FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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I: For how long?
R: A week...or ten days, whatever it took to get my mother on her feet
I: She was a housekeeper as well as doing the job of helping...
R: Nursing and so forth and taking care of the new baby, un
I: Who were your grandparents?
R: My grandfather was James Nancarrow and he was drowned when he was forty years old off the dock...the old Hennis Dock which is now the Gunlock Dock.
I: In Houghton
R: In Houghton
I: At the foot of Isle Royal Street
R: Huron
J: Huron?
R: Huron, and there was a crowd down to see the boat and in all of the confusion he was lost off the dock.
I: Why did he come to Houghton?
R: I don't know
I: Were there friends from Cornwall here?
R: I imagine...I imagine...I never really thought about that because the only grandfather I knew on my father's side was Charles H. Graft and he married my grandmother after my Grandfather Nancarrow died; so they kept the business firm...my two grandfathers were partners in painting and decorating, so she just married the partner after Grandpa died.
I: And he helped to raise that family
R: Yes, that's right.
I: And your father was a part of.
R: That's right.
I: And your father was born in Houghton?
R: Yes, and my mother was born in Hurontown.
I: What was her name?
R: Louise Orth
I: Were her parents from Cornwall?
R: Her parents were from Detroit. In fact, the parents lived in Hurontown when she was born and then moved to Detroit and that's where she was married to my father.
I: What was your Grandfather Orth's occupation?
R: He was a fireman.
I: Probably one of the first official firemen in the country
R: Well, he was on duty as a fireman when he developed galloping consumption and he died at a very early age. I don't remember what age, but it was when my brother Howard was a tiny baby and that was back in 1890.
I: Why was your mother?
R: My mother was Louise Orth and her mother was Mary Fliege.
I: Was she born in Hurontown?
R: Off hand, I can't remember where she was born.
I: Your mother was born in Hurontown...did she grow up in the area?
R: She grew up for awhile...when my mother was a young girl she lived on Isle Royal Street...just below the house where they lived after they'd been married awhile.
I: Where did you go to school at?
R: At the Central School in Houghton and the old school.
I: Why do you call it the Old School?
R: Because the present school is the newer school and I can't remember when that was built.
I: Well, I think it dates in the 1920's because there was a fire...
R: Yes, there was a fire at that school and it was quite a thrilling fire. We could watch it from our front windows upstairs.
I: Was it a brick or wood building?
R: That I don't remember.
I: Did it happen during the winter or...?
R: It happened during the winter and at night.
I: Do you remember any talk about how it happened or why?
R: No, I don't recollect that. You know, this is beginning to remind me of a Watergate.

I: Well, going on, what did you do as a young girl for fun in the summertime?

R: Well, in the summertime we used to play games a lot and.

I: What games?

R: Tag and duck-on-a-rock and all that sort of thing, and play with the brothers and if I was good they would take me fishing with them; otherwise no, because I always fell in.

I: Where did you go fishing?

R: Tilden River...three miles away.

I: How many brothers did you have?

R: We had nine...seven brothers and the one sister.

I: And how many brothers were older and who were they?

R: Two were older, Howard and Arthur and then there was Lester, and we had a brother Ivan who died at one year of age during a spinal meningitis epidemic and then there was Edward, Woodard, Ralph and then my sister Doris.

I: And you were the tomboy of the neighborhood?

R: That's right. Then there weren't any little girls in the neighborhood when I was growing up; but by the time my sister was growing up, there were quite a few little girls in the neighborhood or at least over as far as across from the firehall...or the courthouse...the Moffits and all the different families that did have young girls.

I: Well, where did you go to church?

R: Went to church at Trinity Church in the old church.

I: And it burned too? Or was it torn down to make way for the one that was dedicated about 1903?

R: I think it was torn down to make room for the new one. I don't remember that.

I: This church had paintings at one time on the walls of the old church. Do you remember seeing them? I understand the young priest decided he didn't like them, had them taken out and nearly lost his job for it.

R: Now that I don't recall.
I: Well, I've heard talk and I didn't know if you remembered...
R: No, I don't remember that.
I: Do you remember anything interesting when a Bishop came to visit or Sunday School picnics?
R: I remember our Sunday School picnics we used to have up at the Upper Canal and we would go...(???) had a little tug up at the (???) and would tow the Barge Pilgrim and the Barge Pilgrim had concessions and a floor for dancing and well, just a general play time setup...and we used to go up with our picnic baskets and be up at the Canal all day long and then return about dark.
I: Were you allowed to go swimming?
R: I don't remember us going swimming in Lake Superior at that time, but we did like to go wading.
I: So many women were not allowed to learn to swim
R: Well, I was working when I first had a swimsuit
I: Your brothers would let you go fishing but not go swimming with you?
R: No...oh...they used to go down to (???) which was just beyond the college...what was beyond the college territory then; and they used to go down practically every day and at that time there was no bus going back and forth. The boys had to walk it. Nowadays they have to be bussed everywhere they go...if it's only a mile. We did a lot of the things that the kids do. I helped my mother and was able to help her a bit, but...oh and the girls played with dolls and all that sort of thing but we grew out of that stage.
I: And what did the family do for fun?
R: Well, the family used to go on picnics...the youngest baby would ride in the buggy with the watermelon and then we would take the rest of the lunch and each one had their own duties to perform, so we really did have a good childhood.
I: Did your father in his painting contracts have a horse and wagon to carry his supplies?
R: Oh no...he had to have a dray come in every time.
I: Did you have a horse then in your barn..
R: No, we had a paint shop...we had a paint shop back of the house where Art lives and...because that's where we were living until my Grandfather DeGraft died and then we moved down next door into his house.
I: Now this is a six-room - seven-room house.
R: That's right.

I: Three bedrooms upstairs...

R: That's right, and the four rooms downstairs.

I: And the ten of you were living here.

R: Oh yes...we were all packed in.

I: You must have been. How did your mother...you said you helped her...did you help her when she was doing the washing?

R: No, I never helped her with the washing...I was supposed to...I took cooking in school, I was supposed to get the Saturday dinner while she was washing and the boys were helping her with the emptying of the tubs, scrubbing the porches and doing nearly everything that was anywhere near a heavy job. And I would bake the cake for Sunday and also as I said would make macaroni and cheese or something like that for the dinner Saturday noon.

I: Did your mother wash with a scrub board?

R: No, we had an old fashioned sort of a basket machine that the boys worked like this...they had a handle and then the boys worked it; and that rubbed the clothes. It was made so that the...it was like lathes graduated into this cradle form.

I: And they set that on the top of the clothes?

R: The clothes went in and then this went in and it was rubbed with this cradle form.

I: Like a mortar and pestle which was made specifically about two and a half feet long by eighteen inches wide?

R: Oh, it was wider than that and it was a long one...I don't think I ever found one anyplace else.

I: I saw one.

R: Did you?

I: (???) has one. I thought it was great fun for about five minutes of play.

Along about 1912 I think it was, we got our first electric...a Thor...so from then on the boys didn't have quite as much to do about the washing as they used to do.

I: Did you have a well in your house?

R: No, we had a well next door in Grandpa DeGraft's backyard and that well was used for flooding the ice rink in the yard...in our yard while Grandpa was still alive...we used the water from his well.
for our winter sports

I: You carried it up in wooden buckets?

R: We carried it up in tin buckets and flooded the rink. And I was (???)...and my knees were always...my knees and shins were always bruised. We didn't have shin guards; but we had a very good time and when the moon was full we usually had a party out on the ice rink with hot chocolate or something indoors afterwards. Those were the days.

I: You always had a crowd of Narcarrows with you.

R: Yes, there was the Croves living down on the corner down below and there were the Gibsons living next door and then later there was a Lawrence up above and we had to make our good times.

I: You have had different nationalities as your neighbors, was there ever any trouble because you were Cornish and they were English or German?

R: No...nor Finnish...it never made any difference. Everybody took everybody at their face value. I can't remember ever having any difference of opinion with any of the races.

I: You went to school with them. Do you remember anything in class where teachers made any difference among the children?

R: No, I don't think they ever did.

I: And there wasn't any in your Episcopal Church associations?

R: No, I remember we had one Negro family, the mother was a widow and she had two sons and a daughter and I had one of the boys in my Sunday School class and the mother became our charwoman at the office.

I: Where did these people come from?

R: Well, they came from the South somewhere.

I: Why did they come here?

R: Well, they came because there was another family here and the man was a barber.

I: Did he have a shop in Houghton?

R: He had a shop here...I can't remember whether it was Houghton or Hancock though.

I: I had not heard of another Negro family in Houghton. When was this?
R: I began working for the United States Government in 1913...the eighth of July and I think she was the first charwoman I can remember.

I: So they were here and he had died; so after 1900 they'd come up

R: Yes I imagine so.

I: Did you take a special test to get your job with the Government or what did you do?

R: Well, I completed high school in 1912 and then the commercial teacher or the head of the Commercial Department, Mr. Spaulding, and the Principal of the high school thought that they'd like to try a scheme of trying to crowd three years of commercial training into one year for high school graduates; and the three of us, another girl and a boy and myself, were the guinea pigs and it didn't work out too well because the other two couldn't keep up the pace of two sets of shorthand and typing and Business English and business spelling and business law and all the other commercial subjects, so it was a grueling course and they never tried it again, that I know of.

I: But you succeeded in...

R: I succeeded in finishing in June when the school closed and in July I got the job.

I: But you didn't have a Civil Service Exam or...

R: Not until later. This was a rush job because it was annual report time. See, the fiscal year ends June 30th and they had all the reports to get out, so I was taken on as an emergency temporary employee and I had to take the exam later.

I: How long did this emergency work last?

R: I retired in 1949

I: You found you acceptable as an emergency.

R: Yes...yes indeed.

I: Well, when you were working, what did you do for entertainment?

R: Well...

I: Did you live at home?

R: I lived at home and of course there were the dances and also the movies. At that time we had the Star Theatre down at the bridge and of course there was always the theatre in Hancock...so there wasn't any shortness of things to do. And of course they would have all these serials, The Perils of Pauline, and all these
other serials; and we had to see those every week, no matter what.

I: Was this when they had the piano to help with the music background? Do you remember any name pianists or did they have an organ?

R: At the church?

I: At the theatre for the background?

R: Oh they had an organ at the Star Theatre.

I: And who played it?

R: I don't know who he was. And I used to go to Calumet a lot to visit my father's sister and family up there, and of course we always went to the theatre/ at the old Palestra to do our ice skating.

I: Ice skating was as popular then as it is now?

R: Oh yes, yes.

I: Did you do it on a regular basis?

R: Yes, in fact we used to buy season tickets.

I: To go ice skating.

R: To go ice skating at the Amphradome. That seemed to be the easiest way there...you always made sure of getting in; and it was a nice gift to give a young person.

I: Did you have sleigh parties?

R: Oh yes...not too many. Sleigh ride parties? Not too many; but we enjoyed the ones we did have very much. And at Christmas we used to make these hugh garlands for the church. We'd all gather in the basement of the church and these long ropes and they'd be hung from corner to corner of the (???).

I: From what were they made?

R: Cedar...the boughs of the cedar and then everybody would get together and make the long ropes of cedar.

I: Did they have handmade candles then or did they buy them?

R: That I don't remember.

I: What did you have for Christmas at your home?

R: We had.

I: When you were little?

R: We had a Christmas tree with candles and it was one of the things
we were warned about completely that we would never leave the room while the candles were on. Somebody had to be there to see that nothing happened.

I: Little metal holders.

R: Yeah, little metal holders that pinched on to the bough and then the candles were about a half an inch...

I: And about three inches high.

R: Yes...three or four.

I: My grandmother used to have those. What other ornaments did you have?

R: Well, we used to...the kids used to make things in school and we had balls, of course, and we used to string cranberries and the cranberries were very pretty in the candle light. And we would string popcorn. We never had too much money for Christmas ornaments because it took quite a bit to see that each member of the family had a suitable Christmas present, you see.

I: Do you remember any Depression time when it was worse?

R: Well, winters were a little bit hard with a job like a painter and decorator and in the summer it seemed like everybody wanted every thing done then. The early spring when the women were doing their housecleaning, they'd have it painted it right away. And then in the summer it was doing the outside of the houses and then in the fall, it was the fall housecleaning; so that that period of the year was as busy...too busy and then the rest of the year was just kind of stagnating...that's when they had a chance to do a little decorating at home and so forth and do other things.

I: Did the Christmas goodies include any special cookies that your mother made?

R: Yes, my mother used to make these animal cookies out of a molasses mixture and we used to have loads of those and then she'd make pferneusse...a German cookie...I notice that they have that out in California...the bakery make pferneusse out there and the first time I saw them I thought, "Oh my word, I haven't seen that for so long." Because it's spelled P-F, you know, in the beginning.

I: Pferneusse, we called it.

R: Well, my mother always called it pferneusse; but we used to have that and of course there was always the fruit cakes and...oh she used to make crocks and a lot of Finnish...she'd make crocks and crocks of them because everybody went around to everybodies house at Christmas time to see all the gifts and each one showed your gifts and who they were from.
I: Was this Christmas day or Christmas week?

R: It was Christmas week...sometimes it took until after New Year's to get around because my mother had several first cousins here in town so that by the time we got around to the different ones, it took just about a week.

I: Did you always serve something?

R: Oh yes...served different things, cider and fruit cake and cider and cookies or...I don't remember any hard drinks.

I: It was not as common among the people of the middle classes...it was more the extreme poor or extreme rich, wasn't it?

R: No, I don't think so. I don't know about extreme rich, but I know families in our way of life didn't have too much hard liquor. Of course, the mincemeat that always was made at home it always had good stuff in it.

I: It had liquor or it wasn't good, yes

R: And the fruit cake had...it was wrapped in rags that were soaked...dish towels or something that were soaked in liquor.

I: You ever heard of a cake being made when a boy was born?

R: Of a fruit cake and.

I: The same was made for his wedding?

R: Saved for his wedding.

I: ...and each year...some people here did that. I'll ask you, how did you make your...do you remember making any of it...of the mincemeat?

R: Mincemeat? Oh, yes.

I: What did you make it from?

R: Venison

I: Venison?

R: A lot of it was made with venison. My dad was a deer hunter and then venison was a dandy base for mincemeat.

I: To which you added the raisins and...

R: And the mixed fruit, dried fruit, and so forth; but it was very good.
I: There are so many ways to make it. At home we always used pork, especially hog pork.

R: How did it taste?

I: Delicious

R: Really? I can't picture pork being used

I: Did you use candied cherries...or just dried fruit?

R: I think it was mainly dried fruit

I: Rather than candied fruit

R:

I: Was it a dark mincemeat?

R:

I: Rather than a...

R: As I remember it.

I: There are several kinds.

R: Now would the pork be light?

I: It could be depending on what part...

R: What part you used...un huh.

I: Now if it was usually the hog type which was more light. Now did your mother buy special candy...a special kind for Christmas?

R: Yes...well it was all special candy

I: Was it a (§?) candy?

R: Well this was...very few chocolates, but it was the hard candied mainly and then she always made a bag for the newsboy and the milkman and put an orange in the bag. It was usually that red net and that was as definite as could be on Christmas morning why the newsboy always got his Christmas.

I: Did you have Christmas customs...for example, reading of the Bible or hanging stockings or stories that were always told?

R: Well, we each got our stockings, but we didn't have a fireplace so we didn't have any place to hang them. They were in our place because we each had our own spot...I had the top of the table and then somebody else had the underneath shelves and then somebody would have this side of the table and somebody on that side of the table, and was always a place for each one's treasure on Christmas morning;
but as I say, it wasn't so much the value of the gifts we had, but it was just something that each one wanted and we each tried as we got older, we each tried to give each other something.

I: So that everyone felt special
R: Oh yes...oh yes.
I: What did you have for dinner then besides your venison mincemeat?
R: Well, on Thanksgiving my Grandmother and Grandfather DeGraft used to come up from the house below us for dinner and my grandfather always saw that we had a turkey. And then the following Sunday we would all go down there where they would have a turkey and a big chicken pie with a thick crust on it. Nobody would touch the chicken pie at noon, but at night you should see that chicken pie disappear. And the same thing happened at Christmas time. They all came up to our house where the kids were for the Christmas dinner and then we all went down there for New Years; and the same was repeated again... the turkey and the big chicken pie.

I: Did you grow many of your vegetables?
R: Oh, at different times the boys would have lettuce and radishes; but I don't think they ever had any more than that like potatoes. I don't think they ever had corn.

I: Did most of the supplies have to come from out in the country?
R: Oh yes, they had all be shipped in.
I: How was it shipped
R: Well, for a long while it came in by boat; and then after that they came in by train.
I: Well, how did your father get his paint in? Did he mix his own from barrels of base?
R: Well he used to get his paint, I think, from Hennis's store
I: Already mixed?
R: No, he got his paint and then he added linseed oil, if I remember right. I don't think it came complete like it does now.
I: 'as there ever a carload of dark red brown paint?
R: That I don't know
I: Because so many places in the area are painted that.
R: I never thought of
I: They said there was a carload of brown paint and everyone used it because it was cheap.

R: No...I heard that about red barn paint.

I: Here?

R: Yes but I never heard it about brown.

I: Look around.

R: I never thought of that...but that sounds reasonable.

End of Side 1

I: Would you like to comment about your World War I memories?

R: Well, they're not very distinct in my mind. I remember that I was working and missed my brothers very much. Art was in the...let me see...he was in the engineers and was serving in (???)...and Lester was in the Navy and he was serving on the battleship Massachusetts. So many was the time that they were gone. And I can't remember too much except that there was a lot of work connected with the war in the office.

I: What exactly did you do in the office? What was the Department about?

R: We were a branch of the War Department...the (???) and Mr. Banks, the engineer, was in charge of this twenty-six miles of waterway and part of it was Portage River, and part of it Portage Lake, and part of it the...what they call the Upper Canal.

I: Where is Portage River?

R: Portage River is from the end of big Portage down to Keweenaw Bay.

I: Across from what would be Portage now?

R: Down by the bridge...Princess Point Channel...I can't remember what year...and the river was deepened and then they could take the boats. They were deepening all the Great Lakes channels at the time and the harbour refuge...the (???) of the harbour refuge was about oh a little more than a mile from Keweenaw Bay in that entrance way...at the entry, as they call it; and the light house and fog signal; and our office was in charge of all the repairs at the piers, (???), and the harbour refuge and taking care of all the dredging of the channels and putting in new revetments where necessary.

I: What is a revetment?

R: A revetment is a timber construction which holds the bank from sliding into the river.
I: A great deal of that had to be done on the river ponds?
R: That's right...that's right...yes. So we had two harbors of refuge, one at the lower end and one at the upper end so that ships could harbor and wait until after a big storm.
I: Did your work come after the break up in the spring?
R: Well, in the winter we were busy with all the plans for the coming season and then the report of the last season because we had to...there had to be a complete report of all the work that was done during a season and that was incorporating annual following June 30th report and then in the summer our office used to take all the reports of the ships that went through here and make up a report...a monthly report of all the merchandise and coal and copper and brands that went through here up or down.
I: Did you also include any of the merchandise that was brought in your report?
R: Yes, everything that wasn't coal and iron ore and (???) was listed and copper. Copper was listed separately. But food stuffs and machinery and automobiles and everything were listed separately.
I: A lot of the merchandise was brought by boat
R: Oh yes.
I: How many boats would come in during a week?
R: Well, there were three passenger boats for a long time, the (???) and (???)
I: Where did they come from?
R: They came from Buffalo. They traversed from Buffalo to Duluth and back once a week, so we had them in here on their up-bound trip and and on their down-bound trip; and then they had previous to that...years ago when I was a child...they had three ships, I forget what company it was then, but they had the China and the Japan and the...I forget what the other one was, but they had three at that time and they were quite small. In fact, I took a trip with my family on one of the smaller ones.
I: Where did you go?
R: We went to Detroit to visit my mother's people.
I: From Houghton?
R: Yes, from Houghton.
I: All the way to Detroit?
R: All the way to Detroit, yes.
I: Was the Soo Lock...the old Lock on the Canadian side then?

R: I think the Canadian Lock was there, but we used the American Lock as a matter of course.

I: How long did the trip take?

R: Now that I don't remember; and then later on when we used to go to Detroit, the family, we used to take the excursion train from here to St. Ignace and then we used to take a side wheeler from St. Ignace to Detroit.

I: Like a river boat?

R: Only with a side wheeler, yes.

I: The river boat are side wheelers that they used on the river

R: Yes, un huh.

I: Did you sleep overnight then?

R: Oh yes, we were on board overnight

I: All eight children with your mother.

R: Well, no, my mother took at least five or six of us which were all we had at the time; and each one had their own duty...now you take care of this package, and you take care of that suitcase, you take care of this...so when we used to take that trip very joyfully and visit our grandmother in Detroit.

I: I wonder how joyful Mother was?

R: Oh, I don't know.

I: Was this a summer excursion every summer?

R: Yes, we usually had this excursion and it was very reasonable. One I remember was nine dollars per person from Houghton to Detroit and back.

I: Did you take your own food in a basket?

R: Yes, we had to take our own food for the train and I think maybe for the boat; although I think there was somewhere they used to get food on the boat...but not on the train.

I: And you were young enough you don't remember...

R: I don't remember.

I: Well, how many boats came in when you were in the Government office?
Is there any estimate (??)?

R: No, I worked on those reports for years, but I don't remember how many came in in a season or anything like that.

I: Were they all sizes?

R: All sizes, yes. There were a lot of steamers that towed one two and three lumber hookers as they used to call them.

I: Would this be a barge?

R: No, they were just like a steamer only they didn't have any propelling mechanism.

I: And (??) full of lumber.

R: Well, most of them carried lumber.

I: Where were these from?

R: They were down from I think Cheboygan and around there; and they were an amusing sight to see the steamer and then all these other ones trailing behind it.

I: Like a barge or tug. And they called them lumber hookers?

R: Lumber hookers, un huh. They were called barges too.

I: Did these barges carry anything besides lumber?

R: I presume so, but I don't really know.

I: Well, when you left here you went to the Duluth office.

R: I left in the Fall of '26 and worked in the Duluth office from then until the beginning of 1949.

I: Well, of course, this is part of the Great Lakes system. Can you recall anything about the Depression in Duluth? Were there Hoover towns or soup kitchens or...

R: Now that I don't remember too much about.

I: Did the Depression come to Duluth in 1929 or was it later?

R: Now that I don't remember either

I: Because some of these mining areas weren't hit like the cities were.

R: No, I can't say that I remember.

I: Do you remember what happened during the Second World War?
R: Yes, I remember the rationing and I remember the extra work that it brought our office.

I: Because at that time you were still working for the same organisation.

R: Yes, that's right. I only had the one boss all my working life...the United States Government.

I: Well, what did you do in the Engineering Corp Office?

R: Well, in the Houghton office I had charge of the vessel recording in fact that was my title...Vessel Recorder on the payroll; and I did the typing and the printing...the finishing of any photographs that were taken of the work going on along the waterways and any wrecks that happened and just any general office work. Then in the Duluth office, I was transferred up there for the purpose of being purchasing agent and contract clerk so that's what I was from there on.

I: During the second World War, what did you do there

R: Well, a lot of different CCC Camps that were active...reactivated and there were all of the utilities to be taken care of and contracts made for all that and it was a continuous performance of getting groceries for the plant and food for the plant and all the different things that they needed.

I: Were there any special things that were harder to get...shortages that you became aware of?

R: Not that I remember...in fact I tried to forget most of my work when I left it.

I: Well, I was wonder if meat rationing or anything like that affected the government contracts.

R: Not that I remember.

I: Because lots of these army and navy camps were getting their full allotment regardless of the meat rationing.

R: I imagine our plant had the full amount of what they needed

I: How did you get that report to Duluth? You say it went through Detroit by boat.

R: When I was in Duluth I used to go back and forth between there and Houghton by boat...if I had to make the trip. And then otherwise during the wintertime I came down by train.

I: What train was this?

R: Duluth South Shore and Atlantic and change at...first I used to change at Nestoria and then we changed I think at Michigamme, I think, I'm not sure about that either.
I: Well, during the years of traveling you changed from boat to car. Do you remember the first car that your family had?

R: I remember that Art had a Chevrolet after he got back from Russia after World War I. He got a Chevrolet and used that. That was one of those open cars, touring car with the lacing glass side curtains and it took us everywhere we wanted to go... places that we'd never seen before.

I: How did he learn to drive?

R: Well, that I don't know... who taught him.

I: Did the salesman teach him to drive?

R: He may have learned that over in Russia.

I: And then the first time he had the car out... as I remember the story he told me... the man was called back to the office and went with the person who came after him. The owner of the company had gone where he was with the car. The only thing he could do was get in and drive it and he said that never in his life did a bridge look so narrow as the old bridge did when he got there with that great big touring car. And he said that he waited and he waited and finally he had to take it back so that he could pay for it and that was the first time he drove alone.

R: Oh no! I didn't remember that.

I: Where did he take you in that first car?

R: Oh, he took us out to Twin Lakes and that was a narrow roller-coaster road at that time.

I: Was it (??)?

R: Yes, and in fact we had to get way off the road to let anybody pass you. It was a terrible thing. And then we'd take rides down to the Point and down toward L'Anse and Baraga and we just explored the back country and more traveled country.

I: What speed was it you usually went?

R: Oh I imagine it would be like about fifty miles an hour. I don't think he went any faster than that. We wanted to see everything.

I: I doubt if he got to that. You went to White City as a young girl by boat?

R: Oh yes, we used to go down by boat all the time. The A.J. Whelsey used to go down there on regular daytime and nighttime trips. In fact those moonlight excursions were quite popular; and then of course, they had the dance hall down at White City and everybody would dance... get off the boat and dance. Of course they could dance on the boat too, but they would dance down there in the afternoon then and then they had concessions for getting some food. It was a very good place because you could take picnic lunches and there...
was a lot of camping down there.

I: Did your family ever camp out?

R: No...they used to go up to Twin Lakes to a cottage, but as to camping in tents, I don't think they ever did that.

I: Did you own the cottage?

R: No...didn't own the cottage at Twin Lakes. The (????) owned it I think; and then the boys, as they grew older and were working, they'd want the check stand at Frieda Park (?) and wouldn't get to Twin Lakes and had that for their cottage.

I: What was Frieda Park?

R: Frieda Park was at the end of the spur of the Copper Range and they ran picnics there especially on weekends and on Sunday we used to leave here around nine o'clock on the Copper Range...the whole family and arrive about an hour later after picking up passengers at Atlantic, South Range and Tri Mountain and all the way up...Beacon Hill and the town of Frieda and then we got to the park about an hour after we started and my mother went to work to help Mrs. (???); in the kitchen with the details getting ready for the big dinner at noon and her daughter, Mrs. (????) was helping Mrs. (????) so there were the three women who took care of that; and they had several long tables to serve the public and then the dance hall was in front of that; and then the stand, the concession stand was a little way in the park, and my father and brothers would take care of the concession stand for Mr. (???); who was patrolling the place. He had to keep order and see that nobody maliciously wrecked the place and there were a series of stairs going down to the beach. See, Frieda Park was on sort of a promontory and I used to take care of our younger children and the Walter children; so my day was a busy day while the rest were working.

I: What was sold at the concession?

R: Oh, candy bars, ice cream cones and fruit and everything that could think of that kids like...cracker jack and popcorn.

I: Did they make their own ice cream?

R: No, I don't think so. No, I think I can remember scooping it out of great big freezers. No, I don't think they made their own.

Then did they have dancing and swimming?

R: They had dancing. I don't remember ever too much swimming. The beach was that sand and it was awfully hard on the feet; so I've been in wading there a good many times, but I don't think I ever went in actually swimming.

I: I think it's rocky along the shore too.