

me: My name is Amanda Wikman. I am interviewing Andrea Anderson at her house. Today's date is Nov. 8th 1996. The focus for our interview is when Andrea taught at Pleasant Prairie and a cook at National Mine.

me: How many grades did you teach in one room?

Mrs. A: As many as I had to. It was very hard.

Because you see you might have one child in the first grade. You might have skipped second or maybe even third. And then you might have two. Like up here there were only fourteen children the first year.

me: What grades did you teach?

Mrs. A: From the first to the eighth

me: What subjects did you include in your teaching?

Mrs. A: Well we had to have all the ones you know Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History all of those.

me: what materials did you use?

Mrs. A: The books that the school board gave us. Just study books, reading. All the subjects of course as well. Didn't have much Page 1

else to help us.

me: Did you use any filmstrips or movies?

Mrs. A: Movies, nothing like that in those days. This was 1924. That's a long time ago.

me: Describe a typical day at the school.

Mrs. A: Well, I came in there about ^{quarter after 8} ~~8:15~~ or 8:30.

The janitor had been there and lit the fire, and some days where it was colder than others. And, uh, there were windows across the front ^{of} ~~and~~ the building. And one door to enter and to go out too.

There was only one door. It was a one room school. And the bathroom, toilet, I should say was out behind.

And of course they would try to go out often er than they should you ^{still today!} knew like all kids do. And so I had to make a chart for the days, so that I'd know who was going to be and what they were going to study and everything.

I found out something very interesting though. The, um, when

the older kids recited, the younger ones seemed to take that in too. Because ^{impt} it was all done in one room. There was no other place to go.

me: Did you have any other duties other than teaching? Could you tell me about them please.

Mrs. A: No, not exactly, but I started to teach them about foods, so I'd bring some different kinds of foods there. For them to see, and it was interesting I became friends with many of them.

me: What did the other students do while you taught some other kids?

Mrs. A: Well, they were supposed to study. To get ready for their class. If they hadn't done it at home the night before.

me: Do you feel this kind of teaching and learning was effective?

Mrs. A: It was poor compared to today.

me: Did you have any special programs? If so what and when were they.

Mrs. A: Well, we always had a Christmas program. We had some students ~~who~~^{who} were very good to draw. That would be Aline Rintamaki, you know. So on special days she would draw something for the room. I would bring whatever ^{import} I could that would be sort of celebrate the day. Valentines Day or whatever, Christmas was special, of course, we tried to have a little program for Christmas.

me: On the last day of school what did you do?

Mrs. A: We had a little picnic.

me: Where did you go for your picnic?

Mrs. A: Well, I think we went down to the river one time, the Escanaba River. And we had a nice time playing games and having the lunch.

me: What supplies did you need?

Mrs. A: Supplies, well. we had paper given to us books were given to us. The water

that they were going to drink was in a pail, with a dipper hanging on the wall. Very sanitary you know. She said *impt* chuckling. And it was so different ^{from what} ~~then~~ you are ~~so~~ use to. That it is hard to explain.

Me: How did you and the students get to school? how long did it take?

Mrs. A: Well, I walked from here, (the house she is in now.) but this house was not like this. *It emphasize locality of school* was a little tiny. You know ~~the~~ it was just a very small house, A man and his wife and they let me board here (her house) for twenty dollars a month. Because I wasn't from this section of the country. I was from west of Ishpeming. And, uh, I had to pay my board and stay here and walk. And of course all the children walked. And probably if they lived farther away, there was a family called *quike* Sam Watters they had many children I think they had ten or maybe twelve. And he used to take his children to school

with a horse and a wagon. If it was to strong or something like that. Not all the time. People walked in those days.

Me: If you were sick what would happen to the school.

Mrs A: I don't know I was always well I guess. She said laughing. There would be no other teachers. *include*

Me: What did the inside of the school look like? where exactly was it located?

Mrs A: Well, you can tell the location better than I can. (It was by my aunt Margaret Oja's house is on 581) there were more trees around. They done alot of things there. There were seats and desks of course. And shelves for books. *include* And maps. And they had water on a counter like. And sort of a little entrance where they hung up their outer clothes. She said with a little chuckle. And a fire was right there. the janitor ~~take~~ ^{went} up and lite the fire before school started. Some days where it was cold.

Me: Did any of the students have a chore during school? If so what were they?

Mrs. A: No, I can't remember that they had chores. Well, I suppose some of the bigger boys put wood in the fire for me.

me: How did you discipline the students?

Mrs. A: You know I was eighteen ^{← quote} years old. So I didn't know too much about discipline. It seems to me they were pretty good. It really does. Because I taught in a harder school after I left here. And I met up with a different type of ~~some~~ ^{some} were dear and good, but some were bad and made it very hard for me. They were sassy, but not here they were so nice.

me: Did the students have homework? If so what was it.

Mrs. A: Well, they did they had to study their spelling. They had to read something, they had to prepare for certain subjects. probably we did it different from one day to the other day, something we had to do for Geography, or something we had to do for History.

me: What was lunch hour like? how long was it, what was the food like?

Mrs. A: Just whatever they brought from home - sandwiches

me: How long was it?

Mrs. A: I think it was an hour. Because that gave them a chance to run around and play.

It would be good for them to break their day like that.

Me: Where were your jackets kept?

Mrs. A: In this little entryway. There were a few hooks on the wall. There weren't many children, I think there were ^{name?} twelve there one year. And this other place I told you about I had thirty-five. And that was harder. It was harder because they were harder to deal with.

Me: Describe the clothing and how many layers.

Mrs. A: She ~~said~~ laughed & then said, "Well, they had ~~an outer layer~~ a bigger Mackina or whatever you call it. An outer coat. They probably had a sweater they had a shirt. They had to have boots. It seems to me they stayed in those boots all day, which ~~seems~~ must have been very uncomfortable.

Me: How many years did it take you to be a teacher, how long?

Mrs. A: Oh this is funny, you had to graduate from high school. Of course, and I graduated from the Ishpeming Highschool. Well, in the spring you were given two days off to go down to the Normal. It wasn't called Northern you know. It was an entirely different, much smaller place. It was called the Normal. And so I had two days of examinations. Well, you couldn't get a job if you didn't pass. But, you also had to go to summer school. So for six weeks I went to summer school. I think they really doubled on the work, so we were ^{kinda} getting in twelve weeks. And that is the extent. And that only gave you a certificate for one year. imp. page 8
She said with a little laugh.

Then the next year the school board would let you off. And you had to go and take the examination again, but it would be a different one that you took previously. And this one was harder, and if you passed it, you still had to go to school in the summer time, ~~and~~ those six weeks I told you about. And you got a certificate for three years. So, I did that.

impt
& gnd

Me: How much did you get paid?

Mrs. A: 85 dollars a month. She said laughing. And I had to pay my board here, you know, because this was not my home.

Me: Were there any janitors at the school. If so who and what did they do?

Mrs. A: The man ^{that} boarded with, who became later on my father-in-law. Gust Andersson. And he just went up there in the morning and lit the fire. And he stayed there until he knew that he had the fire under control. Then he would come in the afternoon a you know after 4:00 ^{when} after school was out. He would come and he would clean and some days came better than others, depending on what happened, you know, dust and things like that.

impt.

Me: Were you apart of a teacher union?

Mrs. A: No, we had nothing like that.

me: Did you have any outhouses? If so can you tell me ~~any~~ stories about them?

Mrs. A: I told you about that one outhouse, that we had you know. And that was very bad too. Because it was to open. And they did all ~~the~~ sorts of tricks. They locked you in there turned a bar on the outside and some mischeous kid would do that. And you couldn't get out. You had a hammer and it makes noise. She said giggling.

me: Were there any special games you played with the students? If so what were they?

Mrs. A: Oh, we played alot of games. We used to play everything that ~~was~~ ^{were} old fashion - hide & go seek, duck on a rock & run sheep run was always a favorite.

me: Were you the first teacher to teach at Pleasant ~~to~~ Prarie?

Mrs. A: Yes, I was. I think I was. No, maybe I wasn't. Rushtong Strongmen was here first I think. I don't think they had that little school, because I'm sure I was the first one in that little school. I really am. But, there was a Rush Strongmen out here at one time. And I think that would have ~~been~~ the first time ~~they~~ that they had a man teacher. And he was just a young man, so I think they had these sayings. "I like one."

Me: When did you first start teaching?

Mrs. A: 1924

me: Was there any terrible illnesses? If so what were they.

Mrs. A: Well, the kids came to school quite regularly. Colds of course have always been. I don't remember that they were all out at one time ^{or anything} ~~over~~ an epidemic.

- why when did she leave Pleasant Prairie?

Me: This is going to National Mine. what year did you start cooking at National Mine?

Mrs. A: Well, I should know that. I'll think it out.

me: We can come back to it if you think of it. Were you the only cook?

Mrs. A: No, I had a helper

me: Did you make all of your food by hand?

Mrs. A: yes

me: what kind of food was it. And describe the typical menus.

Mrs. A: well, we always had bread and butter or bread and peanut butter or bread & jelly. We always had that. We had a big boiler packed full of this. ~~put it~~ ^{papered it} in the boiler and then took all of the sandwiches. The meals were not the kind you get now

It was really food. We had baked beans that baked from the time school was out in the afternoon until after midnight when the janitors would turn off my big ovens. And those were beautifully baked beans. And all across the top there would be a salt pork.

And the beans were delicious. They were sweetened a little with brown sugar. And the kids would not get used to eating this salt pork. Which was just ^{about this} big (gestures with hands) and you ate all over the ^{that} top of these big pans you know. But, as time went on, especially the boys, learned to eat this because it was very crispy. It was absolutely delicious.

At one time I had a lady helping me and ~~she~~ I would take one piece between two small pieces of bread and it was a delicious morsel. This other lady would take a plate full. I would have been sick ever if I were to eat a plate like that. But, they learned to eat it. But, we had fried chicken, turkey, we had stew, we had homemade soup, so they didn't like homemade soup. They were used to the mother opening a can. But, we made homemade soup. She said with a ~~fi~~ laugh. I had many big the pots there were two or three like that (gestures with hands) All kinds of food. I made donuts for the whole school. I made cookies. Lots of cookies, cake that was easter divide. well cookies were good after ^{you} once had them made.

me: Did you enjoy teaching or cooking more & why
Mrs. A: I went to teaching, but you know it was four years and I quite.

And cooking well, I needed to cook badly because we came out of the Depression. I liked the days of the teaching, but I liked the days of the cooking because I had to do it so much. That I had to do it. I ~~enjoyed~~ enjoyed (teaching) that because I enjoyed kids. But, when I went to work, I was so happy to go to work. And that was when my youngest son was in the fifth grade. I didn't go out to work until the three boys were gone. I know it was to hard, but I liked it.

Me: How many would eat? And ^{where} ~~how many~~ would they eat?

Mrs. A: They would eat across from the kitchen. In what they called the lunch room, they later used it as a classroom. It was Mrs. Ameen's room. People bothered me to because Mr. Bath would tell me. "What could you do to lower expenses. The lady came from Washington to inspect my program. And she took apart of a meal one day. And found that I didn't have quite enough of the particular nutrients in it. And so she docked Mr. Bath, we got some money from the National Government. And because of that fact she was so smart. I thought she was so good looking, she was. And I thought surely she's not going to get me upset about this. And she did. So she docked him and he didn't get his money from the government that month. So, he didn't like me, but they still kept telling me afterwards. Do something to lower the cost.

who?

And one time another superintendent said to me. what can you do, ~~be~~ I was in the store room when he caught me kind of off guard. I was trying to decide where I could put cans where I want them. And I was there to see what was missing and what I was suppose to order and stuff. So he came in. What can you do to lower the expense? I said, "I know what you can do." He said well, tell me. I said. I'm going to ^{quit} quite. I was working my head off. But enjoyed it you know

Me: How long would it take to cook your food?

Mrs. A: Well, we started some things the day before. And they were always ready on time, 10 to 12. The meals would always be ready. And all of the donut holes when I made, they all liked when I made donuts, and these holes. I would cook them separate. And so I took a whole nice bowl down to the kindergarten kids. So they always wished I'd be making more donuts. And then there was a cute boy in school, see a cute boy, And he came along. Mrs. Anderson could you give a nice little boy a donut? So, I gave him a donut. So he went up the stairs, and he met Mr. Lindberg. When Mr. Lindberg ~~then~~ first came there. And he came down and he looked at me and he, said "Could you refrain from giving every child you see a donut." I hadn't given every child I saw a donut. Could you refrain from giving a child a donut. She said laughing.

Me: What time did you start school in the morning?

Mrs. A: I had to get there by 7:00 A.M.

Me: What time did you end?

Mrs. A: Well, I could go if I was finished. But, I never finished so it would be 4:00-4:30.

Me: Were women teachers allowed to marry?

Mrs. A: I don't remember exactly. They were when I was in National Mine cooking. Because I remember married teachers sure. But how back further when we were in these little country schools. I don't remember that it ever came up.

Me: I'm going back to your childhood years. What is your full name?

Mrs. A: Andrea Marie Johnson

Me: When and where were you born?

Mrs. A: I was born in Ishpeming, on Division Street. In 1906 The Irish and the Italians and settled that section of town. The Swedish people were up around the Cleveland location. And there was a dividing line at Main Street corner. So the boys up from the Cleveland were not suppose to pass that and come down and look at these Italians or Irish girls. She laughed. Or they had big fights, but that I never saw, because that was before my time I was a baby or not born yet. They were (parents) married in 1900. And I didn't come along until 1906.

Me: Do you remember the Barns-Hecker Mine Disaster?

Mrs. A: Do I ever. I can tell you that one. That was terrible.

And a man came. I was teaching in Greenwood.
And a man off the road and opened up the door.
And he said, "Barnes-Hecker went down." And I still feel
it. And a little girl fell on the floor. Because her dad
was in it. She said kind of sobbing. And many children's
fathers were in it. Fifty-seven men lost their lives. And my
dad was suppose to be working. But, he was sick.
And he was I guy that never took time off. But,
he was sick. And so another man took his place.
And he was a pump man. Their kinda of in a little
house in the bottom. And takes care of the big pumps
that pump out the water. And stuff like that. But, anyways
my dad became very sick then. Because this man was
lost. He was one of the fifty-seven men. He walked the
house. So my mother had a very hard time with him.
And he wouldn't eat or sleep. And for three weeks he
kept walking. "I can see, he would mention the other
~~many~~ name, I can see him. I know how it went. It's
terrible." My mother would say. "But, you have to quite
this. Because you are alive and God must have meant you
be alive. And you have to quite this bemoaning all the
time." And with her help he did quite, but it was bad.
And he knew stories too. about the company. You see they
have always had inspectors. O.k. The inspector would come,
~~he would~~ my dad said they were mining to close to
~~surface~~ ~~surface~~. And there was an underground lak there. And
they should have listnend. But, the mining inspector
would go for the company. And give the O.k. So you
see there was fault. There was a school at that place
too. The Barnes-Hecker location. And there was quite a
location there. Two or three streets full of houses.
And now you can't see of course anything at all.

1 mp + quote

And the Memorial they have on the highway. Up on 41 that's nowhere near the Barnes-Hecker. Barnes-Hecker is off of the tar road 0-41.

Me: Do you remember the snowstorm in 1938?

Mrs. A: Yup, I do. It covered over the fence posts. And I didn't have any yeast. I had some flour, thank God, I didn't have any yeast. OHo said, "We have to have bread." So, he got on skis and he went, my husband, and he went right over the fence posts. B And he knew how to go to National Mine. without going the way we go if we were driving a car. He went thru the woods and by directions he knew where he was going. And all he bought was yeast. So we could make enough bread. She said with a chuckle. And cars were coming home from their work, the men that were working Mostly men in those days. Down there by the school forest. Cars began to stop. Right in these tracks. They just couldn't move because the snow came so fast and so hard. So, there was a whole line of cars there. And the men got out of their cars and went into leona Millamaki's ~~car~~ house. It still stands there. There is only one house. It's near the road that turns into the Inland Steal Mine. There is one house that is on the highway there. Well, there is more now, ~~but~~ I forgot about Rusing and that, but don't count them. Well, that house is still standing. But, she had, like they say, "Floor to Floor" well, she had wall to wall people. That slept on her floor.

empt + party

She said with a little laugh. Because they had no place to go. They could not go home. And she had cleaned out every bit of food she had in her house to feed these people. And ended up making pancakes. If someone was hungry make some pancakes, clean out the flour bin. Everything gone. She said with a laugh. Before the plows came, the plows couldn't do it. They had to have men who would shovel. They would be hitting the windows out of cars, everything. They were so totally covered up. But, that was a quiet storm. Remember last winter and even this winter so far. We have had heavy winds, no winds. with that one. It just came and covered everything. It was different.

Me: How many days was school out for this storm?

Mrs. A: Oh, well you see I didn't have any children yet. But, it was a long time.

Me: In 1945 the word war II ended. Did you have any family members in it?

Mrs. A: No, I had only a brother and he was not in the war. And my husband his brothers were all older than he. They weren't in it either.

Me: What are your feelings of the National Mine closing?

Mrs. A: I don't like. She said with a giggle. But, I don't like what they have done to the National Mine School anyway. So you are talking to a poor one. You see National Mine had the nicest auditorium. In any and place, any place at all. I have been in many schools where the stage just stuck out like a sore thumb. And in the National Mine Auditorium the seats went this way (with hand motions)

include
+ giggle

Like in a big theater. And the stage was so broad.
It was so big. It was just a broad broad stage.
And there was a distance between here. In a
theater you would call it the orchestra pit. And
that was where Mrs. ^{Gleason} Gleeson played. And that is all she
did was play. She played the piano so beautifully.
And that the children came in and did all their things
just by her directing by the playing. That she did. It
was wonderful. I know Mrs. Magnuson she was in the
wings too you know, on one side and another teacher
probably the second grade teacher, Mrs. Magnuson was the
first grade teacher. Their would be another one over there.
But, actually those kids played that music. Some of the
play she put on were so good. Other plays the children
would stand up and say a piece. It's too choppy.

Me: What were the plays for? Just for fun?

Mrs. A: Well, for English sometime, for certain parts of the year.
Christmas was wonderful, and they would have a Spring play.
They had many plays, it seems that Mrs. Gleeson wrote
most of them herself.

Me: What did you do after you retired?

Mrs. A: Well, I stayed here she said laughing. At home, where I am,
along time ago. In 1924. Of course I didn't stay here
in 1924. I went to my mother's place. As I said in
Greenwood. Then in 1928, I married the man I
met when I came here. Although he did not live here.
There was just his father and his father's
second wife. I didn't know he had a son.

But, I met him in a course of that ^{first} year. And so I came back in 1928. And we were married.

Me: Why was the Pleasant Prairie special to you?

Mrs. A: Maybe because it was my first job. Also, I met my husband here. I liked all of the children.

Me: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mrs. A: Well, I'm trying to think. Aline & Julia were my particular friends. We didn't have a bus on this road (581) for a long time. I think it was in 1940 when my husband applied for the job of a bus driver. You had to own your own bus. So, we did get a bus. For the first time there was a bus running, instead of one or two people taking their kids in, or kids walking or whatever way they got there. And this bus was small. Ota wore a little bow tie that got to be his trademark. He would wear those green outfits, or khaki outfits. The shirt and pants would match. It was really work clothes, but he had a certain way he dressed. Then he had a filfers cap that he seemed to like. Then he wasn't making enough money driving the bus. So, he finally got a job downtown as a mechanic. And he would bring the kids to National Mine. And then he would go downtown and punch a clock at the garage, whatever garage he was lucky enough to get a job. And that way we compensated for the lesser money. It was hard doing the best you could, to get along.

Somehow, we had to have a bigger bus. He still had the job. But, the bus was big. He started to go further on the route. And more people moved in, and he had another route to go on beside this road. So we got the second bus. And that was much more expensive.

Me: you talked about the games you played what were they again?

Mrs. A: Well, we played hide-and-go-seek, we played run sheep run, and duck on the rock. I can't even remember. She said with a laugh.

Me: How did you play duck on the rock?

Mrs. A: Well, it was something getting the rock off the bigger place, with using a stick. It is so far back. She said laughing. But, we always were excited. We had a lot of fun. It was nice.

I have a picture when I was in the Greenwood school. It was when I was a child. You see I went to the Greenwood school, myself, when I was a kid. And there was an old man that drove an old gray Poscain and we just fell in the wagon. There weren't any seats in there. And we got a ride to this little school house. But, as he told the kids to get out. And they all piled out of there including myself. A car came along, and it was in the days where there weren't any cars on the road. But, this man was a mining man that was going up to mine that we talked about. And he came slowly and we know that he was going to bump a little girl. And nobody, we were like petrified, we didn't move. And he knocked her down. And she was knocked down. And she went into the hospital, and after a while she died. And everybody I know ^{they all feel} felt the same as me. We stood like little statues, because any one of us could have grabbed that child. We were stoned. It was a terrible thing.

Childhood years
- include

This barn was really something. It could have been a noted place. And this man kept his red barn just so, he had shelves on this side and then you passed the beautiful home and then you went down over the land. Well, I came by those red barns. And I thought here is where I can use my chalk. So, I did all kinds of big scribblings. I stayed there by the barn and just scribbled, and add everything. So, the next day I came that way again. That was my mistake. The son to the boss (father) came out of one of those buildings on the side. It was the father's "shop." He called it his "shop." And he said, "Andrea, will you come in here my father wants to see you." So, I walked in there innocently as can be. I said, "Hello." He said, "Did you write on my barn yesterday?"

"Yes, I did."

"Well, now you can wash it." The son's name was Life. "Life, get her some warm water and get a cloth, and she has to wash that." So, I stayed there and washed the barn. Then, I use to hide when I'd see this man's team coming down the road way. Because he had to pass my mother's place. And I was so afraid he was going to come in and tell on me. And, I hadn't told my mother that I ~~had~~ wrote all over that barn. She said chuckling. Was I a crazy thing. I was just a little kid. I think I was nine. This Erickson was a nice teacher, very good teacher too. I liked her, but she said to me one day. You talk to much. Now you have to go and sit with Herald Johnson. For doing that. Well, that was fine Herald Johnson was the other boy from that barn, and we were good friends. So, then I could talk some more! (laughing) So, little children were funny to, you know.

And then there was a school way out where they flooded all the land. Page 23

include quotes

What do they call that?

My
Mom: the Resivor

include
Mrs. A: Resivor, yes, there was a school out there. And a friend of mine went out there and taught school. She used to walk so much. It's a far distance, she walked. She boarded with the Junacks, sometimes. And then there was a little school at Barnes-Hecker. There was a school at Clarksburg, Humblot, Pleasant Prairie, and that was called the Green Creek school. the one down by the hill. (OFF OF 581) So many little Country Schedules. Well, I don't know. I can't think of anything else.

Me: One of my last questions is do you have any photos that I could use.

Mrs. A: You mean you want some from a long time ago?

Me: Well, like a school or you when you were a kid. You can get them later. You don't have to get them now.

Mrs. A: I think there is just a few, because most people didn't even have a camera in those days, long ago.

Me: And, do you know of anyone else that could be interviewed?

Mrs. A: I'm the oldest one. ♪ (laughing) You must have interviewed Viola Maguson. The first grade teacher at National Mine. And ~~she~~ Mrs. Gleason is dead. The one who did so much. The job she held she was the kindergarten teacher. And that room was something else. She was the music teacher for the entire twelve grades. She was the art teacher for the twelve grades. And she did all of this on one wage. But, there is something else. Well, all the plays.

The singing, art. It seems to me she had one more job. And never complained just worked worked. Viola ^{Culbert} Calbert helped me too one year cooking, but she is in the Mather Nursing Home. And Mrs. Magneson, Olga, was a very good helper. But, she is dead. And Mabel wend helped me first. She is the one that ate all of the pork. (laughing) She was dead at the age of fifty-one. I think only because of diet. This section has grown up since I came here. Just a few people then. And now we have so many. And how many buses on the road down here? At least seven.

Mo: Probably something like that.

Mrs. A: I kind of got disgusted with people. Because I ask somebody or say something about the Michigan Northwoods Club. And they don't know what I am talking about, oh you mean the Supper Club down at Marquette. No, I do not mean the Supper Club in Marquette. I mean the Michigan's Northwoods Club. It is sixteen sections of land for one thing. And it is a lake, Lake Shabinaw. And when we were married in 28. Otto was driving the truck for them supplies. And there was like a big hotel out there. It's at the end of this road (581) going way out there is a fork there. One way you can go to Republic or to all sorts of camps. And one you go into the Michigan's Northwood Club. Well, at this time they had turkeys, chickens, and peacocks. Peacocks, and rabbits, and horses. And a man in the horse barn these horses were a riding horses. And there was a great big club house with a huge porch over looking Lake Shabinaw. It is down deep. And this porch over looks that territory. And there was a Fish Hatchery. ~~Two~~ ^{Two} miles down beyond this lake there was a Fish Hatchery. Special people were hired to come from down around Shilaboy. Where they have Fish page 25 Hatcheries.

He and his wife got a job and they were really
sickled down there, two miles further than we were.
And then the club member asked Otto if he would
take the job of keeping fox. And he said well, I
don't know about fox. They said well, are you willing
to learn, yes. So we got a job taking care of
a hundred and fifty fox. And they were in pens,
Two to a pen, male and female. Because we want
pups. And long pens very long pen. longer than this
room. well at least this long. (Room (living) in her house)
And the house would be at the end. And the gate
would be on this end. (hands motion) And the wire has to
go under the ground. (The wires that had holes like that.
(motioning with hands.) Because the fox ~~had to~~ could
get under anything so the wire went completely around.
It was square, and the man could walk in there. And then
the house was for the two fox. And he had to look in
their mouth for a certain thing that would happen in
their mouth. He had to look in their ears. Because a
tick might come in their ears. And he liked his job and
he learned. And they built us a new house. And we had
three rooms. A nice living room, a small kitchen, and a
small bedroom. And on the other side of the kitchen
door it went into a rooms that took care of the
fox. All the food that they eat cods of oil in number
ten cans, and piled with it. Fresh eggs that went up one
wall. And as soon as they went down a truck would
come in with a load of fresh eggs. And mineral, some
kind of mineral for the fox. And that first year he
killed sixty-eight horses and ground them up. He had
a big electric grinder. Awful, hey, grind up all those
poor horses. And then he had a regular recipe to go by,
and he had an enormous galvanized tub that he
mixed it in. And it had to be balanced. You see that
cod liver oil and that alpha meal and other number
ten cans. He had it just right so that when

include eggs

it was going down he could give his order, and more would come in. And that room was in the bottom, but then it went up three flights. This was a tower over one end of our house, over the working end, not over ^{where} ~~what~~ we lived. And he had to sit up there at the third story, and watch the fox. Because he had to know, he had journals up there and everything, when the fox would mate. Because that was written down, because then he would know exactly when the pups were due. That he could be sure to take care of, know what's happening. Also, if the fox wouldn't breathe, ~~also~~ then he had what was called a palgamis ^{potyamas}. These fox you know, are like humans. The way humans are suppose to be, one mate. But, in case. These people wanted a lot of fox. Because that was the way they were going to make their money. So, then this fox would go to a female that wouldn't breed with her partner. So, this was all very interesting. After he mixed in this great big nice clean thing that he mixed in the feed with a paddle. And all to measurement and then they got a meatball about that big. (with hands) once a day, at night. But, he had to go in with water, and he had to always clean out the water. Have a clean clean dish for their water. It was interesting, very interesting. one time he was looking in the mouth and the fox got him. I forget which finger it was. ~~But~~ or if it was two. I think it was one. And he had read don't "pull." Because they are going to try and take a bigger bite. And that is when you get out. And sure enough he was that ~~close~~ quick. That she opened her mouth and he came out, but the finger was all chewed up. We had to get to town. And there was no road open. Winter time. And he took an old horse that was over their in the barn. And he was pulling a bomber. I don't know how it was, I walk half way. I got a little ride. No big road out here. no nothing. And we had to get to the doctor. Because this could have been infected bad. If you took a chance on it. So we stayed down for a few days. What a trip out from there. Wow it is nothing. Interesting. And then we went back again and then after two years like that enjoying ourselves. Actually. And thinking I think we are on top of the world. Everything is roses. Huh, I bet you can't guess But you (my mom) maybe can guess what happened. The stock market crashed.

include quote

And the millionaires jumped out of their windows. In Chicago and New York City. They would rather be dead than without their lousy dollars. So, we got word. Would you like to keep the fox you could have half the pups. And this was the only time I knew my husband when he didn't use good sense. He said to me, "Andrea, can we keep them?" I said where are you going to feed them? Look how often the trucks come in here with supplies. They provided for the whole winter. And a lot of those men they came in with horses, they walked their horses in to be killed there and ground up. And he said, but I hate to do this. I don't want them dead. I said, figure it out yourself. You won't have a pay day. So, how are we going to feed them. Well, they said we can have half the pups. Yeah, but you have to feed them. So, we sent the answer back to Chicago. You knew no telephones either. Wait for a letter to come and go and come back. And some men would go horseback with the letters. That we never had a mailman on this road, way out there. Anyway we got the reply and you will have one month's pay to kill them all and stretch their pelts. That was an awfully big job. First, he had to make the boards a certain length. Or whatever length they were. And these were silver ^{wrong} gray fox. Silver black foxes. Very beautiful. And he said it hurts me every time I kill ~~the~~ one. He had to kill them all, over a hundred fifty. Somehow there was a man over at the Club house. We were in our own separate place and this man got something to take the fox away. It was in the month of January when we came back to this little bit of a cold house in a cold barn. With no cow in the barn. And no money coming in anymore. It was a start of ten years of Depression. Hard for you kids to understand that. Hard for us to understand that too. But, we understood it before it was over. That was a sad time for Otto. And I think there will be another crash. And I don't think it will be too long. The year two thousand. Or have they got things under control so much now they can waste money all over the world, and nothing is going to happen. Odd they. So dangerous the way money is. Well, now we have a lot of people living on our road now. It is just crowded with people.

There was just an old bachelor living across from us over here. Called Joe Haart. And he offered us that place. And he had, I don't know if he had forty. Yeah, he had forty acres. And he said \$2,000. Otto said, where am I going to get \$2,000. But, Billy Woods came in there, bought the place and started the new location. Made a lot of money. You need an entrepreneur. But, that wasn't Otto Anderson because we didn't have any money. Well, I can't think of anymore dear. I wish they still had that auditorium there yet. Even the gym is made into. That was a nice gym. ~~the~~ The widest stage.

Notes From After I shut off tape recorded
(Otto)
They killed the foxes by having them run back and forth from their pen. He would grab their ~~neck~~ tail, chuck them on the ground, and put his foot on their heart. They would die instantly. Otto hated doing that.

Nov. 11, 1996

Mrs. A: And Pleasant Prairie was a new little school. And then on the hill above Hunganins, I think I mentioned that school to you, that was called Green Creek School. The church, the land on the other side of the church. Going up a little slope, and up to the trees. And I think in the trees rather than. The trees have grown since. And that was a two room school. So there were two teachers there. And at one time there was Edna ~~and~~ Lance. That would be a very good teacher she was. And she became my sister-in-law. Finally. Almost, an older brother than Otto. She told me that the most intelligent and the nicest girl she had at anytime in her schools when she taught in Illinois, before she came up here was Ruth Larson. And she became Mrs. Stollen. And she taught up here when I left. I think Ruth came here for one year I don't remember. Because Ruth did go to Flint, where she taught many years before. She came back up here and met Harold Stollen, and married him. And they had two children, Basel and Olive. Then I lived in Greenwood with my parents when I was a child. And Greenwood was a kind of a spread out thing so that we were in what they called Greenwood's. So there was a school up to the eighth grade. Same building, 8 grades. And then up over where I was mentioning about the golf course. There was a little bit of a school that I went to for a while. And that teacher came up from Ishpeming

on the train every day. And she had at least a mile to walk to get to the little school. And her name was Edith Erickson. A very good teacher. Well, that was called the South Greenwood School. And then way out in North Greenwood. Now this is past the Barnes in Hecker. And still further out. It was called North Greenwood. There was a school there called North Greenwood School. And then, I am going way back in another direction, we called it the Junak Country. But, that would be sort of toward or further towards the Reservoir. And everybody knows it now as the Reservoir. And those people's old homes ~~were~~ ^{are} long since gone. I believe buried up in water. These people came from Austria, Hungary and like that. And the names connected with them was Junak. Definitely Hungarian name. And Besack. And I read stories it sounds like names you get from these kind you see today. Now, then you come back in the central part and by the way, this is Ely Township is a large sprawling township. You know if I was making township's (laughing) in a county I think I would square them off. And make it intelligent looking. But look you are up in Diright, you're up in Humboldt. Humboldt would be the furthest, you're in Ely Township. You go way out to North Greenwood past the Gold Mine you're in Ely Township. You go way out past the Reservoir you're in Ely Township. Still worse when you come this way, (581) and people up in that central community they didn't know anything of this end. And this end extends and extends. Because when the Michigan's Northwood's Club people came in here from Chicago. They bought sixteen sections of land out here. It was all Ely Township. So you see what a sprawled out Township this is. And we were right on the edge of Tilden. My road at the bottom, that isn't my road, it did take some of our land though, the road that goes across where the bus stops everyday. Well, you're in ~~Ely~~ ^{Tilden} township, soon as you cross the road. ^{or, at the line} And this is Ely. So, I don't know how it wiggles its self around. (laughing) Now we did the Townships and schools, I just thought that was interesting. In Humboldt of course there was a school. In Diright there is a school. And from Diright they use to graduate people from the twelfth grade. And I never knew that. I didn't realize it, I must have known it and forgot it because we were further away from Diright. Well, my mother right away said, she didn't mention Diright, you're going to Highschool in Ishpeming. And so I walked four and a half miles from our farm to Ishpeming.

And I had an 8:15 class too. And Myrtle Blumgrind, who later became Mrs. Robare who lived, Robare's had a farm down here going towards the steel bridge. That is the old way that you travel through the country before that road was built by Hon. Kala's. There was no road. And then there was Fanny Maki. And Russel Maki went to. He was a very bright person. He went to Diowite, and he graduated from Diowite. And that was Fanny's brother. And there was Ed Maki, he also. No, I don't believe he went to high school. ~~As~~ I don't remember him in high school. Maybe he didn't even go. And then my mother was thinking we should have some help. So she went to the school board meeting. And she just had to stand her ground. Because in those days, see, they did not do anything. You went to the eighth grade and that was it. Quite or whatever. So, my mother said, well, these pupils want to go on to school. And can't you do something for them. Well, they weren't a bit interested, but finally to get rid of her they said, well, o.k. We'll give them ten dollars a month. So, we had ten dollars a month. Oh yeah, they added. They did add this to spend for shoe leather. So, we had our choice. We could try to board some place in town. I walked up all year, and then later on my mother tried to find places to stay. And that one time three of us girls roomed together. And the lady of the house was very nice to us (giggle) if she was making soup she would let us have a bowl of soup. Oh ~~we~~ were so thankful that night. (laughing) So, now are we through with schools? Let's see. There was a school in North Lake. But, you see North Lake ~~was~~ Ishpeming Township. So, we don't have to go onto that. I don't really remember when that North Lake School... I'd imagine it was there when I was a child. Was it or was it not. The other story that I was going to tell you. In 1924-1925 I was here. 1925 and 26. That would be two years. So then I went to this school called the Simon's School by my father's and mother's place, half a mile away. I told you about that little girl that was killed. right there in front of the school, the man in the big car, and we were just like dummies standing there. Instead of grabbing her. Oh we were all small children. But, that is no excuse either. Well, ~~to~~ now what was I thinking of. Oh, when I left here I stayed with my mother and father. And I had the school, the Simon's School. And I had thirty-one kids one year. Anyway, out here on the plains there was a family living called, Robare's. And Otto Anderson my husband later, was very good friends with Glen Robare. So, in the winter I don't remember if this was the first winter or the second winter. I was there two years.

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publ

the same as I was out here. But, he. Do you know what a Lybrie Stable would be?

me: No. ^{Livery}

Mrs. A. Well, In I shpeming we had two Lybrie Stables, you know where Gatelees Store is. On the corner of main street Gatelees Store. Or is it even called that anymore. But, that big store on the corner. Anyway, Right behind it on Pearl Street there was a Lybrie Stable. Now that means that those people, man who owned it, would keep horses. And in the winter time nice cutters. Do you know what a cutter is?

me: No.

Mrs. A. Oh, it's one nice seat. Kind of a rolling back on it. And a rolling frontier. It kind of makes a curve, it was kind of fancy. You stepped in here and there was one seat. And you were pulled by one fast horse. And it was a most enjoyable ride. And always a good cover. Sometimes fur robes. It was called a robe. They would put over your lap. And my husband liked to drive. He was my boyfriend then. He liked to drive horses, he loved horses. So, he would get this horse a cutter. And we would have a nice ride on Sunday afternoon. So, when I was teaching up there he had the notion that he was going to take the entire school for a straw ride. Out to the country that we come from Greenwood, on old roads remember. That cut across road wasn't there, that goes over to the highway. So, he hired a great big sleigh that they had. It's a deep sleigh too. It's not just so you are sitting up in the air. You got a lot of protection. And the driver's up there on a seat ahead of you. And you have to have a lot of straw in there too. It's called a straw ride. And they all wore sweaters and coats. And we had thirty-one children with us. And that was a team of good horses. But, they were heavier horses, because this was like a big load. Even the sleigh was so interesting and big. That is the only straw ride I was ever on. (laugh) The kids yelled, hollared, and sang. They seemed to have a good time. And the moon was shining. And when we got out to the Kobars they made us take off our rocks. And warm our feet and imagine that lady made lunch for us all. They knew we were coming. (laugh) I thought that was real nice. And then it was late when we got home. It must have been, it had to have been after midnight. And Otto saw that every child got home, page 32

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He drove from one place to the other, and got every child home. It is an interesting story hey?

Me: yes.

Mrs. A: You know, I like that. Something nice. So it is all on that thing. (tape) (laughed)

me: Thank-you!

Mrs. A: You are very welcome. And then of course Baines and Hexter had you know after disaster well everything went. They no longer had the school. But, they still had the school at North Greenwood, for a few years. I don't know what happened to those children. They must have had to go to Diorite, which would be quite a distance, from North Greenwood. Because it is different. You go that way and back here. For a number of miles. And last ~~year~~ summer I had, I didn't want to do it because I never want to be in the line light. And the board found out I was the oldest person in Ely Township. So, my goodness there was a special day when they celebrated. The Township was a hundred twenty-five years old. And they had big doings in Diorite, in the school. Have you ever been in that school? (Talking to my mom)

Mom: yes

Mrs. A: That gym that they built was lovely. And they had it all there, and they had food, and old people donated old things. And it was told where it came from. And the writings of a certain man that I knew at the time I was teaching was Russel Maki; Had the most beautiful writing that you ever could see. And on one table, there were tables all over that big gym. And lots of his writings were on that table. And I never saw such beautiful writing. And their were all sorts of things like that. And I rode in the back of a cute, cute, I don't know what you would call it. A seat across the back of the drivers seat. There was room for two of us. Maggie Mullins was in the back seat. And he told me I had to sit with the driver. (laughing)

And we were right behind the police car. A long parade. I don't know where they got everything. Raymond was in the parade with a little red car he has. He got a couple of old cars. And he had Tony with him, ~~his~~ ^{their} little grandson. From the town hall in Greenwood up to Diorite. But, then they didn't take us home, we had to find our way home. (laughing) So, that was an interesting day. I was born in June and Mary Anderson was born in September so she always use to tell people Andrea is older than I am. I thought if you were born in the same year, you were the same age. Well, she was born the same year I am.