FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
(Funded in part by the National Endowment For The Humanities)

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SUBJECT:

SOURCE: Theodore Rogers

COMMENTS:

Interviewers: Harju and Helgren

I: This is a taped interview/Theodore Rogers, who was the Sheriff in Keweenaw County. Ted has been raised and was born in Keweenaw County.

R: No, I was born in Houghton County...I was born in Tamarack Hills.

I: But, you're from this area?

R: I'm from this area. I've lived in Keweenaw County for fifty-two years.

I: Okay! Now, I'm Dorius Helgren and I'm working on this project with Larry Harju. We'd like to just ask you some questions, Ted, and you realize that this is an interview for Suomi College Oral History Class on local history.

R: Yes, I do.

I: Would you start out by telling me where you were born and a little bit of background on yourself and how old you are...as a kind of a basis for this interview.

R: I was born in Tamarack Hills on June the third, 1906. When I was fifteen years of age, I moved to Wolverine and I started to work for the Wolverine Mining Company. I worked two weeks for $13.70, and I still got a stub of the check to prove it. From there we moved to Mohawk in 1925. I worked for Mohawk Mining Company until 1928 and in 1928 I went to work for C & H Mining Company. I worked for C & H Mining Company from 1928 to 1948 around the mines, repair gang, drill shop and all; and in 1948, I was a Deputy Sheriff in Keweenaw County. The Sheriff had a heart attack and could no longer perform his duties, so I was asked by the Board of Supervisors to take over and act as Sheriff of Keweenaw County, which I did. I started in 1948 as Acting Sheriff, and in 1949 we moved to Eagle River, my wife and three children...two girls and a boy; and I stayed in Eagle River from 1949 to 1968 when I retired as Sheriff of Keweenaw County...1969. Lots of good days, lots of bad days; but they all were pleasant anyhow. You have to take the good with the bad when you're Sheriff, and you have to love your job and be devoted to the people that put you there. When you do that, you come out on top.
I: What did you do as Sheriff then? What were your duties?

R: I had all the duties of everything from going down in the basement shooting skunks for ladies to bringing home drunks and settling family arguments and putting people in jail.

I: You said that you worked in Wolverine, you worked a couple of years in the mine.

R: I started work when I was sixteen years of age...I was sixteen years of age on the third of June and I started work for the Wolverine Mining Company on the sixteenth of June.

I: What did you do?

R: I was in the engine house as an oiler, as a fireman and as a machinist in the machine shop for two years.

I: What mine was that at now?

R: At the Wolverine Mine in Wolverine.

I: When you were sheriff, do you remember any funny incidents or outstanding incidents that you can remember?

R: Well, yeah there was quite a few outstanding incidents. One night I picked up a girl and her boyfriend, they were a little bit under the weather, and I picked 'em up and I put 'em in jail. And, of course, you know, the woman is on one side and the man is on the other. So, the morning we goes in there to bring them out to take them to court and the waste paper basket was full of notes. They wrote to each other and shoved the notes between the bars all night long. Everyone, I love you honey...I love you honey. And the best part of it was, five years after that guy murdered that same woman. One of the most brutal murders I ever seen in Keweenaw County.

I: Who was the guy?

R: The guy was Wilfred Maki from Ojibway and he was sent to Ionia and he spent about ten years in Ionia and they left him out because I guess they figured he was sane again.

I: What year was that?

R: 1953, yeah, yeah.

I: Did you investigate the murder?

R: I investigated the murder, picked the man up, put him in jail and no help whatsoever.

I: How did he kill her? You said it was so brutal.

R: He beat her to death, kicked her head, dragged her by the hair of
R: Oh gee, was when whatchamacallit was Chief of Detectives in Marquette. Strand...not Strand...the guy was in charge of finger prints in Lansing after.

I: Oh, Lt. Strom...Lt. George Strom.

R: George, yeah. He was in charge of that breaking and entering there.

I: What happened in that case?

R: Oh, they stole a bunch of records and we found them all down in the Pilgrim River in Chassell.

I: Did you ever find out who did it?

R: Never found out...never had a clue.

R1: They said it was professional.

R: Yeah.

R1: And then they blew...they got the safe open, didn't they?

R: They pried...it was a pry job, yeah. So they said, "Pretty funny! Sheriff sleeping next door and they pried the safe open and took the valuables."

I: Didn't hear them.

R: Yeah.

I: What kind of cars did you have? When you first started, did you have cars?

R: When I first started I had a '36 Chrysler.

I: That was your patrol car or was that your own car?

R1: Our car, but we had to use it.

R: My car but the county never bought the cars, the Sheriff bought the cars and they'd pay you five cents a mile and my first car was a '36 Chrysler.

R1: And our kids were ashamed to ride in it...the three of them you know, they (???).

I: The car was that old?

R1: Yes!

R: Yeah, then my next car was a '48 Plymouth.

I: Well, did you have a red light on top of these cars?
her head around in about a fifty-foot circle. There was hair, blood all over the place where he had dragged her. You think he would be dragging a deer around in the bush.

I: They lived common law?

R: They lived common law.

I: I see. Ted, I have here a bunch of pictures that actually belong to Keweenaw, I suppose the Board of Commissioners of Keweenaw County, and some of them are real interesting. Here's one of the Sheriff's quarters and jail in 1889. Can you go over these and just elaborate. I know that the jail or the upstairs of the jail had a...now has a woman's quarters.

R: We had women's quarters upstairs which we were not allowed to use when I came there because it did not confirm to the Fire Marshall's requests, so then what we had to do then was take it and move it down stairs, one side for men and one side for women. But we had otherwise, we had two sides upstairs for the women. One with a bathtub and all the conveniences of the living quarters for a woman.

I: Well, how long has it been since they've used the quarters upstairs for women?

R: I would say at least about forty years now, pretty close.

I: It's still just about like it was...

R: It's still the same as it was then.

I: I went there and I took several photographs and it's real interesting. The small doors that they have on the cell door. That must have been a prison.

That's it. And one of my funniest incidents I ever had was I had a lady in jail one time and in the morning I went in there and there was a big spot of water or something on the floor. And I said to her, "Hilda, did the roof leak?" She said, "No, Ted, I just peeped. She was a dandy, boy.

I: Mrs. Rogers is here too, incidently, did you have to feed the prisoners?

Rl: Yes

I: You had to cook for all the prisoners?

Rl: Yes

I: How many did you have in there at one time. Do you remember the most amount?

R: One time we had eleven at one time.
I: That was all downstairs then.

R: That was all downstairs...they slept on the floor in there. That was one night when Fran Sanati went to the State Police, went wild and started bringing them in by the wagonload. The last one...he started at nine o'clock in the night and the last one he brought in at four thirty in the morning. He found all the drunks and that that there was in Keweenaw County. We had eleven of them. Had room for eight and three slept on the floor. So, we really had a big house that night.

I: Well, they tell me that the original jail was down near the old store or where the store is now in Eagle River.

R: The next house...no, let's see now. The second house from the store used to be the first jail in Eagle. And the jail...the cell was upstairs in there yet, or it was when I seen it about thirty...no twenty years ago. It is a two-inch plank cell with a wooden door and big iron hinges.

I: They told me that that was an open house there in 1961.

R: When the centennial was, yeah. They had a open house there.

I: And the door is still there.

R: The doors are still there. There was a saloon downstairs and a jail upstairs.

I: Well, when did they move into the jail that's the jail right now?

R: I think 1867, I think was when that jail was built and they moved in there. When Charlie Kuntz was the first Sheriff, that's when they moved into that jail.

R1: There was a professional golfer that fell there, and drowned here.

I: These pictures here of him?

R: Yeah

I: That was in 1956.

R: There were four of them...four professional golfers from Grand Rapids.

I: Were they up here golfing?

R: No, hunting, deer hunting. They drowned on the sixteenth of November, 1953...no, '56.

I: Found them June the June the 25th, 1956.

R: They drowned in '55 and the last one was found in September of 1956.
I: They look like they were in the water quite some time.

R: Right...they worked all winter on them practically.

I: Did you drag the bottom?

R: We dragged the bottom, we had deep sea divers, we had skin divers, cut through the ice, holes in the ice and figured that if they ever come to float they'd come through a hole, where the nearest hole was, but nothing.

I: Above the jail where the women's section is now or used to be the women's section where you talking about where you had the ladies before, there's some metal things with hooks on them in there. Was that used for dragging?

R: That's dragging equipment, yeah.

I: How did you do that? Just below the boat and pull that behind?

R: Below the boat and then you'd touch the bottom and then you could move the boat or at a slow speed; but make sure that you're on the bottom and these hooks drag the bottom. Lots of times you get snagged and pull the hooks off and then you'd pull it up and put on new hooks in there. And lots of times that will hook onto a body.

I: That was the day before you had divers.

R: Before we had any divers at all. But these golfers, their people sent a deep-sea diver here from Grand Rapids by the name of Ronald Fountain, and he was here for ten days. And the State Police and myself and all the volunteers we could get, we were there with a big grapple and pumping air for this deep sea diver, and he come up with nothing in ten days. Not a thing.

I: You mean he had one of these metal suits on.

R: Weights and all, had a regular compressor for him.

Rl: He stayed over with us in Eagle River.

R: Yeah, and we had a regular handle to turn to provide him with air all the time.

Rl: And the ice, they'd go under the ice and all

I: In this picture, in one of these pictures I took at the jail there, there's a bath tub and a sink and a closet in there.

R: Right

I: Is that exactly as it was...

R: That's exactly as it was when I was there.

I: And a one-mattress or one person bed...single bed
R: Right

I: Now, that front door with that little slot in the door, is that where you fed the prisoner?

R: That's where you shoved the tray in to feed them right

I: Now, in this picture here, Deputy Antola is showing a big wooden hammer. Do you know what that was used for? It's a big mallet-type hammer.

R: Nope, I never seen that.

See now, when we were there, we never used the upstairs for ladies.

R: No...but that's where they used to feed them through.

Yeah, that's where it was, yeah.

R: There's where we used to wrest 'em over here and call 'em and then gave it to them through the door and always keep your hands outside of the door.

I: Now, there's another picture here of a safe, a wall safe with a bunch of round knobs on it that was in the...it's in the office now. Do you know anything about that?

R: This is the one that came from Isle Royale, Michigan...over at Isle Royale.

I: On the island?

R: This safe come from the island of Isle Royale.

I: How long ago was that?

R: Oh, that safe was there about thirty years ago...about thirty years ago that safe was there.

I: You brought it over and gave it to the sheriff.

R: Right, that's where it came from, Isle Royale.

I: Mrs. Rogers, what did you say about somebody broke into a safe or they attempted to break into a safe.

Yeah, do you remember?

R: In the county, they broke into the Treasurer's Office.

Yeah, un huh, and what do you call that, a (???) job or something.

I: How long ago was that?

R1: Gees. I can't remember.
We started off with a red light on the fender like youse guys used to have first too, you never had no lights on the top. We never got the light on the top until in '48 or '50 before the light come out on the top. It was on the fender all the time before. Then I had quite a few cars after that... '48, '50, '54, hadda '56 Ford, a '58 Chevy, a '61 Pontiac, a '63 Pontiac and a '65 Pontiac.

I: When did the county start buying the cars?
R: In '66
R1: Was it?
R: Yeah, in '66 they started buying them.
R1: See, we moved in '69.
R: Yeah, they started buying them in '66, because that Dodge was the first car that the county bought.

I: What kind of radios did you have? How did you have communications?
R: Never had any communications.
R1: Not first!
R: Not first, it took up until 1957 or '58, when we got a grant from the Federal Government through the Civil Defense to get a radio set, and that was the first communications we had.

I: Well, how did you go about...I imagine Mrs. Rogers was home answering the phone.
R1: Yes, had a two-way radio too
R: No...yeah but I mean when there was no two-way radio, she used to have to call somebody where she thought I'd be going by and they'd come out and stop you.

I: On the highway.
R: On the highway. If you were going by Savalinen's gas station, he'd come out the door and wave to you and then you'd turn in there. Then you'd talk to her and she'd say, "Well, you gotta go here (or someplace), there's an accident (or this and that)" and that was our communications.

R1: And then the State Police were sure good though, I'll tell
R: They didn't come here then.
R1: No, not then but I mean after, yeah, they were real good
I: Well, then before the radios you just were flagged down and if people had an accident they just hadda wait.
R: They had to wait, that's it, yeah.

I: You know, one of the things I haven't brought up in all these interviews is what'd they do for ambulances years ago? How'd you get an ambulance if you had a bad car accident?

R: You had to go home and use the telephone and call the ambulance or wherever it was, if there was somebody right around there close that had a phone, they would call the ambulance.

I: Where did the ambulance come from?

R: From Calumet...Petersen had an ambulance service here.

The funeral home

R: The funeral home, yeah. Petersen, he was the only ambulance service we had around here.

I: I assume then that sometimes the people layed out there for hours.

R: Sometimes two or three hours, yeah.

Now I think the average ambulance call is fifteen minutes.

R: That's right. You see, before the mining company had ambulance of their own for men that got hurt in the mine; but that was just for their own men, for their own property and they didn't go out on any other calls. But you had to wait for...and if the ambulance was somewhere...gone somewhere else, you had to wait. For a wrecker the same way. If you couldn't get a hold of a wrecker, you just called and waited sometimes three, four, five hours for the wrecker to come.

I: Just sat there and waited.

R: Just sat there in a snowstorm and waited.

I: Well, how many hours a day did you work?

R: You worked all the time. You never thought of doing anything but working. That was your main job.

Rl: And you didn't have deputies either.

R: I never had a deputy until 19...until when?

Rl: Joe Roper worked a year and a half for you...for us before we left. He was a deputy.

R: That was '66...'67.

Rl: And then the mailman was a parttime.

R: That's all we had.

I: The first deputies you had were in '66 and '67.
R: That's right. The first paid deputy we had was in '66-'67. Before that you had a few men you could call during the night if they weren't working to help you out or something like that like when you had to pick up somebody mental or something like that, you'd call a man and he'd come with you.

R1: Then Russell Waters, he helped some too.

R: Yeah, he was a deputy too.

I: How about family places...did you go to family places alone?

R: All the time alone

I: Nothing ever happened?

R: Nothing ever happened. I went to one place in this town of Allaway, a woman said she heard a shot down cellar; so I went there and when I got there she said, "Go down and take a look". I went down to take a look and there was her husband propped up against the wood pile and a shotgun laying there and he had shot himself right through the heart. When I come up, I said..."Well, what funeral home do you want to send him too?" She said, "Throw him in the bullrushes over there, he's no damn good anyhow." Yeah, that woman's still there.

I: She wasn't too concerned about it

R: She wasn't very concerned. She said she heard a shot down cellar, I better come down and investigate see what it is.

I: The woman is still living now?

R: The woman is still living up the street here yet.

I: Did you carry guns when you first started? Did you carry a gun?

R: Never carried a revolver, not up until the last ten years. Never carried a pistol.

I: Why? Did you figure you had too...

R: Thirty-eight that is.

R: Yeah, but if you know the people...you no have to carry guns, lot of people detest guns, they're afraid of 'em. Lot of people don't even like you to have a gun.

I: How about a uniform? Did you have a uniform?

R: No uniform, you dressed as you were. White shirt and tie if you were going...

R1: Then you used blue shirts too.

R: Yeah, I had blue shirts and blue ties and that, but no uniforms.

I: Did you have a badge?
R: Oh yeah, I had a badge, yeah.
Rl: I had one.
R: Buy your own...buy your own badge.
I: Well, when you were elected sheriff then you had to be sworn in as a sheriff.
R: Right
I: Who did that then?
R: The County Clerk swears you in as sheriff
I: The County Clerk did that.
R: Right...right.
I: Well, how long has Judge Gesel been here?
R: Between his both jobs, he was a County Clerk before he was a Judge of Probate, I'd say Judge Gesel been there pretty close to thirty-eight years.
I: Thirty-eight years, and he was a clerk before he was Probate Judge.
R: Right, yeah he was a clerk quite a few years before he was a Probate Judge.
I: What were the crimes that were most often happening them days?
R: Mostly the crimes was drunkenness and fights and assault and battery and not too many traffic violations, we never had that many automobiles and that, but now and then a drunken driver or something like that; but it was all lots of barroom brawls...we had to take care of all the barroom brawls...
I: Alone?
R: Alone...until you got smartened up and said, "Now listen, you're running the place, if you can't run it well, we'll run it for you and you pay us." So, they quit after that. They started taking care of their own fights, inside the bar. But then it started that they'd fight inside and they'd end up outside and then we had to do it from the outside then.
I: Out on the street.
R: Out on the street, so you can't win when you're in the bar business, you can't win.
I: Do you have anybody in mind that you've arrested over and over and over again? We have a guy that we've arrested over the years where he has been arrested over a hundred times.
R: Over a hundred times!
I: Do you have anybody that you remember that you've arrested time and time again or a repeater...a drunk?

R: That Sid Hate, he was arrested lots of times from Mohawk there, and oh, Rubber Legs...Leslie Oja from Fulton. Him, he used to be a weekly visitor...rubber legs did. When he got drunk he couldn't stand up, his legs would cave in, so they called him rubber legs. But a harmful guy and he used to get mad if I wouldn't leave him outside of the clock in the morning to saw wood behind the jail, he was mad for the rest of the day. He wanted to be working all the time. He'd work just like a woman...wash walls or ceilings just as good as any woman. Clean as a pin; but every weekend he had to go on one of his weekend binges and he ended up in jail.

I: What did you do with mentals...when a person was a mental? Did you put them in the jail and keep them there until they transferred them to Newberry?

R: Right.
And he'd have to bring 'em.

I: Well, were you there when this Newpho (?) was arrested?

R: I had him three - four times.

I: Did you have problems with him tearing up the cells?

R: Yeah! I must have taken a hundred men to Newberry and about forty women to Newberry.

I: Over the years.

R: Over them twenty years, yeah. And I took some characters, I'm telling you; and I never had to put a pair of handcuffs on 'em and Newpho (?) was the only man I ever put handcuffs on.

I: You didn't have to.

R: Nope, you talk to 'em and keep 'em happy and that was it.

I: Did they know where they were going all the time?

R: Oh yes, you hadda read it to 'em, you had to tell them when you got the orders, you got the commitment papers from the Judge of Probate, you brought 'em over and you gave the party a copy and you read them the original so they all knew where they were going.

I: You didn't have any problems?

R: No problems.
I: Did you drive all alone?

R: I had a deputy with me all the time and if I had a woman, I took a lady with me. I had one woman that I served the papers on her on a Friday night and I told her I'll be here tomorrow morning at seven-thirty for you to be ready and have your suitcase packed and I'll have Mrs. Copus with me...a matron. I went there seven o'clock in the morning and she was in bed with her boy and she wasn't gonna get up. Well, I told Mrs. Copus, "There's only one solution to the problem, go out to the car and get that blanket." So, she went out to the car and got a blanket and we wrapped the blanket around her and pulled it tight and we carried her out and put her in the car and all she had on was a nightgown and a blanket and she went all the way to Newberry like that; but one of them things...when you gotta do something, you gotta do er sometimes and after that she got out of there and she come back and I talked to her and the woman was all right, she was a nice person.

Albert Saari...tell him.

R: Yeah, and when I had this Wilfred Maki in jail for murdering his common-law wife, there was a fellow come there from Boston Location called Al Saari and he wanted to go in and see Wilfred and I didn't... I wasn't home at the time, I was out with Edie Waisinen from the State Police investigating a B & E, and my wife said, "No, you can't come...you can't go in and see Wilfred...you're not allowed to". So, he still kept pestering and everything and he hung around and hung around and a little while after Edie and I happened to come back and my wife come outside and said, "This guy wants to go in and see Wilfred," and she said, "I told him he's not allowed". We said, "Well, can you walk the straight line?" So he walked on the sidewalk and we said, "Nope, you're too drunk to be out." So we opened the door and we put him in with Wilfred and he hollered all night long...he was afraid Wilfred was gonna kill him...he wanted to get out...he wanted to get out. The next morning he come out and he borrowed money from the Boston store to pay his fine, he didn't want no more part of going back in jail with Wilfred. That was the end of Al Saari.

I: Mrs. Rogers, how did you feel about living in that house alone with the kids with a guy like this Maki in jail there?

R: Well, I was a little nervous at first, but I got over it.

I: You didn't bother you up there later?

R: No...no

I: Because Ted was out...gone all the time.

Yeah, he was always gone.

R: Yeah, sometimes wasn't home until four or five in the morning.

I: And you had to take care of them yourself...you had to feed them and take care of them.

R: Yeah, she used to go in with the trays and feed 'em all.
I: Now, they tell me there was a jail break here one time a few years back. Were you the sheriff here then? What happened there...could you tell us the story about that?

R: Well, there was an ex-con in there by the name of Carl Heikkinen and he had a girlfriend and he had a sister and that and they used to get down pretty near every night to see him. Well, I used to figure well, a sister should be allowed to see her brother and his girlfriend as well. So, we used to leave 'em in there and it was going on for about a week; and one night we figured there was something funny. The sister sat out in the living room with my wife talking while the girlfriend was in the jail visiting her boyfriend. And they used to bring him a lot of oranges and I think what happened was they were filling these oranges with vodka and he was getting pretty high. So they turned around and eight o'clock I said, "Well, it's time to go". So, they left and the wife and I were sitting on the couch and she said, "I can hear a noise in there". And I said, "What does it sound like?" She said, "I don't know...something moving in there." So, I opened the door and by that time he was out of the cell. He had sawed the two bottom bars and he had jumped on 'em and pressed them down so that he could get out.

I: That's that little cell inside the big...

R: Nope...npe, it's the big cell. He wasn't inside the little cell.

End of Side A

I: Okay so go ahead

R: And when I went in there he was out in the hallway. So, I told him, "Carl, back in there not out!" So, he kicked the door and out goes the window and he went through the window and he was gone. But about half an hour after he was back again and he was in the little cell where he stayed until he went to Marquette Prison.

I: What did he go to prison for?

R: Ah...what did he go to prison for that time...oh, for felonious assault, beating up radar-base guy with a tire iron by the White House. Him and Peters from Hubbell were in that deal. So, he went back to Marquette Prison; but he's a pretty good safe cracker, that guy. He knows his business.

I: When he got out of the building then, how did you catch him?

R: Well, he had that much booze in him from eating these vodka oranges that he stopped at the Cliff View tavern.

I: For a drink

R: For a drink and the State Police come and he was sittin on a stool and they just dragged him off of the stool and in the car.

I: Well, his girlfriend and his sister wasn't waiting for him then or were they?
Rl: They were gonna meet him there.

R: They were gonna meet him down the road with the car and it was in the wintertime...it was in the winter...it was cold...there was snow on the ground.

Rl: Yeah, he was all wet and everything.

R: He was soaking wet.

Rl: Yeah, and he was mad.

R: I don't know if that guy is around here but, boy he's a good safe man, that guy.

I: Do you remember a guy by the name of Matt North?

R: Matt North, the man that owned the bear

I: That's the one I was talking about.

R: Yeah, he lived on a farm out here back of Alloway...still got it...the farm is still there I guess.

I: That's the farm you gotta go through the Legion Field off of Pine Street.

R: Right. Matt North, the bear man...he had a bear that weighed about two hundred and sixty-five to three hundred pounds and that bear used to live in the cellar of the farm home there. That's where he denned in the night and in the day time he come up in the kitchen. One time I went up there, knocked on the door, Matt opened the door and there the bear was to greet you...well you (?)...you know what I mean. And Matt had a '31 Ford, used to put the bear in the back seat and Matt would come to town with the bear in the back seat. That bear was one of Matt's best friends.

I: How long did he have that bear?

R: He had that bear about three years...about three to four years he had that bear.

I: What happened to it?

R: The Conservation Department said he wasn't allowed to keep it there, so they had to get rid of it and they got rid of it.

I: How did he get the bear originally?

R: From a cub...he's got an apple orchard there and that and he just kept on playing with it and coaxing it and that and it got to like him just like a dog...yeah...yeah...Matt North.

I: What kind of prosecutors did you have them days, Ted, were they good or did you have any problems?

R: Well, Raino Koevänen was the prosecutor all the while I was there, the
Sheriff for Keweenaw County.

I: He's that Probate Judge in Houghton now.

R: Yes, and Raino was a very good prosecutor; but he made you make sure that you had something before he'd go ahead with it. If it looked flimsy, he wouldn't take no part of it; but if you had a good case, you never had a problem with Raino and he'd go to court and fight every one of them if you had a problem. Raino was a good prosecutor for that.

Now, when you...did you have to go to the prosecutor for search warrants all the time or if you wanted to search somebody and you had reasonable grounds, ...or how did you go about searching somebody's house?

R: We called the prosecutor.

I: And he'd give you a search warrant

R: And he'd give you a search warrant, yes

I: You never had any problems getting search warrants?

R: Not if we had...if we could prove to him that we knew something was there, he'd give it to us right away; but, "If," he said, "somebody is just telling you something that something is there, I don't want to take anything like that. I want the actual fact that something is there and then you will get your search warrant."

I: Well, now they have the District Court System and the Circuit Court System...well, you had the Circuit Court then; but you had a Justice of the Peace. Explain that to me a little bit...how did that work?

R: Well, the Justice of the Peace, they handled everything...drunken driving, reckless driving, careless driving...and everything went through the Justice of the Peace before it went to Circuit Court. Every felonious assault or murder or anything went into the Justice Court first and then it was bound over to Circuit Court; but you had to go to Justice Court first.

I: Now was there only one Justice for the county in Keweenaw County?

R: No, at one time we had four. One in each township practically

I: Who were they, can you remember?

R: Well, Jimmy Richards was the Justice in Alloway Township, Oliver Burnett was the J.P. in Sherman Township, and whatchacall...ahhmm...that guy that had that resort down there...that young lad about them girls and that...Shay, yeah who was that?

R1: Tucker

R: Tucker, he was the J.P. in Grant Township and Fletcher was the J.P. in Eagle Harbour Township.
I: When we arrest somebody now, we interview them and ask them questions in regard to what they're being accused of, we have to read them their (?) and advise them of their rights and rights to an attorney. How did you go about it then? I know you didn't have (?) warnings.

R: We didn't have nothing, we just told them, "You're under arrest for such and such a charge and that's it."

I: Did you ask them if they did it?

R: No questions asked.

I: You just arrested them.

R: We just arrested them, no questions asked. The next day we asked them and they answered them.

I: You didn't have any problems...what if they refused to answer them?

R: Keep them in jail until they answered them...they'd answer 'em in time.

I: Sooner or later they'd answer them.

R: Yup, sooner or later they answer them. Sometimes we'd start three o'clock in the afternoon with a guy trying to get something out of him and eleven o'clock at night we was still sittin there; but we could sit as long as he could and he'd get tired of it.

I: It was kind of a game then.

R: It was kind of a game. The best game I ever had...there was a fellow by the name of Bob Lahti; his wife had him arrested for non-support and one of the troopers and I...from the L'Anse Post...went over to pick him up and he was a pretty good-sized chap, about 6 - 3 and about 250 pounds and he happened to be in Molner's Tavern. So, what we generally used to do would be call them outside, we didn't want everybody in the tavern to hear what was going on; so we called him outside and we got him outside and we told him what the warrant said and everything and the trooper could see him starting to make a move, so he said, "Grab his arm, Ted." So, I grabbed his arm and when I grabbed his arm the trooper took out the cuffs and the cuffs wouldn't work, they wouldn't open. So, he just took me off and away he goes. He barrelled it for home and they've got a big two-story home in Ahmeek and he run right upstairs. And when we went in the house to get him, the first thing that come out of a window was the end of a bed at us. So, we sneaked along the edge of the house and we got into the back shed and we stepped on the steps a little bit to see what would happen and the first thing to come down was a double-blade axe; the next thing that come down was a big storm window with four panes of glass in it. So, by that time we thought it was time to call for some reinforcements. So, he turned around and he lit the blinds in the house on fire; so we called the Ahmeek Fire Department and they come over there and stood by and we called the Houghton County Sheriffs Department and they come by. It happened that they were in the ice cream business years ago and they had these gallon metal ice cream containers stacked upstairs and he started heaving them out of the window that they were bouncing off of the Patrol car like pellets off there. So, we said, "One more chance... we're gonna take one more chance." So, we pounded on the steps a little bit to let him know that we're coming and he said, "Well, come on,"
he said, "I got the shotgun this time". We said, "Wupp, time to quit."
That was four o'clock in the morning. So the trooper and I said, "Well,
let's go home and go to bed, we'll come tomorrow morning and see how he
is." So, we went home after four o'clock and went to bed and noon time
we come back, walked upstairs...he was sitting by the table...he says,
"Okay, I'm ready to go." Turned around and sat in the Patrol car and
went to the Eagle River jail, sat 105 days in jail in Eagle River.

I: He changed his mind while you were
R: He changed his mind...the trooper said, "You know he's gonna be like a
little kitten tomorrow, Ted, so let's wait until tomorrow." So that's
all we done was wait and it proved out that he was a nice little kitten.
Just purred all the way down.

I: We spend hours and hours and hours in the courtroom. How much time did
you spend in the courtroom?
R: Not very much...not very much. Very very seldom we were...it was very
seldom we had to go. Well, if we had a guy in for drunk and disorderly,
we brought him up there and the Judge read the warrant to him and says,
"Guilty or not guilty?" If he said guilty, the Judge said, "Fine $10,
cost $10 or twenty days in the County jail". Okay, that was it. It took
about ten minutes to go through a case.

I: What if he plead not guilty and wanted a trial? Then what happened?
R: He had to go to jail until the Judge set a date for trial. He had to go
back to jail and the Judge never left anybody out without paying. He
always said, "Ted, take 'em back to jail. When they got the money, let
'em out." We never ever left anybody out without paying.

I: There wasn't any of this...I'll pay you...
R: There wasn't none of this installment plan them days and it proved out
that every time you took 'em back to jail the second time, they got the
money. Sooner or later they'd find it. They'd call up the grocer who
they dealt with or the hardware store in the town who they dealt with,
sometimes even the tavern operator, he'd come down and pay the fine.
So, they never had any problem.

I: What kind of wages did you make then?
R: I started off at a hundred and fifty dollars a month.
I: That was in '49, did you say?
R: '49
R1: And three kids we had.
R: Yeah, a hundred and fifty
I: And you hadda buy your own car.
R: Hadda buy your own car and they paid you five cents a mile.
I: Well, when you had to feed the prisoners, did you take that money of your own money or did you...

R: No, we took it out of our own money but we got thirty-five cents a meal for feeding prisoners at first and then we got fifty cents a meal, then seventy-five.

I: What are they getting now, do you know?

R: I don't know...I think they're getting two dollars, but I don't know.

I: Did you have any insurance or anything like that that they helped with, you know, was a benefit of the job?

R: Nope, nope, we never had anything.

I: If you had to go to the hospital, you paid for it yourself.

R: You had your own, yes sir, until they came out with Blue Cross maybe in around 1960.

I: The only hospital was in Calumet

R: Right, the only hospital was in Calumet, yeah.

I: Who was...actually who was the boss...who would be your boss, the Board of Commissioners?

R: The Board of Supervisors, we never had commissioners them days.

I: Board of Supervisors?

R: Board of Supervisors, but your boss legally in the prosecuting attorney.

I: Right, yeah, you were an elected official; but did you have any political pressures put on you by the Board of Supervisors?

R: None...no problems at all because the prosecutor said, "You are working for me, not for them...practically," he said "and if you have bills and they are legitimate bills, they will pay whether they say they will or not because," he said, "I am the boss."

I: What kind of training did you have, Ted, when you started as deputy? Did they just hire you off the street and that was it?

R: That was it. No training at all; a year and a half as a deputy just monkeying around, that's all.

They give you a badge and said that's it, you're a sheriff.

R: That's it...that's it...they give you a badge and a blackjack and that's it.

I: Did you have problems with those whatayoucallum...gandy-dancers, years ago...when the trains came in town in the summertime repairs...the bums,
remember years ago they had bums?

R: No, we never had too much of that because the rail service was getting down pretty small. We had a few transients but not too many. We used to get a floater here or there, but not that many.

I: How about the lumberjacks when they come in in the spring?

R: When the lumberjacks come in you always had a problem until they got broke. Then after they got broke, then there was no more problems.

I: Then they'd head back?

R: Then they'd head back for the brush...they you were all right. But when the Seppellas and that come in town, the lumberjacks, they were rowdy 'til their money was all gone which didn't take too long sometimes, a couple of weeks, and they were gone.

I: Did you ever get in any high-speed chases with your cars...chase somebody and they'd try to run on you...years ago?

R: Not too many...now and then...but I always figured this way, if you can't catch 'em, why chase 'em.

I: Let 'em go

R: Let 'em go...why chase 'em.

I: Did you ever get shot at?

R: No, but I had guns poked in my face a few times; but I never got shot at.

I: What were those...on family fights?

R: Family fights and deer hunters arguing over whose stand they're gonna sit on and that.

I: And you always ended up in the middle.

R I always ended up in the middle and when you fart around with Arnold Roudi (?) you always end up in the middle and I had a dandy going with him one time. He is a dandy boy, I'm telling you.

I: We're still having problems with him.

R: Oh my...but don't back down from him. You know, that's the only way you queer that guy is just tell him, "Listen, I know what I'm talking about and this is it." And that's the only way you can do business with him. You can't appease him or try and please him. When you're right and you know you're right, just tell him that's it...and that's the only way you can do business with him. Otherwise he'll hound you to death.

I: You know you said years ago you didn't even wear a gun. Do you think people feel different about police now and authority?
R: I think so. I think people now are altogether different than they were years ago.

I: Why do you think that?

R: Well, we've got such a young society now and guns is a hobby with 'em; and that's what...before, people with guns they were just using for their own pleasure for hunting and that. They never figured to kill anybody with 'em; but today, that's what they got guns for...to kill people with.

I: Well, did you work with...Eagle River didn't have any policemen, were the only policemen in Keweenaw County.

R: Right

I: So, you did everything. You handled all the traffic accidents and anything in Keweenaw County you had to handle.

R: Right...all the traffic, drownings, fires...

I: Did you have to serve all the Civil papers?

R: All the Civil papers, all the criminal papers, all the mental papers, all papers I served. Garnishments for Katz and everything.

I: Did you have problems working with other policemen or did you have to go into Houghton County and help them on certain occasions or...

R: Yes, and they came and helped me a few times too. Yeah, we had working conditions.

I: You helped each other

R: Yeah, we helped each other, yeah.

I: Well, how did you get along with the mines with the Security Police then you know. C & H had their own police...

R: We had a good close working relationship...them guys were all deputized when I was Sheriff in Keweenaw County. If they lived here they were deputized here for the company.

I: You could call on them?

R: I could call on them for something if I wanted them.

I: Did you have any problems during the last strike that they had here?

R: No, I never had any problems because it was orderly and everything and the men respected me and I respected the men and I never had any problems. I could go to 'em and talk to them or walk through the lines and I never had a bit of problems with any of them.

I: Did they figure that you were on the company side or did they really make a difference there to 'em?
R: Well, I don't think they figured I was really on the company's side because I worked twenty years for C & H Mining Company and I could see lots of them guys the way they believed and I never had any problem.

I: Can you remember when the State Police came to Calumet?

R: Right!

I: And before that you had to call L'Anse then.

R: L'Anse, yeah.

I: The L'Anse Post...and you'd have to just call them and wait.

R: Wait, that's right. Sometimes hour, hour and a half...hour and fifteen minutes, it all depends.

I: Okay, why were the State Police brought to Calumet?

R: Well, I think that the Sheriffs and them were overworked and I think C & H Mining Company figured it would be a good thing to bring them in here. Lots of people thought they were coming in for a strike breakers, but you know there are no law enforcement officers that are strike breakers. They just see that nobody is hurt; that's all. That's theirs to protect the citizen, not break strikes.

I: What year was the Post here? Was that '67 or '65 was that?

R: Yeah, and the biggest one was in '56. That was the time that Lavie Koski and them guys and Gene Sauri were at the head of it...in '55 and '56.

I: That's the head of the strike, you mean.

R: Right, right they were.

I: Well, when did the State Police Post come here?

R: When did that Post come here, Ma?

Rl: I'm sorry, but I don't even know.

R: I don't know...was Wilbur Moilanin the first Post Commander?

I: It's always been where it is right now.

R: Right, yeah

Rl: See, there it is.

R: Does it say when it came?

Rl: No, unt un.

R: Yeah, but Moilanen was before Belanger and Carol Gray was after Moilanen and then Belanger, I think.
I: Ted, I've got a couple books here then that came from the Keweenaw County Courthouse. I think this one here is a Receipt Book.

R: Right, that's what that is.

I: What was it for, do you know? That goes back to 1878.

R: This is for how many days he was in jail and when you served time in jail and you were fed there, that was charged in your fine and costs. You paid for your meals in jail.

For your room and board there.

R: Right...right, and that's what this...thirteen days board, $9.25 and he was discharged November 3rd when he paid his fine and cost, this $9.25 was added in the fine and costs.

Well, when was he discharged...that's 1881?

R: 1881.

I: How long did that last? Of course, now the county had to pay the food bills.

R: Yes, now the food...this oh...even in 1949 and '50, we used to charge 'em for their meals and when we came in to Justice Court the Judge would say, "How many meals did he have?" And we'd say, "Three!" Okay, three times fifty is a dollar and a half, that would be tacked onto his fine and costs...a dollar and a half for his board and room.

I: I see, so that is the book keeping track of that.

R: Yeah.

I: What's the last date in there...what date?

R: July the first, 1925. Robert Savola...Emil Jarvey from Eagle River...Adolph Kulliainen from Fulton...Clemis Terrian from Alloway.

I: What are the dates here...what are some of the...how much room and board they paid or how much did they pay for the food then?

R: Twenty-seven days board...twenty dollars and twenty-five cents...three days board, two and a quarter...two days board, a dollar and a half.

I: It was just a standard rate then.

R: It was just a standard rate, yeah. Twenty-eight days board, Ed Kingstrom twenty-one dollars.

I: And looking at this other picture here, this jail here, the front of it's wood and the back is brick. Was it made originally that way or was it added on later...do you know?

R: The jail was made first.
I: The brick part

R: The stone part was made first and the home was added on. Before, the sheriff used to live in the town in Eagle River and the prisoners had to fire the stoves in the jail themselves. There were wood-firing stove in the jail and they had to keep themselves warm by firing the stoves themselves and the sheriff lived down in the town and he would come up there in the morning and stay there all day and then go home in the night. And then they built the house on the jail after that.

I: And the sheriff still lives in the house?

R: The sheriff still lives in the house.

R: It's an ice house.

I: It looks a little different now

R: Right, it does.

I: Yeah, that's a big house...that a real big house.

R: It's a nice one

R: This here book goes up to February of 1931...John Seppela, Edward Seppela, and Dick Hendrickson...I know 'em all.

I: You know, well still see the same names. From 1931 until now, the same names.

R: All the same names, yeah.

I: The Seppela names keeps coming in...

R: Yeah, they do.

I: Is that the same family?

R: Same family, yeah, down through the years, yeah.

I: Now, here's another book, it's a jail record book. Now I hear so many stories about this book and I know it goes back to the early 1800's and, Ted, you can probably explain that book to me better than anybody. When did it start and what is the record book for?

R: Well, a record book is what tells you the name of the man, his sex, his age, social condition, birth place, where he's living, his occupation, the education, his habits, what he was arrested for, the court he was taken to and the conditions of his commitment, and the township and it is a whole man's record instead of on a card, it is in a book.

I: Now, that's the only thing you had.

R: That is the only thing we had to keep a record of.

I: Now, when does that start. What's the first one in that book? What
year was it...read the name, if you can read it. I know some of the writing is bad.

R: Leo LeRolle and this was...he was thirty-five years of age, he was white, he was a resident of Clarke Mine, he was a clerk, Temperate threatening to kill and he was brought before Thomas O. O'Conner for one year in default of bond. It doesn't say what he was sentenced for. Here is a fellow, Michael McLean...he was born in England...he was a labourer and he was arrested for adultery and he was brought before the magistrate, Joseph Paul, and to await trial in Circuit Court.

I: Whatever happened...is there a disposition on there...I think it's towards the middle of the page?

R: Your dispositions are down here.

I: Whatever happened let's say to that fellow that committed adultery?

R: He was brought to Jackson Prison for two years.

I: For two years in Jackson Prison. And what year was that in?

R: That was in 1875...July the 13th, 1874.

I: And that's the same Jackson Prison that we have now.

R: That we have now, yeah. And in this book somewhere, I don't know exactly where it is, there is a lad that was sent to prison at fifteen years of age for murder.

I: He was sent to life in prison?

R: I don't think so. I think he got out in about ten years. Here's a man, William H. Rhule...born in England, Madison Mine, miner, disorderly, stealing a dog...William P. Thomas, to await trial. Here, the sentence, Eagle River County Jail...thirty days, $40 fine.

I: Well, in 1875, when that fifteen year old boy was arrested...now they're juveniles...they're considered juveniles and they have to go through a special...waiving of the court.

R: That's right.

I: It must have been the same problems then.

R: It must have been the same problems then.

I: They must have gone before...they must have decided that he was old enough to stand trail as an adult.

R: Right

I: Isn't there somewhere in there where a boy was put in jail in Eagle
River for being a bad boy?

R: Right...right...right!

I: Can you remember how old he was? I looked through that book and I found some real unusual things.

R: Yeah, there is. You have some in here for whipping a horse and everything. You'd be surprised.

I: Stealing a horse was quite a severe offense them days and you'd get severe penalties.

R: Vagrancy...sentences to jail for thirty days...for vagrancy...served out the sentence.

I: Now when you reviewed them was it...you said, habits and social conditions. What exactly did that mean?

End of Side B...Tape 1

I: We have to start another tape here, Side 3. Now what were the social conditions, would you go over that again?

R: Well, the social conditions are if you're single, married, or how you are when you come in; your occupation. Here's one, John Wilson, 25, single, from Canada, a teamster; habits are poor; charge offense, cruelty to animals...county jail - ninety days.

I: What would you consider poor habits, say when you were sheriff?

R: Drunkenness and just don't behave yourself and stuff like that and you figure they're bad habits.

I: And that was up to the sheriff.

R: And that was up to the sheriff to decide.

I: When did you start taking fingerprints of the people you put in jail?

R: Oh, about 1959...'60...that was the only time. Now here's a boy, twelve years of age.

I: What year was that in?

R: Oh, let's see, what year? 1890...from Eagle Harbour...murder. Joseph Ricar from Gay was the Magistrate.

I: Was that the one you were talking about earlier?

R: Yeah, that's the one.

I: How old was he?

R: Twelve...
I: Twelve years old?
R: Twelve years.
I: What did they have under social conditions and habits on that one?
R: Well, the social condition - he was single, resident birthplace America, parents born in Canada, residence Eagle Harbour, no occupation; habits - not good, building defacing; disposition - now let's see, reform school...three to five months in reform school.
I: For murder.
R: Yeah...right. So this was all that we had to do and every six months we went a report out of this book of all the complaints in them six months we went to the Secretary of State in Lansing. You can see in here in places where it'll say...sent to the Secretary of State the report. And assault and battery was one of the biggest...here, right here; "Report made out from June 30th, 1897 to June 30th, 1898, midnight, and sent by mail to the Secretary of State, July 1st, 1898; John Dodge, Sheriff. Now, that was a years report that was in this book that he copied and sent to the Secretary of State in Lansing.
I: Mr. Dodge, was he the one that died in office...wasn't he or was he the one that...
R: No...no, Mr. Berg died in office.
I: Mr. Berg died in office
R: Right...right!
I: You don't remember the year that was, do you?
R: Ahm...no date on there? That's about the only way I'd know
I: Some of the pictures here have dates...
R: Honest Bill Berg, that was his platform when he run for sheriff.
I: Honest Bill Berg!
R: Honest Bill Berg...he had a little pin and on it it said, "Vote for Honest Bill Berg".
I: Now, do you know what he died from?
R: He died of pneumonia they claim. He was taken sick on Christmas or New Years Eve and died. She, being the Undersheriff, automatically became the sheriff.
I: He was the sheriff from 1937 to 1938. And then, her name was Idå Berg.
R: Ida Berg, right.
I: 1939 to...
R: 1948 was she?
I:
R: '46, yeah.
I: She was the sheriff from '39 to '46.
R: Right...right.
I: Did you know her, Ted?
R: Yeah, we knew her.
I: Well, what did she do?
R: Well, she had two boys and they practically done the most of her work. She made them two deputies...one the Undersheriff and one a deputy and they practically done all her work. She had two sons old enough to be deputies.
I: She would have had to run for election then during that period of time.
R: She did and she won it three times in a row.
I: Was she the only woman sheriff in Michigan, do you know?
R: The only one I can ever remember in the State of Michigan. Now here is a sheriff's report for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902, sent to the Secretary of State July 12th, 1902, Thomas Bolie (?), Sheriff. Now this is getting close.
Rl: Here's one of the bars he sawed through.
I: Oh, those are the bars Heikkinen sawed through, I see. Heikkinen when he got out of jail during that break, he must have had a hacksaw or something then.
Rl: Yeah, them girls must have brought him something, sure.
I: How late did you use that, Ted, how long did you use that book as the official jail book? What are some of the later years in there?
R: Well here, these are mine...1949...1949...
I: These are yours?
R: Yeah, these are mine...1950 we quit using this and we started using the cards.
I: Looking back through there, can you remember any of that? And of them people?
R: I remember 'em all...every one of them.
I: Do you?

R: Every one I can remember. Robert Lahti, Billy Farman, Bruce Nordstrom, William Johnson, Albert Ojala, Raymond Nisula, Joseph Fountain, Dallas Russo, Garnet Nisula...remember I took him to Newberry.

I: He was a mental?

R: Yeah, mental and oh he was a big man. John L. Hiltunen, Big Henry Durda, Wilfred Maki...that's the one, that killed that woman.

I: What does it say about him there? What are his habits...good?

R: Yeah, he was in for assault and battery that time...he wasn't in for killing her that time.

I: What did he get on that one, does it say there?

R: Brought before James Richards...thirty days in jail. George Anderson, remember George Anderson?

R1: Yeah, a little.

R: There was an alcoholic and I never knew what alcoholics were hardly. We never classified people as alcoholics, we'd say drunks and they drink a lot; well one night, I got a call from his wife, oh it was about ten eleven o'clock in the evening and they were running the Lakeside Resort on Lakeshore Drive down there just outside of Eagle Harbour; and when I got there he had been chasing her around the yard with a rifle and they had lines up what she used to hang her clothes on and she got caught under one of the lines around her neck and pretty near choked to death. So, when I went there, he was up in bed and he wouldn't get out of bed. So, I said, "Well, this is getting to be a problem, eh." We're gonna get out of bed, one way or the other". So, I called the State Police at L'Anse and two of the troopers come up and they got there at four o'clock in the morning and he was still sitting up in bed. When they got there he just got out of bed and got his clothes on and he come to Eagle River; and it happened to be Election Day the same day, and James Richards was the J.P....so James said at noontime bring him down to Court. So, noontime I brought him down to Court and thirty days in jail, automatically right away...guilty or not guilty...just thirty days to cool you off for awhile. And that was it.

R1: When did he get killed?

R: Was drunk driving and went off the ditch and hit a tree and killed himself.

R1: Between Eagle River and Eagle Harbour.

I: Do you think your accidents years ago were as bad as they are now?

R: No...no!

I: You didn't have as many or...
R: Personal injury wasn't...was...you know what I mean...like you'd go sometimes five or six years without a fatal...you know.

I: Do you think that's because of the speed and the cars today?

R: Well, I think a lot of it is because of the speed; but we never had so many cars either, them days, you know. We never had cars that could do better than seventy-five miles an hour...that was top speed then. And now these kids on these mini-bikes that go bout seventy, some of them I guess. So I think that's half of it.

I: I noticed there's no violations in there for like deer hunting. Didn't they have a Conservation Officer here them days? When you first started? No...or did they?

R: Ahm...let's see, when I first started...there was a Conservation Officer for Houghton and Keweenaw County, yeah.

I: I don't see any arrests in there for them violations.

R: No, unt un...we didn't have many for that. The Hendricksons, they were in jail a lot from back of Copper City...the Hendrickson brothers. One of 'em went to Marquette for murder. He shot a fellow down in back of the farm in Copper City there. He went to prison but he's out now.

I: Was that quite a long time ago?

R: That was back when the State Police Post was in Calumet...I'd say around '57 or '58, something like that, yeah. But this was quite a chore sometimes to keep this up-to-date because sometimes you'd have three four in jail on a Saturday night and by the time you'd get your other things done and then start going over this, it was quite a chore. Here's a party here...released to the family, later taken to Newberry...Carl Aho.

What year is that?

R: 1941

I: That's the year I was born

R: There's some wonderful writing in here and then there's some that's pretty hard to read.

I: Depending on the handwriting of the sheriff.

R: Yeah...well this went a long time. This went from 187...

I: '71, I think...or was it 1881?

R: 1874...this went for a hundred years pertnear. This went until, well, 1950.

I: Well, it's 1974 now, so that book is a hundred years old right now.
R: This book is a hundred years old right now.
I: And it's still quite readable.
R: That's right, this is quite a...you know what I mean...quite a book.
I: There a lot of history in that book.
R: There's a lot of history in here, you bet there is.
I: Everybody that was arrested in Keweenaw County regardless who arrested them, would be in there.
R: Right, that's is it. Yeah, there's a lot of history in this book I'm telling you. We got Larry Harju's old man in here...tell him...Emil Harju.
I: There's a lot of Harju names here, isn't there
Rl: Oh yeah!
I: Is that his dad?
R: Oh no!
I: Just the same name.
R: This was for a game law violation...Emil Harju from Gay - game law violation...Albert Livingston, Conservation Officer, Sherman Township.
Rl: Yeah, I remember Livingston, but who was the one when we first went there?
R: Oh, I couldn't tell you that
Rl: Well, who was the one that was before Arnie (?)? That was the one...is that the one they laughed at and made a fool of?
R: Yeah, I can't think of his name off hand
Rl: It wasn't Dissaut (?)?
R: No...no...no, Dissaut was a Conservation Officer
I: There's a little medallion here.
R: Centennial?
I: Centennial...1861 to 1961...that was Keweenaw County's
R: Right
I: A hundred-year celebration
Rl: Oh, my God there was so many people that came...oh!
R: I believe we got a necktie upstairs, ain't we yet?
I think so.

I: Says here, "For experience and service, vote for Cale Wier"
Cale Wier...he was the one that was sheriff before Ted.

R: He's the guy that had a heart attack and I took his place.

I: Now, Charles Kuntz was the first sheriff of Keweenaw County.
R: Charlie Kuntz was the first sheriff of Keweenaw County.
I: He's this fellow in the picture with the beard here.
R: Yeah
I: What'd they do before then, do you know?
R: No...
I: They didn't have a sheriff.
R: No, I don't think so...I think everybody had their...you had your town
marshalls and town constables...I think that's what you had.
I: That must be where the constable started then.
R: Yeah, that's where it started from, yeah.
I: Here's a picture of the Hibbard Park Ferry, the Michigan Copper Country.
Where's that? Where's Hibbard Park? A little kind of a floating
device here?
R: On the Lakeshore Drive just about four miles out of Eagle Harbour by
Snore's property there.
I: There was a little spot there where you had to cross the water...?
R: That was a little bridge-like, yeah.
I: How long ago was that, do you know? Was that before your time?
R: Oh, that was a long time ago.
I: Sheriff (?) here in 1914.
R: The year of the Copper Country big strike...1914...Sheriff John ?
I: Can you remember anything about that strike, Ted?
R: Not too much. Well, see I was seven years old...I can remember a little
bit about it but not much.
I: Do you know this fellow right here?
R: No, I never seen that guy before (laughter). Looks like me...my hair is a little bit darker than than it is now.

I: How long ago is that?

R: About twenty-five years ago.

I: Here's a post card thing of Brockway Mountain Drive with some old cars on it.

R: Yeah

I: Brockway Mountain was put in there by WPA work, wasn't it?

R: WPA workers, yeah.

I: What year was that?

R: In 1932...1932

I: This picture must have been taken shortly after that...because the cars in it are pretty old. Was that all hand labor then, do you know?

R: That was all pick and shovel and wheelbarrow.

I: The whole road?

R: The whole road...first of all they went and cut the trees out...well you see this here is a '35 Ford there, and there's a Model A Ford and there's another Model A and there's a '37 Ford V-8, there's a '35 Ford, there's a '36 Plymouth.

I: Did you see all these Wanted Posters, Ted? Do you remember any of these? Were any of these people from this area or were they just...

R: Never had one turn up from here.

I: They were just Posters that were distributed around.

R: That's all. That's right, you got 'em every day in the mail pert near every day you had something from them. But I don't think there was ever anybody picked up on a Wanted Poster.

I: Here's something...October 24, 1923, where the sheriff...

R: Where one sheriff gave...

I: Do you recall that?

R: I heard about it, but I remember the man...John Betzing...I knew him good...I even worked with the man and he was supposed to have won the election and he moved down to the Sheriff's Office and everything and Similla called for a recount and the recount showed that Similla was the winner so Betzing had to move out and Similla moved in. You remember Bill Similla from Mohawk?
Rl: Yeah

I: That letter he asked for some apparently money that he hadn't received yet.

R: Well, because the sheriff was there, Betzing received the money for a couple of months, then the salary which is one hundred and fifty dollars per month for my legal and other expenses connected with court proceedings and I feel it but just and proper that I receive pay for the time I was unjustly kept out of the office and I am writing this to ask your advise as to my rights in the matter. I was elected as a court held up to June the 27th I did not receive compensation. So, he got in as sheriff and the other guy had to go.

I: That was in 1923.

R: 1923

I: There's a little paper here that says, "Office of the County Board of School Examiners - 1890". Do you know anything about that?

R: School examiners, never heard of 'em.

I: That was before your time then.

R: That was before my time...never heard of 'em.

I: And I think it said, Alfred Mickles or Nickles, Security - Keweenaw County.

R: Alfred Nickles, I bet that's who it was.

I: Did you know him?

R: I heard the name before, yeah.

I: Do you remember...Mr. Sullivan in our interview mentioned Sally Kikkonen and I think Jack Foster mentioned Sally Kikkonen. What can you tell me about her?

R: Well, I don't know...Sally was Sally when she was on the street and wasn't drunk, but when she was drunk she wasn't Sally anymore. She was a tiger in a cage. She'd do anything.

I: Did you have her in your jail?

R: I never ever had Sally Kikkonen...she never got that far. She always got to get to the north end of Pine Street and she got picked up before she got any farther and that was the end of poor Sally, all the time.

I: Apparently she was arrested quite a number of times.

R: I'd say at least a hundred times; but she had a good husband. He always come and baled her out and paid her fine, so she must have had something good for Sally.
I: Mrs. Rogers, what was it like to be the wife of the sheriff years ago? Was it hard like it is now?

R: It was okay.

I: My wife complains that I never come home for supper on time.

R: But our kids...when we were living in Ahmeek before we moved to Eagle River and we told them we were going to move to Eagle River and they all cried their heart out. They didn't want to go. They went to Eagle River and the kids had the most enjoyable time of all their life in Eagle River. They didn't want to leave Eagle River. When they got old enough to go, they didn't want to leave. They loved it because there was so much there for them...they had an ice rink they built themselves...they always had something going and it was a good friendly bunch of boys...it was about eight or ten boys all around the same age and eight or ten girls and they played hockey on the rink there and everything and boy, I'll tell you, they really enjoyed Eagle River.

I: I understand that Eagle River was one of the biggest ports north of Detroit at one time.

R: That's what they claim. It was one of the biggest ports...well, some of the piers are still there where the big boats used to come in. They used to unload everything once a year in the fall...all the provisions were brought in by boat for the people for all winter. So, you can imagine they had to bring in a lot of stuff and they had...they tell me at one time...pretty close to two thousand people in the town of Eagle River.

I: There year round...in Eagle River alone

Yeah.

I understand they had a couple bars and several breweries

R: They had one...two...three breweries and they had a soap factory there and they had a big sawmill in Eagle River and it was a pretty well built up town at one time. That warehouse...they tell me...on the lake there on the wharf...they tell me...that was tremendous, an awful size warehouse; and that's where the copper from the Cliff Mine and Central and Felix and that, that's where that was put in barrels and shipped out of here by boat from Eagle River.

I: That fuse factory that was there...

And that fuse factory, that...

I: How long ago was that closed up?

That burnt...Ma, you should know when, wasn't it Donna's birthday?

R: Yeah, our kids were in high school.
R: Wasn't it one of their birthdays? On the first of May?

R1: That would be the twins, Donna and Rosalee's birthdays.

R: On the first of May, 19....

R1: Because, Rosalee and Donna are thirty-six now...and she was nineteen then.

R: Nineteen...that'd be seventeen years ago...1957

R1: They were coming from high school

R: (?)...they were coming from high school in 1957.

I: What kind of fuzes did they make there?

R: For blasting, miners fuzes for blasting.

I: In the mine?

R: Yeah, in the mine; but now they don't use any fuse at all, it's all electric blasting now. All wires and batteries.

I: Oh, they built that little wooden damm there then

R: They built that damm and before they had electric power in Eagle River, they had a paddle wheel there that used to run it with a paddle wheel - you can see a part of it down there in launder down there yet...that was the paddle wheel to run the reels for reeling this fuse on there in the factory.

I: Oh, I see

R: Oh yeah, that was quite an operation. That was supposed to have been stole from England and brought over here.

I: The paddle wheel was?

R: No, the patent for the fuse was supposed to have been stolen from the Blights from England and they come to this country and they started to make it here. All black powder.

I: That's where they used in the mines here.

R: Yeah, black powder, yeah...and that was the fuse...they used to ship it away as far as the iron country into Wisconsin and all over.

I: In other words, that damm was built strictly to turn that paddle wheel.

R: Strictly to turn that paddle wheel, yeah, that's what that damm was for. Then when they got electricity down in Eagle River, then they converted to electric power. They had one telephone in Eagle River
at one time in the store...that's the only telephone we had.

I: But that was many many years

R: That's quite awhile ago...that was a long time ago.

I: That was...you were really in times then when you had a phone.

R: Right...right, we were really in time when we had the phone.

I: Well, where did the phone hook up to? Who could you call?

R: It was down at the general store in Eagle River

I: Where was it connected to...Calumet?

R: Calumet exchange...crank it and that was it

I: There was one line to Calumet

R: One line to Calumet and that was it. Yeah.

I: When was that big garage built that's attached to the courthouse proper?

R: Oh, that garage used to be the horse barn when the sheriff's had horses. That was the horse barn just converted into the garage after I was...that garage probably there a hundred years.

I: Well, can you remember when the sheriff had horses?

R: Nope, I don't...I don't know.

I: You weren't there.

R: I wasn't there, I don't remember the sheriff with horses.

I: Can you remember the strike?

R: I remember a little bit about it, not too much. I was only seven years old.

I: What can you remember?

R: I remember coming from Tamarack Mills up to my Grandmother's in Wolverine and back on the main street in Wolverine, back by the old mine office in there, the soldiers had their tents setup in that yard; and I can remember the tents and I can remember the soldiers on the horses and that's all I can remember of the strike. But, we've got a picture of it here, ain't we? Ain't we got it...that picture of the Big Louie. I got that from...

I: There was a lady called Big Annie here.

R: Yeah, Big Annie...Annie Moilanen she was called.
I: Was she a local gal?
R: Yeah...yeah...Annie Moilanen. I think she was from Swedetown or Oseola, out that way somewhere. And then there was Big Louie, a man, and I think we got a picture. I think it is him...I don't know for sure.

I: Can you remember when that Phillipsville gas station was open...how long has that been since that was open?
R: Well, I can remember the first guy that run that and that was the Father to the guy that runs The Hut, Paul Hendrickson's father. He's the guy that built that and run it. He was the first one.

I: What year was that?
R: That was back around '23 or '24...in through there.
I: And how long since it's been open now?
R: Oh, it hasn't been opened for the last thirty - forty...thirty-five years, I'd say.
I: It's just been sitting there. The building's still there and looks in good shape.
R: Yeah, not too bad a shape, yeah. But there was only...there was that gas station and Burt Taylor's in Ahmeek here, and one in Fulton and that was all the gas stations that there was until you got to Calumet.

I: How much was gas a gallon then?
R: Nineteen cents.
I: And what year was that...'23?
R: '23...nineteen cents a gallon.
I: And now it's sixty cents a gallon.
R: Now it's sixty cents a gallon. We used to get...all the time, five gallon for a dollar...five gallon for a dollar, yeah. You go there and put fifty cents in with it and you'd go all night for fifty cents. Yeah, I'll tell you boy. I don't know.

I: Can you remember the Italian Hall massacre?
R: Italian Hall disaster, no, I don't.
I: That was when you were...
R: That was during the strike, see, 1913 that was or '12 on the Christmas Eve, that's when that was.
I: That was almost the end of the strike.
R: Right...right, that's it. But boy, there's lot of good moments just the same in being the sheriff, I'm telling you. There's lots of good moments.

I: I would imagine you met an awful lot of people...

R: Right, that's it. When I was sheriff of Keweenaw County I knew everybody by their name, I knew where they lived and I could go to the house and pick 'em up right away. Everybody within the county. There wasn't nobody I didn't know by their name.

I: Now in the summertime, a lot of our work involved tourists, whether it be giving directions or assisting the motorist in things...them days you didn't have as many tourists.

R: No, that's for sure.

I: Did you have any at all?

End of Side A

I: Talking about the tourists, what kind of tourists did you have?

R: Your tourist business didn't really start until after the Depression, in about '34 or '35 and then a few started building cabins and putting signs up for rent and somebody'd come by now and then and rent them and that; but our tourist was just our own families, brothers, sisters, coming home to visit or something like that. It was only a family affair up until 1940 - '45 when the tourists business started to go.

Rl: I can't find that.

R: You can't find it now.

Rl: No, but this here was Dodge's when he was sheriff. That's him there.

I: Roy Dodge?

Rl: Yeah, Roy Dodge.

R: That's Roy Dodge there and his wife.

Rl: Not Roy!

R:

Rl: No, he wasn't called Roy.

I: He looks a little bit like Judge Condon, doesn't he

R: Yeah

Rl: This was the old Delaware School House.

I: That was in Delaware?
R: No, that wasn't George Nordstrom, that was Thomas...but he didn't stuff them. He bought them.

I: Oh, he bought all them.

R: Yeah, he bought them.

I: And that was just on display to attract customers?

R: Yeah, that's all that was.

I: This is the Dodge family reunion in Phoenix 1903. Was that Sheriff Dodge?

R: That was his...him and his family, yeah.

I: This wasn't the jail...this was a different building.

R: Michigan State Police Official Band, Ahmeek, 1917 - 1918

R: Remember when they had that...no you don't remember, no.

I: 552nd Infantry Regional Band

R: Yeah, they had what they called the State Troops one time.

I: Well, didn't they call it the Constabulary or something at one time?

R: Yeah, and the State Troops too

I: Sure is a little different than they are now. Were these the people that were called for the strike?

R: No...no...no...you're thinking...probably you're thinking of the Wadell men.

I: Well, the company called the Wadell men in; but them tents that you seen and the place that you seen...

R: They were the State Troops...like you said, yeah; but they weren't officially from the State of Michigan, you know, they were State Troops. What do you think of them for building.

I: People actually lived in these?

R: They actually lived in them, yeah.

I: Delaware School House, 1870. Where was that, right on the highway?

R: Right off of the highway, one street back of the highway in Delaware there. You know where Delaware is?

I: Yeah
I: Here's a postcard with a place for a one-cent stamp here...two cents for foreign. One cent for domestic, Canada, Great Britain and Germany and two cents for other foreign...and a picture of Eagle River on it. That's facing the water and there's a big building...maybe that's the warehouse you were talking about. See that, way down right on the left?

R: Oh yeah...yeah...that's what it is; that's the warehouse...yeah, that's the big warehouse on the water front there. Quite interesting just the same, yeah.

I: In all this talking, Ted, do you remember any other incidents that were real funny or unusual?

R: Well, I don't know. Oh, one time I had a lady in jail, you know, and I used to leave her out after supper and that, and she'd come out and sit in the kitchen with my wife and she'd go outside and help her take down clothes and everything like that. I had a fellow in jail and he only had one ear. So there happened to be another lad in jail with him and he asked him, "What happened to your ear, Al?" "Oh," he said, "I was in an automobile wreck and I went through the windshield and I got my ear cut off." So this lady, the next evening when she come out, she said, "Minerva, don't believe what that damn liar tells you in there," she said, "he didn't go through the windshield and get his ear cut off, he was caught in bed with another man's wife and the guy took out his bouko (?) and cut his ear off."

T: Oh boy, that's what actually happened?

R: That's what actually happened because Telacatas was in bed with his wife and he took out his bouko (?) and cut his ear off.

I: Who was the guy that got his ear cut off?

R: Al Saari from Boston Location.

I: Al Saari from Boston.

R: He was that drunk.

R: Yeah, that was it; so that's about all I got for tonight, I guess now. Next time I'll be more prepared. I'll have it all wrote down for you.

I: Well, you know, when you talk about things...other things come to mind, you know, and you can remember what happened then. You can remember things that were funny to you...

R: Yeah, that's it...that's right.

I: Can you remember any really bad accidents that you had where people were dead or any explosions or anything or any fires...?

R: Yeah, we had...I had a fire down here in back of Copper City where two little children...the mother left home to go to the store, supposedly got some milk and bread and that, and she was gone about an hour and when she come back the whole house was aflame and there was a little
boy two years old and a little boy a year old. They both died in the fire; but the saddest one I seen was down on the Gay Road at Mullila's. They were going to put some tar onto the roof of the house, it was leaking, and they brought the tar in the kitchen to put it on the stove to melt and it got caught on fire and Mrs. Mullila caught on fire and burnt to death and all we found was a few bones of her. That was about one of the saddest fires I ever seen. And in that time (snapped his fingers) it was gone.

I: The other fire, that wasn't too long ago, was it? The first one where the two kids were burned?

R: No, that wasn't too long...that wasn't too long ago. I would say no more than about five and a half - six years.

We could see the flames from our front window

R: Five - six years ago

I: This area has always had a lot of fires.

R: Yeah, that's true.

I: They've had a fire bug in Hancock and Calumet

R: Right

I: Any idea why that is? Do you think it just got started and there's always somebody else that wants to keep it going?

R: It seems that way to me, that you get it started and they want to keep it going.

I: Can you remember any real bad accidents that you had? The roads must have been terrible years ago or a lot worse than they are now.

R: Oh yes, we had some bad accidents...with the Radar boys out at the Radar Station...a lot of them got killed on these curves and that here. One night we had one where two of them got killed there up on Eagle Harbour short-cut road...two boys from the Radar Station were killed and I think three ended up in the hospital and it seemed as though we had a lot when that Radar Station come in here.

I: When did that start here?

R: That Radar Station came here in about 1958...about 1958 when that came in. And when that Radar Base first started, the road into the Radar Base, they used to have to come out in the spring of the year with a weasel, it was that bad. They couldn't drive a car...it was just stamp sand and mud...that's all it was. And that road hasn't been...well it's been improved and improved and improved that now they got a real good road, but when that Radar Base was built up there...they were there and they never got out, practically. They were stationed up there and they stayed there...three - four months at a time before
they got out of there because in the spring of the year, you couldn't ever get out.

I: That brings to mind this question. When did you start issuing drivers licenses? The sheriff now issues drivers licenses...did you do that when you were sheriff?

R: All the time...all the time; and I used to go to the school in Mohawk and do it at one time.

I: So the kids got there's in school?

R: No, so the people from around the community wouldn't have to drive all the way to Eagle River to get them. I used to go there every Thursday afternoon from one to five. We never had any picture taking, see; the first licenses never had any picture taking.

I: Was just a paper license

R: Was just a paper license, yeah. There was no picture.

I: How much were they?

R: The first license for an operator's license, was a dollar and a quarter for three years. Chauffeurs was a dollar and a half for one year and you had to be sixteen years of age...fourteen years if it was a hardship case, fourteen years of age they could get them. There was no such thing as driver's training; but you should take them out and give them a road test to see how they could drive; but that's all there was to it.

I: How much were license plates then for your car?

R: I think, for a Model A Ford, I think they were $5.60

I: A year?

R: A year...a bigger car like a...say like a Pontiac or a Buick would be $11.00 for a year. But they went from year to year...from the 1st of January to the 1st of January. There was none of this February the 31st or March the 31st or April the 31st...it was the 1st of January, you had to have your plates. If you didn't, you got arrested.

I: When did the picture taking start then on the driver's licenses?

R: Oh, the picture taking started about...oh 1965...'64 or '65. That's when the picture started.

I: Well, when you first started and you'd give somebody a ticket for license plates expired after January 1st, what kind of fine would they pay?

R: About two dollar fine and three dollar costs

I: And was that...like John Sullivan said...the more arrests that he made the more money he made. Was that the same case with you?
R: No...I think them guys they used to get...the Justice of the Peace used to give them a dollar for every ticket they wrote; but...
I: That was kind of a supplementary salary
R: That was a supplement to their salary; but ours was strictly nothing.
I: Yours was always the same.
R: Always the same, never changed.
I: It didn't make any difference how many people you arrested.
R: Nope...no many difference how many you arrested, you didn't get any more money.
I: Well, when you were the sheriff there and you were getting thirty-five cents a meal for your prisoners, were you able to make any extra money off the meals? Could you feed 'em less and make a few pennies?
R: No...we used to always feed 'em the same as we ate...all the time.
I: Whatever you had for supper, the prisoners had.
R: Whatever we had for supper...if we had pasties, they had pasties; if we had stew, they had stew; if we had pork chops, they had pork chops. My wife never cooked different for the prisoners. They ate the same as we did. If we had chicken, they had chicken.
I: It was like cooking for a large family then.
R: Right, it was, yeah...yeah, it was just like cooking for a larger family.
R1: Like Wilfred Maki, we had him for three months there.
I: You had to learn to adjust your cooking ability there according to how many prisoners you had.
R1: Right
R: And she used to do all the washing for the jail too.
I: Washed the prisoners' clothes?
R: All the bedding and everything...she washed all the bedding at the jail for nothing, that was in the job.
I: That was part of the deal.
R: That was part of your job, yeah. All the blankets and the sheets and the pillow cases and everything, she washed 'em.
R1: And they never sent them to the laundry.
I: Who cleaned out the jail cells and the toilets and that?
R1: Me
I: You hadda do that too.
R: Oh yeah...yeah...yeah.
I: What'd you do? Just put the prisoner in the other cell for awhile?
R: Transfer 'em from one to the other and clean it and then send 'em back in and if you had a pretty good guy in there, you'd give him a mop and a pail and a broom and he used to clean up the cell...wash the tables and chairs and that.
I: That cell is real big; now the ceilings must be ten or twelve feet high.
R1: Yeah, they're high.
I: Were they hard to heat...did the prisoners freeze in there at times?
R: They'd get pretty cold in there. When I went there, I used to have to shovel thirty ton of coal a winter. You had a hand-firing coal furnace and I had to fire the furnace and take out the ashes and bring 'em to the ash pile and shovel thirty ton of coal during the winter.
I: Now, in February all the deer come out there and they feed 'em. How long has that been going on?
R1: That was while we were there, that's when they started.
R: That started, oh I'd say in 59 - '60...eh?
R1: Oh, I got slides of them.
I: The deer started coming in there?
R: Yeah
R1: That's nice, oh my God but that's nice. Half past five, I'd go out there. They'd bring...who'd bring the corn...the sportsmen. And I'd go out there with a little pot, you know, and pretty soon you'd see 'em...I'd shake it, you know, and scatter it around and they'd come right there while I was there and if a car would come, they'd get afraid, you know, they'd run in the woods there and as soon as the cars were gone, back again they'd come.
I: They still do that?
R: So that goes, you know, to make good times with the bad...that makes the good with the bad.
R1: Yeah, and we got to meet all kinds of nice people, you know, we always used to go to the Sheriff's Convention and oh, did we meet a lot of nice people.
R: Yeah, so it ain't that bad, you know, being a sheriff.
I: Now you're retired.
R: Now that you're retired, it ain't that bad.
I: But you're still a magistrate, though.
R: Oh, I'm still a magistrate and a gardener and everything. Just got through putting up a big home with my son-in-law and his father for my other son-in-law down in Detroit, so they keep you busy.
I: What do you do as a magistrate now, Ted? You're still now out of police work because I consider the court as part of police work myself.
R: Yeah...yeah!
I: What do you do now as magistrate?
R: Well, you get guys coming here to pay their traffic tickets and they want information and you got guys coming in here wanting to sign a complaint and a warrant against this or that guy and sometimes it involves a lot of work and then other days, nothing. But, it's interesting. I like it.
I: How do you set your fines? Is that a standard thing?
R: We have a standard set of fines set up by the Judge that everybody that has a violation from Copper Harbor to Baraga County, pays the same thing for every violation.
I: The same fine and the same costs?
R: Same fine and same costs. Over the speed limit, one dollar per mile for everybody. If you're going sixty in a forty zone, you pay twenty dollar fine and fourteen dollar costs. That's everybody pays the same. Nobody pays any different.
I: The court costs, some of that goes into the county and some goes into the library fund...doesn't it?
R: Well, the fine money goes into the library fund.
I: The fine does
R: All the fine money goes to the library fund. That's for your prosecutor, Circuit Judges, Judge of Probate...then after I think they get seventy percent of it and then the other thirty percent goes to the school library. The ten dollar cost goes to the county and four dollars goes to the State Judgement Fee for the retirement for District Judges. That's how it's split up.
I: Where did it go years ago, you know, before the
R: The fines went to the library...
I: Always gone there?
Always gone to the library and cost to the county.

I: Now you've got the four dollars in there.

R: Now we've got the four dollars that goes to the State Judgement Fee on every traffic ticket.

I: Are the court costs preset...are they generally fourteen dollars?

R: All the time...fourteen dollars for court costs unless...if it's for careless or wreckless driving, the Judge sets a different set of costs.

I: Why did you retire as the sheriff?

R: Just tired...just had enough...just getting a little too old. All that night working was getting to me because I answered practically all my own calls. I figured, them guys...they got their job to do, I got mine to do and when I run for the job I told the people I'll do the job and that's what I figured I was there for. I just wasn't there to tell somebody else I wanted them to do my work.

I: And that's when Joe Roper took it

R: Yes, and Joe took over after I went. If I wanted help, I called for help and I always got it. I never ever was turned down for help...I always got help.

I: Did you have to campaign a

R: You did them days. Years ago, that was a big thing was campaigning house to house, door to door.

R1: He'd go every house.

R: Every house...door to door; and that was what the people wanted. They wanted to see who they were voting for.

I: Kiss the babies?

R: Yeah...yeah, oh yeah...and if there was a picnic or something like that - the union had a picnic, I'd go to their picnics...I'd go to all the functions and that. You had to because if you didn't, the first thing you know the people got sour and brother, that was it. You were out like Flinn, I'm telling you.

I: What party did you run for? The Republican or Democrat?

R: Always the Republican.

I: The Republican

R: Yeah

I: Did you have a lot of opposition?

R: At times I had as many as three - four run against me on the same party and I had always somebody on the opposite party.
I: Did you win overwhelmingly...or did you?

R: All the time...all the time, yup.

I: You never had any problems.

R: Out of two hundred votes in the far/end of the county...Copper Harbor, Eagle Harbour, all through there...out of two hundred votes I'd always come out with about a hundred and eighty-five - a hundred and eighty-seven.

I: The other ones were the people you arrested.

R: Right away I'd say, "The poor guy, now he's got a hundred and eighty-seven down there already, he's gotta have three hundred and sixty-five votes already to beat me." So, when you took the small ones...it didn't take long and you had your...but we had as much as fourteen - fifteen hundred registered voters in the county them days. You had to...you know what I mean...you had to get out and see the people because when you have, like in Ahmeek here, they had six hundred and fifty voters. Now, if you just didn't show yourself in Ahmeek and the other guy got six hundred votes, you were going down pretty fast and you better watch out, I'm telling you.

I: Did you campaign all the while you were sheriff?

R: All the time...I never quit, twelve months a year.

I: You never stopped.

R: No, you never stopped.

I: You didn't increase when it was election time?

R: Nope, you just keep on going.

I: You just kept going the same

R: And when you have anything going like driver's license for you, that's the best campaign there is because everybody comes in to see you to get a driver's license, you shake their hand and you know 'em and that's your best campaign; but you campaign twelve months of the year. Never quit and then when it comes election time you don't have to work too hard.

I: Did you put up posters?

R: Put up posters, you buy cards and you go from house to house and you pass 'em around. You have so many in Finn and so many in English. When you go into a Finnish party, you give 'em a Finnish card. Go to an American English, you give 'em an English card.

I: Can you speak Finn?

R: Nope, never spoke a word of it.
I: Did you find that as a disadvantage at times? When you talked to people who couldn't speak English?

R: I found that an advantage. When you shut that off I'm gonna tell you a little story.

I: Well, tell me now. It doesn't make any difference.

R: Nope...no, I don't want to tell it to you now.

I: You won't tell me.

R: No.

I: I find at times I wish I could speak Finn. You run into some older people...

R: There are so many of them.

I: I find at times I wish I could speak Finn. You run into some older people...

R: There are so many of them.

R: You can put over a lot.

I: You can relate to them a lot better.

R: Right and these older people, you know I mean...they've got a little gripe and if you can talk Finn and talk to 'em, you can really appease them in a hurry.

I: They seem to think that you're one of their kind then.

R: Right...right...right!

I: How long is this Post Office up here right up the street, this Alloway Post Office? That's gotta be the smallest Post Office in the world.

R1: Isn't that a nice little one.

R: That's only been there about, I would say fifteen years. It was down here, down the street in a house...a guy had it in his house, in one room in his house before this guy built that one.

I: Did he build that just for this?

R: Yeah, just for that Post Office, yeah.

R1: Just the right size for here, you know.

I: Yeah, it's only one room. There can't be very many people...what is it a couple hundred people?
R: Oh, not that many, I wouldn't say, no. You see, we used to have a Post Office in Phoenix there too at one time.

I: There's a Community Building here too.

R: That's the old Alloway School, yeah.

I: When was that built, do you know?

R: Oh that school's been there a long long time...back in the 1900's and then when the population started to decrease then they transferred the kids to Mohawk School and the community got this as a Community Building and used to have a lot of activities there back twenty years ago.

I: Well, the old Centennial School is pretty old too, isn't it?

R: That's an old school, yeah.

I: And that's still operating.

R: That's still operating, yeah

I: Probably will be for another year.

R: Yeah, probably will be for another year or two

I: Well, can you think of anything else you'd like to add?

R: That's about all tonight...just that one story I got to tell you.

I: Okay Ted, I'd like to thank you very much.

R: You're very welcome.

I: Not only for myself, but for Suomi College. They'll find this real rewarding and valuable to their class. I'll conclude this tape then and you can tell me your other story.