Interviewer: Pete Oikarinen

I: Now I guess the real thing I wanted to ask you, do you remember the Italian Hall.

R: Italian Hall, yeah.

I: Yeah.

R: Yeah, I can tell you a story about that because what I do know about it. I lived on Eighth Street right behind it.

I:

R: Right behind it. I went over there with a ladder. Yeah, I heard them holler "fire". I put a ladder up on the side there, see. When I got there, "There's no fire here!" they said. So, I went back with the ladder. So they must have been with that there...that said, "No fire here"...they must have been with that Union outfit...that they got here...I mean not Union outfit, detective outfit they got here. Yeah, I forget the name of that outfit now.

I: Wadells?

R:

I: Were they Wadells?

R: Wadells, yeah, Wadells. Must have been one of them, see. So, I brought the ladder back to my house again. That's on Eighth Street, right behind that, see. I brought that back and but what really did happen I never knew before anybody else did. But I know that there was no fire and it was all jammed. There were stairways going down there from the hall filled up with people because they didn't have nobody to lead them right there. And that was this Wadell outfit that caused it or there wouldn't have been anything hardly. My father told them though...my father worked for the Village and he saw them all laid out, you know, in the stage on the floors.
I: Oh, they put them up there?

Huh...oh, he worked for the Village up in Calumet so he saw it all
Oh, that was a ghastly outfit. But you see, I couldn't get...on
account of I was....

I: Oh, what time in the morning was that, did you say, or was that in
the evening?

R: Oh, that was in the evening.

I:

R: Yeah.

I: And you put it on the back?

R: On the back...I put the ladder on the back.

T: Did you climb it?

R: No, I didn't climb it because they had their heads out around
there, you know, fooling around and so forth, so I thought that
there can't be anything to it. So I just went and brought the
ladder back. But it all happened in front.

Oh, you didn't know what was happening.

R: No

I: Did anybody tell you from the window?

Did anybody come out through the window? No! So you see, they must
have known what there was...what they was doing. They must have been
a bunch of them Wadell men there. That's the way it looks to me
anyway.

I: But nobody did find out who yelled "fire"

R: No...just somebody hollered "fire" and...from the street out there
and that's what got it started and the hall was crowded with people
having a good time there.

I Well another thing I've been interested in is, have you ever had any
dreams that came true?

R: What?

I: Dreams that came true? Do you know what I mean? Ah, well you
dreamt about something that happened and then it actually did happen,
you know, dreaming when you sleep.
R: Oh no! No, I don't...I really don'tream and wake up from dreams, no. I can't remember anything.

T: How about home remedies? Did your mother or father have someway to give you medicine...did they give you some special medicine?

You mean the doctors

Yeah no, your mother and father...home remedies.

R: Just...

Well, did they give you something for a cold or something for the flu or some kind of medicine?

, you mean did I take nything.

Yeah, did your mother and father ever give you anything?

Oh, mother and father. My father, he was...my father was never sick in his life until he died. That is he...they used to have diarrhea in Sweden, and the doctor told him to chew a little snuff. And that worked and that's what he did the rest of his life.

I Chewed snuff?

R: Yeah, but he really never really was sick or laid up with sickness but he died when he was seventy-five. I got run over with a...I got run over with a grocery wagon when I was probably around nine years old. I was playing "duck on a rock" and I ran up against a horse and, you know, they went over me and I got two vertebrae, they bother me those vertebrae are glued together and I've taken about seven hundred chiropractic treatments and the doctor tried but they'll never break open and that made it weakened down around here on account of that. And today they would have fixed that up a little. And I had that chiropractor down in Houghton anybody who goes to him.

Who was that?

Ah, now you got me again. Still I know it well. Yeah, he was a Norweigian and I've seen him fix up people that's been all over the world and not getting any help.

I: He's a doctor?

Yeah, and they'd come walking up them stairs out of that room and they said they'd been all over the world and got fixed up right here.

Was this a long time ago?

K: How long time ago? Well I tell you, I was about...let's see...
Let's see now, my grandson is...about fifty years ago, and I've been all right since. But I took about six hundred treatments from him but I haven't got any effects like backaches or anything like that.

I: I wonder what his name was?

R: Well, that's what I'm trying to find out

I: That's all right

R: He used to be in the first block in Houghton...from the bridge over a drygoods.

I: Oh, I see.

I tell you, many times they've asked me about him and a day or so after the name comes like this, you know, see.

I: But he was a regular doctor.

R: Just chiropractor

I: Chiropractor.

R: He was...I forget that Institute now that he graduated from, you know.

I: Minnesota?

R: Huh?

I: Mayo Clinic?

R: No

I: Rochester

R: No, it's different than those things. I forget, but I know he's from out west anyhow, yeah.

I: 'ell, have you ever heard of a Mrs. Thompson?

R: Who?

I: Mrs. Thompson...she was a chiropractor

R: No...no.

I: Because I heard that there was some old people who...they weren't doctors...but they could fix your...
R: Oh yes! Yes, yes...like people that they can't have no bowel movements so see, and there was some old people that done nothing else but take and massage their stomachs to get their bowel movements...years ago, you know.

I: Yes, have you heard of anything else?

R: But not...today you got medicines for all that, see, not like years ago.

I: Yes, but some of the old stuff is supposed to work.

R: That did work...it did work. You take now for instance with me, all I got to do is eat a half a can of pears.

I: Yeah, right.

R: That's it. And I do take, in the tablets, a half a one once in awhile, you know. They're just regular tablets, you know. I got lots of medicine I take now. Yeah, I got lots of it over here.

I: I see some over there.

R: Yeah, that's for heart trouble. I had a heart attack a year ago...a year ago just about this time. They took me fishing down here but they brought me home about eleven o'clock...not home either, brought me to my son-in-law's and they went along too to the hospital and, of course, there, you know, I hadda go through this here...what do you call that care?...now again?

I: Houghton County Medical Care?

R: No, for heart attacks...you get wired with all them wires.

I: Yeah, went through that. So, I was in that room for three days and afterwards I was there four days in the regular room and then I came home. I been all right since, but I don't walk upstairs more than I have to...up stairways. I walk down stairways, but not up stairs.

Very difficult to understand...unable to type.

I: Well, let's get back to when you first came here. Did you used to travel much?

R: Did I what?

I: Used to travel?

R: Travel?
Yeah, travel. Do you remember coming up...

Oh yes, yeah

When you were first up here... in 1899.

I used to take a trip about East there. I used to take a trip every couple of years.

But I meant travel around here

Oh travel around here

Yeah, on the streetcars and.

Oh, they had street cars here for twenty-five years and that went to Mohawk and Lake Linden and then to Houghton. Of course they were over 41 that way to Houghton. Took in that town and then they went as far as Hubbell from here, that was from Lake Linden. You see, they didn't go any further. And in Mohawk they went to where the White House is. So we had that for twenty-five years. So that was very very handy... very nice. In Houghton especially... go down to Houghton and back then for twenty-five cents... see, cheap. So we got around here then with that machine.

Well, do you remember anything about Sweden?

Sweden?

Yeah.

All I can remember is that we lived on a big estate. My father then he was the one that was the boss on the estate there. And I got a Swedish letter that was written by the estate owner... I got that here.

That's something.

Yeah.

Well, why did your father leave? Why did he come to the United States?

Why? Just because the oldest boy went here to study to be a preacher and then my other brother next to him... and my sister, between the two boys, they went and then they wanted the rest of us to come, see. And I said, "I don't want to go!" But, I had to go and I was only six years old... but I didn't want to go away from where I was. So we got here, like I said.

What part of Sweden was it?
R: What part?

I: Yeah

R: They call it Smoland (?)

I: Is that the island?

R: It's a county...it's Smoland. And the place where I lived was called Jestorp.

I: How do you spell that?

J-e-s-t-o-r-p... and in the city like where we went to there was Jonkoping. J-o-n-k-o-p-i-n-g... but you see, you gotta have two dots over to make the o...urh... Jonkoping. I don't know... I don't know how to pronounce his name, I always said Jonkoping, yeah. So, that's where we had it there. And the estate where my father was there had oxen doing the work on the estate. And they had a great big home and all that, you know, that estate owner. All they did was riding like horses and stuff like that, you know. The best there is that comes from the cows, the cream, it all went to the other... the rest of it went downtown, you know. So, well it was nice there then. I was a kid then.

Yeah, it's hard to remember

I used to run away and go to school there then and then they wondered where in the world I was... they find me, I went to school. You take (?)... when we went to LacLabelle, you know, in a horse and wagon many times.

I: Oh! How long would it take?

R: It'd take about three hours.

I: What kind of road was there?

R: Was just a... you might as well say... two rows from the wagon wheels. Yeah, we used to... and most of the time we'd only go to Eagle River.

I: Was Eagle River a big place then

R: You know, one time then coming back from Eagle River, you know, and a team... team of horses and a six-passenger coach, you know, like we rented... you know, young people then... and the horses stopped and couldn't get them going. So there was an old Frenchman come along, you know, with his one horse there, you know... he says, "What's the matter?" We told him. "Oh," he says, "I'll fix that." Took a little rock, you know, and put in the ear of the two front horses and bang, they go.
I: Really?

R: Yeah. You see, they smelled bear. They smelled a bear, you know.

I: Well, how would they smell a bear by a rock?

R: Well, I don't know what the rock did, but they put the rocks in the ears...threw the little rocks in the ears...and off they go.

I: Oh! Laughter) Boy that's something.

R: That is something, isn't it. I don't forget that because I never...and when he...they ran all the way to Calumet from...I would say, pertnear a Cliff...that was the road, you know, the old road there.

I: Cliff Road, yeah.

R: So they were played out when they came to Calumet.

I: Do you remember any of the old lumberjacks?

R: Lumberjacks?

I: Yeah.

R: No, I don't remember any names of any of them, but I've been in the lumberjack camps, you know, down Morrison camps there going down to Five Mile Point (?). Yeah, well we used to fish a little bit there. There was a little dock there, see.

I: What did they used to do on that dock? I saw some railroad tracks.

R: Huh?

I: I saw railroad tracks on that dock. What did they used to use those for?

R: Down at Eagle Harbor?

I: No, Five Mile Point.

R: Five Mile Point...have they got that now?

I: No, they're real old.

R: The only thing that I remember there was they had a dock there and that was concrete, you know. Not the big dock, the small dock. Yeah, that was pretty well bumped up because that time...yeah, I think they used to get supplies in there for the mines. Now someone...there's one person owns that now. I don't know who it is...so you don't get in there now. Private...everything's private
now.

I: Oh, before you could go in there?

R: Anywhere you want to. Yeah, I don't believe there was a place around here that we didn't go because they kept us out...where we couldn't go.

I: Even farmers? Did farmers care?

R: They didn't...they never bothered us. The farmers never bothered us, no. We used to go through their land fishing and whatever, and they never said nothing. Now they've got big dogs and stuff like that to chase you. They didn't have that then. No, anyway the land is getting finished up.

I: Little bit...there's some good territory out in Keweenaw yet

R: Oh yes, I know it's a big territory; but I don't know, but the cities are pretty well through it though and we get enough polution and we got such poor judges that they don't stop polution.

I: Was there any polution...do you remember any polution from the mines years ago?

R: Huh?

I: Do you remember if the mines poluted around here years

R: In Keweenaw?

I: Yeah, anywhere. In Houghton?

R: The mines?

I: Did they polute? No, that's all right. I just wondered if the mines wrecked any streams or lakes...did they put their tailings in them.

R: I don't know what's the matter with that.

I: Oh, that's all right.

R: I'll put it on real loud. Now try it again.

I: Oh, I was asking about the mines.

R: Yeah.

I: Did they polute the rivers years ago?
R: Oh, the mines. Did they pollute?
I: Yeah.

R: Well, to a certain extent. There was a time, you know, when they pumped the water out of No. 5 Tamarack and that went down the streams and the mine water is so strong, you know, it ate up all the foliage along the stream. Well, it killed everything that was in it and that stream ran out about at Five-Mile shore.

I: Have you ever fished it?
R: Huh?
I: Have you ever fished that stream?

R: I had fished that stream, yes. But then when they started to pump out the water after the mine was closed for awhile, that's what made it so strong then. So, whenever they do that, you know, they always ruin and they destroyed all the foliage around there for about fifteen feet from each side of the stream.

I: Oh, we were talking about lumberjacks.
R: Well, lumberjacks. Well, yes, I really didn't know much about the lumberjacks because I didn't get around them.

I: Well, I heard they used to come into town and really have a good time in the spring.
R: Yeah, I know. But I wasn't much for running around in the fast places. No, I didn't believe in that.

Yeah
R: Yeah, my life is a little bit different. So, I don't know too much about that. Oh, I got in there once in awhile, but very very seldom. That's like one time there a fellow wanted to carry me into a tavern. Well, I told him I'd just get out. Don't be so foolish. So anyway, the friend had a car, you know and he went into see another friend. So I just simply went...I told him, I said, "I'll even walk home so I won't bother you." I was on my way down to Tamarack Waterworks;...or C & H Waterworks and I would have wound up there. So right away I got down halfway when he came and picked me up and so that was the last time I ever had anything to do with him.

I: Well, do you remember any temperance societies? You know, anti-drinking temperance?
R: Ah.
I: I'll write it down.

R: Oh, I never...we had church temperance society, you know. I never had to bother about any temperance society because I had a mind of my own. You know, anything that I made up my mind to, I stuck by it and nobody gonna try to push me. So, that's the way I've lived all my life. So, like drinking and so forth, I can take a drink or two, but I don't like that. I don't believe I've had a glass of beer for the last six months anyhow.

h, wow

R: That's right. But I have a little wine when I don't feel good and I don't buy it. They give me a bottle...my grandsons did when I had a birthday or something. So, that lasts me until the next one. So, when I don't feel good, I take a little drink of the wine. So as for whiskey and beer and so forth, I can take it but I don't care for it.

I: Do you remember any of your friends who were real funny?

R: Huh?

I: Do you remember any of your friends?

R: Any of my friends?

I: That were funny, you know, make jokes and things?

R: Oh, I can remember all the old time boys that lived here, but they're pertnear all dead now...

I: Yeah, well...

That I used to be around with, I don't believe there's any of them living I know. My friends, they didn't seem to reach ninety-two. No, most of them died between the...seventy-five and under. People are really living longer now. What caused it, I don't know. Take my brother now, the preacher. He died when he was seventy-five and I had a brother...and I bet he was seventy-eight. But he was here in 1951 and I took him and drove him around and he saw more of Houghton County and Keweenaw County and Baraga County than he ever seen in his life. We put on, I think it was in about six weeks we put on about two thousand some odd miles.

Phew! Where did you go?

R: All over the roads...all over the counties and we' fish in small streams that we hadn't fished in a long time.

wich stream is your favorite stream?
R: The best little stream for the best...for speckled trout...I went to work and I fished there one day and I fished for an hour and never got a strike and that time I had only a regular...I had a bamboo rod I put together, you know and about a twenty-pound test line...no reel. Not that time...but I usually use a reel but I didn't use a reel there. And I fished there for about an hour and never got a hit. And there was a fog came up and after a little bit of lightening and first lightening, I got one trout and it was about sixteen inches long. And I fished...I got nine fish there and there wasn't one under fourteen inches. And the boys from the farm they said...you know, they came over to me and they said, "Could we have the next fish you catch?" And I think I got one nightcrawler left and the next one I caught was nineteen inches.

I: Phew! Speckled trout?

R: Yeah. We used to go...at the time of the street car. Yeah, I used to take the street car and get off at what we called the Tecumseh Switch. You know where the Tecumseh Mine area is...and then walked the railroad down and hit the stream. Our fishing right there from the railroad...and one road is pretty good there. Yeah, I'll never forget that. There was a boy called Charlie Grey and we always fished together and we'd leave home around seven O'clock and then we'd go back and try to get the last cars...eleven o'clock and sometimes we'd missed the cars, so we'd walk home. About...I think that was about four and a half miles from home. Used to walk it and get home a little after twelve. But we'd always have at least half a dozen good sized fish. The biggest one I had hooked there was twenty-two inches and I didn't get that one because I hooked him and some how or other, the boys at the time told me it was dead in the water. So, they picked it up.

I: Oh!

R: Yeah, twenty-two inches and that's the Dover Creek...you know where Dover Creek is? Anyway, Dover Creek is not quite as good now as it used to be because now the holes are filled up that were really good, you know. But they filled up with mud. But that's where we planted a lot of fish at Dover Creek...fingerlings there and we got that planted three years straight so that kept the place up. Most of the fish we got there were native. So we used to fish there.

I: Well, I know one thing we didn't talk about. Your first job when you came here...what was your first job when you came to Calumet?

R: That was building on the new...putting in flooring in the new home.

I: After that?
R: After that then I told you that I got hurt...unable to understand.
I: And then?
R: After that I worked at Tamarack and worked at the engine house there oiling.
I: About what year was that?
R: That was 1902, yeah. I was oiling there, you know, and then after a big I fired boilers...fired with wood.
I: What did they have, big wagon loads of wood?
R: Huh?
I: How did the wood get there?
R: Wood? Well, they were about five feet long and just about all I could do to put in the furnace.
I: What did they use, maple?
R: Maple? Goodness gracious we had more of this here wood that don't burn and everything else...even wet. So, we made it go though; but that was hardwood. So then after that I run the rock house, I run it between the two shafts.
I: What did you do after that then?
R: Huh?
I: How long were you there?
R: Well, I went out East. I worked as a boiler-maker for about six months and then we put up the two stacks in Tamarack...those two stacks.
I: Oh, you worked on that?
R: Yeah, and we were up...oh, was about one and a half sections and the pipe broke that we were lifting up...that they hoisted up, half sheet, you know, half a sheet of the stack, you know. And then I riveted. But, we hadda jump when that broke. One fellow knocked his heel out and I got out all right but I didn't feel too good for a few days. And then I went out East. I worked for Brown & Shaft for a little...I went out there for a living. So I went with Brown & Shaft and I worked for Wilcox & Gibbs Sewing Machines...or Wilcox and Gibbs...I think it was a sewing machine company but they made parts for shoemaking outfit, their machines.
I: Why did you go back East?
R: Well, I had two sisters out there, so went out that way. But, it was so cold...I froze so much in traveling. Well I tell you, we had twenty-seven degrees below zero that winter when I was there, it cured me so I went back here and worked around.

What year was that?

R: That was 1903

I: You came back here.

R: I came back, yes. I worked for that is I got a job for Tamarack Mining Company. For about two weeks I worked there and he was gonna put me in the machine shop and he didn't do it, so I dug in the ditch and skinning logs, you know and I told him, I said well, I said, "If you don't want to put me in the shop, you can keep this job." I never even collected the pay.

I: You never collected the pay? How long did you work?

R: Two weeks...never collected the pay either

I: Where did you go then?

Well, I waited around here, then I got into the machine shop here. My brother was working at C & H.

I: Oh, right on Red Jacket Road.

R: Yeah, so I worked there and I finished there. I had a chance to go down to Detroit and I would have worked there as a foreman, but a friend of mine was foreman down there, see...and I was gonna be assistant there, see. And my wife says, "Nothing doing! I won't move away from Calumet." So I could have made money. Instead of that I lived to ninety without the money.

I: Before you said you were working on these stacks.

R: On what?

I: On the stacks...building the stacks?

R: Oh yes.

I: What were they made out of? That's interesting.

R: Well, they had concrete foundations, you know. Then the rest was rolled steel in pads riveted together.

I: OH, well now they're all concrete. You mean the original one were metal?
R: No, no just the base. Just the base, you know, was concrete.
I: And then there was the metal.
R: Yeah, and then from there on it was steel plate. Each sheet was... I think there was twelve feet high.
I: Well, how high did the stack go?
R: Oh, the stacks much have gone at least a hundred feet
I: Did you have to climb up?
R: When I got hurt, I quit.
I:
R: He went to work and he raised the pay for the others, you know, and he wouldn't... he said, "You haven't been here long enough. You can't have anything." He raised them twenty-five cents a day. He said, "You can't have any." I said, "Okay, I'll tell you what you can do. I won't share the work." So I just simply left and again I went out to Providence, Rhode Island and worked for Brown & Sharp and I was in there for quite awhile and then afterwards I met a friend of mine and he was a good mechanic. So he got me a job there working in that there what I call Wilcox & Gibbs. So then I got sick that winter, so I said... "Ah, I'm going back home again. It's better to freeze where it's good cold weather."
I: Did the men up here, did they get along good with the bosses... with the company? When you were working in 1902 - 1903, did the men get along with the management.
R: Oh, no trouble at all. No trouble at all. This here union up there... I was a what do you call it again, a representative of the
I: Management, yeah.
R: No, for the union. I represented the shop at C & H. But I didn't like that either, you know; but I did think what I thought was right. So I never really had any trouble although some of the fellows wanted to be a little rough, you know, and I said that I didn't believe in that.
I: So, what did you have to do? You had to talk to the... Talk to the union system there.
I: But you represented the men
R: Oh yes... I represented the machine shop
I: Would they come up to you with their gripes?
R: Yes.
I: Would they tell you what was wrong?
R: That's right.
I: What were some of the things they said? What didn't they like?
R: Some of them, you know, they think about the money they were getting and things like that. I tried to pass off as much as possible because I never benefited from any of this stuff. I didn't want to be what I was either; but I did it. I think that was around 19...I think that was around 1940's that I had that job. Because I retired in 1954, you know. So, I've been retired now since 1954. And I worked on a big lathe. I done a big job there on the big lathe there before I retired. I was seventy-one...I should have never done that. I should have made them give me the smallest job instead of that big job.

Unable to transcribe because unable to understand

Side A

I: I'm talking to Bob Olander here on Pine Street and we're gonna talk to him a little bit about his life in the Copper Country. And I understand that you came across to this country on a sailing boat.

Huh?

Did you come to this country on a sailing boat? Someone said that you were born in another country.

R: I was born in Sweden. I came over when I was six years old. I came to Rhode Island but we landed in Boston. But not sailboat, it was...what was the power on that. Actually I don't remember what the power was. Yeah, it was steam with engine power and propeller.

'ell, what year were you born?

R: 1883...yeah, 1883, and we landed in Boston. We didn't have no tea to throw in, you know, there. And then we went, my brother came and got us there and brought us to Rhode Island and I worked in that cotton factory...well, I went to school for a few days and I guess it was a little bit unruly, you know, so my dad said, "You better go to work in a factory for awhile." So I was in there then, the factory and went to school at night. Oh boy I'll tell you one thing, you couldn't lay around, you know, see...so I had my schooling at night.
I: What kind of school did you go to?

R: Regular public school just like it is today, yeah. The only thing is, teaching is different. I wouldn't know nothing about what they're doing today because the world is different.

Yeah, that's right. Well, when did you come up to the Copper Country?

R: We came up here in 1899...1899.

I: To Calumet?

R: We had to ...we lived in Connecticut there and I worked in the cotton factory there and they closed down for about three months so then we had to move to Groveland...north Groveland area...cotton factory there. We spent ten years out there before coming up here. So, it was 1899 when we landed in Calumet. And everybody was...they were supposed to have jobs for us when we came up here. There wasn't even a place to live in. So it happened that my brother was a preacher, he was a Lutheran preacher here, you know, in Lutheran Church.

I: That was his name?

R: Do you know where Lutheran Church is now?

I: No.

R: Right behind Christ's Church at the old warehouse now.

I: That street would that be?

R: That would be on Sixth Street...but that's right in pretty close to the foundry. So, we had to live there for six months before we could get a house. Then we got a house on Pine Street and that thing there is built in such a way that would rock like a cradle when the wind was blowing. That house is still standing.

I: Oh is it? So, where did you work then?

R: At that time I worked for...they were building houses here, you know...C & H. And so I got a job carrying these heavy planks, you know and put in flooring and all those houses behind Sacred Heart Church there, you know, they were put up that summer from (???). That was the contractor. And it happened, you know, that I got one dollar an hour...I mean one dollar a day. One dollar a day, yeah. My father was piling lumber for them for seventy-five cents a day. So we lived...there was my brother...after we got that house and since that why I got a job...we were building houses Red Jacket Shaft...wouldn't know where Red Jacket Shaft is now?

I: Yeah.
R: Well, we were building those houses there in Red Jacket Shaft and I got hurt there. On the job a two-by-four fell there and knocked me out, so I got a job then afterwards in Tamarack Junior wiping engines and then they were firing boilers and I ran a trestle (?). There were two shafts, you know, One and Two.

I: Where?

R: Tamarack Junior...Centennial Heights and I ran that trestle tower and pulled the last ton of rock over.

I: You mean the last one when the mine closed?

R: When would that be about?

I: That was between 1900 and 1903. Yeah, 1903 that finished it up there, you know.

R: What did you have to do? I don't...

I: What did I have to do? Well you know, they had a regular railroad, you might as well say trestle between the shafts, you know. And well I don't know, it must have been probably about...must be probably about a thousand feet between them or more. Maybe more between No. 3 and 2 shaft, I forget what it was. And that was run by belts through levers, you know...backing up and going ahead, you know but of course it was only a belt that was about six inches wide, you know, see, and pulled a tram car. That was a (?) built for a tram car to go in on, you know. Do you know what a tram car is?

I: Not the old ones.

R: Well, I would say they're about four by six feet and four or five feet high and they were pushed by the tramways, you know, down in the mines. Were pushed in to be hoisted up, you know...what do you call that now again, the cage. Oh yeah, that's a cage, yeah. And they're pushed on that to bring to surface and then after they're pushed onto that there level to the trucks that went over to the other shaft. And that was run by a belt and I controlled that, see.

I: Oh you controlled that.

R: I dumped the rock from the No. 1 Shaft...but I seen copper when the rock house was full, you know, and they hadda get the rock up went on a dump.

I: Well, you were saying before.

R: Huh?
You were saying before that on Fifth Street you remember wagons before there were cars?

R: Huh?

I: You were saying there was wagons going down Fifth Street before there were cars.

R: Oh yes, oh out there.

I: 

R: That's what I was on, eh?

I: From before.

R: Oh, that part of it there. You think...Fifth Street on a Saturday night there wasn't room for any wagon or anything because that was like one big sidewalk...that whole Fifth Street. And that was no wider...the same width as it is now. People were mingling so in the stores then at that time and when we came here there was only board sidewalks. And when you crossed the street, you might walk in mud for awhile...for about two - three inches there. That's what we hadda do when we came because it was in the spring in April and that was pretty muddy.

I: Well, when you came here could you speak English?

R: Then? Oh yes.

I: Leanred it in the school.

Oh yes, sure...that was ten years since I went to school. I had went to school for...when we left Norwich Falls and came to North Groveland they wouldn't allow you to work in the factory until you were fourteen, so that's the time I had schooling, you know and I had good teachers and what it was...I got ninth grade anyhow. Yeah, and then after that I hadda do my own studying.

I: Well, I guess what I was getting at, when you came here did you find that different nationalities...how they got along. You hear stories sometimes...

R: Well, when we came here the Swedes would have one part, Yankees another, the Polish another one, and the French-Canadian have another one. When we came to North Groverland, there wasn't any room with the Swedes. We were put right in the middle there with the French. So when they got room in with the Swedes, I told my father they want me to move up there. He said, "No, we get along fine here." They stole lots of stuff from us and he just said nothing. And then everything came back...more than we wanted.

I: Oh, laughter that was in Connecticut
R: In Connecticut, yeah.
I: How about when you came up here?
R: Up here?
I: Yeah.

Well here, you know, it was...you wouldn't think of moving than with your own nationality here. You know the Swedes they're pretty well organized and the Croations and the Austrians, they had their organized north, of course they...and Norwegians, they all had their own churches here, you know...so this place you wouldn't hear about robbing and stuff. There was just too many.

I: Yeah. I also heard there was a lot of saloons here also
R: Huh?
I: I also heard there were a lot of saloons...taverns. A lot of bars I also heard there were a lot of bars on Fifth Street. Did you walk on a Saturday night you'd see everywhere, you know, where the miners went.

R: Oh yes, we mingled with different nationalities just like nobody's business. No trouble at all in those days. Very seldom anybody was arrested. Had one cop, you know...well he had one night man, you know...he was on the day.

I: Can you remember his name
R: That's all...and took care of everything. Hardly any trouble, so this was really a trouble free place. Something like it is today if it wasn't for the kids. The kids are getting crazy. I know it, I can see that. You can't talk to a kid today either, you know. In those days when you said something to the kids, it meant business.

I: They respected you
R: If anybody was off the track a little bit, you just went to work and told them right straight and do it or else they got a good lickin. Oh, let's go on now.

I: Well..
R: Oh, I was gonna say about...you take that engine house that was here, you know, and the most beautiful engines. Have you seen the pictures of the old engines that they had here?
I: The steam engines?
R: Steam engines for hoist. Have you seen the picture of them?
I: A few...not too much.
R: I tell you, it really hurts me that they went and sold them and broke them up...broke them all out, them old engine houses they smash them down to get the engines out and sell them for practically nothing to Republic Steel, you know. Ah, them God damn guys, I would have like to a seen them take them and put them somewhere for exhibition. Never anything like that be built anymore, you know.
I: It seems like such a waste.
R: Yeah, like now I've turned out shafts for these engines. thirty-six inches in diameter shafts, you see.
I: Oh, you mean in the machinests shop.
R: So, I done all kinds of work on them...on the engines that is, the machining and you think that was...let's see, they got that school there, the one building that the Indian's went in...
I: Morrison School?
R: Outside...out by the Pelto School...Morrison School?
I: Oh, up there?
R: Morrison...Morrison is in Red Jacket.
I:
R: Morrison is down in Red Jacket...no, up by...
I: Centennial?
R: Up by where the public schools are now. The big school...the high school.
I: Oh yeah.
R: Well, on that street, right on that street. That's where all the...pertnear all the Indians were lined on Lime Street because there was No. 2...No 2 Shaft was by the big...you know where the machine shop building is?
I: Un hum.
R: Well, No. 2 Shaft was right by there anyway, see. And then there
No. 4 and No. 6 and 9

When were these operating? In the early 1900's?

They were all operating then, yeah. That's the old conglomerate you know that we're on. And right...Red Jacket Shaft...let's see, when was it built...yeah, Red Jacket Shaft was sinking when I came here too, you see; but they were hoisting. And there was Tamarack, the Tamarack No. 1, No. 2...Tamarack No. 5. And Tamarack No. 1 Shaft one time down in the mine they were blasting and they came into regular silver hole. They filled up three boxes, powder boxes full of silver by one blast there. And you know what became. how that...where that went to?

The man at the head up there.

Oh, did it? Well, I've heard things like that before, yeah. You didn't ship it out, huh?

I been down...I been down plenty all the mines, you know

Yeah, I took care of the rock fill job for...when they changed to the higher power machines, you know, rock fill. That boss then in the shop said, he said, "I wish you'd take that," he said, "And get it off my mind," he said. "It's making me nuts," he said. So I says, "I don't know nothing about it." He said, "What you don't know nothing about, you get like that," he said. So, it was no use, you know, I hadda do it. So I made a lot of improvements for them, you know, down in. But lot of things that I changed for them and I got nothing for it. You didn't get nothing for anything that you did years ago, you know.

Just our regular pay.

Yeah, all that...nothing. Even the bosses sometimes...we had one boss...I changed a machine in the machine shop that is for making nuts and bolts, you know, and screws of different kinds, you know, see a regular screw machine and I changed that, you know, from a deep locks in turning it, you know...when you had deep locks in turning it, you know, you get scored...so I went to work and I changed them and I put on rollers and I guess he sent that in and I think he got something for that, see.

Oh yeah, but you wouldn't get it.
R: Yeah, were a lot of things like that.

I: Well, do you remember any accidents in the mine?

R: Accidents?

I: Yeah, in the mine.

R: Yeah, well that I don't remember very much about it...of accidents I forget...I forget.

Yeah, because sometimes you hear.

R: You know, that's one trouble with me now. I forget a lot of things. Some come back pretty good and then others don't, see.

I: Yeah.

R: See, I'm more than ninety-two years old, you know.

I: Ninety-two! You've still got a sharp mind though.

R: No, it's deteriorating. Yes, you know the typewriter getting hard in the head...we don't take effect anymore, see. You know, your brain now is your typewriter.

I: Oh, that's what you mean.

R: And you see now it's getting so hard in there, you know, it don't take any effect, you know, see.

Laughter!

R: So, that's one trouble with me. Now your living conditions here...your rent...you rented a home from the company, you know, see.

I: How much would they cost?

R: Oh, I had...I paid ten dollars a month

I: This was when?

R: That's from the start, yeah.

I: About 1900?

R: Yeah

I: No, that was one thing that was cheap, you know, see. And then we had free doctors and they come around. If you got sick, they came right to the house, you know, to see you. They had plenty...plenty
you're one of the best fishermen in the area...used to be.

R: Well, I tell you. I fished Agate Falls, I fished...what's the other falls?

I: Montreal?

R: No I mean on the Ontonagon River there.

I: Oh, I don't know.

R: Agate Falls and then Bond Falls...Bond Falls. I pulled trout there over the ice cakes at Agate Falls, down at the bottom.

Well, have you been trolling out in the lake?

R: Yes, I trolled once and it made me so tired of that kind of trolling that I said they can have that and the big fish all they wanted. We got four hundred and one pounds of fish.

Phew!

R: Of Mackinaw trout.

When was this? Long time ago.

R: That must be around thirty years ago. I think just about. We left from Copper Harbor and we fished at Manitou Island...between Manitou Island and Bay Bete Grise and we got them all there when we came to one spot. It was rocky there. So, everytime all the lines were filled. We got thirty-five fish. The smallest one nine pounds and the biggest one twenty pounds. And a fellow called Carl Tobula he got the twenty pounder.

I: Yeah, that's a big one.

R: And you know what the Mackinaw trouts are, no fat. All nice meat and kind of black, yeah. So I cut my fingers right down into the bone with a tied line, my disc finger.

I: Yeah.

R: And we used one pound test weight with a sinker and a spinner about that long. Didn't make much difference anyhow. The fish weren't educated then like they are today. They'd hit anything, you know. So, we got that bunch of fish...but it's never been beaten.

R: I don't know of anyone yet that has beaten that as far as lake trolling goes.
I: Four hundred and one pounds.
R: And I didn't have anymore...nothing more to do with it
I: Too easy for
R: Oh that...ten years I did nothing but buy fish and I said afterwards, I went out in the streams and buy fish.
I: Well, have you fished most of the streams around here?
R: Yeah, I fished pertnear all of them I think.
I: Have you been up to Keweenaw lately?
R: Oh yeah.
I: Yeah.
R: And with the Conservation Department, I'm not sorry to say that that they spoiled all for that kind of fishing. To tell you the truth...I planted fish so I know something about that.
I: Oh!
R: We used to go to work and see that...write to Bennett's, the State Representative, see, and he would see that the fish would come up by train and we'd have big buckets, you know, see. And this man that following up from the train with the train, just a-rate the water, you know, see. So, when we took the plant out, we took about ten minutes to plant them. We kept dipping the cover and just water from the creek until we got the same temperature.

What kind of fish was this?
R: Speckled trout...oh yeah, that's all we planted. And the way we planted them, you see, every fish go down the bottom and roll away so pretty, you know, see. Conservation, after they start that fish, they planted from Pelkie River one day and we were fishing the Otter, you know see, from Pelkie bridge and we were fishing the Otter there, see and we sat on the bridge there when they came with the truck. And they let the fish down, you know, from the heighth they had, you know, from the bridge...and all the fish congregated in one place and some you know got the bends and just skipped the water...well, they don't last very long. So they said, "Aren't you gonna fish?" I told them, I says, "I don't fish tame fish," I says. I said, "I want to fish something that's worthwhile."
I: Yeah
R: So, before long then they came from Pelkie, you know, come with
the nets. Dipped them out with the nets. I guess they cleaned out pertnear every fish there...the Conservation manager. So I say, they spoiled it all in two ways. You can go to work and put the fish down like they should be put in the stream, you know. So you can tell any officer you want what I was telling you about that, you know see.

I: Yeah, but that's what your thought it.

R: Yeah

I: Do you know any...maybe this isn't a good question to ask you, but do you know any good fishing streams in the Keweenaw? Any of your favorites...or do you want to say? Most fishermen don't want to say.

R: You got the best one right down at school...by Michigan Tech.

I: Which one is that? The canal?

R: Huh?

I: The canal?

R: No, you got the best stream going into the canal there.

I: Right outside of the school.

I: I don't even know where it is.

R: Huh?

I: I don't know which one it is. See, I don't live down there.

R: Oh you don't live down there

I: Boston Creek.

R: Now goodness gracious I can't think of the name of the fish stream, I can't think about the name now.

I: Where is it?

R: It's the first bridge after you leave Michigan Tech going south, first bridge and not far from the parking place of the Michigan Tech Student's Parking.

I: Oh sure, I don't know the name either but I know where you mean.

R: Yeah, that's the best stream fish there is...stream there is around here for fishing.
Hum, you really like it

R: That's right. The brown trout goes up there beautifully in the fall and the steelheads go up there pretty nicely, you know. Of course you gotta...it's like with anything else. You gotta watch the weather, you know, see. But...oh I think the best thing to do there fly fish. That's what I used to do and another good thing too, is to get a good salmon eggs...are good too.

T: Is there any special time when the fly fishing is the best?

R: Special time? Well, I would say after sundown for about an hour and in the morning the same way. Another thing, to take the Falls River. You know where the Falls River was. Anyways, there used to be a power station up there. Were you up there?

I: Yeah, at L'Anse.

R: You were up there, eh?

I: Un hum.

R: Well, there used to be houses there that they had and so we, my wife and I, we used to get the first one that was built there by the engine house. They're taken away now. Oh yes, that's taken away. They done away with all the good stuff there too, you know see and the damm that they had there, I don't even know if that's working now. Were you ever up there?

I: Not lately.

R: But anyhow, brown trout and the funny thing there was, they said that...the engineer was telling me that they took pictures of the water coming out of the dam, you know, going down, you know see and can't see this, you couldn't see the fish with the naked eye, you know, but a camera they caught a fish going up...caught the fish going up. I didn't know that, but that's what they told me. But there under the engine house, my wife and I we had that first cabin. I used to go out early in the morning and I'd always get five or six and there wouldn't be one under ten inches. I had them at twenty-two and thirty inches. Yeah, all brown trout.

I: 'ell, did you ever used to ice fish?

R: Ice?

I: Yeah, ice fishing in the winter...no?

R: No, that's one thing I don't like. I never cared about any of that. I've always fished for pleasure and I couldn't call it pleasure to go out and freeze. So, the Falls River and the Ontonagon River are good fishing and Silver River is good, you
know, down in Baraga is good. And we had the Silver River now Keweenaw here, you know where that is?

I: 'ehh

R: And this her Snur...you know anything about this

I: Yeah, I know.

R: You know anything about them?

I know a little bit, I know he bought a lot of the land and he wouldn't let anybody in. He wouldn't let you go on his land to fish.

R: That guy there, why he got my goat because he chased me off the rocks, you know and he had no business because the State highway is supposed to own so much land on each side of the road. So, anyway I spoke to a fellow down in Houghton and he went and got after him. So he took the sign off that where he chased me off and I forgot a box of flies there...I had about oh, a hundred fifty...hundred sixty flies in that box. So I saw him afterwards down in the hotel that way when you go to Copper Harbor there's that nice hotel and saloon too, you know see and the lady that was running it, I forget her name...and I went in there and I told her about Snur, what he did. And I didn't see that Snur was there with his son...I didn't see that. So I said to her, I says to her after, "Oh, there he is now." I said, "He's a skunk." I says, "He's a skunk," and I told her what he did and then afterwards, I saw her afterwards, see..."I'm sorry I said what I did say." And she said, "He came here and I guess you gave him all he wanted." So after that, he didn't bother along the shore there and the park, you know, see. I fished that shore there lots of times. Another good place to fish too is Lake ..., on this side, On this side where you go up on the stands out there; but the best of all is have a boat and anchor it out there. You get some nice splake there.

How was fishing years ago compared to fishing now?

Oh, years ago. That's the days for fishing. Today, I get sonow that I'll catch a fish that long...is supposed to be ten inches. Never violated in all my life, but catch them down there by the camp, take them off. The boy will take them off for me and clean 'em and give you a strip like a little bird food. I never did before in my life before now, but I do that because that's the only place I fish, right off the dock where they got the camp now. I don't go out anywhere. And in fact I'll tell you what, the whole truth is, they forgot the old man anyhow. So, the old man don't get anywhere.
I: Is that what it is?

R: Yeah, so I'm stuck and I'm satisfied. I'm satisfied...I get along very nicely here. I had a nice house on Depot Street, you know, but I had to get rid of that because I couldn't take care of it. The only thing is I sold it too soon. I could have had three times as much for it if I'd of kept it then, you know, a few years more.

I: Well, let's get back to your mining experience.

R: Mining?

Yeah, you must have been here during the 1913 strike.

R: 1913?

I: Yeah.

R: 1913 I hadda go in the hospital.

I: Oh, why?

R: Rupture...operation. Like I says, if I gotta...if you're gonna kept on, I gotta go get a job somewhere else see. Yeah, so I was in the hospital...I got over that pretty fast, but my operations weren't any good. I had two of them that I hadn't done no work then. So, that made it four...then that they hadda do.