

Michele Lawrence
Interviewing
Leslie Lawrence

me - when and where were you born?

Uncle - January 27th 1911

me - How long did you live in National
mine?

Uncle - 34 years

me - Did you walk to school?

Uncle - yes, we walked back and forth to school

me - and in the winter you skied?

Uncle - and in the winter we skied back and forth
and in the winter if it was storming and
blow the older ones (laughing) on the
paths, the roads weren't plowed them
day, we had to take shortcuts

me - did they have a hot lunch program?

Uncle - no, no hot lunch, if you lived within
a mile of the school you couldn't take
a lunch unless it was a real bad storm
but if over a mile then they could take
lunches, yeah

me - How long was your break?

Uncle - an hour, one hour

me - What did you use to do then, did you like
walk around up at school?

Uncle - yeah, played around out in the yard, school

yard, and if it was bad and storming we'd
play in the gym

me- Basketball and stuff?

Uncle- Basketball, Indoor Baseball

me- What time did school start?

Uncle- Started 9:00 and till 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00

me- What did the teachers do for punishment?

Uncle- they'd keep you after school a half hour

me- did you have to write?

Uncle- we had to write, we had so many words so
many times, they gave you words to
write 100 times

me- did they call home and tell your parents?

Uncle- no, no telephones around then, only very
few telephones

me- yeah, were you in any kind of sports?

Uncle- Baseball that's all

me- how many years were you in that?

Uncle- oh, I guess about 9 years

me- Did you graduate from high school?

Uncle- no I didn't I went to ninth grade and
quit.

me- what did you do in your spare time?

uncle- Well, in the winter we'd ski ride, we went skidding and sleigh riding on the hills and in the summer we'd play baseball and lots of fishing, after the hay was cut in the fields we'd play baseball

me- Did you ever catch any fish?

uncle- oh yes, we used to catch lots of fish in the Ely river.

me- do you remember the longest one? how big?

uncle- oh! I suppose in them days it was about 9, 10 inches in the Ely

me- were you raised on a farm?

uncle- no, no farm

me- did you live through any depressions?

uncle- yes it was the depression 1937 to '43, '44

me- what was the hardest part you had to go through?

uncle- yeah, I think it was '34 to '38 was the worst part.

me- what was so bad about it?

uncle- oh, you just couldn't get work anywhere, you know jobs were hard to find + they

didn't last maybe a day or ~~two~~ and
then you'd go look for a job hauling
wood or something or handling wood or
pulp for somebody and drive trucks \$1.00
a day, board

me - what kinds of jobs have you had?

uncle - driving trucks and tractors and ah
handling wood, cutting firewood

me - what was your favorite?

uncle - driving truck and tractor.

me - where were your jobs located?

uncle - well, in um east somewhere and
down south Marquette on the
Reynolds farm and down
Buch and Poplars farm.

me - do you do much hunting?

uncle - not anymore, I did, I used to
do a lot of fishing at Green Creek

me - did you deer hunt and rabbit and

all ~~but~~ that?

uncle - yes deer hunt and rabbit hunt
but I don't do that anymore I
quit

me - what was the biggest deer you
had?

uncle - 8 point, that's the biggest I ever
had, there were bigger but I
didn't have the heart to shoot
them (laughing)

me - (laughing) did you bear hunt?

uncle - no, no bear hunting, that's one
thing I never wanted to do was
bear hunt.

me - why?

uncle - I helped to handle bears - what
other yellows shot and they so hard
to handle; dragging that I'd never
want to shoot a bear

me - did you ever have any kinds of

experiences with any kinds of animals?

Uncle - no, no experiences with dogs or deer. ~~come~~ close to 'em but they never bothered me, I didn't bother them.

me - (laughing) they ran off.

Uncle - (laughing) yup they ran off and I took my way. they never bothered me.

me - did you have a your dog then?

Uncle - yes, I've had dogs for rabbit hunting

me - did you have Jack?

~~Uncle~~ - no, I didn't hunt with him, I quit hunting after I had him. I had some dogs. I had some good dogs

me - did they ever come close with any beaver?

Uncle - yes, they'd come by and they'd run

away, they could smell the bears under the brush piles and they'd run away they knew they were there and be out with other folks and their dogs, and the ~~holes~~ would be under there for the winter and they could smell 'em, the dogs would turn around and come back ~~catching~~ on 'em. they knew, they could smell 'em they've been close to bears too, out the camp.

me- how long have you had your camp?

uncle- let me see, ah it'll be 30 yrs in the spring

me- where is that located too?

uncle- out on the Flat Rock River, on the Flat Rock Road there, 40 acres we go fishing and hunting out there

me- have you had any kind of luck fishing lately?

uncle- I don't fish anymore neither, Dorothy (his wife) fell in the river there and went up to her neck and she can't swim P37

she hollered and I reached down
she had her arm up and I grabbed
her by the wrist I pulled her out she
was right up to her ear in water and
no more! I didn't even buy a fishing
license anywhere, sold all my fishing
tackle

me- do you kinda feel bad about it?

uncle- no, no. you mean about giving up
fishing?

me- ummm

uncle- no, no didn't bother me at all

me- you just went on deer hunting and

uncle- yeah, yeah other lads there used

to come out the camp fishing, they'd
give me trout, but I'd never go
out there, they used to be trouble with
the beaver and they had a trapper
come out and get them and then
we got permission from the ah
the conservation office to ah, was
the dam and then trap the beaver out
8

we had a trapper come out and get the
beaver out

me- did you do any trapping?

uncle- nope, never no trapping, never
interested in trapping (laughs)

me- (laughing) thank you.