guess I was a model student. I didn't get into any trouble and I didn't make the honor roll but I didn't ~~flunk~~ flunk either so I guess I was alright.

me: From 6TH to 12TH grade did you switch classes?

Mrs. M: Well, from 9TH to 12TH we did. But not 6TH to 8TH

Mrs. M: grade. Not until I got to high school. We never switched classes at all.

Me: How many teachers did you have per day when you switched classes?

Mrs. M: Well, in high school we had a teacher for each class and we had 4 classes. We'd have 4 teachers, ~~once~~ Once in a while we'd have gym not everyday but 2 or 3 times a week. We had a gym day. She's asking me a whole bunch of questions never mind (talking to her husband)

Me: what sports did boys or girls participate in?

Mrs. M: Well, in high school of course there was basketball and there was football. And in gym we played I think it was volleyball or something and I think we did some kinds of dances. We had a maypole and we did that and I, the sailors horn pipe. We danced that. We played the piano and there were certain steps that you had to do. And then we played basketball too for the girls and swimming. We had a swimming pool in Ishpeming when I went to high school.

Me: Did you have any sports in grade school?

Mrs. M: Not really no. There were no sports in there. Just when we went out with the kids and played baseball. I mean the kids after school had their own teams and that but nothing for school. Nothing for school.

Me: What kind of dress code was there?

Mrs. M: Well, as far as I ~~do~~ know, I don't remember there was anything, except in high school. In high school you just had to look decent. And other than that there was no really dress code, But like I said the girls all wore dresses. Nobody wore slacks at that time.

Mrs. M: There probably would have been a dress code but no one wore slacks at that time. So there was no reason to change.

Me: What did you do for entertainment?

Mrs. M: At home you mean?

Me: yeah.

Mrs. M: Oh well in the wintertime if it was a moonlight night we'd go sleigh riding. Or in the late we'd shovel and there'd be a skating rink, and we'd go skating. If we couldn't do that we'd go over someone's house and make popcorn, and play cards or we had a game board that you play about 30 games on it. There are games on each side and there's pockets for little rings if you shoot pool. We had one of those at our house and the kids used to come over and play with it. And make popcorn or taffy or ~~eggs~~ fudge or something like that, and the evening went like that.

Me: Could your family afford a radio?

Mrs. M: Well, we had a radio. Our first radio my mother's cousin bought it from Chicago. It was battery operated and my father ran it off the battery on our model T car. He took wires from in the house out to the car and we could run it that way. Of course it was pretty scratchy and noisy but we got a radio. We had no electricity at that. You see we had no electricity so we had gasoline lights in the house and kerosene lights for my years. And same with the school. There was no electricity in the school at that time. So some days it got a little dark in there, but there was a lot of windows. In those days almost a whole wall would be a window. When I went to high school there was electricity in the school.

Me: Was the radio how you got your news?

Mrs. M: Yeah we got it from that, and we got the paper. We used to buy a paper whenever we could afford it, but we got a lot of the news from the radio. We never had t.v. until well, my oldest son bought us a t.v. when he started to work. That was maybe 1950. No, it was after that because he didn't get ~~the~~ through school until '54. We've had one ever since. You know, it's a necessity now.

Me: What kind of picture did you get on the t.v.?

Mrs. M: Well, at first there was not too much. We had an outside antenna you know. And you could get, most of the time it was quite snowy. Even though you had an outside antenna. The weather depended on a lot of what you got. You know if you turned the antenna just right there would come something.

me: Was it black and white?

Mrs. M: Yes.

Me: How has the t.v. improved?

Mrs. M: Oh my goodness! I would say by 300% or something because you have so much now. And of course you have cable and color. Just recently they went through and improved the cable or something. It's good.

Me: Was there a preschool in Ely?

Mrs. M: No preschool. Just a kindergarten.

Me: What did you do in kindergarten?

Mrs. M: Oh, we learned letters and numbers. We had a great big chart like a great big book and it was hanging on a stand. The letters and things were on there and like the

Mrs. M: sounds like the ch and the sh. We learned all of those. They call that a chart class. It was on a chart. And then we had cards with numbers on them and letters on them. So we learned from those cards. You learned to write your name and that you know.

Me: Did you play games in kindergarten?

Mrs. M: oh yes. We played some games. I don't remember what but I know we played games. And I don't know but I think we went all day in kindergarten. I think so.

Me: How old were you when you first started school?

Mrs. M: 5.

Me: Describe a typical day as an elementary student.

Mrs. M: Typical day. Oh Gee I don't know. I don't even remember the order that our lessons went in. But you went through each subject that you had and see each room there was like 2 grades or maybe 3 grades. So the teacher had to divide her attention between 2 classes or maybe 3.

Me: There's only one teacher?

Mrs. M: One teacher. So maybe the 7TH and 8TH grade were together. So she divided her attention. And then of course you'd always listen to her. See because you ~~all~~ all sat there in this one big room except one grade sat there and one grade sat here. When she was conducting a class she was in front of the class she was conducting.

Me: What were the other classes doing?

Mrs. M: Well, they were supposed to do their studying or homework that they had to do or whatever. They would do that. It was different from now.

Me: What did you major in high school?

Mrs. M: Commercial or bookkeeping.

Me: What year did you graduate?

Mrs. M: '31

Me: How many were in your graduating class?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't remember. There were lots of us. Well lets see about 94. (Showing me yearbook) There were no individual pictures until you were a senior. In the other grades there were just class pictures. We didn't live in town so school started at 8:15 so we had to leave home like a little after 7:00 in order to get there to drive. Then if you had a 4:15 bus to get home then you'd have to wait until then. A lot of the kids got out at 3:30 if you had an 8:15 class, most of the time you got out at 3:30 so then you ~~could~~ could drive home, but if you had a late class you left at 4:15 and you got home at about 5:00. See we had to drive 10 miles to get to school. 10 miles it was.

Me: Were there lots of drop-outs then?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't know. There were some but I don't think lots. There were a few but I don't think there was a lot. Although I think that some girls went to school until they were juniors and then they quit and went to work. A lot of the girls did that because they could get a job see. That was during Depression so it was really good if you had a job.

Me: Did you have married teachers?

Mrs. M: I don't think so. Not at that time. The men were married but not the women. As far as I remember. I don't think so. That came later. As far as I remember there weren't any.

Me: How did students get into trouble or how were rules broken?

Mrs. M: Oh well I don't know. You know how kids are. They are always looking for trouble. They do things they are not supposed to. Running up and down the stairs. One time my husband got put in a big wastebasket at school. It was a big wastebasket it must have been this wide and that tall. He was a freshman and a small one. They put him in there and I guess his coat got hung up there and I guess it got torn or something. I guess that was like an initiation or something I don't know. They used to do things like that. You know how boys are. They are looking for some excitement. All kids get into a certain amount of trouble. They do things they are not supposed to.

Me: How were ~~unruly~~ unruly children handled?

Mrs. M: Well I think if you were in high school you had to go to the principal's office. But if you were in grade school you probably had to go and spend some time in the cloak closet or something for a long time. The teacher would go watch you to make sure you didn't get into any more trouble.

Me: Did you ever get hit?

Mrs. M: Hit?

Me: From the teachers?

Mrs. M: Well, I never did but I think some of them did, because sometimes you know it didn't, they deserved it. They would do things sometimes that

Mrs. M: is in the grade school. Some of the boys were pretty big and they would do some bad things sometimes.

me: What would of happened if your parents found out you got in trouble at school?

Mrs. M: You'd be in trouble at home. There were no ifs, ands, or buts about it. If you were in trouble at school you were in trouble at home too.

Me: Were you ever in trouble?

Mrs. M: No. I managed to steer clear of trouble.

me: Did your family work on Sundays or did they rest?

Mrs. M: Well, I tell you my father worked shift work. And he worked five days a week whichever way they fell. If they were on Saturday or Sunday or whatever. The mine works continually so there is always someone there. We didn't go to church that often. We lived so far out and there was no particular church there except a Finnish minister would come from Ishpeming, when we were in grade school. We went because it was something to do. We didn't understand him but we went because it was some place to go. There was not many places to go there. Once a month he would come and the Finnish people would go. Pretty soon we could sing Finnish songs.

me: When you didn't go to church did you pray at home?

Mrs. M: Oh yes.

me: Do you remember any sicknesses or broken bones from when you were a kid?

Mrs. M: I never had any broken bones,

me: Was there any epidemics that went through your school?

Mrs. M: Flu. That flu. My mother had it and I had it and my sister had it. My mother was very, very sick. I stayed home from school for a long time. My father had to stay home from work to take care of us, because no one else would come in. That was in 1919 or 1920 or something when that flu epidemic went around.

me: Did they ever have to cancel school?

Mrs. M: Well, I don't remember. I know I didn't go because I was sick. But there was that polio epidemic too you know that was pretty bad. But we never had that. We were lucky enough we didn't get that.

me: Did they cancel school for that at all?

Mrs. M: I don't know if they did or not. They had that vaccination you know they invented that. We were vaccinated against that. We were also vaccinated against tuberculosis. They had a lot of tuberculosis at that time. There was a tuberculosis sanitarium. Some kids had to miss some school. Our family never had that.

me: Were there any minorities or recent immigrants in your classes or did you have any non-English ~~speaking~~ speaking people?

Mrs. M: No. Now as minorities were concerned I don't remember. Even in high school I don't think we had any colored or Mexican or anything like that. See that was in 1931 that was a long time before colored or Hispanics came in this much. There were Italian and Finnish families where the parents didn't talk much English.

Mrs. M: but the kids could talk English. That's all that was taught in school.

Me: what was the snowstorm of 1938 like?

Mrs. M: Well my husband was driving a school bus at that time and he was out on his run and he picked up his kids. He had a terrible time. He brought everyone home except 3 I think. You know where the golf club is? Well it was on that road going over to the railroad track by a house over there. He had the Salka kids that lived 4, 5 miles away by the Greenwood residents. There, by the bus, the kids aunt and uncle. Mr. Junak was the, his sister was Mrs. Jalka. So he got the kids as far as the railroad track and he went in with them, and the kids stayed there at that house. He walked back through the snow and he hardly knew where he was because it was getting dark out and he found a fence post and he was not on the road. He got out right close to 41 there. There was, the township had a garage there with a tractor and as he was walking, he could hear that tractor being start up. He got there and the fellow that was going out to Greenwood. My husband walked. We lived down on the corner we had another gas station down on the corner before you get to the Rendezvous. Well on the corner there we had a gas station. That's where we lived. At that time we had no telephone. And so it came out that he was lost on the radio with the bus load of kids. Then he called the Mining Journal to say that he was safe and the kids were all safe. The bus was still out there because he couldn't get it out. That storm lasted

Mrs. M: about 3 days I guess. There was so much snow that men were walking by one man came from the Neganee Mine. He was coming along and he was carrying a pork _____. It was wrapped in paper. He had a rope on each end and he had that over his shoulder. He was walking towards Humbolt and the snow was so high you could touch the telephone wires with your hands. People came in my house that were walking and I gave them coffee and fed them whatever I could give them. I guess I had enough food so I always managed to give someone lunch or something to eat. They'd rest a lot and then they'd go on their way walking. That road was closed for 3 days. They had to get a great big bulldozer to open that up. It was hard going through there. You know because the snow was so high. They never ~~ordered~~ ordered the bus to come out early. They never did that. So, he waited for his regular time to pick up the kids. Had they ordered it earlier, the bus wouldn't of gotten stuck. Also, there were people working at the ~~at Greenwood~~ Greenwood Mine and they were stuck out there too. At the same place. They had to stay there on that bus and they had nothing to eat. My husband managed to get all the kids home that were on his bus. There was a fellow that worked at the Greenwood mine and lived across the street from the golf club. He made skis and got home from the mine. He got some homemade bread and some coffee and he walked back to the mine with whatever he could get, to give to the mine workers. That was quite a storm.

Me: How did the Depression affect the way you and your family lived?

Mrs. M: Well, we learned to do without a lot of things. You know. I graduated in 1931 which was during the Depression days and I was lucky to have a class ring. It cost \$5 and a quarter I think. I still have it and I had a nice dress for graduation. My mother sewed a lot too. That helped you know. We always had cow and some chickens and a garden. My father pretty much except he worked at the WPA too. With the few things we had, we managed to do pretty well. We didn't have very much money you know, but we never went hungry. We were lucky.

me: How did World War II affect the way you lived?

Mrs. M: Well see we were in the gasoline business at that time and gasoline was rationed. We were selling gasoline and you had to have tickets to buy gasoline. Stamps to buy gasoline. At that time my husband was driving a school bus and he had stamps for gasoline for the school bus. Then you were supposed to turn in all your tires. You know the extra tires that you had because they were short of rubber ~~tires~~ tires and that. Sugar was rationed and meat was rationed. So, you had to learn to live with different things and do without you know. We managed fairly well but we were very glad when the gas rationing was over because you had to have stamps or gasoline one or the other. It had to balance out. See, if it came out short then you're out of luck. You had to balance the gas you had in the tank and the stamps you had. You had to measure and check, and record that all the time.

me: Did you know anyone that was involved in the war?

Mrs. M: Oh yes. My brother-in-law was in the war and he was in Marquette. One of our good friends was in the war and some of the other neighbors around here, My husband or father were not. My son was in the guards in Ishpeming but not in the service.

Me: I know you were involved in the Centennial. Do you have any interesting facts about the Ely District that you would like to share with me?

Mrs. M: Well, I think I already told you this but at one time there were 9 different schools in the Ely Township at various times. Also I didn't tell you this when I went to the Diorite school although it didn't affect me but the school burnt down and they built another one there. The year I started ~~to~~ high school was the year the new school was being built and so there was ~~no~~ school being held in a courthouse. (went in kitchen) Now what did you ask me? Oh I was trying to tell you about the school in Diorite that burnt down. The kids had to do what we did in Ishpeming. They went to school in what was called a courthouse it was a jail there. There was a church there and they went to school there. The janitor at the school he had a big house and part of his house they used for school. I think another house too. They divided for that particular year. The kids in Diorite had to travel.

me: what kind of hobbies do you do?

Mrs. M: Hobbies, Cooking and baking and working. I never had time to get into ~~to~~ sewing or that because we lived at the gas station. My husband and I. I waited on as many cars as he did. I helped all the time. Also I did the bookwork and the cleaning and the cooking. He drove a school bus for several years so I was there by myself. I did for 12 years, I just retired from this, my sister and I and 4 other older ladies we organized a senior citizens club in the Ely Township. We had a meal once a month for 12 years. My sister and I and 3 or 4 others would do the cooking. We had a committee. There were eight of us on the committee. That was one thing that we did that was interesting, but after 12 years we felt we've done enough. There is another group trying to do the same thing. That was kind of fun.

me: How long have you been married?

Mrs. M: 61 years. That's a long time.

Me: Do you have any photos?

Mrs. M: Yes, I'll get some out for you. I can show you my graduation picture in this yearbook.

Me: Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

Mrs. M: Well, I think I covered everything. There used to be a big store in Dixite. There was everything there. You could buy anything in there furniture, clothes, the post office was in there, and the meat market. It was a regular department store.

Me: Do you know of anyone else involved in the Ely School that we could interview?

Mrs. M: Well, there is a woman that is older named Andrea Anderson that would have lots of things to say about the schools. She went to the Ely Township School. I don't know anyone else that I could tell you. She's got a good memory.

Me: Thank you for your time.

Mrs. M: Well I hope I helped you out.

Me: You did.