FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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Frances Rozich
August 8, 1972

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Comment:

- Didn't plow roads
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- "It was a routine life."
Interview with MRS. FRANCES ROZICH
by Paul Jalkanen August 9, 1972

-----------work your father did, and what he was like, and how he brought up your family and what kind of home life you had and how it was living here. Since I suppose you lived all the way through the depression, your father must have lived through it.

That's right

You must have lived--well, not at home yet at that time, but have some idea what it was like to live in that time. And even before that time. You must have been born about 19--?

Mrs.: '15. There isn't too much interesting to tell about that.

Paul: What about the kind of things that your father talked about, and his kind of work and how he felt about the Copper Country itself; he was born up here, you said.

Mrs.: Mm hm.

Paul: And lived here all his life. Did he consider it to be a kind of a hard life and that? A good life?

Mrs.: Oh, I think he thought it was a good life. Of course he worked long hours, start early in the morning and work late at night, maybe a dollar-a-day or something like that. But still he enjoyed it.

Paul: He worked for the road commission, you said, he never even worked for the mining company, though. Oh, he worked for Mohawk Mining Company.

Mrs.: He worked for Mohawk Mining Company when he moved to Mohawk. When we lived at Central he worked on the road and in the wintertime he'd have to go to Copper Falls to work. Then he'd go up over the hill there, that wasn't maybe 2-3 miles that he'd use skis mostly.

Paul: Did they plow the roads up there then?

Mrs.: Oh, no, there were no plows then

Paul: How did they get from Central to here? to buy anything, did they have to use cutters?

Mrs.: They had stores at Central.

Paul: Oh, did they? and everything that they needed?

Mrs.: A trip to Calumet, that was a rarity. It was a big occasion.

Paul: Even when you were young, I suppose.

Mrs.: Oh, I don't remember much about that, see, I left Central when I was 6 years old; we came to Mohawk and of course, we had street cars here, you could go to Calumet then.

Paul: The street cars started here and went down?

Mrs.: Street cars started at the end of the line here, on this street, traveled by street car (cuckoo clock strikes) to Calumet to do your shopping, well, you had Beauty Shop, at that time the town was active, the stores were going then, we had Petermann's Store here and Foley Meat Market and there was lot
more activity at that time, more people living here.

What kind of stories did your father have of living here, what kind of feelings did he have of the mining companies even?

Mrs.: I don't know if I know anything special in that line; you know whenever we sat down and talked about anything or he talked about anything, he always went way back when they lived at Central and this was in later years that I started this; I didn't really start this hobby until about 1956. So up until then, life was a just a matter of more or less routine. When I started delving into history, about '56, then I started with this thing about going back and telling stories and all of that.

Have you talked to quite a few people up here, or have you just been generally collecting things?

Mrs.: Oh, I've just been collecting things. I save newspaper clippings, and things that I've collected myself.

What kind of newspaper clippings do you keep then?

Anything on historical nature

Like "Green Sheet" kind of things and that on Jacobsville or whatever it might be.

Yes, I keep Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, some on Ontonagon County. And I keep them set up, more or less, by towns, each town, 9x10 sheet that I keep the clippings on. Anything typewritten that I have, pictures that I have, picture postcards. If you want to look for anything, it's easy to find that way.

Paul: What do you do for an article that's about different towns? Just pick the primary?

Mrs.: Or else general Houghton County or general Keweenaw County, or something like that. It's interesting and if you're looking for something, it's not hard to find, you can look in the town or whatever.

What kind of things have you found out from your reading, and that? What kind of feelings do you get about the Keweenaw County area primarily?

Oh, I think Keweenaw County is all right

Think it's all right?

Paul: It was a booming area once upon a time, even when you were young, it was booming in the '20's.

Mrs.: That's true. Of course, I don't remember.

You don't remember about the '20's at all? You were 15 years old in 1930.

Mrs.: No, no, not too much.

Did you go to school here in Mohawk?

I went to Calumet High School. For 2 years we traveled by street car, then the
street cars went out of business in 1932 so for the next final 2 years I traveled by bus.

Paul: Started a bus line--how far did it go, up to Mohawk just?

Up to the end of town.

Paul: What did they do for children that lived up further?

Well, those that lived out in Gratiot had to walk in, or Seneca, they had to walk to Mohawk, to catch the street car or bus. That was quite a little jaunt, too, same thing is true with those who lived beyond Ahmeek and out on the farms, they had to walk to Ahmeek to take the bus. I don't know about Copper City, if they had to walk, if they had to walk to Allouez, to the street car, the street car went to Copper City.

Paul: What kind of stories did your father tell you, when you did sit down with him once in a while; when did he die then?

Mrs.: He died in 1969

Paul: Oh, in '69, not that long ago. Then when you started this hobby, he was alive for quite a bit of it, then, until just lately.

Mrs.: Oh, ya

Paul: What kind of stories did he tell you about living in Central, you said he talked about real old days... I suppose he's talking about the 1890's and early 1900's.

Mrs.: He was born in 1877. His father came to Central in 1852.

Paul: From where?

Mrs.: From Germany. And then he worked at the Northwestern Mine, that was before the Central Mine even opened. He worked there for 2 years and then when Central Mine opened up in 1854, he went to work for the Central Mining Company. He worked there until he--well, he couldn't work any more so he took sick or something--no, he became caretaker, and he was caretaker until he died. That's right. And then after he died, then one of the sons became caretaker. And he was caretaker there at Central until the late '40's.

Paul: 1940's?

Mrs.: Mm hm.

Paul: That's your grandfather. Or your father

Mrs.: That would have been an uncle, that took over

Paul: That took over then afterwards.

Mrs.: So that the Schuler family lived in Central for more than a 100 years, even though there weren't too many people.

Paul: A long start...

Mrs.: But at one time Central was pretty well populated, a lot of people lived in Central.

Paul: Thousand people or so? 500?

Mrs.: Oh, I wouldn't know.
Paul: Something along that line?

Mrs.: Sure. I wouldn't be surprised if it grew to a thousand. They had big families in those days. And there was a school in Central.

Paul: Was that considered a pretty productive mine?

Mrs.: Oh, ya. I think when they closed it they figured there was still a lot of copper in Central Mine.

Paul: It was just too difficult to get it out, then.

Mrs.: Probably

Paul: But your father never worked for that mining company?

Mrs.: No, not to my knowledge

Paul: Your grandfather did

Mrs.: Grandfather and uncle

Paul: And your father just worked for the road commission and

Mrs.: and in the lumbering business, he worked in Bammert's farm and he worked for Kingston and they had a big barn there at Central, we had a lot of stock and he worked there, and there was a school at Central but that was closed by the time I reached school age and I always like to tell this story that when I came to Mohawk and went to school, the teacher asked me, wasn't there a school at Central, I said, well, sure there was a school; a high school; and she couldn't understand why there would be a high school I meant as to its' location, it was high on a bluff, a "high" school; she thought, of course, that it was a school of higher learning.

Paul: Did your father speak German?

Mrs.: No

Paul: Maybe learned it when he was young?

Mrs.: No, I don't think they ever learned to speak it, neither my mother; they understood it; they understood German but then after they died you get away from it too. There weren't anybody around who could speak it. You forget it, I 'spose.

What other kind of recollections did your father have of living in that area? Moved to Mohawk in 1922?

Mrs.: 1923.

Worked for road commission.

He worked for Mohawk Mining Company

Oh, Mohawk Mining Company, that's right

He worked there until they closed down in 1933.

Paul: They closed down then when the depression hit. Really bad. It was really bad at that time. And never worked after that time anymore.

Mrs.: No. Not the Mohawk.
Paul: And he worked for Road Commission after that time?

Mrs.: Yes, off and on

Paul: He must have retired them, you said he was going to be 92. So he must have retired in the late '40's and kind of "off and off" retired.

Mrs.: Yes, that's right

Paul: Work a little bit, maybe during the summer months or something

Mrs.: ya, just off and on; nothing steady.

Paul: Did he talk about the mining company at all, or did he talk about the way life was when he was young? What kind of things they did? What kind of social life, did they have any social life at all? I suppose not what we consider exactly social life, but what kind of things did they do for entertainment?

Mrs.: Went to each other's homes or something like that.

Paul Visited basically

Mrs.: That's about all there was, what else was there? No public places of amusement in those days. Well, I suppose the saloons came in but I don't think there were any in Central.

Paul Maybe they had to come down further this way, or go up to Eagle River or something to go to saloons.

Mrs.: Well, I think there was one at Phoenix but I don't know how late that was or how early that was. I can't tell you about social life.

Paul: Do you recall the 1913 Copper Strike at all?

Mrs.: 

Paul: I mean, your father. Did he talk about it at all?

Mrs.: Oh, well, naturally he was living during that time, sure, he knew about it.

Paul: Did he talk about it with you at all? In later years?

Mrs.: Well, no, I don't think, not too much; I have information on the strike from old newspapers pertaining to the strike, and read about it but I don't think he talked much about it; they were from Calumet at that time.

Paul: That's right.

Mrs. The only way they had to get there was by horse

Paul: The mines were closed up this way, too, weren't they?

Mrs. In 1913?

Paul: Mm hm.

Mrs. Oh, sure

Paul: All of the closed, didn't they, up here?
Yes. I have pictures of the parades they had here during the strike, I saved them, they had men come in from down the line, troops come in,

Paul: Ya, they brought in National Guard or something.

Mrs.: Right, I think they were staying up here somewhere in town, they had tents up here

Paul: In Mohawk, up here

Mrs.: Ya

Paul: I see, they not only stayed in Calumet but they came up here, too.

What kind of feelings do you get from reading about the strike from the reading that you've done from the newspapers and that? Kind of a vicious circle there of the union trying to make "inroads" here and failing to do so?

Mrs.: I don't want to comment on that

Do you feel that it was C&H's fault at that time, it was very difficult, most places did not have unions in 1913.

Mrs.: Oh, no.

Paul: And the Western Federation of Miners had started them out in Montana and they thought they'd try it out here; I suppose by the time of that Italian Hall disaster, the Christmas Eve, I suppose after that they felt that they had to go back to work, it must have been pretty hard living through the wintertime without any work at that time.

Mrs.: Well, that was too bad, there was no fire, somebody hollered "fire"

Paul: and they don't know really who it was, although one side blames the other for doing such things

that must have been awful sad, mostly children, some lost more than one, too

Paul: is that right

I think so. Happy occasion turned into a tragedy

Paul: What kind of things did your father reminisce then when he did talk? Or you said you jotted down some of these things that he talked later; he was in his 60's then. What kind of things did he enjoy talking about?

Mrs.: Oh, he liked to talk about anything, back then. Different people that he knew,

Paul: Did he talk about some of the characters who lived in the area?

What kind of things they did, or stories about them, what they were like

Mrs.: Oh, sure.

Paul: Do you remember any of those, a special one, you don't have to use names if you don't feel like it. I suppose what you call not funny particularly but different kind of things that people did.

Mrs.: Well, different ways that people lived; there was a woman who lived at Central, I wrote a story on her in the Gazette not too long ago, maybe in the last year; and she wasn't afraid of anything, she'd walk anywhere, day or night, she wasn't afraid of animals
Paul: Did she walk in the woods and everything?

Oh, sure. She wouldn't take a ride if anyone would offer her a ride; my dad said she did get on the back end of a sled although she would never get in with anyone, she always dressed in black, she was kind of slovenly dressed, lived in a home with probably no heat, she visited here and there and I suppose wherever she went they gave her a cup of coffee and something to eat and that's about how she survived.

Has she been dead quite a few years now?

Oh, ya, she died in the '20's.

But these are stories that you have picked up yourself and put together then

Mrs.: Well, sure, from what he told me and the clippings that I had

Paul: Oh, there had been other stories about her before?

Mrs.: Well, when she died there were stories in the papers, local papers published wild woman of the woods, and stuff like that.

Was she really that wild?

Mrs.: No, I don't think so, she would be friendly.

But she lived a different kind of life

Mrs.: Well, naturally, she lived alone and I can remember as a kid kind of fearing her, I can remember

Oh, is that right, do you remember her during that time?

Mrs.: Oh, ya, I can remember, she always wore sort of a shawl, hair tied down and scarf and a long black skirt, dirty.

Paul there was no heat in her house at all

Mrs.: No, she lit a fire in a washtub or something, she'd light a little fire if it was cold.

Paul: Oh, that would be tough in the wintertime.

Mrs.: It must have been. Can you imagine people surviving like that?

Paul: That's right. It would be hard. Because when it's cold outside in the wintertime they'd fire up even if they didn't have furnaces in some of the houses, they had pot-bellied stoves that they'd keep fired up. Or they'd have the kitchen stove that they'd keep wood in, or some coal; they'd keep that going too.

Mrs.: And I think if she ran out of wood she'd cut up a chair or something like that.

Is that right. You heard that too?

Mrs.: Oh, ya.

Paul Did she do any kind of work at all, did she just grow a garden at all or anything for food?

Mrs. No, I don't think so. No. I don't think she bothered with anything like that.

Paul: Did she go and pick berries?
Mrs. I think she did in the summertime, she was out in the woods, she probably filled up on berries.

Did anyone talk to her, did you talk to any of those people at all that talked to her?

Oh, my dad and the folks down there knew her well, in fact, she used to go to my father's house.

Paul: Oh, did she?

Mrs.: Sure.

Paul: She had a little bit to eat there and stay for awhile.

Mrs.: I guess as a young girl she and her mother used to do out and do day work and work for different people, they kept a clean home but after her mother died, probably her mother died young, and she was left alone.

Paul: And didn't care.

Mrs.: And just went to pieces or something; didn't care anymore.

Paul: I suppose everybody kind of thought she was different but treated her kindly, I suppose.

Mrs.: I think so. People that lived there were used to her, course, kids called her "you look a little different", kids would look at her in a little different light but I suppose the older people were used to her.

Paul: Well, she didn't go peeping into people's houses or anything, did she?

Mrs.: Oh, no, no, she wasn't that type of a person, but she just didn't care about herself.

Paul: Then she just kind of wandered around, I suppose in the wintertime, go out in the woods.

Mrs.: They found her dead in the woods in the wintertime; they figure she got tired and she fell down and froze to death.

Paul: Was she very old at that time?

Mrs.: I think she was in her 60's. My uncle found her.

Paul: Is that right? Probably had been out there for a day or two.

Mrs.: Well, they missed her, of course, she was an active person going or coming all day long, and I think she walked to Eagle Harbor just about every day to the cemetery where her mother was buried, maybe she just grieved for something.

Paul: Well, how far was it from Eagle Harbor to Central? 3 or 4 miles? There's no road was there?

Mrs.: Well, they go down probably through Copper Falls down, I don't imagine they went all the way around. They had some shortcuts.

It must have been quite a walk though even for her to do it, 55 or 60 years old, to go walking like that.

Mrs.: She was used to it. She did it everyday. Oh, my dad, they used to go to Eagle Harbor to church, sometimes walk, sometimes they used a horse.

Paul: Did they have a cutter, too?
Mrs.: Oh, Yes.

And horae and buggy? In the summertime.

Mrs.: Mn hm.

Paul: Do you remember going for rides, at all, or did he have a car already in the '20's?

Ya. Model-T. I don't remember too much about riding a horse.

Did your dad keep a farm at all, or any animals, milk cow?

No, well, they had horses.

For the carriage and that.

Oh, I suppose maybe each family in those days had a cow, I don't know, I think we did; chickens and people provided their own food more or less, plant a garden, I think they lived pretty much off the land in those days.

Can all their fruit.

You wouldn't go to the store like you do today and buy all your bread and bakery and frozen stuff, nothing like that in those days. You had to make everything.

Paul: What other kind of interesting stories do you remember your dad talking about? Or interesting characters like this, I think these are great stories. They're most fascinating part, I think.

Mrs.: Well, I could probably tell you more if I could look 'em up.

We can stop and take a look. (Pause) The name is Copper Henry?

Mrs.: Well, they called him Copper Henry. I don't know if I should give you his name or not.

Paul: He's dead, isn't he?

Mrs.: Ya. Well, his name was Henry Boody.

Paul: Did he live up in this area?

Mrs.: He came from Germany and lived in Helltown in Keweenaw County, during the summer months. And then in Delaware in the winter. You know where Helltown is, that's adjacent more or less to Delaware there. And he used to travel around on foot from one mine to another, picking up copper and he had a dog that he called "monkey" and then he'd take this copper to Eagle Harbor and he'd sell it in the store there to buy groceries.

Paul: He took it out of the rockpiles?

Mrs.: Picked it up out of the rockpiles and the grocery store would in turn sell it to the mining companies. That's how he got the name of Copper Henry.

Paul: That's an interesting story.

Mrs.: I don't know if you ever heard about "hermit Joe Bammert".

Paul: What was his name?
Hermit Joe Bammert.

Paul: No.

He was a "cattle drover", cattle were brought into Calumet by train from Wisconsin by the carload and then they were driven from town to town and sold along the way; in later years he set up a homestead about 3 miles south of the Cliff where he lived a sheltered life raising cattle and living off of the land. He lived in a one-room shack which was attached to the barn and he lived in practically the same place as the cattle. His dishes were held together with wire and he used to wrap his feet in burlap sacks.

When did he live, do you know, about when? Late 1800's I suppose.

Oh, that must have been the 1800's. And they said, despite his rugged life he lived to a ripe old age, he died in 1911. How old he was when he died, I don't know. And this is a story someone else had told me, the first time I saw "hermit Joe Bammert", he nearly scared the life out of me. I was working on a diamond drill out south of the Cliff Mine. We sunk a shaft there few years later. Old Joe came by one afternoon when I was alone. My partner had gone into Cliff for a new bit. I was cleaning out the boiler when someone behind me said, 'see any of my cattle around', I looked back and here he was. I thought ol' Rip Van Winkle was standing there. He had on an old coat, no buttons, and it was tied around with hay rope. He had burlap tied around his legs. He was a sight. He asked me if he could come in and sit down and he stayed and talked and he was no fool, he was quite intelligent. He said to come out to see him sometime. One day a friend and myself did go out there and what a place he lived in! The house and barn were under one roof. When we got there, the old man was sick. He lived in one room, a bunk in the corner. The old stove was ready to fall apart and some of the dishes and bowls were so old he had wire around them to keep them together. He asked us to make him a cup of tea, and get some water in the barn for the cattle which we did. I don't know how a man could live so long as he did under those circumstances. But he lived for some time after that.

Paul Interesting story

Mrs.: Ya, you see how people lived, hey?

Paul: Must have been a lot of, I suppose, single men who lived up here and had a kind of rough life.

Mrs.: I don't know whether he ever married or not, I'm not sure of that, he may have been and his wife died.

This is about this old Dominic who was buried on the shores of Lake Bailey, you may have read of that in the paper already. Francis LeCarr, or ol' Dominic was a Civil War veteran, he lived at times at Gratiot Lake and also at a camp at the Northwestern Mine. He made his living by catching and selling fish on inland rivers and lakes in Keweenaw County. He lost his life while fishing in Lake Bailey in the spring of the year. On this particular trip down he made his usual stop at one of the homes at Eagle Harbor but when he didn't return at the appointed time, a friend of his at the Harbor set out in search of him. He could see that he had fallen through the ice but didn't dare venture out to look for him. The body was found later in the spring. It was so badly decomposed that they buried him at the west end of the lake, marking the spot with a stick. When the veteran's plot was laid out at the Lakeview Cemetery, the remains were moved out there, and buried.

I 'spose you heard the story about Pete Sauer; he lived at Calumet; he came here from Germany, first lived at Copper Harbor in the early days of Red Jacket, he moved there and operated a saloon on the site of the present Family Shoe Store on
5th Street. Mr. Sauer and his family lived upstairs. In those days, drummers or salesmen came to Calumet by train with their samples in several trunks. Mr. Sauer would meet them at the train and take them from place to place with their goods. The drummer stayed at the Sauer home while in Red Jacket and Mr. Sauer would take him to the train again when he left, with his horse and carriage. Mr. Sauer acquired 1,000 shares of Calumet & Hecla stock and when it reached $1,000 on the market, he was a millionaire. He would never cash any of his dividends but would turn them in for more stock. Despite his wealth Mr. Sauer lived very miserly. He died in Calumet and was buried there. Imagine to have that much money hanging. I don't think he sold them either.

Paul: That's right. But they probably weren't worth nothing after a while.

Mrs.: No, that's right

Paul: Probably ended up with his children or grandchildren.

Mrs.: Today they're worth nothing, that's for sure. Or next to nothing. I guess that's about it.

Paul: On the special characters that you have.

Mrs.: Other than stories from "Bloodstoppers and Bearwalkers" but those are stories repeating some of the others in the book.

Paul: Ya, I was interested in those individual ones that you had picked up yourself. Did your father tell you any other besides characters, any other personal stories that he himself told you about life at that time, or life in the 1880's or 1890's? Or early 1900's, he was born in 1874, you said.

Mrs.

Paul: '77, so it'd be in the early 1890's and early 1900's that he'd remember more than any other time. Probably before you were born.

Mrs.: no

Paul: Was his wife from up here too, in Central; your mother?

Mrs.: Ya. She died in the '40's, she died before she turned 40

Paul: What was your mother like? Hard-working housewife?

Mrs.: Oh, yes.

Paul: Have fond memories of her?

Mrs.: Well, naturally

Paul: Do you have brothers and sisters too?

Mrs.: No, I was an only child.

Paul: You're an only child. How were things during the depression, how did you make ends meet? During that time?

Mrs.: Well, it wasn't easy. Had to cut a lot of corners. Live on what you had saved
You did a lot of work around the house at that time, you were going to school or just finished school.

I finished in '34

You were going right then at the height of the depression, the heights of the depression.

You couldn't go on to any more further education at that time, we didn't have that kind of money. We always planted a garden, we always picked berries.

Paul: You go out picking berries with your mother and that?

Mrs.: Oh, sure.

Your dad worked long hours, you dad was he ever laid off during the depression?

Oh, sure, he was finished when the Mohawk mining company finished in '32

And then he really only worked off and on.

Mrs.: Off and on. He never held a steady job after that any more. That's when he ended up over here. He worked for the road commission maybe in the summer months.

Paul: Must have been very difficult for him then, too, kind of not being able to support--did he work for WPA or anything, was there any WPA up here?

Mrs.: Yes, he worked for them too

Paul: What did he do? They built that

Mrs.: Keweenaw Park and Brockway Mountain Drive

Paul: Did he work up there with them? Don't remember?

Mrs.: No, I don't remember. He worked on the roads; I imagine he worked

(end of tape)

Paul:----well, I don't know, you might be 'cause I think everyone has, you know, mining companies have been critized heavily. Well, to a degree they've been critized but they've done good things, too; they sold a lot of homes in the '30's for very nominal prices.

We bought this home that we're living in here for $5.50

Is that right? Well, I know that there are people in Calumet who bought their homes for $5 a room, or something like that.

Mrs.: These were a dollar-a-room. And the mining company added 50¢ for a garage.

A pretty good buy.

That's not bad.

Mrs.: Its' too bad a person didn't know--well, of course, you could only buy the house you were living in, you could probably buy others but you paid more for those.

Paul: You might pay $50 or something.
$50 or $100 but even at that, if you could have picked up property and kept it, of course, you'd have a lot invested in time and taxes and insurance but still could have made money.

That's right. You could sell now for at least a couple thousand dollars, if not more.

Oh, sure

Oh, your dad bought this house then, hey?

Mrs.: That's right. He was working for the company at the time.

Mohawk Mining Company never opened up again. After 1932

No. I don't know, did they go up to Atlantic. Didn't they own that company, too? I think so. Probably worked there.

Paul: He worked at the machine shop for them, fixing machines, I suppose, underground

Mrs.: Machines underground, that needed repair

Paul: And worked for them since '21 or '22? Since '22 I suppose.

Mrs.: '22 or something like that.

Paul: For 10 years. Was religious life pretty important to your parents and that?

Mrs.: Yes.

Paul: Going to the Catholic Church here? In town?

Mrs.: Yes. My dad's folks, they had the priest at their home; I don't think they came to Central every week for services, I think it was every other week. And when they came, they would bring them back and stay there overnight at the Schuler home and in later years we went to Phoenix to church; I suppose when we lived at Central but I don't remember too much about that either but I think my dad and them, they were confirmed at the Eagle Harbor Church.

Ya, I think religious life was one of the main parts, it didn't matter what religion you were.

Mrs.: Oh, sure.

Paul: But it was always, even if it was the Lutheran Church, the Finnish Lutheran Church or whatever branch it was, Catholics, or whatever, it made no difference really at all but it was a Sunday, and other days sometimes were spent in church or you would go there for other events sometimes, depended on how far you were or what was going on

Mrs.: I think in those days people were more, spent more time, Sunday was really a time of going to church and a day of rest but the younger generation don't figure it that way today, not so much, I don't think.

Paul: They keep the stores open 24 hours a day now, in Hancock.

Mrs.: That's right.

Paul: It doesn't matter if it's Sunday; I guess from my speaking to other people, Sunday afternoon was a time to stay home with the family and to, I suppose not meditate or anything, but kind of to have a family closeness I suppose because the men worked 6 days a week and Sunday was a day off.
Mrs.: That's right. You came home from church, had Sunday dinner, and probably after
that you spent the day in and maybe company came in, friends came in; that's how
the day was spent.

And a lot of children weren't supposed to go out sledding or anything on Sunday.

Mrs.: I believe that!

Stay home basically. But now you just go, it doesn't make any difference.
They have church at all times now; you can go anytime, Saturday night, Sunday
morning, Sunday night, anytime!

Mrs.: You know often think (we go to church an awful lot on Saturday night) and I
think you get used to it after a while but if my dad were living, I don't think
he'd ever, ever, he'd never believe that was right. As you get older you can't
take change.

That's true

Mrs.: When they figure how hard it was when they were young, how strict their parents
were, and today it's so much different.

Paul: Were your parents pretty strict?

Mrs.: Yes, they were strict.

Paul: Pretty close reign on you, they kept?

Mrs.: Yes, they did.

Paul: When you got married, after the war, you said you got married

Mrs.: Yes. I didn't listen to 'em when I got married.

Paul: Girls weren't really supposed to run around too much, or go out too much, even
in Calumet or Houghton and Hancock, they weren't supposed to go out that much, or
walk to town or walk around the streets or anything at night.

Mrs.: Of course in those days, they married friends, in small towns; you didn't get out
and meet many boys from any other town, not like today, you marry strangers from
all over.

Paul: Ya, like you met your husband here in Mohawk and you married here in Mohawk and
basically lived here all your life then.

Mrs.: I've lived in this house since I was 7 years old.

Paul: Quite a long time!

Mrs.: A long time! Of course we've done a lot, too, it used to be only 5 rooms, we've
added a sauna, and did a lot more work.

What did you do, or what did your father recollect of 4th of July and other holidays
when he had time off? Did you have any money to go out and spend?

Mrs.: When I was a kid? Oh, I don't think I ever missed too much like that, being an
only child, I always had pretty much of everything.
Have 50¢ or a dollar. Did you go down to Calumet for 4th of July at all?

Mrs.: We didn't go to Calumet, we always went to Central because there was always folks at Central and it seemed every Sunday, that's where we went, down there. To visit at Central, too.

Paul: while you still had uncles and aunts and your grandfather was still up there, too, until he died

no, I only remember my mother's mother, all of the rest of them, my mother's father and my dad's mother died before I was born; my dad's father died two months after I was born; I only remember one grandmother and I think I was 6 when she died,

so it's just bare recollection,

that's right, not too much.

Paul: Any other particular stories you would like to pull out of the files to talk about, or the history of any specific area?

Mrs.: Well, what would you like or what town, or what would you like the history of?

Paul: Well, is there any special ones that you think are really kind of, not the usual type of story, are there any stories that stand out that are different than some of the others? Were some of the towns founded in a different way than regular, I suppose there must be a kind of a regular way of founding a town with the mines up here, starting towns, were there any of them that were different

Mrs.: Most of the towns are based around the mining company, when the mining company opened, well, of course they--they built the hospitals and everything around it

Built the stores and everything

No, I don't think they built the stores; Petermann built the stores, they had several stores throughout the area

So you weren't buying in the company store always

Mrs.: No, no; at Central we did, they had a company store but here in Mohawk we didn't.

Maybe we should stop and see if there are any stories that we should get out of the files that may be good. That might be a good way to go again. There might be some interesting ones.

Mrs.: Well, I think most of what I have is historical, about the towns and you're asking for more of my opinion than the thing which would be later years, to me that's not interesting, I like to go back clearly into the early days and the beginning of the places around here; that's more or less what I'm interested in.

(pause)

Mrs.: ------so many children, they wouldn't all fit in school but had to use one of the church buildings.

All these towns must have been like that, Allouez, everyone of them must have been booming at one time.

Sure. They all had their schools, Allouez had a school, Ahmeek had one

Paul: And they must all have had high schools
Mrs.: There were no high schools

No high schools in any of these?

Mrs.: No

Paul: Always had to go to Calumet to go to high school

Mrs.: There were lot of schools in Keweenaw, there was even a school at Bete Griès at one time. Copper Harbor is still going.

Paul: Bete Griès? There's nothing in Bete Griès any longer, is there really?

Mrs.: No

Paul: What's going on there before, there must have been. Just farming?

Mrs.: There were quite a few families lived there. Course there was a Lac La Belle Mining Company.

Paul: That's right. Everyone of those towns had a mining company, they're all named after the mining company.

Mrs.: That's right. Delaware had a school.

Paul: And there was a Delaware Mining Company

Mrs.: Of course that went through a lot of stages, there were a lot of different mines there, different mines

Eagle River had a mining company up there, too

But you know, it's strange when you think of it, Eagle River, the county seat there never was a church there.

Paul: Is that right?

Mrs.: Never. Most all the other towns at some time or another had some sort of a church but never Eagle River. But you think the county seat

Paul: But Eagle Harbor

Oh, ya

That's where you went then, when your father was younger, you used to go there.

Mrs.: Well, today there are 2 churches at Eagle Harbor, there's a catholic church and a community church.

Do you remember what it was like going to school here? And how school was in the '20's? '30's? Do you remember some of the teachers?

Mrs.: Sure, I remember some of the teachers; I think we had a more thorough education than some of the kids have today. I find in the kids today they don't know how to spell. That's one thing that they stressed when I went to school, spelling, but today, the simplest words they can't spell. I know it's the same with Joey,

Paul: He has a hard time spelling?

Mrs.: That's right. I don't know why, but they've gotten away from that.
Mrs.: I always liked school.

Teachers were tougher, I suppose, or stricter, discipline was greater.

I think they were more strict; oh, I think we respected teachers more, too.

To me it seemed that the teacher was always older, I don't know if it was because of the way they dressed in those days, but to me they seemed older; today a lot of the teachers—you can't hardly tell them from the students.

Paul: That's true.

Mrs.: In those days you could pick out a teacher, as a teacher. Kiddy

Paul: That's an interesting comment. /Teachers probably were different at that time.

Mrs.: I don't know how to explain it other than maybe it was the dress, or probably wore their hair; they dressed older, looked older than they were.

Paul: Was there lot of social life in school, did you go back down to Calumet during your high school days to go to games and that? In the early '30's, '32-'33?

Mrs.: Oh, sure, I think we went to basketball games.

So your parents weren't that strict that you couldn't go down there?

No, no, not to that.

Paul: There was some leeway there so you could go an attend the events at the school and that.

Mrs.: Then of course, I always liked skating and one time they had an enclosed skating rink here, the Glacier Dome.

Paul: Up in Mohawk here?

Mrs.: Yes, they had some hockey teams here; hockey games here.

Paul: Really booming then.

Mrs.: Yes, it's a shame that they took the building down; it's much like the coliseum was; we could still use that building today.

Paul: For skating and that, anyway.

Mrs.: Oh, sure; that's what we need in Keweenaw now, I think, an enclosed ice rink that's a good sport for young people.

Yes, it is. And girls enjoy playing it too. They have girls hockey and that, sometime.

Mrs.: I didn't ever play hockey, we played baseball a lot. I like to skate but didn't play hockey.

Paul: When you went to high school and there's a lot of Finnish people, Italians, and different nationalities who lived in Calumet, how did they get along?

Mrs.: Fine, as far as I know.

Paul: No trouble at all between kids? When you went to grammar school in Mohawk, do you remember at all if there were children that came in and spoke different languages.
and didn't no English?

No.

Paul: Most of 'em must have known English when they first came. I thought, a lot of times, or even high school students would make fun of someone who came in a spoke German or Italian or whatever it might be and they would make fun of them because they were speaking a different language.

I don't remember that at all. I don't think there was any problem there. But you know, it must have been an adjustment though, kids were brought up to speak their native tongue at home and then go to school and if they didn't speak too much English before they went to school—I don't remember, they must have picked it up earlier or something or maybe playing with other kids they did. I don't think there was any language barrier in school as far as I can remember.

Paul: Did your dad ever talk about politics? Elections? Did he vote?

Mrs.: Oh, "dyed-in-the-wood" Republican. All his life

Paul: He must have got out and voted all the time then too? He must have voted already in the early 1900's then, McKinley and

I heard him say already how many presidents he had voted for but I can't remember. But I don't think he would have voted Democrat no matter who it was, best friend, he was that

Wouldn't change at all; he probably voted until he was in his 80's then

Oh, he voted until he died. And he didn't want absent ballot either, he wanted to go to the polls. Course, he was active up until he died, just a month or two.

Paul: He must have been pretty sharp then all the way through, too, if he was reminiscing with you every once in a while

He'd like to talk about that, and then he had friends that would come--Tony Easter—he lived to be a hundred and he would come down and spend a day with him and then they would really go back, course every time he came, he told the same story, but I still enjoyed listening to them.

Paul: Oh, sure; but it's always true that the same reminisces come back again because they stick in your mind

Mrs.: And you could tell, when they would sit down, even when my aunt and uncle were here, when they'd sit down, they'd get into those olden days, they must have been good days because they loved to tell it and the way they told it then, it must have been good.

Paul: That was really the best part of their lives. After 65, or after 70 for them was kind of retirement and not great things going on, and great changes, maybe things they could not understand and so when they go back 40 or 50 years, maybe it was the greatest of lives if you compare it to how we live today, but it was great for them.

Mrs.: To them it was. And then too like my dad living until almost 92, he didn't have too many that he could talk about, he had nothing in common with the younger generation.

Paul: There was that one man that was a hundred, that he could talk to

Mrs.: They loved to go back and talk about those days
Did they talk about those things that you mentioned already?

Mrs.: Yea, but I know when Tony_______would talk, I tried to get some more stories to talk them about it, but they'd start to tell you something, they'd get off on another tangent and they'd go over to Eagle Harbor, maybe you were talking about something that happened at Gratiot Lake, pretty soon they were over in Eagle Harbor and it—you always got a related story in there somehow.

Do you remember any of those other stories that they brought up? Or stories that went through? Did you keep tract of some more of those?

Mrs.: No, I don't think I wrote too much of that down; I know when my dad went to school, they didn't have paper and pencil, they had a slate that they had to use and slate pencil; You know what a slate is and a slate pencil, real hard, I remember as a kid having him use, when you write it squeeks; that must have been awful to listen to when everybody was writing on one of 'em in school.

Paul: Must have been awfully noisy. Did he go all the way through high school? No?

Mrs.: He went through 8 grades and then he went down to Big Rapids to Ferris Institute, I don't know why he went there but he did.

Paul: Is that why he left here and went all the way down to school down there

Mrs.: I don't think he was there too long; I don't even know why he went there.

Paul: They were teaching mechanical kind of things and probably machining

Mrs.: Could have been. I know when he was down there he bought himself a violin. And he could even play by ear; I still have the violin, I want to keep it.

Did you used to go for Sunday drives when he learned how to drive?

Oh, ya

You said he got a car just after World War I?

I don't remember what year model-T it was,

Did your dad fight in the war? Did he go out to war at all?

Mrs.: He was a little bit too old for that

Paul: Do you remember your mother talking about any, or even using on you, home remedies? Like I suppose, castor oil and things like that?

Oh, I dreaded that.

They did use that, for everything?

That's about the worst tasting thing I ever had.

Did they have doctors up there and that?

Mrs.: At Central? No, I don't think they had doctors staying there; they had to come in.
Paul: From outside. So all the children were born

There may have been at Phoenix. I think there was a doctor at Phoenix.

I suppose children were born with midwives or with mothers there or something like that.

Yes, I heard them speak of midwives at Central. I think when I was born there was a Dr. Perkins, now, I don't know where he came from, if he came from Phoenix or if they got him, maybe he would have been at Mohawk. I don't know where he came from.

Paul: But he came in then when you were born. Most of the time they had midwives up there

Mrs.: That's true

Paul: Did they ever talk, your dad or mother ever talk about medicine or family doctors or doctors that would come in and what they were like?

Mrs.: No, not medical doctors, I heard them tell about going to a dentist--having teeth pulled without any medication.

Paul: Where did they go, down to Calumet maybe?

There used to be a dentist up here in the old streetcar station, upstairs. I heard him name but I can't think of it now. I heard them telling about going to him, having a toothache and going there and having it pulled without any medication. (cuckoo clock strikes) that clock was bought before 1900.

Paul: Is that your dad's clock?

Mrs.: He bought it for his mother

Paul: German made, I suppose, or Swiss?

Mrs.: Around 1900, I think

Paul: Did your father belong to any welfare plan, did they have any welfare plan at Mohawk mining company? when he retired?

No, no he didn't pay any social security either.

So he got nothing. That's one of the major criticisms of lot of people I've talked to, criticized, because if they retired or people got injured they might give them a job above ground maybe for a short time or something.

I think they had compensation, though, didn't they?

Well, they got compensation later, more and more of it or they'd give a little bit more; well, they had some earlier but as the years went on, the late '30's and '40's they got more and more compensation, workmen's compensation, for injuries.

I think that when my dad worked for the mining company, now I don't know if that was just for doctor that he paid, doctor and the hospital maybe was free couple dollars or something

Mrs.: I don't know if there was compensation or not, I don't remember; well, like people, men killed in the mine, I don't suppose the families got anything then
Paul: Probably got maybe some—maybe some of the miners contributed or something and they had a little fund for that.

Mrs.: Could be.

Paul: might be I'm all wrong.

Mrs.: I mean what would the family get then.

Paul: wouldn't be much for them to live on afterwards then. Do you remember some of the priest who used to come over to the house at all, and what they were like.

Mrs.: The only priest I can remember, Father Alden baptized me, he married my folks, he was the first Franciscan that came to Keweenaw, that's Franciscan Order; I think he was here just about as long as any Franciscan was, I don't remember him, but even my aunt and uncle at Central, the priest came down to Phoenix for mass, they always had him over for breakfast afterwards or dinner or whatever it was, so that the families always kept in touch with most of them, and I was organist over here at the church for 12 years.

So you learned to play the piano when you were young.

Mrs.: Oh, yes, when I went to school.

Paul: Did you have a piano at home?

Mrs.: Oh, yes.

Paul: Had to keep practicing?

Mrs.: Oh, yes.

Paul: That was one of the major things you had to do.

Mrs.: Sometimes you wanted to go other places.

Paul: Most of the mining companies gave land to the churches, didn't they, for to put up churches and that, I think, in the communities.

Oh I think so.

Paul: Because most of the community land was owned by the mining company, and still is today.

Mrs.: Well, this is all Mohawk Mining Company land here.

Paul: I think there a lot of towns, even like all the Jackets—in Calumet, Red and Yellow, and all the other ones, there's 4 of them, I think.

Mrs.: Well, C&H still owns that land, though, don't they?

Paul: Ya, well, Universal Oil.

Mrs.: but here, the people own the land now.

Paul: that's right, they bought, well, since Mohawk closed up and that. Any other specific recollections of your own that you'd like to include?
Mrs.: Well, you talked about doctors and nurses, I can remember when I was a kid going to grade school, when they had an attack of diphtheria in here, when we all had to march up to the hospital and get these—I think we had to go once a week for 3 weeks or something, this anti-toxin, and a little card saying that we had

Paul: you had all gotten a shot; couldn't have been very enjoyable when you were young

Mrs.: no, I remember that quite well;

Paul: that one sticks in your mind

Mrs.: that's right, no one liked that too much

Paul: Can you tell us so more about your own kind of avocation here—collecting materials and that, and how it got started and what it was like. And why did you start it?

Mrs.: Well, how I got started was my uncle had this home in Central and after my aunt died in '46, '45 or '46, he had a brother and sister come up and stay with him for a while until about '52 and then one of them died, and then he came to live with us and of course he still maintained the home down there—oh, we'd go down there periodically, and one day while I was down there I found a box of these old clippings.

Paul: That he had started?

Mrs.: Well, his wife had saved them. And old newspapers; they went back quite a way, old pictures, that's how I got started, and I started off with a small box maybe, gradually the box got bigger and bigger and until they wouldn't fit in a box any more and then I got a file and pretty soon another file. Keeps on.

Paul: Then you once in a while write articles, you said, for the papers that are helpful.

Mrs.: and contribute things to it

Paul: and they call once in a while if they want to know something to check if I have any information on something; but as time goes on, it's a little harder to pick up anything anymore. People today are collecting more than they ever did, and they don't want to part with anything. It's hard to add to.

Paul: You must still know some of the people up at Central then, too

Mrs.: There's no one living there anymore.

Paul: Isn't there any homes up there anymore?

Mrs.: Summer homes. No one living there year-around. But had I started back earlier I'm sure I could have had a wealth of information

Paul: If you had started when you were in your 'teen years. Or even later.

Mrs.: That's right. Started too late. I still think I have quite a bit. I enjoy it. In the wintertime especially, in the summer I don't get too much done, I manage to put out what I want to save from the Gazette and then just put 'em in a box and in the wintertime I put 'em in the file.

Paul: Did the depression change how your father felt about politics at all?
Mrs.: I don't think so.

Paul: Still stayed "dyed-in-the-wool" Republican, didn't make any difference at all?

Mrs.: I don't think so.

Paul: And here it was Democrats that kept winning all the time, must have been an irritation to him when Roosevelt kept winning.

I don't know why he would be that way but

Paul: There have been people who I have talked with that felt they were Republicans until '32 or '36 and in 1936 maybe voted for Roosevelt or 1940 they might have voted for him then because they picked out some of the things were too radical but there was no work and they felt that maybe he would help them get some work, or WPA would continue or something like that and they'd get out of the depression.

Mrs.: I suppose maybe his folks were Republican

Paul: and he stayed on that way

Mrs.: Ya, probably, I don't know

Paul: Was your mother musically inclined then too, since she wanted you to play the piano?

Mrs.: No. Oh, she could maybe pick out a little tune on the piano but she didn't ever take any lessens; she could sing; my dad probably more so, play the violin

Paul: Must have gotten to know your dad very well then in those years after he retired and lived with you.

Mrs.: I think more so than earlier; after I was married and I was home all the time; probably we talked about the old days more then than we ever did; of course, when his brother was here, they talked about it a lot.

Paul: He worked in a lumber camp for a while, you said?

Mrs.: Well, he worked at Bammert's farm, they had a--they were in the lumbering business, logging

Paul: well, he did farm work instead of lumbering work then, or was it partly both?

Mrs.: well, I 'spose maybe partly both, I 'spose they planted fields out there too, maybe, cut hay and anything that was connected with keeping the horses and cattle and whatever there was.

Paul: Any other recollections of the '30's, I'm sure you don't recall the '20's very well because you were young then; any other stories father or mother told you? Uncles?

Mrs. None that I can think of. I haven't been too much help to you as far as I'm concerned. The later years, I realize that

Paul: Those are harder years, because you were home, you went to school and church

It was a routine life

Paul: It was pretty well understood that the depression was going on, even youngsters knew that
knew that

Pretty strong feeling already
Suomi salutes the people who make this area great

Mother: Katerina (Kocher)
Father: John Schuler

Mother: Ethel (Grathoff)
Father: Joseph Rozich (Schuler)

Mother: Patsy, 55 yrs. old
Father: Joseph, 60 yrs. old

Child: Leo
Child: Frank
Child: Betty

Child: Mother
Child: Father
Child: Child