FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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**COMMENT**

- Cut Houses
- Payed by Fees per case
- Old Dockets are still in Calumet Town Hall
- Curley Erkola and Sally Kikkonen
- "Strike-breakers" from New York
- Garnished wages of Miners
- bought a house for $25 Suicides, autopsies, casket salesman
- Winter shipping accident
Interviewers: Harju and Helgren

I: Interviewing Mr. Norman Trezise at his home in Calumet on Tenth Street and I'm Trooper Helgren and Trooper Harju is also here. We're doing this interview for Suomi College Oral History Program. Mr. Trezise will you tell us a little bit about where you were born and a little bit about your background.

R: I was born in Ishpeming and then we lived in Michigamme, that's where we got married, my wife and I, and I come up here in 1905 and I started to work for the C & H Mining Company for $1.05 a day. Imagine what you could do with all your money...seven days a week.

I: What year were you born in?

R:

I:

R: I'm eighty-six and my wife is eighty-six and we just celebrated our sixty-fifth wedding anniversary here the end of last month. My boy, he was here...well, they were all here, but my boy he worked for the government for how many years. He just retired from the government and now he works for the (?) Institute. He's all over the world. But when he told me he was gonna retire, I said, "Retire?" He said, "Yeah!" So I said, "How much pension you gonna get?" He said, "Twenty thousand"and he said"I'm gonna make more than that where I'm gonna go now."

I: What does he do now?

R: He was in the work of the Secretary of State's Office.

I: In Lansing?

R: No, Washington.

I: Didn't he...I knew he was some ambassador or something at one time. Wasn't he an ambassador for some country at one time?

R: In Japan, see he was an ambassador or not the ambassador, he was the next to the ambassador in Japan and France, both places. And he was supposed to get the job as ambassador to Japan and Nixon didn't give it to him. That's why he didn't like Nixon.
I: That's all right. Nixon is paying now, isn't he?

R: He's paying now; but I mean, he never told us but we know that was the reason.

I: Yeah, go back to when you moved then

R: I came up here in 1905 that's the time when you had your sixty taverns in town here. Did they tell you that?

I: Just go ahead and tell us everything you can remember.

R: Because when I was in my office, you know, the tourists come up there...I was Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce too for twenty-five years and I got this watch from them. So, I used to show these people the directory of all the taverns. They wouldn't believe it. I said, "Before (?), sure." I mean, every other place was a saloon, they didn't have taverns then days. Then we had a brewery out here, Canada Brewery, there were four sporting houses out there.

I: Cat houses?

R: Yeah, four cat houses. They were one after the other, sure and eventually there was a couple of murders out there...some fellows got shot out there, so finally they had to close 'em up. But it went on for years and years. Used to go out there with horse and buggy and I used to work at No. 5 Tamarack and we used to see the horses and buggies, the guys would get tired of waiting and the horses they came back to the barn and they'd get left out there. Oh, that was comical. Of course, the horses, you know, they knew where to go. How the guys came back, I don't know. Oh, there was a lot of funny things happened about in the old old days.

I: What'd you say...you worked for the mining company?

R: I worked for C & H from 1905 until 1939.

I: Where did you work?

R: The motive power.

I: What did you do there?

R: Oh, I was in the engine house and boiler house and on pumps and underground. I worked underground. Last place I worked was Centennial Mine on pumps there...electric pumps they were.

I: And when you left the company, what did you do then?

W: I got layed off. They layed off a lot of us, see got a...the mining company...that's one thing I gotta give them credit, we got paid so much a year for every year we worked. Different than what it is now and I got around eighteen hundred or two thousand dollars, kind of a bonus see. There was only a few of us got that...that we worked for what they call a conglomerate, see. And then what-a-you-callum...
was off for oh maybe six or seven months, and I had yet because I had (???) Justice of the Peace. He wanted to retire and he wanted me to buy him out. Well, I never made any talk about this, so anyhow one morning I was here raking up my yard like I'm cutting the grass now and his daughter come over and said, "You still interested in taking over the place?" I said, "Yeah, but your Dad will never die," just like joking, see. "Well," she said, "He tried to commit suicide last night," she said, "so, the doctor said we gotta watch him from now on." So I said, "I'll come over this afternoon and we'll discuss this thing." Well, that day the mining company come back and wanted me to come back to work. So, I worked two nights...we hadda go to nights a couple places...and then I went to see the merchants to stay in the credit room and I took over the credit bureau, of course, I was Justice of the Peace, see, and I wasn't active until then.

I: What year was that?
R: 1941
I: That's when you became Justice of the Peace?
R: I was Justice before that...I was elected oh I don't know, about '36 or '34, see, but I wasn't active, see, I was still working for the company. At that time there was four Justices, see, and two of them would be active and the other two would be just what-a-you-callum...sleeping Justice, they'd say. Dan McDonald, he was Chief of Police, you know Dan, don't you?
I: Now, I don't.
R: Fellow that works for Paulsen's Garage, Ford Garage.
I: He works for them now?
R: When Dan was Chief of Police...John Sullivan took his place after.
I: Is Dan still working for the Ford Garage?
R: Oh yes. Dan, he'd give you some dope too. Dan's really good...I thought you knew Dan.
I: What kind of a job was Justice of the Peace?
R: What kind of a job was it?
I: Yeah, when you first started, what did you do?
R: Well, we all worked on the fee system. We didn't get no salary like they get now. All we got was...
I: So much on a fine, eh?
R: So much on a case, yeah. I forget what it was...$3.70 I guess...$3.70 something like that and then we got $4.30 and then they made objections to that...somebody down state...and hadda take off that 30 cents and only got $4.00 and that money was put in escrow down...
I been into Houghton... I was in there day before yesterday. I should have asked Ray about that then. That money was put in escrow until they had a hearing, so they had a hearing some place and they decided that we're entitled to it. So, in the end we're getting $4.30 for any of your cases and the village cases go about $3.00 I guess.

I: Well, what did you do as Justice? Did you hear cases or trials like the District Judge does now?

R: Yeah, all misdemeanor cases, yeah. Of course, we did the civil stuff. Lots of garnishees and sue for judgements and stuff like that.

I: Did you have to do all the paper work for that.

R: Yeah, there was lots of paper work with it, yeah. And then used to marry people.

I: How many people have you married? Do you know?

R: Oh, I married several hundred

I: Several hundred over the years.

R:

I: Any of them come back for a divorce...tell you to undo what you did?

R: Well, when we had our party down at the golf course, my kids were all here, this woman come up to me and said, "You don't remember me, do you." I says, "No,"I don't." She said, "You married us thirty years ago." And what-a-you-callum...well the Justice of the Peace and then I was coroner too, you know. I was the County Coroner for years. See, there was this fellow called (?) Osborn, he was the Judge and he was the Coroner and he quit, and he wanted me to take it, so they appointed me then. And I've kept that up until the end.

I: When did you retire?

R: About five years

I: About five years ago?

R: Yeah, five years ago

I: 1969

R: Yeah...1969, yeah.

I: What did you do as coroner?

R: Anybody who died them days without a doctor you hadda have a coroner.

I: So you'd go to the house?
R: Go to the house, go out in the bush...sure, oh heck...on suicides, drownings and all kinds of stuff.

I: You had to investigate at the scene.

R: Had to investigate, yeah; then if I didn't know, I'd ask the doctor what he'd think about it. I'd tell him the case, you know, and he'd give me a medical term to put down. Oh, I knew this County pretty good.

I: Well, did you have to fill out the Death Certificate then?

R: Death Certificates, yeah.

I: You filled those out yourself then.

R: Well, yeah...you couldn't put...you hadda put down something like a medical term, so you couldn't put down just heart attack, you know, you'd have to put down coronary occlusion or some such words as that. The funniest case that I can remember...not funny but sad too...Clyde...you know Barryman on the Hancock police?

I: Yeah

R: Crusher...you know Crusher? His brother is the Milwaukee Journal man?

I: Oh yeah, I know who you mean.

R: Him and I went down to Houghton and this woman she shot herself in the clothes closet, see. So, the gun was right there and everything, see and I looked up and I see this guy washing the walls. I said, "What in the hell are you doing up there?" "Oh," he said, "I wanted to wash this blood off before my kids come home." I said, "God damn it, come down from there." I said, "When the undertaker comes he'll clean up this mess," I said, So, I got him down anyway...ask Barryman...well we went downstairs and about ten or fifteen minutes we come upstairs and there he was up there again washing his wife's blood and all that off, see. Well the neighbors figured that he shot his wife and we got the State Police in on it and they investigated; but she was a mental case. He committed suicide himself later on down in Escanaba; but that was humorous and yet, you know, he was up there washing...that'd take a lot of guts to clean up that mess.

I: When you were in the Justice Court there, magistrate in the Court System what did you do? Did you listen to testimony on both sides and then decide whether to whether they were guilty or not guilty?

R: If they'd plead not guilty then we'd have a trial, you know. Most of them would plead guilty; but of course you had a case once in awhile.

I: How long would your trials last?

R: Well, some jury...you know Wisti don't you?

I: Yeah
R: When he got in the picture we'd have jury trials last all day. Wisti...we had a case in Laurium...I think it was drunk driving case...it was Red up there...

I: Rielly

R: Yeah, well anyway, it was their case. So, Wisti was...during a lull in the trial...we had a jury, I sent for him and I said, "Andy, you're gonna lose this case." "Oh no," he said, "I never lose a case in Justice Court." And I said, "Well, you're gonna lose this one." "What makes you think so?" I said, "I just know it." I didn't tell a lie I know of, but there was one of the jurors...I went out to have a smoke, they were out in the hall there...that was over in Laurium Town Hall, so I said to this fellow, called Ceil, "You know Wisti?" And he said, "I know the son-of-a-bitch," he said, "he's suing the golf course." He said, "I'm one of the directors."

I: So you knew he was gonna lose that one. Did he lose?

R: They lost, sure they lost and he took that case right to the Supreme Court and he lost it all the way through.

I: It was a drunk driver.

R: Drunk driver, sure. The boys had a clear cut case...oh, that Wisti was stubborn, you know, so that's one case that he lost. But he's a pretty shrewed lawyer, though. You met him?

I: Oh yes.

R: You had dealing with him?

I: Un

R: Nice fellow but...

I: What were the majority of cases before...when you first started?

R: Most of them were motor violations and of course, drunk and disorderly and murder cases and all that, we just had the preliminary examinations and then they bound them over to Circuit Court and we didn't have too many murder cases...we had a few...and breaking and enterings, things like that; but all you'd do was arraign them and take their plea or set an examination if they wanted an examination...very few wanted examinations them days though.

I: Went right straight to court.

R: Like now, they want a lawyer right away. Then when they get arrested now they want the court to appoint a lawyer for them which we couldn't appoint a lawyer them days.

I: How many cases do you think you handled all them years that you were in the courts?

R: Gee, I don't know. I've got a filing cabinet back there full.
I: All the cases you've still got listed?

R: Well I kept them...you're supposed to keep them for six years they say, I don't know if you are or not. Nobody'll every want them and all my dockets...I've got a lot of dockets down in Calumet Town Hall...put 'em way up on the shelf...nobody'll ever look at 'em. Maybe fifty years from now.

I: Well, that's the idea of this class here and this local history project to get into some of these things and get it documented before somebody throws it away because that's a valuable part of history in this area. Can you remember what Calumet was like in 1913 when the strike was here and they say there was a policeman on every corner?

R: Yeah, because I worked for the mining company that time. Oh yeah! And I belonged to the fire department too and there was a fireman's tournament here and I was in Michigamme, so there was a bunch of Michigamme boys here...that was in the morning before things got hot, see; so I was gonna take them up and show them the mining property up (?) we were posted on the big buildings there. So we got up there...here was all these strikers, see. And 'bang', someone pulled out a gun and 'bang', they were shooting up in the air, see. These guys said, "Let's get the hell out of here. What's going on?" They got scared and they all went home...the firemen...they didn't have any parade or nothing because they were scared. I was scared. But Calumet was a good town at that time. Jack Foster can tell you how he was going down Fifth Street Sunday night, Saturday night...did he ever tell you that?

I: Well, he said there were so many people they were walking in one direction.

R: Oh boy, we used to have church services Sunday night...the different churches...Protestant churches for that matter...and after church everybody come down Fifth Street and that's my wife and you try and push a buggy through all those people. It was terrible. There used to be crowds...I've never seen anything like it.

I: Do you remember any of the old policemen from Calumet like Paul Speehar?

R: Yeah, I remember Paul Speehar, yes. He worked for Dan McDonald. We were talking about him yesterday or day before. There was Paul Speehar and Jim Ormsby...Jim used to run the tavern then he went night police. He was marshall for a little while and a fellow called Surrenger, he'd dead too now. But Speehar was quite a cop.

I: Was he?

R: He'd hit you over the head first, then he'd ask questions. Yeah, he'd hit the guy over the head. A fellow called Henry Fondleson, he was a night policeman too. He had...

I: What did they have...policemen that came in at night?
R: They just had two men that worked by night, yeah.

I: Well, what kind of a beat...?

R: They worked every night in the week...Sunday and all...seven days a week the days. I don't know who...I suppose they had a knock out man someplace. Then a man called Bellilou, he was on, he was one of the later ones there; but McDonald was Chief for quite a few years then.

I: What years was he Chief? Do you know?

R: Dan...oh, he was Chief there when I took over (?) office in 1940.. I would say '39 - '38, something like that to '41 or '42...then he took this job selling cars and then Big John Sullivan took his job then.

I: I understand there were a lot of taverns and bars in Calumet at that time.

R: Lots of bars.

I: Were they on every street?

R: Like I said, there was eighty taverns on four streets...up and down and sideways. You know where Kilpela's (?) Store is?

I: Un hum

R: Right across the street used to be the Salvation Army, well there was a tavern there called Decker...I lived upstairs...I boarded upstairs. That was...two Jews run that and up a little ways was a man called Sauer...Old Man Peter Sauer, he was a millionaire and he was a what-a-you-callum. He owned more stock in the mining company here, I guess, than anybody and he was a regular miser. He used to have a...go to meet the train. When the train would come in he'd have a horse and buggy...or cutter or whatever it is to bring them to the hotel and this story was that he'd pick you up off the train and your baggage and that...he'd drive you way around Red Jacket shaft and that over to the Parlington Hotel. That's just a block over from the train. And that's a fact. And they say that when the fellows would go in there and have a glass of beer, they'd leave about that much...he'd drink it himself...wouldn't throw it away. He left a fortunes...oh boy, and what good did it do him.

I: Can you remember any other bars that were outstanding?

R: Well, Billy Jones...he was Cousin Jack...he was a wrestler, he used to have the English people in there.

Where was that at?

R: Well, that was the one right across from (?) Bakery. Did you know there was a bar right across...it's closed now. I don't know, I see some fellows there now. There was a bar there and there was a bar down where there's the bowling alley...there was a bar in there.
Let's see, where else was there a bar? Down where Master's got, there was a bar there, and where Mercury's there, that was a bar and on the other side of the street...yes, next to Keith Badino's there, there was a bar in there called Billy Wills had a place in there and this...down here in this first house right here after you leave the (?), that used to be a bar there.

I: Are there any in operation now that were in operation then? Any of the real old ones?

R: No, there was three Tambolini brothers, they used to run...they each had their own tavern...they're all dead.

I: How about Louigi's?

R: Luoigi, no, he came in later.

I: Did he?

R: Yeah, he's only been here a few years. He's dead now, but he was only here a few years. That was a Tambolini...Old Man Tambolini built that. Used to sell these big five cent glasses, you know...five cents.

I: Five cents a glass

R: Yeah, big like that...sure. And he had first started a business down by the depot there, on the other side the depot there...the place is down now...and used to have all those railroad men in there, see. Used to be a bar right up here next to the...where the monuments are. Schlitz had a place there...big tavern there. They got burned down and the fellows would all come from Red Jacket shaft when going to work and coming home. They did a terrific business in there.

I: Where did they get all their beer from...the local breweries?

R: Yeah, there was Busch Brewery and then there was the Calumet Brewery.

I: What kind of beer did they get out of the Calumet Brewery? Calumet's own beer...what'd they call it?

R: Calumet had their own brewery out...you've been out to West Tamarack Water Works, you've seen the old homes out there?

I: The old homes are left.

R: And see there was a couple of Jews bought that just before it went wet; and they had a fire out there. Whether they burned it down or not to get the insurance, nobody'll ever know...but it was a month to six weeks afterwards they could have made beer, see. And then there was this...down by the depot there...Schlitz had a warehouse there. They didn't make beer here, but they brought it in by car-loads and Pabst had a warehouse down there.

I: Do you remember Buffalo's...Buffalo's out by Big Traverse Bay Road?
Right at the corner where Big Traverse Road runs into Gay Lake Linden Road? Wasn't there a place there right at the corner? They used to run women out of there and all kinds of...a kind of a speak-easy place. Log Cabin type thing. Dance hall they had there too.

R: You were talking about how many taverns there was, that little store by the depot over there, well there was a bar in there and then the Parlington Hotel had a bar and the next place was another bar there where some people got a home in there now. And then there was Bianci's, that's where Barents is now, then there was another place next to there...High-Steps they called it, and then Shank was up where the light company is now, Shanks had a bar in there and there was some other Italian right next to it there in the Frame Building.

I: How about Schuttes and Pitchetino's?

R: Well Schuttes, I guess yeah, Schuttes/Pitchetino's, they're the oldest, yeah. Schuttes faltered at it first and Phitchetinos followed after. That's right, them two. Yeah, that's about the only two from the old families. (You said you were a fireman.)

I: You said you were a fireman. When you were a fireman back then, did you have a truck?

R: Is that the fire whistle?

I: Yeah, that's the fire whistle now.

R: Oh well, we don't care. Yeah, the Tamarack...all these little mining companies, they all had their own fire department, see. We didn't get nothing much...all we'd get was a couple of dollars to go to the fireman's tournament when it was local...not when it was away from here.

I: What kind of a firetruck did you have?

R: Damned if I remember what Tamarack had. We had some kind of a pumper out there. Yeah, we had a pumper there, yeah, and a hose cart and then we had some pretty big fires too. When the Arlington burned down, not the Arlington but the Bobbin Block, that's where that parking lot is right across from the Croatian Church there now. That was a big big fire and then the Goss Block, that's where the water company's got their office now. There was a big three story - four story department store there and there again, some Jews had one department there with furniture...with paint and all that...just burned down.

I: Did you get a lot of those buildings stopped...the fire stopped? Or did most of them burn down?

R: They burned down...oh that was a terrible fire in the Goss Block. See all that paint and all that stuff was in there, see.

I: It's kind of hard to stop that, isn't it?
R: Yeah

I: It's pertnear impossible even nowadays with the modern equipment.

R: And there was two Jews was running it, so had it all up first. I don't know if anybody was ever arrested for arson or not them days because I wasn't Justice of the Peace then. But, oh that was an awful big fire.

I: Anyone hurt or killed in it...burned in it, or just property?

R: What?

I: Anyone get hurt in it or burned in it?

R: Not that fire, no, but then when the Bowman Block burned down and Charlie Ryan, he lost his leg. He died afterwards and one of the other firemen got killed...Mikilo, he died. He got buried up, you know, when the walls crumbled in. They come over here and got me, my wife was away, because I was coroner then, see, and oh it was a bitter bitter cold night and we went to the hospital first and lots of the firemen was over there...they didn't know if they were gonna (?) it, but they got over it. But this Mikilo and Charlie Ryan they had to amputate his leg; but he died from it later on.

I: Is this the Ryan from the Ryan's Funeral Home?

R: Yeah, he was the father

I: Father of the Ryans that owns Ryan's Funeral Home.

R: Yeah, the father, Charlie Ryan, yeah.

I: When was that...what year was that fire in? Can you remember?

R: Hmm...I don't know...my wife was away...I don't know, that's in the forties sometime anyway...but that was an awful big fire. They had this (?), he runs the Unemployment Office, you know who he is?

I: I know who he is.

R: Yeah, well him and this Koskila, they had some kind of a business and I don't know if they were...lot of painting I guess...they were doing some kind of automobile dealings or something, I forget what it was. But the fire started there and gee, that was a big four-story stone building...and oh, they had this (?) they called it, tore down all the property around here...this salvage man...he hadda be there to knock down the walls because it was dangerous, Jesus, so it was what-a-you-callium.

I: How did they plow the streets in Calumet?

R: At that time? With a roller

I: They didn't plow, they rolled it. Just rolled up and down.
R: They had bill roll...big rollers. There was one out here in the field did you see that one out here in the field (?)

I: This summer, you mean?

R: Yeah, it's in Laurium now.

I: Yeah, that was used to roll ...(?)

R: Yeah, well it was on that order...that's what they used, yeah. On Fifth Street they used to shovel the snow in trucks. But not trucks, but big sleighs, see.

I: Hand shoveled.

R: Yeah, shoveled...and John Sullivan's father used to drive one of those teams and they'd haul it...there's a lot of pictures. You haven't seen any of those pictures, eh?

I: Well, I've seen some, but now that many.

R: Where they'd shovel the snow in these...there was no what-a-you-callum. There was no cars them days.

I: And then when those rollers came through, they just packed the snow down.

R: Yeah, like here...I know when the brewery was going out there, they wanted to get the road plowed out there, so the brewery would order a load of barley or malt or some darn thing, you know, and then the fellow that had the contract to haul it, he hadda plow the road out there. So they'd get their road open to haul their gear up there.

I: So they made sure they ordered their malt in the wintertime and then they got their road plowed.

R: Yeah

I: Why did they build the brewery out there, do you know?

R: Well, at that time Calumet was booming. See all of these here people, foreigners we call them, Austrians and Italians and so forth, they'd bring beer...they'd have horses hauling up...they'd bring up a whole wagon load of beer and they'd come to your house and you had a bunch of orders. Each boarder had his own case of beer, see. Dollar a case I guess it was them days, see. And they'd bring in maybe thirty-forty cases of beer to these boarding houses, each one would have his own beer, you see. And then this Calumet Brewery, they controlled a lot of these taverns, you know, they had to buy their beer Calumet beer, see.

I: Is that what they called it then, Calumet Beer?

R: Yeah, and same as Busch...the Michigan House...Busch used to own...be down at the Michigan House. And Busch had all kinds of taverns. See, Busch started in Lake Linden and his beer, see.
I: You know where the jail is now in Calumet?
R: Where the jail is?
I: Right now, in the City Hall.
R: Yeah
I: How long has that jail been there?
R: Ever since I've been here.
I: It's been there as long as you can remember?
R: Yes, as far as I can remember, yes.
I: And the element that came in has always used the same jail then?
R: As far as I know, yes. They made 'em clean it up a few times there and put in new toilets and that.
I: But basically it's the same

End of Side 1

R: Day before yesterday when I was down there, the boys was telling me what I understood that he was thinking that he didn't have to go to school, but he has to go to school.
I: Yeah, they're gonna send him to school now.
R: Yeah, they got to go to school. He thought that because he was in the Air Force he didn't have to...military police, but that don't count.
I: What kind of training did policemen have years ago?
R: I don't know...what do they do down there?
I: Well, now they have new schools they go thirteen weeks...
R: How many weeks?
I: I think it's thirteen now.
R: Thirteen weeks, oh!
I: Well, what did they have years ago? Did they just hire somebody right off the street and say, "You're a policeman now."
R: That's right, yeah, sure. Yeah, oh sure, that's what I say.
I: Do you ever remember of an instance where a policeman might have shot anyone?
R: Yeah, and that's where they had a lot of arguements because these
officers that's where they wanted to get a fee all the time for everything. They wanted to get...they'd get three dollars or two dollars, I forget what it was now, and that's all they were thinking about. The rest of these guys and there were some of these guys that were police officers...was all they could get on the side, see. So, I got kind of mad and John Sullivan didn't like it at the time. And I said to the Council, I told the Council, "I hope you pay those guys more money," I said, "and don't have to give them any fees." Which they thought was a good idea. So they give them a raise in pay and some of these officers, oh they were mad. They still wanted to get their two or three extra dollars every, you know. It ended up though, that they didn't get it anymore. But I couldn't see why a guy get a little dollar ticket and then he had to pay three or four dollars to an officer for giving him a ticket.

I: So the more tickets he wrote, the more money he made.

R: Yeah, tickets...they were paying more for costs than they were for what-a-you-callum. I was losing on it, but I had a little bit of a conscience anyway. Some of those police officers, they were hungry for that dollar.

I: Do you remember any instances where a police officer might have hurt someone bad or anything...or shot?

R: No

I: Or the other way...can you remember any police officer getting hurt bad or getting shot or anything like this on a skirmish?

R: No, I can't. The officers never had any trouble up there.

I: Did you ever get threatened being that you were a Judge when you were giving out fines or...?

R: Oh yes, there was one guy not in the office, but he was gonna shoot Sullivan and I both. He was Paul Erkola. Do you know Erkola that owns a garage?

I: Un huh

R: Their brother, yeah, he was a...

I: Edwin?

R: He was a little bit on the screwie side. He's all right now...I haven't seen him for years.

I: Curley?

R: Yeah, and the worst of it is, I had to pass that house where he lives four times a day when I used to go back and forth to the office and he was gonna shoot both of us, you know. And finally, I don't know, I guess John must have told his father about it...
his father or mother or somebody about it and they took the gun away. But he would have done it.

I: Was he a young man then?

R: Well, he what-a-you callum...he was drinking a lot but he got married after that and he was a fisherman down in the Traverse. I don't know if he's still there. He come up to my office once after that, him and his wife, and he was drunk, but he was all right then and we talked nice.

T: Is that Curley Erkola?

R: Curley, yeah...have you met him?

T: Un hum

R: Is he still down there?

I: I don't know if he's still in Traverse, but I know who he is. My uncle used to run around...

R: He was harmless except when he was drinking too much. He was really an alcoholic, but he straightened out, I guess.

I: Why did he get so mad at you? Did you fine him or did you sentence him to jail?

R: Yeah, John had arrested him different times, you know, for being drunk and all that, and he had to pay a fine and Sally Kikkonen was another one.

I: Did she ever give you any problems?

R: Sally? Oh brother, don't talk about it.

I: I understand you got a little package in the mail.

R: I didn't, John did.

I: John did?

R: Yeah, she was gonna kill us too. Oh yeah, she threatened me and John both, yeah. And, oh she was...she burned her house down...did they tell you that?

I: Right...couple times I understand.

R: Did you hear that? NO!

I: No

R: She did it, what the heck; but she hired Wisti and Wisti got her out of it. Oh, she was a bugger.
I: Did she ever give you any problems...

R: She got under my skin so much...oh, it was terrible. So I told Condon, he was Prosecuting Attorney at that time, I said, "Steve, I..." he said, "Give her ninety days in jail." I said, "Okay." So the next time I got her, I give her ninety days, no fine and she had to serve a hot hot summer...oh she drove them crazy down there.

I: Where did she go to jail? Here in Calumet?

R: No Houghton.

I: Houghton, eh.

R: Ray Smith was sheriff that time and oh, they had one heck of a time with her. She'd get papers and cigarettes and she'd burn the papers in the cell and oh, I don't know what she didn't do. Well, anyway...

I: How old was she then?

R: Oh Sally, she must be close to sixty now.

Yeah, but back then?

R: Well, her husband paid hundred and hundreds of dollars of fines and then she'd break windows...they'd kick her out of the tavern and she'd take off her slipper and bang, she'd break the picture window. And Bill would pay...he'd pay the big what-a-you-callum. Oh she... she was mad at me and John...said we were a bunch of...called me and Dan something about...we're hungry for...money hungry or something about her fines, you know. Oh, she was a dandy. And she always kept the money to pay her fine, every time; but she got...by Sullivan and I...I told John and my wife, "I'm gonna ask Steve," and he said, "Give her ninety days in the County jail." So then we had a sanity hearing for her once down at Houghton. Wisti was her attorney there and she didn't appear. The Judge was gonna fine her for contempt, so Sullivan and I and we had a couple more, we had to testify there about her and Wisti, he didn't have a leg to stand on, you know, we had all this stuff. So the Judge ordered the sheriff to go and pick her up and lock her up and he couldn't find her...not then, see. So I don't know what happened...Wisti and they... Well, then I put her under a bond one time, a hundred dollar bond to behave, see; and she put the money up and by God it wasn't very long and boy she was...and I forfeited the bond. I sent it to the County Treasurer and she wanted the money back. I said, "You gotta get it from the Court in Houghton now, I haven't got it no more," see. Well, that didn't stop. Poor bugger, I felt sorry for him.

I: Was she okay when she was sober?

R: When she was sober she was all right. They said, she had a home as clean as...you couldn't get a cleaner place. They must think there's a big fight in here. Well anyway, a lot of funny things happened.
I: Did you ever have any wrestling matches or fighting matches when they would lower the bond down or lower the fine or jail sentence on anybody?

R: Used to be a lot of Cornish wrestling here...that's what you said about wrestling, didn't you?

I: No, I said, when you sentenced a man...say you found him guilty of drunk and disorderly or whatever and you'd sentence him to ten days in jail, did he ever get violent, react violent on you because he didn't like the fine or didn't like the sentence?

R: Oh yeah, there was a few times John hadda...they had a job with a guy and throw the cuffs on 'em or something, you know, they'd get smart, you know.

I: Where did you hold your court?

R: I had an office up over where LaBondie's Jewelry Store is now. First I was up down where that Master had that building there on...but he just sold it now or is gonna sell it. You know right next to the beauty parlor there...right next to Kilpela's.

I: Okay, I know where you mean.

R: We were up there...Doc Gosh and I were up there for years and then we had to get out so then I went up over LaBondie's there. We had lots of cases up there.

T: What about this Cornish wrestling you mentioned?

R: Well that's...I don't know too much about that but they had them here, but I used to...where the heck did they have them? I don't know. Then they used to have them, I guess, over in Agosy Park, they had some over there.

I: Were they wrestling matches?

R: Yeah, they were wrestling matches. Yeah, see this man Jones and a man called Morgan, I forget...Chapman, there was quite a few Cornish people here; but they didn't wrestle like they do now. They had jackets, Cornish style. Of course they had a lot at Electric Park, of course that's closed now for years, but the Cornish people would have a picnic every year out there and then there'd be a lot of wrestling out there. They'd have family picnic, no, most of the time it was men...the women didn't go that time to the picnic like they do now. They'd have beer out there and lunch and they'd play horseshoe and wrestling and stuff like that. Streetcar was running them days and the mining company they had a picnic there a few years, they'd give everybody tickets for the kids, you know, for ice cream and so forth, and bands out there and dancing and lots of beer and
Didn't they have a lot of boxing too?

Yeah, they had lots of boxing here but down...upstairs where the Town Hall is now, you know, upstairs there they had the boxing matches there. I kind of think now back, that was a small place for them to have boxing matches. Maybe hold two hundred people, that's about all.

Where did they get the boxers from, were they local people or were they from out of town?

Well, local and then some outsiders would come in. They had some...there was a guy...I seen a wrestling match up in there too, a man called Joe Zeer and it was catch as catch can and Cornish style. Well Cornish style, he threw the other guy like that. So then when he come the other side of him he couldn't do nothing. He couldn't do nothing...Joe Zeer now, he's dead too. And then there was a fellow called Jack Rouch, he was a sheriff up in Gogebic County years back, he's dead too. He wrestled here too, I saw him too, yeah. And there was a lot of English people here that time, you know. There wasn't many Finnish people, not then, they came later. Of course there was a lot of Italians and Croatians and Austrians, but the Finnish people they seemed to come later.

When did the Finns start coming in?

I don't know. Must have started coming in the later 30's I guess, now that little Finnish church there on Pine Street, that's the oldest church around here.

Apostolic Lutheran Church?

That little one on that side the road, yeah. That's the church where they don't wear no neckties, the women don't wear no hats. You know Sulo Lebinen, don't you? The fire warden?

Right

Well, that's his church. He's one of the big shots there. Then the other church is the big Finnish church and they have good collections on Sunday. Did you ever go by there and see the cars?

Yeah, right.

Yeah, fellow and I went by one day, said, "Good collections today." "What do you mean?" "Look at the cars!"

You were telling us a little story about the...

Hum?

When we first came here, you were telling us a little story about during the strike time there. Tell us that over again, would you?
R: When the strike came?
I: About the people that came back with all that human stuff on...
R: Oh, down at Tamarack
I: In North Tamarack. Tell us that story again.
R: Oh, that was the National Guard. You see, the company got...the Governor he sent in the troops in here, see. Of course, the whole county was on strike.
I: That was in 1913.
R: Yes and this (?) from Tamarack, he...these guys went, they were of course going around like you fellows, just checking around, and when they got over there these women they cleaned out the toilets and threw it all over these guys. And when they come back the man in charge he just sat down and we Lord, we laughed, you know, at the way they looked.
I: Didn't they do that when the women had their woman's sufferage or what it was, but they were striking too for their husbands.
R: What was that?
I: When the women were striking.
R: The women, oh sure, you know they'd...the train used to come in in the morning at half past six and I used to always go down to the depot when I lived in Tamarack...didn't live here then...to get a paper, see. Well all this strikers, women, they'd be all marching around the town, you know. They'd be down there too, see, these women, see. Well this one woman, this Big Jennie, I told you about her in the fire?
I: No, tell me about it
R: Jennie Flossiter?
I: Just briefly, you tell us about it.
R: Well, all I know at the time, she was the leader of these women, these union women, see, and she was the one that was supposed to holler "Fire" out to their...there wasn't any fire, and the darn doors instead of going out, they come in.
I: You mean in the Italian Hall thing?
R: Yeah and the law was passed right after that, yeah, the what-a-you-callum. And then they had these Wadell men in here, they brought them in. Did Jack tell you about these Wadell men, they were strike breakers that's what, but they were a bunch of crooks too because they didn't stay long, because the job didn't last and they were getting big money. They came in here from New York and there was
all kinds of things charged against the union, it wasn't to them guys. They wanted to make the job good.

I: Where did they get the name Wadell men?

R: Wadell?

I: Yeah, where did that name come from?

R: Well, that was the name of some kind of detective agency in New York.

I: Oh, I see.

R: Yeah, because one of the union officials said that...I heard that story long ago...he said, "We'll come in here," he said, "and call this strike and then the Wadell men will come in and break it." We knew what-a-you-callum...they lost the strike, of course. Of course after the Italian Hall disaster, that broke the, you know,

I: Broke the strike.

R: Yeah, people had to calm this

I: Where were you when that happened when the massacre started?

R: Not there not then, that was Christmas Eve and I went to town. I lived up in Tamarack and I went to town and I met a fellow and I said, "You comming home early." Then he told me, "Didn't you know what happened?" And I told him, "No!" He told me, so I went right downtown then, down to where they got the fire trucks now and the police station there...and they had all these bodies laying on the, you know, and Mr. McNaughton, he was the President of the company then and he asked some of his how long would it take to make caskets, you know, because there were so many, you know and they said they could make them, I don't know how quick they could make them in the carpenter shop. And the union said "No, we'll get our own caskets." They wouldn't stand for that.

I: Your story of what happened there, would you tell us what happened there. How did it happen.

R: Well, all I know is this woman she claimed they hollered "Fire" in Austrian...see there were a lot of Austrian people...but what the word for fire is, I don't know; but there was a Christmas tree there and there was no fire. And everybody rushed to go out. That's the way that I could see it. And they all jammed in this doorway...the stairway going up. And some people got out through the back, there was a fire escape there, see.

I: Well, did somebody actually holler fire or not?

R: No, I guess she was the only one; but panic, you know, was a panic. I suppose it was...it was mostly young kids there. I suppose there were some older people too. This here murder around that tavern on Sixth Street there, he had some people in that fire. And when they
brought 'em past here going to the cemetery, they were carrying
the bodies out there, you know, they didn't have enough hearses
around here, they were carrying them. I don't know how many there
was now; it was the wintertime too. But it couldn't have happened
at a worse time, you know, Christmas Eve, you know. And the taverns
were all open, they didn't close the taverns that night, they stayed
open just the same. They had to get that money.

I: You said that before you were magistrate there, before you were
Justice of the Peace, you had a credit union or credit bureau. What
was that?

R: I worked where?

I: You had a credit bureau or.

R: That was in connection with it...the credit bureau was in connection
with the Justice of the Peace.

I: What was the credit bureau?

R: Well, the merchants see, all these merchants paid so much a month
to belong to the credit bureau. Well then, somebody wanted to get
credit they'd call us and ask me..."Well so and so, how's his credit?"
Good or bad or what I know of it, see. And then I used to make a
lot of outside reports, insurance reports on credit and stuff like
that. There was a lot of stuff I did.

I: What kind of access did you have to get credit ratings on the people?
Would you check the banks or check the stores they owe...they borrowed
money from?

R: Well, the fellow that I took over from, Frank (?), he was an old
time credit man and he had these records. I had thousands and
thousands of...I had files with all these peoples names, see, from
way back that he had and somebody'd ask about I'd look up and find
what they had before and so forth and every month I'd get out a
bulletin, people they'd call up and they'd want to know about you
and about him and I'd put their names on the bulletin and I had a
code there and these merchants would call up, "I see so and so's
name, what about him?" So, I could tell him, see. And then we
used to try to collect some money too...we collected some, not like
that man Katz. Did you ever meet Katz? He's that Jew collector.
But when Mr. (?) had the office, he had a place here and Lake
Linden both. He had two offices and he was something new when he
came here and the stores never had anything like that before. Yeah,
because there was a lot of guys, deadbeats, you know.

I: The stores wouldn't give them any credit then.

R: No, after they found out about them, then see. And after they
find out..."Somebody said, "You turned me in." I said, "No, I didn't
turn you in, but," I said, "you got a bad record." One fellow, his
wages got garnisheed, and he said, "I don't know what the hell he
wanted to garnishee me," he said, that's Harry King, he's dead now 
...you know Bob King he runs the Insurance Office? He said, "I 
don't know what he wants the money for, he gots lots of money." I 
said, "Sure," I said, "He gots lots of money but who pays for the 
insurance? If you don't pay it," I said, "he's got to pay it out. 
He's paid it already." Now there was a grocery store on Pine 
Street there and he said, "I don't know what he gotta garnishee a 
man," he said, "they got lots of stuff in the store." I said, 
"Yeah, but where'd they get it." I said, "They gotta buy it before 
they give it to you, don't they?" "Yeah", so there you are. There 
were some poor buggers they'd get garnisheed every week or every 
month; but they wouldn't make any effort to pay their bills.

How do they start going about to garnisheeing your wages?

R: Well, they used to go through me, Justice of the Peace, see, and 
they get a judgement, what they call a judgement and then you sue 
on...all they do is they usually bring in their bill and say 
garnishee 'em and get a judgement...have to wait so many days after 
you get a judgement; but that law changed now. You gotta have a 
lawyer come in and get a judgement.

I: Well then the businessman would go to where the man worked and he'd 
decide their money before he'd get paid then.

R: Well, the mining company used to take out a certain percent for the 
man and give you the difference. I forget now what the percentage 
was...a married man gets sixty percent of his wages and forty per-
cent would go to the creditor. And a single man was different, but 
I forget now just what the figures was, the percentages anyway. 
Then they changed the law just a couple years before or after I 
quit that nobody can start suit unless they get a lawyer to go in 
court and do it, see. Before the merchants ended up with it all, 
they just come in and bring in the bill and say, "I want to garnishee 
this son-of-a-gun." He said, "They won't pay, I've tried everything." 
I say, "Okay," and Solomon wouldn't even appear. You garnishee and 
get the check, they wouldn't even come in and show them, you know, 
he knew they owed it, you know. Other ones again, would make a 
fuss about it.

I: What did they do when you fined somebody and they didn't have the 
money to pay the fine? What would happen? Did they go to jail?

R: Sent 'em to jail, yeah.

I: And they could stay in jail until they could get the money.

R: Well, yeah, some of 'em you let 'em go so they'll get the money and 
ninety-five percent of them got the money. There's a few that 
never got paid, but then you got a county for it.

I: Then the county had to pay for those.

K: Yeah
I: Did you have much welfare then? Did you have many welfare cases then?

R: No...no. I was on the Welfare Board, that was the best part of it. I got appointed from the Court in Houghton and I was on the Welfare Board. There was three of us...there was the Superintendent of School in Lake Linden, a very smart man, and a man called Fisher from Michigan Tech, a professor and then had this ordinary guy and them two, see; and the Welfare Board, it wasn't like it is now. No...no.

I: What did you do then? What were your duties?

R: Why we used to meet once a month and we had a director there, a man called Rohn, they have a man today like that; but Dominic Viro, he worked for us. You know Dominic? Dominic worked on it. (???) would talk about it. These people would get maybe fifteen - twenty dollars a week or something, see. Now they get...well you know how they get now...oh terrible.

I: What did you do? Decide whether they deserved the money and then you'd give it to them or if they didn't deserve it you wouldn't give it to them.

R: You mean welfare?

I: Yeah

R: Oh no, we had case workers, we had case workers and they'd...there was one case, I was down in Houghton, my nephew was living there, he was going to Tech, yeah he was going to Tech and I was coroner, so I left word where I was gonna be so I got a call to come back to the police station up here. So I said, "Okay." So when I come up to the police station there was nobody there but I seen there was somebody in jail, see. So pretty soon, in comes this woman. She said, "What in the hell am I here for?" Well I said, "What in the hell am I here for?" Just like that, I was mad. I knew her. I said, "Who is that...your husband in there?" "Yes!" I said, "What did he do?" "He beat me up." Well just then the two policemen come in, they'd been over in North Tamarack or something and they come in, see. So, she was hopping, so they brought him out. He beat her up all right. (?) So during before she come out, before they brought him out, Frank Tucker, he was the one...C & H Police; and during the conversation she said, "You're divorced, ain't you?" She said, "Yes." Well he said, "You sleep together?" "Sure!" "What kind of a damned divorce is that?" he said. "We got divorced because he wasn't making enough money in the mines. This way," she said, "I get more from the Welfare Department." "Oht oh," I said, "the Welfare Department would like to hear that, wouldn't they?" She didn't say nothing. She didn't know I was on the Board. So he come out, he plead guilty, he beat her up, so he had to pay a fine. He paid the fine the next day. So, next day a little girl came in my office and she was crying. I said, "What's the matter with you?" Well she said, "I was up to the Welfare Office and," she said, "my husband deserted me and I got two kids and they won't give me anything." I said, "Why?" "I don't know," she said, "they won't give me anything." Well wait a minute, I called up the office and I said, "Well, what's the matter, this girl can't get
any welfare?" (???). Well I said, "All right", I said, "If she lives with her husband and stays together with him and he's working, you'll give it to them." "What do you mean?" I told him... He said, "We suspected something like that." He said, "Send that girl back." So the girl got both, got relief. So a couple days afterwards I got a call from the main office. Said, "Mr. Trezise," and I said, "What?" "You made some statement the other day about Garrows." I said, "Yes I did." "Is that true?" I said, "Yeah, that's what you said. that they got the divorce so she could get on relief and he's still working and they're still living together." And they made her get out of the house and she moved downtown and he stayed there, that's all they done. That's all it was for just that time. It didn't matter because four or five months they were back living together again.

I: Was it real hard times here during the Depression?

R: You bet there were hard times during the Depression. I worked though.

I: Well, where were you working then?

R: Mining company

I: The mining company?

R: Yeah, they worked the No. 5 Tamarack. They requested water there, shut the water off, see and we only worked part...half time. Worked seven days and home seven days, I guess. And my dad was mail clerk on the trains and he helped us out quite a bit and I had five kids too. We got by, but I don't know how we did it, but we got by. Of course, things was cheap; but even so, we didn't have nothing to throw away. But my dad was mail clerk and of course he was getting pretty good wages for them days, and he used to give us some money every once in awhile. Of course I had a sister married too, and he helped her too, but she wasn't living here. The Depression was a bad thing, boy, but we were fortunate. We had what-a-you-callum and then of course we bought our fuel from the company cheap, that was when it was five dollars a ton, I guess it was, we paid something like that; cheap rent...the company sold us these houses, you know that didn't you...that story. I paid $25 for this house. I didn't pay that. My dad was having dinner here and he said, "How much do they want for this house?" And I said, "Twenty-five dollars." And he give me it and said, "Go buy it!" Five dollars a room.

I: What year was that?

R: Oh, I don't know. '28 or '29 something like that. We didn't own the house right away then. We got the house later on. I suppose in the thirties sometime that they sold us the houses. But you know, the company up on the Avenue where you people are, they put all new furnaces in them houses for their employees. They were the bosses, then they sold them I guess for thirty-five - forty
dollars a piece. Dad said, "Oh boy!" Sure I spent a lot more than twenty-five dollars to fix this up. The siding and bathroom...well we had a bathroom in here, yeah. This used to be a bosses house, see. There was no porch here like this. A lot of things; but there were a lot of things during the Depression that we had to go without. It was pretty tough.

I: Can you remember any other funny incidents that we'd be interested in...like in the Courts or...

R: Lot of things happened but it hard to remember them, you know. There were a lot of funny things happened. Johnnie Sullivan can tell you one funny thing that happened. There was a fellow shot his head off here and Johnnie called me and we went over there and I said, "Gee, Johnnie look!" And his head was up and down like that. He was dead, he'd shot himself, but his head you know. Jesus, we called for an ambulance, we thought he was gonna...like a chicken, you know. Jesus, that was a horrible sight. The next day John's brother went over and cleaned the walls and all that. They paid him for it, the family did, see. All that blood and all it goes, you know.

I: As the coroner, did you have to pronounce people dead then too?

R: What?

I: Was that part of your job then too when you were County Coroner, was it to pronounce people dead?

R: Oh yes, yeah

I: Did you sign the certificate?

R: Yeah, the certificate, yeah. Only one case, the family...the fellow shot himself, he shot his head off down in the basement, and I marked it suicide. The sheriff's officer...well two sheriff's officers and I were there and we cleaned up in the cellar. The family wouldn't come near it. So the undertaker and I and the two sheriff's men, we cleaned up the basement, boy, washed it all up and everything. So a couple days afterward, they called me down to Houghton, some undertakers. And the family was there and they insisted that he didn't commit suicide. It was an accident. "Oh yeah, oh well, we'll have an inquest then." So we had an inquest over in Houghton and (???), he was there and one of these guys, now it was a question of...

End of Side 2

I: So what happened? Let's go back to that trail where you had that suicide. What'd it took the whole jury out to where it happened? Six people?

R: Six people, yeah. And one guy on there was a Conservation Officer and was German and he knew all about guns and that and as soon as he looked over the layout he said, "There's no question about it, it was suicide." But there was no occasion for me to call it any
thing else, what the heck.

I: Did they perform autopsies then?

R: Oh, we had quite a few autopsies.

I: Who did that?

R: That used to go down to Hancock. They had a pathologist there... there was two there.

I: Who were they...can you remember who they were?

R: Hum...I forget what their names were now. Then we had one that lived here too. What's his name, he lived up where Dr. Myers is now. He was here quite a while. He was a nice fellow.

I: Did you have to witness these?

R: Oh, we'd get people, oh somebody from the sheriff's department would always be there.

I: Did you have an autopsy all the time or just on any violent type...

R: See, that time they didn't charge much for an autopsy, but for fifty dollars. Now they charge a couple two hundred fifty, three hundred dollars. One time I was out to McClain Park and Jamie from the rent-a-boat come up and got me, he said, "They want you to go to Hancock, there's somebody dead." So I said, "Okay." So I called up this pathologist and told him I'd meet him at the Scott Hotel. Okay so I went down there and I went right to the undertakers instead of going up to see...to find him, you know, see. And he was gonna perform autopsy. And I finally went up to the hotel and he was mad because I'd went to the undertakers and he raised hell with me, he wouldn't do it and all this and that and he was gonna report me and all that. Okay, so I went back to the Sheriff's Office and we got ahold of one of the State Police boys, I forget what he was called, used to be in L'Anse, see. I knew him good. So he come over, "Oh the hell with him," he said, "We'll take care of him," he said.

I: Joe Gabe?

R: He was Little...you wouldn't know him I think.

I: He was Post Commander, wasn't he?

R:

I: Wasn't he the Post Commander there?

R: Little? He was a State Police from L'Anse Post, I think.

I: Oh. you mean a detective?
R: He what-a-you-callum. He came up, the boys called him...they got ahoild of him somewheres, so he what-a-you-callum and we had this officer there but we had somebody else on the form, you see. It was a what-a-you-callum, just a heart attack, a person; but this fellow he was a, this pathologist was mad because I didn't get him to go up to the undertakers. Well, what the difference if we went up afterwards or when I went there. I just went in there, I knew the undertaker. So then we went down there, he made me mad, oh boy. I never had him anymore after that. He left here right after that too. Oh there were a lot of autopsies performed. We had one guy, he was arrested...well he wasn't arrested then...but they had a fight on Fifth Street. There was a lot of critism and all that and he'd been buried and everything...there was no coroner officiated because he died in the hospital, I guess, I forget the story now. But anyway, they wanted to have him dug up and have an autopsy. Gees, they told me to get out papers. I didn't know what kind of papers to get for that. So I went up to Ryan's office and McCormick's there and we found some kind of stuff to put on it, and so I made out...Jack Miller who used to be the State Police, I guess he's been dead for a long time...well Jack said, "That's good enough." So, they dug up the body out at the cemetery. Brought it over to Ryan's and Dr. Murphy he performed the autopsy. Took him all day. But this here skull fracture...you know he had a skull fracture...but Murphy said that was from something that happened years back. It didn't happen in the fall, see.

I: How long had the body been in the ground then?

R: Gees, I don't know. Six weeks maybe, something like that. This fellow that was...they were going to arrest him for it, see, for murder or whatever, manslaughter, they'd had a fight on Fifth Street over a woman.

I: What happened? What were the incidents?

R: Nothing happened there, he just died.

I: One hit the other over the head with a bottle?

R: Doctor said that skull fracture was from a way back. He said nothing to do with this case at all.

I: How did the guy die?

R: Well I suppose he had a concussion when he hit the pavement. He hauled him off and hit him; but they never did anything to Johnnie C...I forget his last name. They never did anything to him anyway. But that was the first and only time I ever seen them dig up a body. Did you ever see it?

I: Yes, I've seen it once before.

R: He was black...face was all black. So, I know he asked Miller did he want to take anything else beside the head, he said "Yeah, everything," he said. So, they opened him all up. I couldn't
see any sense in that either because it was the head where he was supposed to have been hurt. But Miller said, "Yup!" One time we had a baby dead over in Laurium, it was a little bit of a (?)... that was about the baby's death. It was on a Sunday morning and we were over at Folsots and Murphy was the doctor again to want an autopsy and there was a casket salesman there and Murphy looked at the body and he didn't want to do it, see. And he kept monkeying around, monkeying around and this salesman said to me, "Doesn't he know how to do it?" He said, "I can do it."

I: He wanted to sell that casket.

R: So Murphy finally, he fixed up the baby, I don't know it was natural causes anyway, but the salesman said, "If he can't do it, I can do it." He said, "I've done it before." I don't know who he was.

I: You know, you look at the cemetery and you look at the stones especially in Copper Harbor I noticed there's a lot of kids in that cemetery.

R: I never been in Copper Harbor cemetery.

I: Diptheria...was that much of a thing up here.

R: There's a lot of kids there.

Yeah, why was that? Do you know?

R: They got worked in the mines when they were young. You go to Eagle River cemetery, we've got people buried there, and them stones there about this boy died working in the mines, thirteen years old or something like that, twelve years old, eleven years old. Gees, that was terrible, eh!

I: What did they die from? Accidents in the mine or just...

R: I suppose, something happened in the mine...I suppose, blasting or something or fall, I don't know what.

I: Did you ever have like a rash of disease here like diptheria or anything like this of this sort?

R: The flu...years ago there was a bad flu epidemic. Oh that was a terrible flu, that was a long time ago now.

I: When was this?

R: Oh, that was before I lived in this house. I know the fellow I worked with, there was three of his family and him himself, they all died with it within twenty-four hours. Yeah, it was a terrible flu, that was. Yeah, that was old (?) and him and his three children they all died within twenty-four hours. The first one died and the Father he was all broke up about it and the next thing you know, he
was dead and then his two other children died. There was four buried one time.

I: Did that spread around? Did anybody else catch that?
R: That was in the thirties, yeah

I: Do you remember when that boat went off down off Keweenaw Point?
R: Huh?

I: You know that boat that sunk off Keweenaw Point that had all the cars on it, can you remember that?
R: I remember reading about it, but otherwise no.

I: I see that in the paper all the time. I don't know what year that was. Did you see that Larry?
I: Right, I heard about it.
R: That's the Moreland, isn't it? No, Bangor?
I: Bangor, that's it, the City of Bangor, that's what it was.
R: Is that the one where they brought the cars back up?
I: Yeah
R: Yeah, I remember that, yeah.
I: Do you remember that?
R: Oh yeah.

I: What happened there, was it a bad storm?
R: Bad storm, yeah, and had all these Chrysler cars on there.
I: How'd they get the cars off the boat to shore?
R: I don't know, it was wintertime. They had to open a road out there and then they hired these guys from town to drive the cars from Copper Harbor up here and then they loaded them on cars here and shipped them, they went back to the factory, I suppose.
I: Seems like somebody told me there's a couple of those still here in this area.
R: Could be, yes. I believe there was, I believe Power had one and somebody else, yeah. But those guys that were driving them, they didn't care how they drove them or you know, that's what they said. They were gettin so much to drive these cars; but they had to build a road out there or open a road, make a road and that
was in the wintertime. There was a bunch of guys, they were taking these cars to Duluth, yeah. I don't know how many cars there was. They had them all over here, they loaded them on cars. I suppose today they'd just sell them for junk.

I: Or antiques.

R: Antiques

I: If somebody still had one, they could probably make an antique out of it.

R: I see the other day where scrap iron in $160 a ton

I: Yeah, it's real high now

R: Oh, brother.

I: Do you remember when the train was held up? Between here and Boston Location?

R: No, I don't remember that. That when Jack ?) and them, yeah.

I: King family was involved in that.

R: That's way back, yeah. This Jack Schlou, he was one of them, he went to Marquette and was a fellow called Jim Cruise, a good friend of mine, he got elected sheriff and made him one of his deputies. He was a what-a-you-callum. He was selling cigars on the side and you'd go in the tavern at night about ten minutes before it was time to close, you know, and he'd stand around there and he'd keep them open, you know. All right, he'd arrest them, see, for keeping them open after hours. Only way to get out of it was they hadda buy so many hundred cigars. He was...you know, a racket. Another one of the officers would pick up the slot machines, you know, and bring 'em out on US 41 in the woods there in the wilderness there and open 'em up and take the money out and leave them there. Oh boy, them were the days.

I: Did you have a lot of slot machines here?

R: Oh them days...yes, lots of them. Slot machines everywhere.

I: Was that during the period before the strike when there were a lot of people here?

R: There was slot machines every store and every saloon had 'em...two or three of them. One time, Jay Sheppard...Pierce was sheriff and they called up Ruby Roll, Ruby was deputy then, see, they told him to go and pick up a machine, that was in somebody's place, I don't know where it was, so Ruby not only took that one but he took another one. He took one for himself, see, and that was the one that the sheriff was protecting, see. And he wanted Ruby to bring it back. Ruby wouldn't do it. Ruby told me "Terrible, mister, he wanted
and I got one." But the one that Ruby picked up Jay Pierce had his fingers in it, you know. Oh, talk about a racket. Sheriffs them days between the sporting houses and the slot machines, they made more money than they did sheriff.

I: Were they making a little money off of the sporting houses too?

R: Them days, oh yes.

I: So they wouldn't raid the house, I suppose.

R: Probably, yeah...there was one girl/out here on the edge of town. I married her, she married...you gotta give her credit, she married this guy and when she married him one of her girls had a baby and she wanted this kid to have the name and she married this guy. He didn't stay, the guy left her right away after. Well anyway, she got arrested for running a house of ill fame and Dan McDonald was on that case and when she got into the sheriff's office, she jumped the sheriff. She said, "Here I've been giving you fifty dollars a month for protection and this is what happens." "Giving me fifty dollars," he says, "Yes!" "I never got any money from you in my life." "Well, I give it to Farmer." That was Farmer Kane, you know, what-a-you-callum. Farmer Kane used to run a taxi. He was collecting the fifty dollars a month, and Pierce never knew anything about it. And Jay told me, I was quite good friends with Jay Pierce, he said, "You know that old bugger," he said, "he was a gettin money from the niggers others too. I didn't know a thing about it," he said. There was a nigger sporting house there too.

I: I heard that, yeah. All black or just one

R: Well, there was one down here, was one in Laurium too, but one down here right by the depot there.

I: What were they charging then, do you know?

R: And of course, Dan McDonald was the Chief of Police. I guess Dan was in on it, I'm sure he was in on it, you know. Because they can't operate unless they get some kind of protection or if there's somebody gonna help you, you know.

I: Right

R: But they had between the sporting houses and slot machines, you know, stuff like that. Sheriffs they had a lot of stuff.

I: Under the table stuff.

R: Yeah

I: Well, can you think of anything else, Norman.

R: Dan McDonald, he sells cars over there to Paulson's...you know where Paulson's place is there.
I: He was the Chief of Police before John Sullivan.

R: He was the Chief of Police before Sullivan, yeah. I was with him, I worked with Dan a long time, yeah. Dan knows a lot about the old times too. Jake Kaiser used to know, Jake is dead now.

I: Well, I want to thank you for all the information you've given us here.

End of tape.