FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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SUBJECT: Life in Marquette

SOURCE: Fanny Salminen of Marquette, Michigan

COMMENTS:

Interviewer: Elma Ranta

I: Your name?

R: My name is Fanny Beck Salminen. My mother's name was Hilma Siividiina Rengol. My father's name was John Beck and I was born in Marquette.

I: Now, where did your parent's come from?

R: My mother was born in Kuova, Finland, and my father at (?), Finland; and my father came to Marquette in 1905 and my mother in the later part of 1907, and they didn't know each other...they were strangers to each other until they became acquainted and they were married in 1910.

I: Do you know who married them here in Marquette?

R: Ah...they were married in Ishpeming by Pastor Saarinen...I think it was Saarinen, yes, because I was baptised by him when I was three days old.

I: Have you heard any stories about their coming here? Why they came?

R: My father came more or less as a trip and an adventure because he did leave a pretty well-to-do home. My mother left Kuova, she had worked as a telephone operator in Kuova; but she had a sister living in Marquette so when her aunt and uncle went to Finland on a visit, why she came back to Canada with them. They were from Copper Cliff and then after she had been in Canada for a month and a half, she decided she wanted to come and see her sister and she came to Marquette and lived with her sister for two weeks and then she went to work. And first she worked at a boarding house down in north Marquette and then she got a job with Mrs. Lindberg. She was a young lady then, had come from Finland. At the old folks home in south Marquette my mother was a cook, Mrs. Lindberg was the second girl. Neither one knew English to read it or to speak it, but by reading labels on cans and on packages and following a cookbook and the landlady was a very very patient lovable person, they did very very well. They made bread for them and they enjoyed their work very very much. And my mother worked there until she was married and Mrs. Lindberg was married very shortly afterward and she lived in Carl's End on a farm. My mother and dad lived in Marquette.

Stop in tape
I: Your mother and dad were married.

R: Yeah, well then let's see... there were four children. I had a brother John and he lives in Oak Park, and I had a sister that died just before she was eighteen years old, and I have a brother Ernest that lives in Marquette. And my father died when I was eight years old from pneumonia and the flu mixed, and my mother raised the four of us alone, worked hard, had boarders, had cows, had chickens; but we had a very very good home and lived down north of the university in an area where there were Italian families, French families, only one Swedish family and predominantly Finnish. And the children all played together. No one knew any other language but their own Mother tongue or what their Mother had taught them, but we never quarreled. We just had just barrels of fun playing around the street light.

I: Now then, did you learn your English at school?

R: At school... well, when I went to school I spoke no English at all. First day I came home from school and I knew "good morning"; and from then on every day I learned a little bit more. But all the children were that way. Some spoke nothing but Italian, some only French; and then we Finnish children knew our Finnish. But we never quarreled, never played mean tricks on each other or anything; we were just one great big happy family. We'd bring children home and our mothers would accept them as our playmates.

I: What street did you live on?

R: On Fitch Avenue

I: On Fitch Avenue

R: Un huh... and so many of us are still neighbors. We don't live exactly in the same neighborhood anymore, we might be three blocks away; but we still are very very good friends. It's just home to us, you know, and some of us... well, quite a few of us went to John B. Pierce or it used to be the Normal School then, it was a laboratory school. Some went down to North Marquette School because they only took a limited amount of children into John B. Pierce.

I: Did you always go to John B. Pierce?

R: John B. Pierce, un huh.

I: Right from kindergarten on.

R: Right from kindergarten right through high school. And we thought it was a good school because of the fact that we had very well trained teachers and they trained student teachers. So we really had a double-decker of teachers, you know, we had to learn. We learned! And it was a cross-section of children. There were professors' children there, there were storekeepers' children and there was just a good cross-section of children which was a good system for training teachers. There's several of us that are still... we graduated in the same class as what we started in kindergarten with and there are several that still live in Marquette.
I: Now, how many were in your class when you graduated?
R: Twenty-four
I: And what year was that?
R: 1929
I: '29...and that's John B. Pierce.
R: John B. Pierce...and when we meet each other, we're just like brothers and sisters. We just have so much to talk about because the class was small.
I: Instead of having four hundred and five hundred graduating.
R: Yes, you don't know the kids. No, you really don't know them, you know. Like I felt sorry for our kids, you know, because they had gone to John B. Pierce and then like John, he was in the first graduating class of Graviolette. Well, he went two years to Graviolette, well it was so different from John B. Pierce. You just went into a big crowd it seemed, it was too much. And then Jackie being quiet, why he was even more downhearted about changing schools; but that's the way the times went, you know.
I: Now, you graduated in '29. Are there any special things you'd like to say about your times at John B. Pierce or about the school, any special programs that you had?
R: Well, every Christmas we had a Christmas play and it was mostly always Scrooge...you know, The Christmas Carol; and then we had parts in...well, the classes being so small several children had...and I was in most of them because I'm a blond hair, you know. That old fairy story, you know. And then we had our athletic demonstrations always towards spring, and oh they were a lot of fun just to practice for them and to have them. And most all the parents attended everything because the parents got to know one another. So many of our parents wouldn't speak English with us around; but when they were alone with other people, they could speak.
I: And they understood it all.
R: They understood everything.
I: So they were glad to go to the programs.
R: Yes, they enjoyed them.
I: And then as a student at John B. Pierce, did you have a chance to go to programs that Northern had?
R: Yes, yes we could go; and then later on when they charged that tuition, it was three dollars a year for everybody from seventh grade up; why we went to all the basketball games on that ticket, all the lyceum course tickets, you know, were given to us, and we had very very good programs Detroit's Symphony Orchestra and oh, that Klosack Chorus and oh just
some marvelous programs that many of us wouldn't have had a chance to go to that were really cultural. And it built appreciation for the finer things. Then in John B. Pierce too, the teachers stayed with the school that many of them started you in kindergarten and they were still there when you went through high school. And now when I meet any of them that I had for teachers, well like Dr. Bottom now, why he's...he just waits to talk, you know, and we talk about all kinds of things.

I: Was he the principal?

R: He was our high school principal and Harry D. Lee was our superintendent when I graduated and they were well known educators, most of them.

I: Do you remember some of your other high school teachers?

R: Oh, we...oh, I could remember a lot of them, yeah. We had Miss Griswold that was at John B. Pierce for so long, Miss Macchristian was Math teacher, Mr. Bottom taught...or Dr. Bottom taught geography and he was our helping hand if we got stuck in anything...he was a man we went to and he was knowledgeable about everything. And I had Miss Carrie in ninth grade English because they were short of teachers and she was in the front there, you know, and I had Mr. Gant for an algebra teacher in ninth grade and he was the registrar...they had to take other's plates when there was a vacancy. And we had oh, Miss Shockey, she's the one that married Mr. Lee, H. D. Lee, and she was the English teacher and Mr. Lee was the superintendent and they were married when I went to school there. Neither one too young, but they made a real real nice couple. And oh, I can remember all their names just about, you know, in just thinking back. And each one kind of stands out in their own little realm, you know. Miss Malench had been there for years and years. I had her for two years of French and one year of modern history and one year of European history. And there were four of us in the class for European history, so we had to know what we knew.

I: You couldn't fool yourself a lot.

R: No, and then some of our student teachers, they were just grand, just grand. I'll never forget them, you know, they stand out. And so then after I got through high school, I didn't go to college because of the times, they were bad and then my mother never remarried. She raised us alone and so I went to work and my brother John went through and then...

I: Now, what type of work did you do when you graduated?

R: I did mostly housework...baby sitting. But at that time you did everything in the house. You cooked, you cleaned, you washed, you ironed, you prepared took care of the children, you did everything, you know. Now they specialize in this thing and that thing, but you were part of a family practically. And then, well, the year before I became a senior in high school, I started working up at Huron Mountain Club during the summers and I worked there for nine years every summer. And then after that I was married and that's the extent.

I: And how many children do you have?
R: Three, un hum. The daughter is the oldest and she has eight children, she's married, and the next one is a boy and he is single yet...he was thirty years old just recently and he's living at home and the youngest one is working and he's living at home. And so I have a family of three men.

I: And then all your grandchildren.

R: Yes, eight grandchildren from this one daughter...four girls and four boys.

I: Now, what about life in Marquette at that time when you were growing up in north Marquette? How easy was it to get around in the wintertime for instance?

R: In the wintertime, I don't know...we never missed school, never missed school; and they had the streetcar going, so if we had to go downtown, the streetcar went every fifteen minutes all the way from the island all the way down to Baraga Avenue. And then on paydays, the streetcar went every seven minutes after dinner, yeah. And they used to have a loop car...you remember that loop car that used to go around Spruce and up Hewett and you know, down Art and then up Hewett and then it used to meet a car down there at the old Palestra or, you know, what was, and then it met another one down there by the Dow and there were streetcars coming and going. And in the summertime, why we used to have this double length car that used to take the people out to Presque Isle and that's where we had picnics. And our Sunday School picnics were always near the picnic rocks on the beach.

I: Now, tell about your confirmation.

R: My confirmation...we had...there were twenty-four of us, I think, in that class and oh there was about half took confirmation in Finnish and the other half...about half of them...took it in English and we were confirmed on July 5th which was a very very hot day.

I: This was at the Sian Lutheran Church.

R: At the Sian Lutheran Church on Bluff Street and we had Rev. Delinders as our pastor and we had our pictures taken at...what was that studio up on Front Street?

I: Sterral's?

R: Sterral's Studio...oh and it was so warm that day; but it was memorable day, I remember every bit of it. One day at confirmation...we had just the girls in the church for one lesson...and the boys threw fire crackers through one of the windows and Pastor was so angry. So they had two hours longer class than the girls did just as punishment. You can't help but laugh about it when you think those boys, oh they were so perturbed about being kept two hours later.

I: But they stayed

R: They stayed and it was good for them; and several of us...well, he asked Finnish questions, you know, they used to question you around the altar
at that time... and kind of a long session and one... I don't remember which girl it was, it was one of the girls... I think it was Eppie Johnson from Trinary... she almost passed out it was so warm. It was kind of exciting too, you know. It was all learning. Yeah, we used to go to Sunday School, I and Juliana Fellman used to go to Sunday School every Sunday. We had many perfect attendance pins and Ann Lake was our first teacher and then Jennie Miekal was our next teacher and we learned from the (?) right through, you know, it was fun.

I: Did you have Mr. (?)?

R: We had him one winter

I: He was the superintendent

R: Yeah, we had him one winter. And then he would sub when the others couldn't come; but he was very patient. The boys would get kind of fiddly, but he was very patient with them; but that was a lovely church. We had so much fun there and good training and beautiful memories.

I: Do you remember any of the other ministers before (?) then? Do you remember Pastor Lehmanen?

R: Oh, Pastor Lehmanen, he was an angel. Oh, he was so good to everybody. He was the one that buried my father and at that time when a person died from the flu or from pneumonia, they had a private funeral and you could only have six there. And so there was Pastor Lehmanen and my brother John and I, my mother and Mr. Bathara. And I can't remember who the sixth one was, but there were six of us and that's all there was allowed.

I: Was this during World War I?

R: Yeah, and it was on the third floor of what is now Lord's Store, Genella's. The chapel was up there; and he died on December 17th and he was buried on the 15th and there was no snow on the ground and we went in this horse-drawn carriage out to the cemetery.

I: But they buried during.

R: They buried because there was no snow; and the carriages were the wheel carriages, it wasn't a sleigh; and Mr. Bathara helped out in different things... he was very very kind and it wasn't too long afterward when then he passed away.

I: From the flu?

R: Un huh, and my mother and Mrs. Bathara were always very close friends Mrs. Poulinen was my Godmother... her sister was my Godmother.

I: Mrs. Poulinen from Chatham.

R: From Chatham, yes. She was a lovely person, so it's been worthwhile. Life has been kind. There's been some sorrows, but everybody's life has sour notes, but I've had a very very... just a lot of fun, you know, too.
I: And now, would you tell me about your job at Northern Michigan University

R: Well, I began there in June...on June 18th of '62, and I've been a housekeeper all the while. I was eight and a half years in West Hall, the girl's dormitory, and I enjoyed that a lot; and then one summer when they had a layoff of over a hundred people, well I was transferred over to the University Center and I was there all that one summer and then in the fall they said that I could go back to the dorm and nothing came of it, so the girls went...they took up a petition and they saw the President and I was sent back to the dorm for that year. And then they asked me to come back to the Center and I've been there ever since. I've been very happy there. I have nice hours and everybody has been nice and I enjoy my work.

I: What is your work? What are you responsible for?

R: Well, it's for the cleaning and for, well helping anybody out that needs it, you know. I go for five o'clock in the morning...I'm usually there a little early...and I'm through at one-thirty which is very very nice for me because I like to go early and get, you know. And it's cleaning offices and pitching here or there where they need it, you know.

I: And you have to clean offices like the Presidents

R: Yeah, and the News Bureau's and the Deans' and Vice President's...the Administrative offices, yeah.

I: So then you know all those people.

R: Yes, I know them very well and I have had lots of fun with them. There's several Finnish-speaking people there and we greet each other in Finnish and pass the time of day, and sometimes get into a little discussion even in Finnish which is very very enjoyable with Dr. Niemi and Dr. Don Heikkinen and Otto Hurskain the Purchasing Agent and there's several of us and we have...I've been trying to teach Jim Carter a few Finnish words and it's cute the way he says them, you know.

I: And he tries

R: Yeah, he's a nice fellow though, very very nice. They're all very very pleasant people and...well, kind.

I: Now, just before Christmas over at Northern Michigan University, they had Finnish Culture Week.

R: Yes, and that was interesting. It was really thrilling to see all this taking place and Mrs. Osterberg had a beautiful display of beautiful Finnish articles that she has collected and dearly loves. And I met her daughter, Korina...oh I hadn't seen her since she was a young lady and we had a very very nice time and so many people came in - senior citizens came in from Chatham and Forest Lake and all through the county to see her things. They had coffee and (?) during the afternoon and they just enjoyed it immensely and Mrs. Osterberg, I'm sure, enjoyed it too because she just loves to be with people.
I: And then they had a book exhibit of Finnish books from the library.

R: Yes, just beautiful, yes beautiful exhibit. And then it was surprising to see that people made such an effort...well it wasn't an effort, but it could have been an effort...because the weather wasn't the best; but they all came anyway and they enjoyed all of it. Some had lunch...well, the senior citizens had lunch in the Center there, at the Center there and then they went through the exhibit. They were very pleased with everything.

I: And it was great to have Ambassador Leo Twamminin come from Washington D.C.

R: Yes, charming man and charming wife. Beautiful, just a beautiful reception and everything was so well planned.

I: And a good turnout.

R: Yeah, very very good turnout. Very very nice and Dr. Niemi had worked toward it so hard too, I mean he was so...

I: Yes, and John Wattinen's committee had worked so hard.

R: Yes, they had put in long hours.

I: I know we had Saturday morning, eight o'clock breakfast meetings many times; and to be out there at eight o'clock. But everybody came Saturday after Saturday to those meetings to plan for it.

R: Well, so many of the Finnish people, Finnish help even, bought these pins that..."I'm proud to be an American-Finn", you know. And I bought one and then I went and got pins for others too and so many of the Finnish employees were wearing them along with much of the faculty too, you know, the ones that were faculty. And then the second week, we wore our "Finnish Culture Week" pins so we were very very well decked out with pins. I wore them one on one side and the other one over my name pin. But it was all fun, you know, and you meet so many people. So many people came through the Center and they'd see you and they'd wave at you. It seemed just like old homecoming week.

I: And President Jamerich was very pleased with the turnout

R: Oh, he was. Yes, he was very pleased. I think he has quite an admiration for Finnish people because even the students, the Finnish students, that have done so well there he admires them and he gives them recognition; and so many have been made honorary alumni through the Alumni Associations. And when he receives letters from former students, why he always acknowledges them and he's very happy to hear from them. He shows quite a lot of respect.

I: Yes, I think so often that since he comes from a minority group himself, he feels it.

R: Yes, I think it's kind of inborn in him. He's quite a shy man, but it seems to me that he enjoys meeting others and giving them their worth,
you know, and he recognizes their good points because most of the Finnish employees there are quite conscientious about doing things there. I think they do their share of work. I'm not sorry that I started to work there.

You've enjoyed it

R: Yeah, I've enjoyed it

you meet so many people

R: Yeah, I've always been that way though that I've liked to be with people and that's why I enjoyed Huron Mountain Club too.

I: Could you tell what Huron Mountain Club was like or what is it like when you worked there.

R: When I worked there?

I: It's a private club...

R: It is a private club and it has a...

I: It's ownership is mostly millionaires or well-to-do-people.

R: Yes, very very wealthy. I think when I worked up there they were considered very very wealthy people, but wonderful people. For the first year I was there, I did all kinds of different jobs...I was just a Junior in high school then...the next three years I was waitress in the nurses and children's dining room and then I was three years head waitress in the big dining room, the main dining room. And then the last two years I was head pantry girl in the kitchen. Each job was just a little bit more money.

I: And that was important to you.

R: That was very important when you were young.

I: Now, when you were a Junior in high school and you went there, what were the wages at that time?

R: They were twenty-four dollars a month and room and board

I: That would have been about 1928.

R: Yeah, um hum. Yeah, they were twenty-four dollars a month and room and board; but it was pleasant, very very pleasant. Mrs. Hodges had a large recreation hall built for the girls, for the working girls, and the hall was open to them all the time. And then the hall was open to the men on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; but the girls could have what they wanted. We had a Pine Tree Club up there that was for the girl employees and they had a president and vice president and secretary. We had no dues because all our parties were given to us by the members. There was some member always gave us a party and we either had a beach party or we had a ball party.
I: You said you went through Pierce Laboratory School at Northern Michigan University and it was the Northern Normal School...was it at that time?

R: Yes

I: Northern State Teachers' College.

R: ...College then later and then.

I: But it was Northern State Teachers' College when you graduated from high school.

R: Un hum, yes

I: Now, most of these students stayed on then.

R: Yes, un hum. So many of us started in the kindergarten and we went right through like Dorothy Williams and Beth Erickson and Davey McLintoch and Toivo Kiltinen, Evert Looma...let's see now...Wilma Hill, that's Gus' oldest daughter, and Jean Schook or Jean Ojala she was, and Mearl Ten. Those are all I can think of...and Abbie Swenton, but then he was drowned, you know, when he was in early high school.

I: Now some of them changed...a few of them changed.

R: Yeah, un hun...then some of them changed when they were in the later years of high school, why they went over to the Marquette High at that time and they graduated from Marquette High and that was John Laughtner and Ed Pierce and Matthew Bennett. See, so many of them came into high school but they had moved into Marquette, see, like the Alkinen's had moved into Marquette and Gertrude went, but that was...and then Ruth Muttila do you remember, they used to belong to the Zion Church...John Lakes. Yeah, she started in kindergarten a year before I did, but then she was sick one year so she graduated when I did...and Edna Koskilla. You know...she was same year, you know, she started a year ahead of me but then due to being sick, why she graduated the year I did. But they stayed right on at Pierce all the way through. So it was a cross section of children and they were from all parts of town and Ted Reynolds graduated...or went to school, but he went to a private school then in his last two years...a private school; so it was just...it was a mixture of children. There were some of us who lived down north and our fathers had worked at the Dow or what was called the Furnace then when it was smelting iron and that. And then some's father were in the sawmills and then some were like Mr. Kiltinen was a store manager and it was just a happy mixture of children, but the children never looked down upon one another.

I: Now in north Marquette then, how did people get along with the Finnish people? Did they look down on them?

R: No

I: Did the Finnish people get along with the Italians?
R: Oh they always got along. I think the Italians and the Finnish got along better than maybe the Finnish with the French; but yet so many of the girls from down there, they married into the other nationalities.

I: But they had a lot of Finnish people in that section of town

R: Oh yes

I: Because my mother and dad said that here in the east side you had very few Finnish people.

R: Yeah, we had lots of Finnish people down there... I think more than half the people down there were Finnish families. And then when you went way down north, you know, well there were a lot of Finnish families down there and they could buy this land cheap, you know, and they could put up a house and all of them wanted to own their own homes and the same thing with the Italians. Well, some of the Italians lived in the company houses because the rent was so cheap; but most of the Finnish people, they rented just so long and then they... like my dad and mother, they bought their house when I was less than two years old. They rented until then and then they bought their house on Pitch Avenue. And they all wanted to own a house.

I: And some how they were able to even though wages were so low, they were able to.

R: They made it and sometimes the men went out in the woods to work...went to a lumber camp and then come home and they'd work all winter. And they'd come home with thirty dollars because that's all they had left because they had to buy their clothes and they'd pay for their board and there were lots of days when they couldn't go out in the woods at all because of the heavy snow.

I: There was no compensation during wintertime...if you worked at the dock and so on.

R: No, you had to save and the grocery store then used to carry some of the people through the last months of the winters and then they got paid when they went back to work. Yeah, people were pretty honest those days and they didn't skip the country if they owed two or three bills. They just stayed right along there and paid them.

I: And the Finnish people, most of them, were very happy to be U.S. citizens.

R: Oh yes, my dad took his papers out when I was two years old and my mother became a citizen at that time.

I: Through your father... the law was that way.

R: Yes, but she never cared to go back to Finland. She said that after her mother and dad died, she just had become estranged from the rest of the family and she stayed here and took care of her family.

I: And most of their lifetime they had spent here
R: Yes, they were so young when they came. Yes, my mother was born in '88, in 1888, and she came over when she was only about nineteen years old and she came with her aunt and uncle. And then after my aunt, she came here, she lived with my aunt then a short time, well then my aunt took off and went to Astoria so my mother was left without her anyway; but she had made friends here and she was married.

I: Have you ever heard your mother tell about what the wages were when she started?

R: Ten dollars a month when she was cooking and Mrs. Lindberg got eight dollars a month.

I: So you really couldn't splurge very much

R: No, but they saved

I: Many of them had to pay their passage...to someone.

R: Yes, see my mother had her passage because my grandpa had come to Canada three different times and worked in the mines and then my grandma was a seamstress, so she had her passage; and then she had worked in Finland, you know, as a telephone operator so she had some money anyway. But there's many that had to pay their passage.

I: Yes, I know, my mother had to. My father had money to pay for his passage.

R: But they were conscientious about paying it. Oh, they were an honest bunch; but they had fun. They had their own fun.

I: Do you remember anything about Sunday School programs?

R: Oh yes, they were a big event in our life.

I: The Christmas Program?

R: Oh yes, they were always a big event...and then we always waited for the party after the Christmas program and we always got our little bags of candy after our Christmas program. And Easter program was very very nice.

I: And Sunday School picnics at the end.

R: Sunday School picnics, oh at the beach...we had our bottles of pop all the time. What little things it took to make it a day. Each child brought their own little lunch and then our Sunday School teachers usually gave us something too. Yes, I think then children appreciated things so much because we didn't have everything and we couldn't go to store any time we felt like it. There was a candy store up on the corner, but you know you went with a penny or whatever happened to be, you know, and you waited for your dad to come home to see what he left in his dinner pail for you. Did your dad do that?

I: Un hum, sometimes. Most of the time when I was small, my father was on the railroad and he was away from town.

R: We used to go meet my dad because he was at the Dow, we used to go there.
I: But Tiny said that's what she did.

R: Yeah

I: But with Helmie, he was on the railroad.

R: They'd always leave some little bit...

I: But we would wait for the train, you know, to come in because he would come for the weekends. But then we got to travel too.

R: Sure

I: We went by train to St. Ignace and the Sault and the Copper Country and Duluth, you know, because those were areas that my dad went.

R: Well you know, I had never been to Big Bay until I went with Mr. Perkins the first time. I had been as far as Sugar Loaf and as far as Buckrow, but I had never been to Big Bay and here I was a Junior in high school and he came to get me. He came to our house at nine o'clock in the morning and he asked if I would be ready at noontime to go and I was scrubbing the kitchen floor when he came in, and I said, "Yes, I could." And I had never seen him before and he had a Buick touring car and we road to Big Bay and it was just a gravel road and the further we went the bigger the trees got and the deeper it got and we got into Big Bay and then we had to go nine and eight-tenths miles more into Huron Mountain Club and it was tall trees, you know, virgin timber in through there. Beautiful country; and he left me off at the club house and he said, "Well, see Mrs. Perkins" and so he brought me in the kitchen and the chef came up to me and he says, "You gonna be a new girl"...he's an Italian chef, and I said, "Yes", and he said, "Well, the boss lady will be out soon". So she came out and I was standing there and she looked me up and down and she smiled at me.

I: That was...you were okay then.

R: Yeah...she smiled at me and then when she left well she said, "You can put your things away and then you can come for supper because it'll be supper time." And so I went over there and I knew one girl there and then I went for supper and then the chef looked at me and he said, "She likes you blondie". He didn't know my name, so he called me blondie and that was it. Real happy time that I had there then for those nine years.

I: Now, what about Fair time, Marquette County Fair time?

Oh that was...that was a real big event. Sometimes we didn't have money enough to get in the gate, so we'd skip under the fence and we'd get in...isn't that awful.

I: And everyone went at least one day.

R: Oh yes, and sometimes you'd go oftener for the fireworks, that was a big thing and then they had the horse racing, sulkie racing...that was real real interesting, you know, that was fun to watch. And I think their
exhibits were every bit as good as the Escanaba Fair...Upper Peninsula Fair...I think they had beautiful exhibits.

I: Sometimes people won prizes too.

R: Yes, they did. And they had a carnival there just like we did in the later years too and people met all kinds of people they hadn't seen maybe since the last fair they'd seen them and then they saw them again. People didn't do too much traveling around them days. There weren't too many cars; and so many of our city streets were just sand yet, you know, at that time.

I: Yes, because I know my father had bought a car in 1919, and he said the first winters he couldn't use it. For one thing, the streets weren't plowed and for the second thing, the car would not have worked during the winter.

R: No, and they had horses and sleighs. Yeah, and then we'd hitch rides on the backend...on the back runner of the sleigh. Our parents didn't know that because we certainly wouldn't have been allowed to, but kids will be kids and we used to ride the bobsled down Front Street. Start up at the fire hall and go right past Perradin on the bobsled. But was that a chore pulling that up the hill again. We did that. And then we had cardboard slides on the college hill there, you know, and we ski up there where the Eighth Addition is now...not Eighth Addition, but the college sub-division...we used to ski all around there. You don't do that anymore because it's all built up.

I: So that area has changed in around Northern Michigan University.

R: Yes, that used to be our cow pasture all in through there. Used to be all pastures in through there and that has all grown up since then. Oh, so many places. Now, the Trowbridge Park area, there was nothing out there but just a couple little places and now it's all lived in, you know. And where our new church is, that was all just woods. Leppin's was the last house, wasn't it...you know, pretty close to the last house up there when I was a kid, and now it's all grown up into, you know, beautiful locations.

I: So Marquette has changed.

R: Oh, it's changed...I don't know what the population is really, you know, how much it has grown, but it's grown a lot. The only thing is that our transportation is...our public transportation isn't the best.

I: People have cars

R: Yeah, people have cars and the bus, I think, is doing a pretty fair job. It does have a good route; but there aren't too many people riding the bus. It's too bad. But those old streetcars were fun.

I: Now, can you think of anything else? Special about Marquette?

Oh, let's see
I: Oh, you've done so well.

R: Oh, I don't know.

I: This has been Mrs. Emert Salminen... Fanny Beck, and the interviewer has been Elma Ranta and it's February 7th, 1975.