

Me: This is Tia Korpi. & am interview Ron Korpi at his house in West Ishpeming.
Today's date is November 1st, 1996. The focus of our interview is the
school life at West Ishpeming when Ron Korpi attended there.
First of all, what is your full name?

Mr. K: Ronald Matthew Korpi

Me: When were you born and where?

Mr. K: I was born in March of 1937 and my parents lived in Humbolt.

Me: O.K., um, Who were your parents + when were they born + where?

Mr. K: Well, my father was born in Ishpeming. He was Nester Korpi. He was born in
the December of 1904 and my mother was Martha _____ and She was
born in ^{Eben} Evan Junction in 1906, August of 1906,

Me: O.K um, who were your siblings?

Mr. K: Oh I have an old, my oldest brother John lived in Palmer and uh my oldest
sister Ethal lives in Ishpeming and uh my next oldest sibling is my
sister Edith she lives in West Ishpeming and my next oldest is my brother
~~John~~ Erving and he lives in Iron Mountain and the next one would be my
sister Janet, she lives in Ishpeming and then my sister Donna lives in
Fondulac, WI and my yougest brother Dennis who lives in Ishpeming. There
was eight of us, 4 boys and 4 girls.

Me: O.K who did you live w/ or who lived w/ you when you were growing up?
Like any relatives?

Mr. K: No, I lived at home until I left, when I joined the navy at 18

Me: Um, what was your favorite grade at West Ishpeming School?

Mr. K: Oh! That's kind of a tough one. I would probably say the 7th and 8th grade
because I remember them the best. The other grades were, were fun.

Me: Who was your favorite teacher at West Ishpeming School?

Mr. K: I wouldn't say I had a favorite. There were four teachers that I
^{quote} had there. I had Mrs. Hammer in the 1st, kindergarten, 1st, + second grade
all in one room then I had Mrs. Herrmila in 3rd + 4th grade and
Mrs. Williams in 5th + 6th grade + Mrs. Palomaki for 7th and 8th grade
and they were all good

Me: Who were the most memorable teachers of the school?

Mr. K.: I would say probably Mrs. Palomaki.

Me: And is there a reason?

Mr. K.: Well I guess it just goes back to the same thing I can remember 7th & 8th grade more and she taught that uh Mrs. Hemmila I remember, well I guess I remember 'em all quite well, but Mrs. Hemmila too because uh she lived in the location.

Me: O.K. Can you describe a typical day at school?

Mr. K.: Well, yes, we'd try to get to school early enough to play around in the school yard for a little while, usually Mrs. Palomaki or Mrs. Hammer would ring the bell for us to come in because they were on the first floor, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Hemmila were on the second floor and uh ring the old, it was a hand bell and uh we, in the early years ^{one of the} first things we did was uh during the war we'd sing "Remember Pearl Harbor" and "God Bless America" and we would have the Pledge of Allegiance and uh of course we'd have a recess like they all do, run around the school yard uh and the school yard was, we all got back to school early enough to always play 'cause the school yard was the center of all our activities.

quote

Me: O.K. um how old were you when you first started attending West Ishpeming School?

Mr. K.: I was 5 yrs. old and uh in fall of 1942

Me: O.K. How old were you when you finished attending West Ishpeming School?

Mr. K.: I was, well, 9 yrs. later through 8th grade which would have been 1951 I suppose uh yeah.

Me: O.K. um, how did you get to and from school?

Mr. K.: I walked. We only lived uh less than two blocks from the school

Me: um, what was the average amount of children in a classroom?

Mr. K.: Ooh, that's uh, each classroom, there was only 4 classrooms, and each class room had two grades and uh one of them had a kinder-garten besides kinder-garten, 1st, and 2nd. But I would ~~go~~ guess there was probably about maybe 30 in a classroom. Somewhere's around there

include + quote

Me: O.K. um. What kind of acts were children punished for?

Mr. K.: well, just acting up in class uh talking too much or disrupting class uh
That was mainly it uh there wasn't any real ^{hooligans} hooligans in there
(laughing)

Me: um. How would your parents react if you were in trouble at school?

Mr. K.: Well, they, of course they didn't like it, ya know, but you'd try not to tell 'em (chuckling)

Me: O.K. What kind of activities or games did you do during free time?

Mr. K.: Oh, we used to play ball + softball. We used to play football sometimes in the fall. We'd play basketball in the winter. We'd play just tag and stuff like that

Me: um. What was your favorite subject?

Mr. K.: In grade school I guess my favorite subject was arithmetic.

Me: Arithmetic?

Mr. K.: Yeah

Me: um. Can you tell me what the lunches were like in school?

Mr. K.: We didn't have lunches in school.

Me: No?

Mr. K.: Everyone brought their own, well, that rode the bus from Deer Lake ^{Emphosize Deer Lake + Fire Center} location + Firecenter, & out on the north rode uh they brought their own lunches and uh course we always went home for lunch

Me: um so if they brought their lunches, where were they kept?

Mr. K.: They had little lunch boxes and, uh, kept them in the cloak room or cloak coat, uh, closet.

Me: Um, what were your grades like in school?

Mr. K.: In grade school, my grades were very good. I, they weren't as good later on, but in grade school I was lucky. I had pretty good grades.

Me: um, what was homework like? Did you like get lots?

Mr. K.: No, there was not a very little homework really. Most of it was done right in class. The teachers, a lot of times when they spent time w/ one grade, ya know, the 7th grade, the 8th graders would be doing what would've been homework sometimes. And it was all classroom work.

Me: You're lucky um, did you, were there like Christmas programs?

Mr. K.: Yeah, yeah. We always had a Christmas program. Uh, I didn't participate in the later years. In the earlier years everyone did and uh I remember being an elf one time (chuckling). uh, I think everyone was an elf at one time or the other and, oh, gee, I don't remember some of the other things.

Me: Um, did you go on field trips?

Mr. K.: No, we never. I think it would've been too hard for the teachers to try to arrange that especially when they had two classes to take care of everyday, uh. Once a year, right at the end, toward the end of the year, the 8th grade, uh, used to take a trip down to, to uh, what's *quote* now Northern Michigan University 'cause uh, I think the Normal college they called it then, but, and, it was just to look around the college, and grounds there. It was just, I don't know if ya call it a field trip but, it, that was a biggy for the 8th graders.

Me: Um, what extra curricular activities were you involved in?

Mr. K.: Well, we didn't have any extra curricular things in grade school. There was, uh, it was all classroom work and we didn't have any type of sports, uh, whatever, uh, arts or singing or that was done during the day in class. We had singing or music, uh, oh, I can't remember if it was everyday. It was probably every, ya know, 2 or 3 times a week, if I remember right. Uh, we'd go *quote* in the auditorium, and uh, sing songs 'bout it, and, uh, as far as arts, that was part of our classroom things, too. There was no extra curricular.

Me: Um, what did you do after school?

Mr. K.: Uh Oh!, uh, well after school 'course when we were young, well when I was little, there was very little chores. There was enough of us kids, where the older ones did it. So, when I was, up until about 4th or 5th grade I didn't have to do much. Then, uh, get home and there was bring wood in the house. We were burning wood. That was the only source of heat. Bring wood in the house for the kitchen stove and the petrolla and chop wood, stuff like that, & shovel, uh, sidewalks. We didn't have sidewalks, just shovel the path. And then most of the time for play we'd all wind back in the school yard and for the evening and whatever and play games. Everyone used to play there, winter and summer.

Me: What is the most fun you had in school?

Mr.K.: Uh, I guess it was fun, I may grumble about it, but almost everyday was some type of fun. Like I said, there were no extra curricular activities. It a fun place to be and just hanging around the school yard during recess and lunch time and after school. I think of anything else particular.

Me: O.K, so how many grades were in your school? 8?

Mr.K.: Eight plus kindergarden.

Me: Where did you keep your jackets and boots? In a cloak room?

Mr.K.: There was a cloakroom, yeah, on one wall.

Me: O.K. Do you have any cloakroom stories?

Mr.K.: Well, no, I guess not. That was a pretty quick thing. As soon as you got in you didn't waste any time. You took your stuff off and you got to your desk. There was no doddling around anywhere. So, ya know, there wasn't any time to play any pranks or do anything around the cloakroom. Then, cloakrooms themselves were on one side of the room.

Me: What year did you graduate from highschool?

Mr.K.: 1955

Me: Did you have further education after that?

Mr.K.: NO, not other than correspondence courses to work.

Me: How many students were in your graduating class about?

Mr.K.: There would've been probably about a hundred and ten. Somewheres around there. A little over a hundred.

Me: Were there any drop outs?

Mr.K.: Oh yeah I dropped out myself, but I got my diploma after, *include "quote"*

Me: Um, how old were you when you first started driving?

Mr. K: I was sixteen yrs. old. Well, when I first started driving I was probably younger than that. I used to just drive around when I went fishing or stuff like that w/ my father I'd drive on the back roads. I got my drivers license in the spring of 1953 when I turned 16.

Me: What was your first car?

Mr. K: Well, 1937 Pontiac. It was just an old beater.

Me: What was your first job in high school? And how much did you get paid?

Mr. K: I worked at the J J Newberry Store in Ishpeming when I was 16. If I remember right I used to get 55¢ an hr. to clean up stock shelves and clean floors or soda fountains and stuff.

Me: Here's one. What kind of things did you do on a date?

Mr. K.: On a date?!

Me: yeah. Or where did you go?

Mr. K: Well, I didn't have very many dates, but we'd go just to the Negaunee youth center, or I used to go there quite a bit. Or the Ishpeming youth center. And sometimes just cruising back and forth between Ishpeming and Negaunee. That is about as far anybody went. And sitting in restaurants sometimes or the Hillbilly in Negaunee + six towns! in Negaunee + the Brown Derby in Ishpeming. Things like that.

Me: Um, in school, were there any summer classes offered?

Mr. K.: I don't believe there was.

Me: Who were important role models in school?

Mr. K: Role models in school?

Me: Any teachers or famous people?

Mr. K: Well, the teachers it was a little, maybe, tougher kind of role model on our teachers for a boy, any way, because they were all ladies, so, as far as role models was teachers were a little tougher, of course they liked 'em. They were real good teachers, but in high school I always thought that Mr. Mr. Bull they called him was really good

(continued) Mr. K.: role model. He was a good, fair teacher. And there were others, of course. *check names*

Me: Any famous people?

Mr. K.: No, not in school when I was there. Mr. Seaberg taught machine shop when I there, and he was a brother to Glen Seaburg who was head of the atomic energy commission for this country & he was famous. But, other than that there wasn't any famous people. John Volker's daughter was in a couple of my classes and he was famous but she wasn't. None of my classmates became famous. (laughing)

Me: Um, how was the West Ishpeming building used by the community?

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Mr. K.: There was very little use of it, uh, the boy scouts used it for a little while for meetings, but other than that the girls scouts may have used that at one time too, but other than that the grounds were used. The school yard was used a lot. But the grounds, we certainly used. We had a ball diamond there and basketball courts, we had everything we needed there and grounds

Me: What's a special memory about the school and why were people so upset when it closed?

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Mr. K.: Well, I don't really know why they were upset. I wasn't upset when it closed. It was that ya just feel a little bit of a loss, ya know, that something like that closed. It had to be closed, but it was just so handy 'cause for most of us we could walk to school. It was always well kept up. There was never any vandalism around. As much as we used the grounds, there was never anything harmed on the school other than maybe by accident but there was no intentional vandalism. It was just a fun place to be

Me: How do you feel about the way the school is left today?

include
Mr. K.: I think it's a ~~shame~~ ~~the way~~ ~~what~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~done~~ ~~to~~ ~~it~~. I don't know whose fault it is, but ~~to~~ ~~sell~~ ~~it~~ ~~had~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~sold~~ ~~but~~ ~~to~~ ~~let~~ ~~it~~ ~~go~~ ~~the~~ ~~way~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~, it's an eye sore and it's just turning into a hazard, really and it's just too bad something can't be done. ~~Clear~~ ~~it~~ ~~up~~ ~~or~~ ~~tear~~ ~~it~~ ~~down~~.

Me: What did yearbooks look like? Did you have yearbooks?

Mr.K.: No, not in grade school. We had a class picture every year which I don't know whatever happened to those, but they're gone. I've seen a few that different friends have. That's about all we had was a class picture every year.

Me: Um, in high school, what courses did they give you and which ones did you take?

Mr.K.: I had the ^{industrial} industry arts course which always involved some manual arts like machine shop and wood shop and drafting and metal work. Then plus you had the academic part which was ~~standards~~ some type of math, history, English, ya know, whatever.

Me: What did you do before t.v.s were out?

Mr.K.: We got out and did things. Yeah, ~~we~~ we spent a lot of time w/ each other. Just a whole bunch of kids, we used to have a lot of potatoe ^{roasts} ~~roasts~~. We'd build a fire and everybody'd throw a potato in it and couple hours later you'd try to scrape ~~out~~ a black potato and eat it and it was good and we'd just ^{make} ~~have~~ a lot of time together and us boys used to spend a lot of time out in the woods out by Carp River and we spent 50% of our lives out ~~there~~ there and I guess sometimes we thought it was boring too but it wasn't nearly as boring as watching bad t.v.

Me: What was it like getting your first t.v.?

Mr.K.: ~~The~~ The first t.v. I saw at, ya know, steadily was when I was in the Service, ~~in~~ in the t.v. lounge in the service. We didn't have a t.v. set when I went in, 1955. I'm not sure when my mother and father got their first t.v. They had one when I got ~~out~~ out of the service in 1959, so it was sometime there. First time watching a whole show on t.v. I remember was down at

(continued)

Mr. K: _____, down at the end of the street, Kenny _____ was a friend and they had a t.v. and I remember watching a few shows down there on his t.v. but other than that.

Me: Was there a lot of things to watch?

Mr. K.: No, there was only one channel, so you watched whatever was on there and sometimes that didn't come in very good, if the weather was a little bad you could hardly see it. It was kind of thrilling.

Me: Tell me about any special hobbies you have or had?

Mr. K.: Hobbies? Well, when I was young I had, I used to fish, I fished a lot and did some trapping, muskrat and weasaland hunted, of course, but mostly fishing. Fishing was a biggy. And in the winter months, there was some trapping. Those were the main hobbies.

Me: What movies were popular when you were young?

Mr. K.: What movies?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. K.: Well, we used to go to the matinees on Saturdays, Most of the time it was some type of western, Roy Rogers, or Jean Otry and stuff like that, and to remember one is almost impossible because they are almost all alike, (laughing) But it used to cost 12¢ to go into the movie and for 25¢ you could go into the movies and get something to drink and get some candy and stuff for the day. Most of them were westerns,

Me: How did you get the money to^{so} the movies? Did you do chores?

Mr.K: Yeah, Well, it was, you begged a lot "Can I have a quarter, Mom?"
That was mostly it. We never had a set allowance. You'd just hope you'd get it at the time.

Me: Do you have any handicraft skills you learned?

Mr.K: Well, I think I don't have any real handicraft skills. I can do some things ~~with~~ w/ some metals and w/wood and ~~some~~ drafting because of what I did learn and we had a little bit of wood shop in grade school and Mr. Bully, he was the principle at the North Lake School, once a week or so he'd come down for the 7th & 8th grade boys, but it was only one at a time and he had a little instruction in woodshop dealing with woods and just the real basic type of things like how to make a square piece of wood and stuff like this. Then in high school they had some real good shops there. Whatever I did learn there, I think I've been able to use it.

Me: Can you describe any ethnic traditions you and your family celebrated?

Mr.K: No, no celebrations other than sauna once a week. Everbody here in the location ~~had~~ had there sauna lit or who had a sauna. It was, uh, I guess everyone did, not only all nationalities had some regular time for planting in the spring, and gardens, and ~~the~~ digging them out in the Fall. We didn't have any special ethnic celebrations.

Me: Did you have any pets when you were younger?

Mr.K.: Yeah, I had a dog. I called him Pooch, but that's about all I called him. I had him for a few years and my father said we had to get rid of him and he did. That was mostly my dog. I was about 12, 13, 14 yrs. old when I had him. Before that we had a dog for quite a few yrs. His name was Lucky. He was a collie. Well, he was part collie, part shepard and he was a good dog.

Me: Do you have any stories of your pets?

Mr. K.: Well, ah, he was always there, y'know, my dog was always w/ me. Lucky was ^{pause} we called him Lucky because he was lost. My oldest brother found him stray, and he had been smart enough to, he got hurt a little bit on the railroad tracks and was smart enough to lay down on the tracks while the train ran over him, and the train didn't touch him of course because he laid between the tracks, so that's why we called him Lucky, and he was shot at one time, too, someone had just barely grazed him, so he was lucky there, too. We had him for quite a few yrs., but his luck ran out because he got hit by a truck and killed. (laughing) He was about 10 yrs. old I'm guessing. So, so much for Lucky (laughing)

Me: How was life like during WWII?

Mr. K.: Well, I was quite young when it got over, but I remember when we'd have blackouts, and ~~ex~~ everyone would have to shut their lights off just for a kind of a drill, and I remember the rationing. Almost every thing was rationed, meat, + butter, + sugar, + gasoline, + tires. I remember when my father did a lot of patching of tires and ~~inner~~ inner tubes for the tires, and gasoline - you were only allowed having so much gasoline. Food was rationed. I remember ~~ed~~ one time, it was quite a tragic thing for my sister Janet cause she went to the store to get some sugar and on the way, I don't know whatever happened, but she lost the sugar coupons or the ration coupons for sugar, so we had to do w/out sugar for a while. We weren't allowed to have a lot of sugar, anyway. She lost the ration coupons for sugar. She felt really bad. I remember she was crying (laughing)

Me: Did school change at all or how did school change from that?

Mr.K: No, there wasn't any big change in school when the war end. We didn't sing "Let's Remember Pearl Harbor" any more. Other than that there was no change.

Me: How did you find out about the news?

Mr.K: The radio. We had a radio, and everyone listened to the radio ^{a lot more} ~~rather~~ than sitting around and listen to the radio. In a lot of ways it was much better than t.v. And you could imagine what was going on, and then newspapers, of course, and ~~the~~ all the movie theatres used to have a news. They would have a news reel of the events that happened during the past couple weeks or something like that and, ya know, some of the updates on things from the movie theaters.

Me: Did you have any family members or did you know of anyone that was in it?

Mr.K: My uncles. My mother's brother was in war in - he went through parts of ~~the~~ Sicily and Italy and he got a bronze star for bravery. Then I had 3 uncles on my father's side. My father was too old to be drafted but his brother ~~was~~ Laurence and his brother Jacob and his brother George all went in the service and Laurence was also in Italy and he has a lot of souvenirs from the war yet. He's aruggin at his place on little ~~the~~ Perch Lake that he got from Mussillany's house which is kind of ~~not~~ unique and my Uncle Jacob never got over seas in his time at California and my Uncle George was in the South Pacific in the Phillipines for a few years and he was wounded over there and he didn't have a lot of souvenirs when he came back. He had some, but, some Japanese type of things, not a lot, but they had some good stories when they came home. It was fun listening to them.

Me: Um, back to when you were a kid, what music was popular when you were young?

Phillipines

Mr. K.: Well, I guess, oh, you'd call it pop music or popular music. There was no rock 'n' roll. It was a lot of the big band type of sound now here on the radio. There was, oh, there ~~was~~ ^{were} many different singers. There was western music, There was hillbilly music which now they call country & western which is kinda lousy, I think, I used to like western music a lot and some hillbilly music, some pop music. There were a lot of good singers, Crosby, Tolson, Frank Sinatra, there was Pick Hanes, Martino, Eddie Fisher, ya know, a lot of those, Dean Martin. There was a lot of good music.

Me: Who was your favorite music artist?

Mr. K.: I guess I used to listen to hillbilly music more. Well, when I was a teenager, I'd listen to hillbilly music more. Before that, when I was younger, I used to like listening to Bert Ives. He was one of my favorites and Al Tolsen and Crosby

Me: What was one thing you had to have when you were a child like a toy or stuffed animal or a blanket?

Mr. K.: Well, I — that's a tough one. I guess we had, we didn't have a lot, but we had enough to get by w/. I never had any real toys for whatever reason. A lot of the things you don't have, you talk yourself into not needing them. I never had a ~~bicycle~~ bicycle and I said 'well, OK, I don't need it' and talk myself into it. I'm sure I always wanted one, I just never ^{had} one and a lot of the basic things like that that if you don't have one, you can talk yourself into not needing them. So I can't really think of anything I had to have,

Me: Describe some memorable memories of holidays?

Mr.K: ~~Well~~ Well, Christmas in our house, there wasn't a lot of toys going around 'cause we never had much. If we each got a thing for Christmas, maybe a pair of mittens or something like this, gloves or, that was what we got. We always had a meal, of course. Plenty to eat, but it wasn't turkey. ~~It was~~ ~~the~~ Most of the time it was chicken. There would be 2 or 3 chickens cooked up. *quote*

Me: How did you celebrate it in school?

Mr.K: In school it was — there was always a Christmas program and trading of little cards. There were no gifts. The Christmas play was the event of the year. Everyone in the location went to, I think. The auditorium was always full.

Me: How much was it for candy or pop?

Mr.K: Pop, if I remember right, I'm quite sure it was a nickel for a seven oz. bottle of pop. Candy. It was about a nickel for a chocolate bar. Ice cream was a nickel and 7¢ for a double dip. That's the only stuff I remember buying.

Me: What was church like when you were little?

Mr.K: We didn't attend church hardly at all. I was baptized and confirmed, but as a family weren't church goers.

Me: I understand there was another West Ishpeming school before the current one. What happened to it?

Mr.K: Well, that was before my time, but that was the old school, the older people used to call it.

Mr.K: It burned down I think somewhere around in 1914, It was on the next block north of where the present one is. It was on the corner of Center Street + Silver Street. *include + quote*

Me: Do you know how the fire started?

Mr.K: No, I don't know.

Me: What did you + your friends do on Halloween?

quote Mr.K: I shouldn't say anything about that. Oh, we used to do the soaking of windows. Sometimes we'd scare people by taking a thread spool and if ya carve 'em full of notches all the way around and put something in the middle of it whether it's a nail or something to hold on to it and ~~wind~~ wind thread around it and hold it against glass and pull that string, it makes a real horrible sound on the window. We did that just to scare people, and we did push over outhouses. There was still about half the location that had outhouses. Of course that was a real tough thing to not have the outhouse the next morning. (chuckle). That was about the worst thing we did.

Me: Was there "trick or treating"?

Mr.K: Yeah, there was, but sometimes they were threatening you. When I was young, if they thought you were a teenager and you were "trick or treating" they'd tell you to get out. They said "No way!" And you better move or they'd threaten you w/ a rock salt or shot gun if you didn't and they might have used it too. We didn't "trick or treat" after we were 13 or 14 years old. We didn't dare (chuckle).

Me: Did you get a lot of candy?

Mr. K: Not much. No, no. Well, a lot of the people didn't have much. You didn't expect them to give out a lot of candy.

Me: At West Ishpeming School, what lab facilities did you have?

Mr. K: We didn't have any. It was strictly academic work, reading and writing and arithmetic and that was mainly it.

Me: Do you remember ever getting in trouble at school?

Mr. K: Oh, sure, talking. I guess everyone did one time or another. Mrs. Williams was probably the, of those four teachers when I was there, was probably the most strict 'cause she didn't hesitate to whack ya across the back of the hand w/ a ruler and stuff like that. *quote*

Me: Do you know where the Fire Center School is located?

Mr. K: It was up *quote*, I believe it was close to where I guess they call it *Olala's* Homestead now. I don't know ~~who~~ lives there now. It would be on the forks where the main road turns to go across the Little Dead River and the other forks are the south camp roads. I believe the old Fire Center School was across from Olala's home. I'm not positive, but I think that's where it was.

Me: Do you know the condition it's in?

Mr. K: It's gone.

Me: Was it very big?

Mr. K: I don't believe it was very big at all, but I couldn't tell ya the size.

Me: Do you know when it closed?

Mr.K: No, uh, As long as I can remember there were kids bused from Fire Center to Dear Lake to West Ishpeming, and that was the early '40s.

Me: Do you have any pictures of you as a student?

Mr.K: Right now I wouldn't know where they are. There was just a couple of 'em. Not very many, but there was a couple around here when I was 10-12 yrs. old.

Me: One thing I forgot to ask was what did you do when you got out of high school?

Mr.K: I joined the Navy for 4 yrs., and that was a nice time. A good time in my life. W/in a year after I got out I got married and had a family.

Me: Is there anyone else that you can think of that should be interviewed?

Hugo Harvela would probably be a good one 'cause he was old enough to remember all of the school. ~~He~~ He didn't go to the old school, but the so-called ~~new~~ school was built in 1916 so it was a few years older when he started school, but he may be able to answer questions on maybe the Fire Center School, or when the kids started going to West Ishpeming, and other teachers that were there 'cause they had a few men ~~be~~ teachers before I got to school. Isaac Palimaki would be another very good person to interview. His wife was Mrs. Palimaki that was a teacher for 7th & 8th grade and he is older than Gob. I'm sure he didn't go to the old school. Let's see, maybe even my sister Edith Sandberg would be one to ask on West Ishpeming School. A lot of them are gone 'cause so many have moved away. There's, uh, so few older people left that have been here all their lives. Isaac's younger brother, Walter Palomaki, would probably be good. People my age, there's a few around. Mrs. Mattila, she's a year younger than me.

Me: Well, that's it. Thank you. Mr.K: Okay.