

George Windsand

Date: 4.13.1981

Location: Ishpeming, Michigan

Start of interview:

(Interviewer) We are just starting out the interview with some data that George has pulled out of his living room. We are looking at am 1903 Polk directory, going through some of the first people who ran the city of Ishpeming. We will just continue from there.

(George Windsand) ---- --- --. Where everyone is in town. You don't find a directory like...

(I) Is that some of those boxes that are taken out?

(GW) The cemeteries. One, two, three, this was after the cemetery originally was right here on our street. Only a block from here.

(I) Is that...

(GW) Our street...

(I) Off of Strawberry Hill that they call that?

(GW) It's right over here. Its right by where the garbage up there that Arch Street that would be the entrance to the old first original cemetery prior to 1890. Posted before my time but I remember of it, I remember reading about it.

(I) George, why would they put a subdivision on top of a cemetery?

(GW) Well they had to move the cemetery anyway because of the I guess they figured they might be mining over in there. They weren't, they were thinking of sinking a shaft I think in that area. And they figured it would be too small anyway, they moved all them people out North.

(I) Were Indians buried there? Or...

(GW) No Indians no.

(I) No Indians?

(GW) But my dad's father was the first person to have his funeral in the Ishpeming Cemetery. He wasn't the first body there, the other bodies came from this old cemetery but he was the first one to be buried there, something I just learned last month. Isn't that something?

(I) Let me see what else is there?

(GW) This old funeral lumber company.

(I) Is that up on Third Street?

(GW) It's all gone, its right over here now where the parts.

(I) Parts Central?

(GW) Yeah Parts Central.

(I) Where they just put that culvert in?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Build that? Ok.

(GW) Let's see...

(I) Jane Clancy was a vice president of it wasn't he?

(GW) His father was yup.

(I) Ok and that's the same Jance.

(GW) They were most of our city in the beginning and there was oh Billy old store, look it. County Television Company. You know what else the labor union days, Cigar Makers Union, see Cigar Makers Internationally and the Mine Workers Union, the Retail Clerks Union. And then there was a lot of Timber Societies in here, military organizations. Richard's Treasure, yeah we had military officer, some Swedish guy in town here what the Pickins was his name? He was the head of the militia in the army, he was run mar-- around the time of World War One before World War One I guess it was. And then after the war he even had them.

(I) Oh.

(GW) His father he ran these, what was his name again? Probably his name is in here... see the newspaper The Iron Ore Peninsula Record and Superior Postal, that's a Swedish paper. This kid was all kind of broken.

(I) Oh look the Masonic Hall wasn't where it is now.

(GW) No they used to be upstairs where the penny store used to be there. You know that empty building on the end of Merics[Spelled Phonetically]? Next to Merics? That was the penny store since I can remember.

(I) The Penglaz [Spelled Phonetically] building?

(GW) The Penglaz building with the penny store and upstairs was the Masonic Hall.

(I) Oh. Now the owner Tom, he has remodeled it and turned it into apartment now. He was a...

(GW) Oh it's all an apartment now? See --- --

(I) Did the salvation look... it looks like the Salvation Army has had a couple different locations.

(GW) Yeah the Salvation Army was located on East Creek Avenue. That burnt a few years ago, then they put the Cedital [Spelled Phonetically] down where originally that was a Swedish, a Finnish Methodist church that site where it is now. And kitty corner from that was an English Methodist church.

(I) Where the midtown apartments are now?

(GW) Yeah. You don't remember that

(I) Nope.

(GW) That was before your time they torn that one down. That was ten twelve years ago but the you know that the Salvation Army building that was only an old food frame building and right next door to them used to be an undertaking part belonged to Piercen, Mr. Piercen.

(I) Is the building still there?

(GW) The building is still there and that was a... parts store

(I) Parts is still there? And an undertaking parlor.

(GW) George Piercen, of course Piercen lives in Ishpeming, his son still lives here yet. I run into him the other day and let's see here... Look was St. Johns preschool. I don't remember that priest, that was before my time the one I remember over here priest was here was Chrome [Spelled Phonetically], father Chrome. He was the only one for the longest time I remember of him. Secret bivalent societies and prosodic independent order of --- . Degree of Rebeca Knights of Piteous, Ancient Order of United Work Men, Degree of Honor of Pay O. U. W. and the Knights of Maccabees, Ladies of Maccabee, the Ancient Order of Foresters, Modern Movement of America, Sons of St. George. Lots at one time! The Honors of St. George, Temple Honor of Honor, Knights of the Golden Eagle , Ladies of the Golden Eagle, what do you call it Reccabee [Spelled Phonetically]

(I) Mmhmm.

(GW) And the Grand Army of the Republic, Ancient order of ----, Catholic Order of Foresters, Women's Catholic Order of Foresters, Improved Order of Red Men and the Degree of Pocahontas. So we had a lot of lodges in this field at this time.

(I) Quite an active town!

(GW) Yeah well at one time there was a lot of people, fifteen thousand.

(I) Did you say that was about how much there was in 1903?

(GW) Oh all the mines were small and all the mines my gosh there must have been five of them out there on National Mine. There was the Nelson Mine out here where the Mather A was and there was one over here right by Deer Lake not so darn long ago. A shaft cave down on the front yard disappeared one day.

(I) Marcel Bepoelleos? [Spelled Phonetically] Yup back in 59'? Twice.

(GW) That caved in twice.

(I) You know what she told me? The paperboy had just gotten done going across the front of your yard delivering the newspaper and a seven foot... twenty five by twenty five part of her front yard just went down suddenly.

(GW) The whole front yard went down. Yeah the whole front yard, it blocked the highway they were afraid the highway was going to cave. It was only a shaft.

(I) That was the Detroit mineshaft I think.

(GW) I didn't know the name of it.

(I) She gave me some literature.

(GW) See all those records were burned in some kind of a fire one time, to accident they lost a lot of those records before the Cleveland Cliffs it wasn't their fault, the Cliff Mine Iron Company was here before them. And that's the company that lost the records, on their records there was no CCI's fault. Now you see...here you can see give all the names of the people and their occupation, what mine they worked at. Look at the mines, Ishpeming Mining Company, there was a lot of different kind of mining there.

(I) A lot of people talk about them...

(GW) Here the Menominee River Brewing Company. There used to be that brewery in Marquette, only part of that building there. It was a high building with a big high crown on a sign on Marquette that had a big picture of glass, a picture that came from Germany. It was a picture of a man sitting there with a big mug of beer on it, on the table sitting on a stool like a table. Some women there, it was a beautiful picture I don't know what ever happened to that. Here's another guy...

(I) Desman? [Spelled Phonically]

(GW) They called him Dr. Desman.

(I) [Laughs] What were some of the different mines like, these Oliver Mines and the Ishpeming Mine, they were underground mines right?

(GW) All underground yeah. While you could go before they closed the Barnum you could go from Negaunee to North Lake underground. They are all connected. See that Barnum here that is over a hundred years old.

(I) Would that be, if that's an older mine then most would it have a lower shaft, or lower levels on paper?

(GW) Well when they go down, I think they go down to full depth of that. You go by, you know where it is they drill it before they mine it see. And I think that goes down forty four hundred feet.

(I) Is it hot down there?

(GW) No that's cold. That's ice cold it's only forty degrees year round.

(I) Somebody says like...

(GW) Hematite mines they get over a hundred and fifty.

(I) Yeah that's what I was saying.

(GW) The movement the ground inside friction. All movement underground, it moves so slow you can't see it move.

(I) But it's hot?

(GW) That creates the heat, hot I guess though the guys that work down there just their pants on that's all, no hardhat no shirt or nothing. I know guys...

(I) [Chuckles] Have you ever gone down in one of those mines like the one that you said was cold, would you ever see ice down there?

(GW) I never went down in that one, I don't know if they have ice I never went down in it. But you stand by the shaft its awful cold air coming up they are blowing air up out of it all the time for ventilation. Every time after a mine with an operation say about three to four years they had to have another shaft, some federal law if the state law for ventilation and escape route. That's what they, like the Barns and Hecker that mine was only, that was only six years old and that was already connecting with Lore's [Spelled Phonetically] land in North Lake, two miles away.

(I) Did they have cave in in 1923?

(GW) It went down 1926 November 6th, I remember what that happened. They come into school and closed all kids had to go home and then when they got home they found out. Right at noon

time twenty minutes to twelve, the cave in. Then they come for school and all the kids parents who were in there they didn't say what was, they said they had to go home. You wondered why anyone had to go home for anywhere. Then we found out when we got home, they didn't have radio then, no radio. In those days, there was just a few radios but only radio station only on that was no advertising or no steady radio like you got now. There was no such thing as TV so it was just these homemade set batteries that you would put a battery in someone run with, some had just batteries and some had a battery eliminator you could plug it in and that acted as a transformer, it worked like a battery. You got A and D battery, homemade sets. But the only place you could get was... you know Pittsburg or KVK or very powerful stations way out in Kansas and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania or Chicago.

(I) And when did you hear about this?

(GW) But there but nothing around here about it, we never had a local station. The first radio station I remember a fella by the name Bradley, broadcasting off his front porch down on Bridge street I think. A young lad, you know he had radio answer, he made his own broadcasting station. He was broadcasting without a license but you, they weren't fussy they knew him already on radio to prove it. So he come on just playing records and say this is I think it was Ed Bradley broadcasting from the front porch of his house. People wouldn't believe it! The lady next door you know wouldn't believe there was such a... when my brother made his first car radio, my older brother...

(I) He picked up Ed I bet.

(GW) Uh?

(I) Did he pick up Ed's broadcast?

(GW) Yeah but he had him before that even, he had his radio he used to pick up Chicago and WLS station and the lady next door he had to listen then with earphones, he never had a horn you knew you had to put earphones on like you're in an aircraft or something you know. Then you hear this jazzy music you know coming on and there would be some of the announcers and KBK Pittsburg and there was KYW something like that. Then there was WLS Chicago, it was quite amazing when we picked up. Old Lady Limburg living next door that was a sweet lady. He asked, he come in and told her come in and listen to the radio and she come and say oh it was just got a telephone line out in the garage playing records. You wouldn't believe it you know it was hard to convince there was such thing as radio, they wouldn't believe it.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Hell that was in 1924. 23-24.

(I) What was the cause of the Barn and Hecker mine, did they... go up to the close surface and then they hit a lake or...

(GW) The Pilmen Jets [Spelled Phonetically] father from North Lake is in there yet and he was talking to Pia, Pia worked with the mines long after that of course and he said his father was complaining about smelling swampy water out in the swampy smell. He was one the first level raising up towards surface but they were going up into an ore body but it was in swamp and dirty smelly water and he was complaining about that for a couple days. That's when it happened.

(I) Oh.

(GW) They ran into a huge body of water and you can expect to hit under a swamp and when that started to go with a lot of weight.

(I) I hear when that went it took trees with it, sucked trees right into the mine. The trees that were there before it caved in...

(GW) Did you see the lake up in there now? There's a lake where it was, everybody go see that sometime I'll show it to you.

(I) Is it by the drive-in?

(GW) Oh you never been out there that stoning by the highway. The real mine is in about oh a mile and half, give or take you over by the road. Yeah you can go down the right road, you go in there.

(I) There is a lake?

(GW) Barns and Hecker.

(I) Ok.

(GW) No no Barns and Hecker you go out, you take the old 20 feet out there and turn off near I don't know where it is now but I remember the old fella that lived there... was it Longen [Spelled Phonetically], Logen's farm. You go on that road and you go under, as soon as you get you come in a mile or so you come to a railroad track that goes over a road.

(I) Ok and that... right across from the road you turn right?

(GW) Stop there you have to walk up that, I don't think you can drive up there. The old stock cars were up there.

(I) Is it a big walk probably near the lake?

(GW) No it's a big flat where they hauled all the ore out of there, there are ore piles out there. Even the shaft open driving by.

(I) Just pass the railroad track you get out and walk into the right?

(GW) Yeah. And you see them, it's a big lake there that's the cave.

(I) Oh.

(GW) That is a pretty deep hole. Down to forty-one men in there.

(I) One man survived right?

(GW) Yeah Will I knew him. Will...

(I) What was he like after he came out of the mine?

(GW) He had a nervous kind of a nervous disorder for a while and then he got over that after a year or so. Then he went down and he worked as a policeman in Flint for Buick or somebody, General Motors. So he died, he died a few years ago, Wilfred Tippet. What is it Wilfred Tippet? I forgot I knew the guy, quite a bit older than me but I knew him, he only made one trip after that he come see a funeral. Well it had a nervous shock see.

(I) And Atalos [Spelled Phonetically] was a bunch of names in there still is Atalos in town. Miners. What was a trammer back then?

(GW) A trammer is a guy that underground see in the mines in those days they didn't have the electric trains underground. They had a small narrow gates track and there was a buggy like a buggy that stood about oh about three feet high and it would hold about five cubic feet of ore which is pretty heavy. They had four little wheels on it and the guy would push that out the shaft and there was a haul lever on it and they'd dump it into the bucket on the shaft. There was a bunch of guys pushing it from the working place, the ore had to be -- hand to push it by hand. – in the drift then they come with the electric car after.

(I) These men that pushed these five cubic...

(GW) Well they were well over a hundred pounds you couldn't lift it, they push it in this. General all this was downgrade slightly to the shaft so that the water don't get in the shaft. So you pump it up you know otherwise you'd walk in you couldn't go down in the drift gotta be. And then they would dump the ore in there, there was always a lot of guys tramping and you see that they call it tramping. Tramping yeah. Haulman, Trammer.

(I) Timberer?

(GW) Timberer, a guy set up sets of timber, see in a hard ore mine you don't have to figure then they had timbermen they had just set up two legs and crawl space every oh so many feet depending on how soft the ore they got. Then between them they put lagging and ten foot poles and see that wouldn't hold the ground but what would happen when the ground caved down to, the ground and squeezed together and supported itself, the wood would only start the ground to pack. The packed ground would hold more than the wooden pole would ever hold. The legs can

hold it up but or you could have your nice piece of ground and them legs keep getting shorter every week! So then you got to take them out again you can't jack it up you got to take them out and break out the ground and put more in. In some places...

(I) Pretty soft ore!

(GW) When I worked at the Lloyd there I knew I had at the timber yard, when I was up in the timber yard I was working in the pockets and one night they had to have a guy, a timberman come up and ask me and when you get a big chuck of timber. We got a place an awful lot of ground slowly, move so slow you can't see it but it takes a week to go down a foot, that's how slow it goes. But it must have been awful big surface it covered. So they put a leg in there and it was a green Harvey maple and that thing was a beast, two and half feet up above, over two feet at the top not that is a big timber. Nine foot long so I got a couple of them to put on a truck and sent it down, night shift and a week later he said I'm going to start... a week or two weeks later when I was on the same shift again I said I'm gonna send that same piece of timber up. It was only half as long when I send it down, it wasn't sawed off it was – but it was big as two barrels.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) You can put two or three timbers one truck but this one barely fit on one it kept but anyway so it spread out. It forced the ground so it took two weeks to do it, that's how much weight you put it. And Harely Nicker [Spelled Phonetically] there used to be a guy downtown here called Auswagger [Spelled Phonetically] where that sixty six station he used to be a wagon maker. Of course that was before cars but I was, well he was making, he was just about quitting by the time I was a five year old kid. I just barely remember when they were taking away some of those businesses are still standing but they weren't working anymore when I remember. I asked somebody what that was and Auswagger, Auswagger Wagon he they made them in a blacksmith shop and then -- used to make wagons. So and this Auswagger I knew their daughter she was married to, well she was up years dead but Mr. Peterson was superintendent of one of these mines and his wife was the daughter of Auswagger. She would be about well she would be about 90 years old if she was living right now but that was his daughter. I don't remember Auswagger, I remember of him, of a place that that he had I know that I heard a lot about him Auswagger. Let me see maybe we can find your name in here.

(I) No I won't be in that directory.

(GW) Wouldn't be in this one?

(I) No. Verling engineer, would that be the same Verling that's in the county road commission today? You know, any relation?

(GW) Tough to say I don't know but there has been Verlings living here for years though. I didn't really know any of them heard of them. There's a Judge Bill, judge building in Negaunee

and I.. Here is a boy named William Bell maybe he was just a lawyer then and become, I beat he become a judge after.

(I) Sure. I still have that old picture of when the elks tore down that... veteran tore down the old Llyod Holgrin [Spelled Phonetically] building where Judge Katil [Spelled Phonetically] used to have his office before he was a judge he was a lawyer.

(GW) Where was that?

(I) Kitty corner from the Post Office. An old gray asphalt.

(GW) Oh that was Paulson's bakery

(I) Oh was it?

(GW) I used to haul their bread when I was five years old, I was only in kindergarten and that was my own income.

(I) Is that right?

(GW) -- he was married to my dad's first cousin, he was a Nelson and the... he had a bakery there and of course before that and before him somebody named Hendrickson I think had a bakery before him. But I remember, I only remember when my uncle had it and I used to take, he used well we used to always like to work when we were kids you know. I'd go downtown, it was the wintertime mostly I'd done that, I'd have a sleigh and he had oh a big square bread. Square breads wrapped up in white paper and he put them on a sleigh and I would pull them over to Nelson's house. I'd go in there to the Nelson house and then I had to give him the bread and then they'd sign the slip to give me. I then had to take that slip and I remember doing that and then heading over...

(I) You were five years old doing that?

(GW) Yeah, five six years old yeah. Then I went over to Oak Island Knot for a couple years for a few years. Then I went over to the Anderson Hotel, that's gone now did you see that then?

(I) That somebody was killed when he was cleaning out...

(GW) Yeah. And then where the old Elks building was another hotel I used to go there too with bread. Then I'd have to go into some of the stores downtown, try to think of what stores they were now. There was one down kitty corner from the City Hall... I didn't go in Meijer's for any that was across the street but across the other way was a fella had a store in he was known for years. I can't believe I had seen in my book I mind remember but I used to bring bread there and other stores. All around for something to do. You are only a kid sometimes small but we thought that was madding throw bread when it was big and heavy.

(I) Did you say that was your uncle?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Was that the same uncle that had that deign for the sled that you showed me?

(GW) That was my dad that made that.

(I) Oh that was your dad that did that. With the fan?

(GW) Yeah. My father made that yeah. When George A Newt [Spelled Phonetically] bought one of the first cars in Ishpeming it came all in a box, you know disassembled, a guy assembled them.

(I) Haha wow.

(GW) He had to even show him how to drive it, when he was out of gas he didn't go to a gas station, there was no gas stations in his time. Honesty I don't remember his before him but my dad tell me he used to have to go and order a barrel of gas and it came out on express you know the train. Go and pay for and go down and get you a barrel of gas, that's the first part when there weren't any cars around you know. Well I remember when there weren't many cars I used to sit up there, I lived up on North Second Street there and when we were little kids we used to go sit up on Third Street corner and seem to me there was a funeral about every other day. And we used to admire the horses with those black caparison or what the heck they are. They all, everybody dressed in black and all the horses were black, maybe about six or eight coats of you heard, so you could see them. You can still see that hearse there is a picture of that hearse James Stevenson had it. There is a picture of it out in funeral home out belongs to Harrison.

(I) Harrison?

(GW) Signature right on this wall yeah, Jakes Stevenson's father had that, he had a delivery down here on Pearl Street and he used to rent all these...

(I) Horses?

(GW) Oh the horses charge for the funeral see but then if there would be one or two cars with it, so cars in the way everybody talked about, there is a car in the funeral and all the foreign cars idle... They couldn't they'd have to be stopping in getting those horses in those paths for the cars but they are always in the back. Yeah. I know when my dad had a 1908 Franklin and we used to go Sunday you know we'd take it spin with it on Sunday in the summer time I suppose we went about three Sundays out of the whole year but it took a half a day to start the thing, you know it was a 1908 Air Pool. Well then the fan, it had a big fan on the fly to keep the motor cool you know and when it blows the dust down on the road there was no car rolling around it was all rattle. It was a drive A nobody every passes, they couldn't even see us there was so much dust. We went out, and then we went out to the new Dead River, there used to be, used to call that tire

center because there was a big forest fire over there, it wasa good place for blueberries. There was a stall up there. That had a walk in from up there.

(I) Oh that is a long walk!

(GW) Yeah dirt road and everything.

(I) If I had known that blueberry patch that's a long ways out!

(GW) Yeah that's right dip below Dead River you know where that just as you go in a little that road that goes to the right now that was only a rout road going in there, sand cut you know that kind of thing. That's as far as they went but we had a four flat tires going out, you ever went anywhere without a flat tire, high pressure tire you know. Thirty six four tires that weighed, that were about sixty five pounds, but I certainly pumped in by hand, oh it was a job to go for a ride in those days. Yup.

(I) What was, alright we are in the seasonal what was a Hassler? What was that?

(GW) A hotel.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) Working hotel.

(I) Oh hostel

(GW) Type of labor. And mining captain this guy here. Ted Carny [Spelled Phonetically] worked for George A Newet for him, the pair, quite the pair. I never knew them they were before my time.

(I) A lot of widows eh?

(GW) Oh yeah in those days you know when a guy get killed in a mine they never had hardhats, no hard shoes, only a candle. Then they got, they got killed, I don't know they never got any compensation for there was no such thing as that. Back in those days you know. I know this guy back home from the mine...

(I) Tell me the story about the city's Marshalls office, about its abonnement again there.

(GW) Oh about when I was went over to the old country?

(I) Yeah you...

(GW) Went into the hotel and I noticed that they had a little town near there named called Framverran [Spelled Phonetically] and I thought this guy in Ishpeming, I knew his boy I don't remember old old Andrew myself but I remember his son. I know he was city marshal here and

this lady, I asked her if she ever heard of him a boy Framverran that went to America. Yes she said yes he become police marshal someplace in some town over there, and I said that's my hometown. It was the funniest thing to run into.

(I) You were in what country then?

(GW) Norway. Yeah Norway. I was only a short way from the Arctic Circle see where ma lived, the only thing I couldn't get over was there was no night. Night, the whole nighttime I never saw no night all summer when I was over there and I come home and I asked ma you never said there was no night over in Norway.

(I) Do they celebrate like midsummer? Like...

(GW) No they have a big celebration day the 17<sup>th</sup> of May in Norway its International Day, I guess they got their independence from the Sweden. They close all the schools and all the school masters and teachers and students all have their class uniform covered, you have blue and red and have all kinds of... it's a very picture scene place. Every town in Norway for the whole day twenty four hours all day and night, midnight of course you wouldn't... parades! They have bands and they all are chanting their school slogans and they march around town and then they tell them, the students that are up in the upper group. They have a click where they are allowed to go out and set up camp like in the middle of Oslo downtown in a park which is otherwise forbidden but as long as there are students and on that day the police won't bother them. Over there they are allowed to camp there but of course they got to leave the place in order but it was quite cute to see that, all these kids all the kinds of uniforms they had. I was up in Malvik where my cousin was and my god I thought it you can go on all day you know how you said they go on for twenty four hours? It won't stop he said.

(I) Do they still do that?

(GW) Yeah 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

(I) In Oslo?

(GW) In all over Norway.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) Just in this country of Norway. It is something ain't it?

(I) Yeah, I have a friend that lives over there I'll have to write to her and ask her about that.

(GW) Oh sure ask her the 17<sup>th</sup> of May they syttende mai [Norwegian] as they say in Norway.

(I) syttende mai [Norwegian].

(GW) And my ma was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> so she also tell me about that so that I've been over to Norway you know several times before this and I thought by gosh we are going to go over there and be there over the 17<sup>th</sup> of May I heard they are talking about this. She never went back to the old country but she used to talk about it. So when we went over we were there in the first role of the 5<sup>th</sup> of May we landed there and we were up in Malvik when this day started and my gosh you couldn't even walk downtown I don't know where all the people come from. Everybody happy as a lark, they no testing or fighting or squabbling. But I'll tell you one thing about the police system over there and even in England but Norway especially and Sweden people got respect for the police. You never saw ---, if you know there they don't have any time for lip if you get pitched for anything you sit in the jail until your trial comes up and you don't get any credits for the time you spend there. They don't give any kind of you know payment for staying there and drinking on the street, why if you pull out a bottle they can drink on the street you can get thirty days for that. Just for taking it, you don't have to be drunk and another thing you don't ever get into a car at the evening had one glass of beer in him.

(I) Central fine?

(GW) You don't have to be drunk they consider you if you have any drink at all they see you consume a bottle of beer and get in a car you don't have to be drunk but they will pick you up and they will put ninety days in jail right, there is no way out of it. You have ninety days and they take you from there in the jail for ninety days for that. Then if you for the driving if you are driving the car and they catch you under that influence they will take away your license, drivers license for three years. You are not allowed to drive at all but if you ever get caught a second time you might as well forget about driving, you better go to another country because you are forbidden for all time ever drive in Norway. I think Sweden got the same law you don't see any drinking, I will say this the drivers over there are more or less experts. I have never seen such good driving from those people, they go fast but boy they don't make any mistakes. You don't see, I mean I have watched and I have run into even close accidents and nothing like over there. They know where their place is, of course they use the international code under signs, it doesn't say stop or any type of signals, international signals colored them.

(I) Like zing.

(GW) Yeah.

(I) For pedestrians.

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Uh what's the speed limit generally? Is there does it depend on where you are?

(GW) Oh you um well uhh.... They have a couple roads you can go very fast on too and the curves and hills you know in Norway there is so many mountains and then you arrive

underground board and on top and you get into mountainous country so many tunnels over there. I believe they invented tunnels. Sure they did. God when we went from, when I went from Bergen to Haus is twenty five miles I'm sure fifteen miles was underground.

(I) Oh?

(GW) Yeah. Like when you be going along all of a sudden you'll flash out, you'll see a little bit you come two tooth mountain see, I bet you it was no more than a hundred feet and you were in another one. Oh they got a lot of them lots of, an awful lot of tunnels over there. Inside there was a Norwegian engineer that came over there and made, design or designed that tunnel Lincoln tunnels in New York they got thousands of tunnels in New York. You look it you'll find out that its foreigner.

(I) Engineer?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Here he is Karl, there is still a Karl Kornilous [Spelled Phonetically] in town, any relation?

(GW) That might be him see Gustus Sunday [Spelled Phonetically] he was a baker I knew him, Karl Kornilous. Yeah that one is still living yet.

(I) Yeah

(GW) Yeah. Well they were together on a in a bakery.

(I) Ok.

(GW) First and then this one got his own, see there was a Star Bakery where the children, the boy, the teenagers what do they call it... this teen thing is right by the...

(I) The Youth Center?

(GW) Youth Center! That used to be the Star Bakery, that was Konnuson [Spelled Phontically].

(I) Oh really?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Ok.

(GW) And then one night it burned and they built a new one, that's the brick one they got there, it was a big brown building there. One night that caught fire, I come home from the cook oh about 9:30 sometime in 30's. My god you couldn't drive two towns for rolls the thing burst.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Burned to the ground. Oh it was on fire the whole building was fire trap. Then there was another where that what's his name got that western auto store that was a bakery too.

(I) Karlson [Spelled Phonetically]?

(GW) Yeah that was a bakery and before it was a bakery it was a church, a mission church had that for a church on Third Street and then they moved it over there. They built a new church and he used it for a bakery but it wasn't suddenly have that one but there was a guy who had it before him, I don't know who that fella was before him that had it. You noticed that, oh Seth Johnson up here his father was baker for some time.

(I) Oh.

(GW) Little short guy he looks just Seth he is him all over again. Yeah.

(I) What a name eh? Dr. Austin Deadman, veterinary surgeon.

(GW) Yeah they had a lot of veterinarians around here, because of lots of horses in them days. My god there was about six living stables here. All at one time, maybe more than that, it was nothing this here, you know in the summer time when they used to haul, they used to haul a lot of coal in the summer because I suppose it took everything with the slow it took all summer to fill up the bins at work. Well they had these wooden wagons with iron wheels, they had them coal shoots on them, when they were coming back they made such a racket no spring on them, you know boom, boom, boom my god you couldn't hear yourself thing when the wagon goes by. Then by the side of the horse, feet clobbering on the streets you know. They had car roads down here but gravel all everywhere else. I remember when the gravel ended, Mcave, the tar road ended on top of what is Dr. Peacock's house out there on Michigan Street. That was as far as the tar would go, all gravel from there all the streets were gravel. They must have had about eight or ten guys sweep streets all the time, the horse was down, cleaning up the streets from the horses and the cows. Everybody cows come from the pastures every night and every morning.

(I) Oh?

(GW) My god Eureka had eighteen cow and

(I) Oh yeah? Lina?

(GW) Uh?

(I) Lina, Eurekla?

(GW) Her father.

(I) Oh she was talking about how, she lives up on Wabash [Spelled Phonically], she was telling me that whole area was their farms and there was like a big big well and that neighborhood that the rest of the name was used.

(GW) That's probably in her time, before I don't remember this but before that the old race track used to be...

(I) She talked about...

(GW) Trotters, on horse track trotters you know horses trot with the mule that's what they were doing there and then the iron ore that came from tension of Barnum mine, the stock pile. I was loading ore there one time with a steam shovel and they said this racecourse and I wondered where they got the name and that came from under the racecourse.

(I) Oh!! That's where the racecourse were. [Laughs]

(GW) Yeah I used to wonder where we get all the name and that much. Well then you kind of where we had.

(I) Now golly brass it ever raise enough money to get the gospel building?

(GW) Well you see in those days...

(I) In those days...

(GW) You have a kind of man Brasset [Spelled Phonically] was. A foreigner came here from Norway, in fact he came from I think the town near where my mother came from. So she came here she knew them people, he was a big heavy set fellas and when in those days when the mines were going once in about 1890, way way back. He had while those thirteen thousand people living there and everybody bought here, they didn't go out there with no, there was no what they call...

(I) Marquette Mall

(GW) Malls or nothing like that nobody, if you went to Marquette on the train they put it in the paper that you went that far! If you motored to Champion they put in the paper so it was lot to control, some old records I have. They said so and so, we are now from South Franklin motored to Michiganmme and back in one day that was a freak you'd they they were flying the ocean! They made a big issue it comes in the paper so those people everybody shopped here in town. So what stores there were, were busy but Brasset of course he was one of the first ones. You know there was more less a it was a new town when they first came here and there wouldn't have been many of these company stores and what not you know.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) I don't remember the company stores I am just hearing from what I heard from the people. But anyways this Brasset was a kind of a guy, he knew that half of your business, half of anybody's business establishment is actually psychological. See how you treat people to get them to like you, you know what he used to do?

(I) Mmhmm?

(GW) The fella, the people had probably an old Finnish miner or Italian or it could be any nationality it don't make no difference to him. He didn't know the people but hear that they get killed in the mines, they had a hardship or the guy was sick and couldn't work, Brasset would go down and tell the guy in the pastry he said fill up a basket from the neighborhood pull actually. They were big baskets, you know grocery fill it up he said with a full force of you know everything. Fill it right up! And he said deliver it to this certain house but make sure they get it. But don't say who paid for it. Gosh did he pay for say I don't know, say you don't know because we don't say who paid for it, they wouldn't say him. Let anybody take the credit for it or and give him so he wasn't selfish he wasn't trying to grab everything. But eventually they found out that he was the one, you know they would never buy any place but there no matter what the situation was they would go there see, and buy from him see. Then he had one store and then that wasn't big enough so he bought another one, bought more land and built another one. There was one of the first, I don't know where his first store was but I knew where one store right where the hardware store is down there now. That is Simon's Hardware now, and they built that building there now that was the foreign agency that was built in 1926, I remember when they built that. There was nothing but a big vacant lot there with a high board fence and there was a basement there -- a reasonable floor where they built the new one they tore that down or it burnt I don't know which. But you know for years they used to have boxing matches down there, Saturday night everybody stayed in town, they didn't go out of town, it is a different life than now. Then than it is now you know, you can go downtown any night and you'd find people walking around. Stores were open until nine o'clock.

(I) Downstairs in the True Value Hardware store now where the old grass door was.

(GW) True value?

(I) Simon's.

(GW) Simon's yeah.

(I) They had boxing matches in the basement?

(GW) There was not building there it was just a building, they had torn down and they had a you know a boxing match platform put up and wrestling Cornish wrestling.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) Cornish wrestling they both put a jacket on and my father in-law used to wrestle down there.

(I) He did!?

(GW) Oh he was quite a wrestler yeah.

(I) Um Fred --- was, taking to use about Cornish wrestling.

(GW) Yeah

(I) He said one of his...

(GW) Then they had boxing matches there and then there was the Union Park down there when I was a kid, boy I suppose I wasn't more than nine years old we used to walk, when the carnival would come into town. They seem to always put it up you know when you go by Daves Street right behind Harold Simonson's [Spelled Phonetically] house? It was a siding there, there was lots of tracks that ain't there anymore now. You know when you go down just passed the power company shops there. CCI shops.

(I) Ok.

(GW) And you go down that fifth and right up in there used to side track the whole carnival there. So my brother and I and a couple of other lads always come three o'clock in the morning you know, on the train. Well wed go down there and give a job they'd always hire kids you know to help load and unload the bleachers and stuff, they did. You know and it was all pulled by horse and then elephants pushing, they had big big vans and the horses was six to eight draft horses pulling a big wagon full of equipment. They used to pull it in there, down to the Union Park, go down to Found Brothers Hill. They used to be a gas station called Found Brothers Hill there in that area I don't know what else what they got there now. It used to be an animal doctor there, veterinarian used to be there. Well the road, the same road it goes into the dump. Where the dump is now I think is...

(I) Oh ok yeah.

(GW) Where the dump is now I think is where the park was and he used to get their water, they had a big big wooden tank, pulled by horses too. Used to get their water from a hydrant right there by Silverman's you know where that rock cut is? As you get further toward Negaunee? There is a hydrant with, a whole hydrant there but they got new ones now. There is an old wooden maze in them days and the guy used to go there and fill up that big wooden tank, it looked like a big long wooden barrel and they'd use that for the drinking water at the Union Park. Surfaces come for carnival, we'd go down and work. But the only money you'd get, you never really got any more for it you got a free ticket to the Wild West Show and the circus or a free passes to probably few of the all the other shows. Then when they go to move the carnival at

the end of the week, carnival all stayed a week, circuses only stay one day. But my god did we used to work down there, we'd be up all night it be daylight before you got through pulling everything out of there on the road be gone. They used to have elephants in big wagons with tires, iron tires, iron tires that wide! Some of big circus life and the horses couldn't pull it so they had the elephants behind pushing.

(I) Oh my!

(GW) You have wagons sinking down to six inches in that sun out there.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Why I see a lot of things I was a kid. And horses and camels they had every kind of...

(I) Somebody said the last time the circus came through one of the elephants were buried in between...

(GW) One dropped dead right here, I remember that. You know that right down I'll tell where that happened, you know on the corner of Fourth Street right by the high school...

(I) By ---- there?

(GW) You know where the hospital is?

(I) Yeah.

(GW) That corner on Division Street that elephants name was Virginia, it was a young elephant.

(I) Got to be kidding?

(GW) Here we come I remember that and I was standing there when this parade was going by the circus and all of a sudden this elephant got down like that and they were you know that got that big thing trying to make the hollering Hey Virginia get up, but elephant wouldn't then you realize that it the thing died there, died right there. Then they went and got a wrecker to try and get it out of the way and after the parade go around it. It wasn't a big elephant, good size but I don't think it was a full grown elephant. They got the wreck from Buck Solman [Spelled Phonetically], he went over there and the whole blew out the back tires trying to lift it up. It blew the tires out.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) I think he was kind of man of course he couldn't pick the thing it weighs about five tons. I don't know they butchered it right there, they had to butcher it and then somebody bought the hide, and Austrian or somebody bought the hide. Yeah they had to butcher it right in the street.

(I) When did this happen? Back in the...

(GW) Oh let me see, it could have been 1925-26 somewhere around that time. I think if you check with somebody else you might get a little closer but I think that's about when it was. I know I was not even jeez I was only in grade school then! I was only going there maybe for, I was going to Grand Schooliard [Spelled Phonetically] about fourth, fifth grade. I know I couldn't have been about, I must have been twelve, or thirteen years old maybe younger than that. Oh never then ---. I remember the first airplane that came here, oh my god what the heck was his name, his name was Peterson. I don't remember the first name was these people, he had a family living up on Empire Street and this airplane came it was a biplane, a small right after World War One in 1924. Have you a circled the town yet and when an airplanes, when those biplanes flew you know those stunt wires, you know if you hold an elastic up and velvet fell on the window were rumbling sound.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) That's the way the airplane sounded and those stunt wires, those wires holding the wings boxing...

(I) Resonating.

(GW) Well they always made noise on them no matter how tight they pulled them so it was only the roar of the engine but they had mufflers on them to fight it. But still you'd hear that rumbling noise from the wings! They fly slow you know, they were flying over town and I had never seen an airplane before they go over and everybody was running around watching it. So finally no airport here and landed on the golf course out there.

(I) Ok the little out by Wabash there?

(GW) Yeah right off where they condemned it now you can't...

(I) Yeah.

(GW) Well they used to, the mine came there after that. I used to go out there caddying you know twenty five times I'd go around the nine holes around there carrying to club for a guy and using their quarter! We had done that too much to walk out there and then this airplane landed in the rough out there you know and the tail of plane didn't have no wheel on it. They never had wheels on them, it was a World War One airplane, in fact it had machine guns on it yet but they were something taken off of it, it was only the barrels left. It was something that had used in the war.

(I) Now Peterson lived here and he flew it right into town?

(GW) He was from Ishpeming here and he was going to New York and Pennsylvania, how he was ever going to find his way I don't know. I suppose they flew followed the roads I suppose but he was that parked there for a couple of days. I remember he changed the oil in the motor and

he filled it up with gasoline, they come out there with trucks and five gallon cans and filled the tanks up with gas and then I heard the older fella say that he was going to New York and then to Pennsylvania and then New York. There is some airfield out there you can go into I guess but he was a flyer I guess in the, he wasn't in uniform or nothing but it was after the war. How the hell he had this plane I don't know and then that tail skin, it was a wooden tail skin on the back with a piece of metal on it as soon as the plane landed no brakes or nothing they never had, then they had that axil across in World War One. Well then later on Ernie Bird [Spelled Phonetically] come here with a, he had a bigger biplane that was Lincoln Page Trainer, it was a training plane from World War One. They had an OX5 engine there, Italian made motor they call it OX5 his plan to meet and a v8. He had a radiator on it, big hole in the middle of the radiator you know they made them that way then. A radiator on the damn then. Slow flying worker.

(I) Mmhm

(GW) Well he flew that around here, he was bar story selling rides for oh long time. He was an old sweet guy, not that sweet, Swedish grown, he'd say to the kids keep away from the propeller [In a Swedish accent]

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) And they'd be riding on the plane's wings every day, if you kids don't quit I'll have to have you wash the whole plane with gasoline! [In a Swedish accent] You weren't allowed to smoke standing near the plane, you weren't allowed to walk up to it with a cigarette boy he'd jump, it was a hazard. There was no airport then either but he landed out here, you know where they put that bridge across the highway now, used to be two bridges and they took one off? Right up this side of Uppers center?

(I) Yeah when they put the new highway in?

(GW) There was no road, no highway then, I worked on that highway we built that one out here, there was no highway.

(I) Oh you did?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) What's the story about the guy that had the log cabin that's now in Michigamme?

(GW) That fella worked for Tushery [Spelled Phonetically], Tushery was a contractor here, building that road. That guy was staying here in kind of a trailer and he wanted something to do, he was quite art fiddle for wood. So he was here for one whole summer so he built that, I guess he bought the lodge on it, he assembled that whole thing there. When it was standing up here by the highway it didn't have any floors, it wasn't indented it was just built, you know he wasn't own the ground he just put it there to sell it. He built that in his spare time, something to do he

didn't want to hang around you know. He was a pretty clever guy but one up at Paul's place at Michigamme. They took it apart; lumber took apart and reassembled it up there. I didn't want to built that, he worked for a fella named Tushery. His name wasn't Tushery but he worked for him but he was a form of a worker of some kind on the trucks.

(I) Did that highway come through in the 20s then? 30s?

(GW) That highway was built in 1936, I worked on that. We made eleven hundred feet of road in one day, concrete. The Green Bay Paving Company come up here from Green Bay, was owned by a bunch of priests, I couldn't get over that! I was up there and we had right by one of the bridges is now, we were going to come up that going up that hill one day I see a big Cadillac car come down and I said to the guys who is driving down the trees in forms you know. You know it shouldn't be that, coming down never allowed to drive the middle, how'd he get in there and this guy said well keep quiet he said, they own this place. And the car stopped and four priests got out, in Green Bay.

(I) Oh my! [Laughs]

(GW) Must have given them a good price you know the building no more right give them a chance. I worked on that and when I made a another 30 cents 30 times an hour. I was starting ten mins to five in the morning, we worked till half past nine at night. You'd work one week then somebody else would work the next week then you would work the week after that.

(I) [Whistles]

(GW) That's how you worked, 30 cents an hour and there were guys that were unloading, they were opening the bags and I remember this day these big tandem trucks and I don't know how many yards of gravel. But they put eight bags of cement on top and the guy who be up there toss cloth bag, not paper bags. The guys would open them up and shake the cement out, getting all that cement out oh god that was dangerous. They were getting four cents an hour more, I wouldn't take that job for ten, twenty cents an hour more! Oh was it terrible when you are watching its worst that's lime!

(I) Yeah sure.

(GW) Cement was bad.

(I) Did they make those roads with a lot more lime then they make concrete today?

(GW) They make what? Faster now?

(I) No did they put more lime in the roads back then than they do today?

(GW) Lime no? I think that they put chloride in it to keep it from cracking.

(I) Oh.

(GW) And freezing of course I guess that that it stops it from crumbling, it slows down the drys. See cement dries too fast it's no good, it's gotta dry slow.

(I) Our neighbor built a garage this spring and he put in concrete flooring, it turned white.

(GW) Yeah well that there is fluoride, it ain't really lime. It ain't really lime, lime is only an agent there to keep it from making it sticky. That's what lime is for cement. See cement is rock ground so hot, so fine that it's like flour and dries to dry that it will... then you mix it with lime and water and its solidifies. That's cement, these cement plants they don't what the heck, they didn't have any around here, they don't have any kind of rock agent. I remember they used to say you had a crusher down here nearby, you know you went to the dump? That big place where the rock cut, that used to crusher down a little further was Negaunee crusher. They were blasting there, all in the summer you hear them blasting every morning. They used to drill and blast and then crush their own rock for making tar. You know they crush their rock and haul it nothing. We had World War One Army trucks you know these great big lights and up and do the other things. They had all them great big iron trucks they come for bought from surplus from World War One. Solid tires, big big trucks, that's what they used to haul with it. I remember when they plowed Third Street, from Gilmore's up. I remember one time they had the old kind of crushed rock and put the coarse rock down first little egg size and then they'd roll that. Then they'd put finer rock down, then they roll that. Then they put tar, by kettle by hand.

(I) Oh my!

(GW) And then they throw the finer crushed stuff on top of it, it didn't even look like a tar road truly you'd think they'd just put a gray road in there after a couple of weeks. That tar would have absorbed the top thin stuff, what didn't blow away and then become a tar road. That how the original tar roads were.

(I) Those roads lasted quite a while too I imagine didn't they?

(GW) Nothing was good as black top, the stuff they got today is ten times better just put together hot. That other stuff was hot too though, they used to have big tar wagons they'd pull up there and then have fire going you know all the time, great big black thing. Used to build and spread the tar by hand on the road, the guy just burnt ---on tar. When he got through his shoes were full of this stuff. Just awful. What I meant used ---.

(I) You were speaking early about airports and how guys came into town before the airport was built. I was supposed to bring over an aerial photograph for you but I forgot.

(GW) Oh I'd like to see that I didn't know...

(I) I'm gonna do that!

(GW) I didn't know where that arrow was, I knew they said there was an arrow on the roof of the town and I wasn't sure just where that was. Between Charlie probably makes sense because he was airplane not too town.

(I) Charily Brownwood [Spelled Phonetically]?

(GW) Farell [Spelled Phonetically].

(I) Farell?

(GW) Farell.

(I) Farell.

(GW) But the airplane they made never flew.

(I) Charlie Farell owned the building where Holmbrins [Spelled Phonetically] sold to Moundsted [Spelled Phonetically]

(I) Where the Holmbin Motors is?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Ok.

(GW) I remember, I used to go in there when I was a kid so I know before that on the... before that it was, there was a bowling alley there. As a kid there was a bowling alley there there was.... I was only a kid and my dad was a carpenter and he somehow got the contract to tear down something there and we took all the flooring. I was down there and my brother and I were tearing up the flooring we got there, jeez we got dirty during that you know. I remember it had a little fountain right on the... the city had a fountain over on the corner by right by, kitty corner from the Gosher building [Spelled Phonetically] there was a white drinking fountain there. And I was over there drinking, I didn't know it was one and some kid went by and he looked at me and said are you have a dertch [Spelled Phonetically].

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) I was soot from talking up that flooring and we hauled it home. There used to be a toy factory over here behind the consolidator too.

(I) Oh!

(GW) To make toy sleighs and wagons but that didn't last long. That went down fast. And then during the Depression, Jesus that was something and it was trenches, we didn't feel it here in 1930.

(I) You didn't?

(GW) No the until then 1930 that's when it hit. My brother Eddy was only seventeen years old and he went unemployed because everybody was trying all over the country and he was seventeen, he quit school and checked a freight, he was gone for seven months. I never forget he had twenty seven cents in his pocket when he left here. And you know what he did with them? He sent post cards home to ma to tell her where he was. We'd get a post card from Chattanooga, Tennessee then we got one from New Orleans he said jee it's something in Chattanooga there is such a thing as a Mardi Gras. He was telling us about the Mardi Gras then he was out East, he was all over but then he tried to get out to California he said as soon as you hit the California state line the railroad bulls. That is railroad detectives they stopped the train, they kick everybody off, they weren't allowed in California any longer. The state folk all the money. Well you couldn't blame them you know, but they didn't have no work and there was no such thing as relief, I mean relief but they didn't give you no money they gave you a bag of oranges and a box of rice. What are you going to make out of that? That's about the way it went see so you didn't, there was never no... couldn't do much.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) There was no unemployment, there was no such thing. When you were out of a job, you are out of a job. But a dollar would buy you and nearby it's as well, I'll tell you what your money really worth something then. And these guys every day and every night you'd see guys going by with a stick, you know cane and a bag a bandana bag with their personal belongings.

(I) Wrapped around like a....?

(GW) Just like a hobo.

(I) Yeah ok.

(GW) And then they had a jungle they call it the jungle and the cans went down here behind the consolidator, they are always outside of the railroad people waiting there. And they used to go around panhandling, they used to go always come and ask you for something to eat people. But the trouble is if you gave one...

(I) Why?

(GW) They'd come back and say what place you'd get it all? They'd be sure hell everyday you'd have somebody and they know who game the most? The poors.

(I) Did they really?

(GW) People were big fan, they knew what it was to be hungry every year they had some. You know old Rittery's [Spelled Phonetically] sort of had a hard, they would give. A lot of people over there knew they were quotations. They are the very heart of people.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) They were the only ones that would give, other people were afraid of him I suppose I don't know. But their heart was big you know, they knew what it was to be hungry!

(I) Their heart is still big today the people that live back then that are still alive. I was up there today doing some work and walked into a few homes, they are so friendly up there.

(GW) Oh yeah yeah. Very good friendly people. I knew people were closer years ago then they are now. You'd see front porches of houses that people sat on.

(I) Right.

(GW) they only got them for the looks now they don't nobody blasted in uses them! Usually you open those spring on porches, it's a different life, different living all together. I remember when I was a kid up on Third I could name everybody, I can tell you right now the name of everybody from the Paginater [Spelled Phonetically] Street between down ---. I lived in that house then and who lived there then. I'll never forget like my boys home up there Levi. I said some people by the name of Kaine's lived upstairs, John Kaine [Spelled Phonetically] I remember him try to think of... and he was about my age. I don't know where he is now, he is an insurance guy in the service for a while. And then there was another guy up on Third Street that Walsh Williams [Spelled Phonetically] I remember that name for a while, he lived in the corner of Third and Wabash in that... you probably you know where Jonny Lebber [Spelled Phonetically] lived? That's the house he lived in anyway, and one day he came here in the store you know and I hadn't seen him for many many years and I said did you used to live up on Third Street one time? He said yeah why? God you are Walter Williams right? He said I remember he been living out to Lake An--- for years and years. He couldn't get over that I remembered but I don't know that made me think of, I looked at him I knew I hadn't seen less than thirty years, he was only a kid when I knew him. Isn't that funny? There is something about them that you can remember. Only North of me, a little north where he lived Ethan --- he was in Michigamme but his sisters lived on up on Third Street and then he used to buy the biggest cars. He was a carpenters and he built the Holterson's [Spelled Phonetically] place up there in Michigamme.

(I) Oh!

(GW) And he came from Norway same time my ma came and he was, he had always buying these big cars and I remember one time he had a great big I don't know what it was an Oldsmobile or something like that. And it had been in garage on account of fire that had been in, the garage had caught fire, it was all charred but he fired a chief you know. And the fire was half a block long dang car away.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) He had that and a big Sting R he liked that! That is a good car he said, he'd go to Michigamme with, there was only rough road you know from when you go to Michigamme in those days it was rough road at times from Dyride [Spelled Phonetically] on. It was just wet road it was that narrow wide you know it, it wasn't a highway but it you couldn't go very fast. You couldn't beat a car on, you gotta stop when a car comes. I remember when we used to go up north, that road up north?

(I) Yeah.

(GW) You never, you couldn't keep on going if car coming, you gotta stop and get over the shoulder you both sneak around each other. It was a wagon road! When we used to go with the Franklin that's how it was, once you get past, as soon as you get passed the cemetery from then on this side of... this is your view. It used to be all red iron ore from there out to Deer Lake and you used to have to stop car coming. You couldn't just ride by, you couldn't go more than five miles an hour at that time. That's how it worked. I wish I had some of them aerial pictures or pictures that Jonny Newet [Spelled Phonetically] took one time. I know he had an awful good camera and clear and you had they damn good idea what the roads were like real there. Made for horse and wagon that's what they are made for. See out at Deer Lake one time there used to be a big pig iron one time. Deer Lake was a pretty big place once, lots of people out there.

(I) Oh you're kidding?

(GW) Don't you know that? You ever go up in them houses are? When you go down, when you go around the curve there before you go over the bridge, without turning over the bridge go straight.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) You go down there used to be an old school house there. That's gone now.

(I) Where the gorge is?

(GW) Yeah before you don't go over that go straight.

(I) Ok ok ok.

(GW) Down to the lake, well you turn right you do there used to be a schoolhouse there see nobody come in town they went to their own schoolhouse. Even just like out to Dead River there was a Dead River schoolhouse too, they tore that down. There used to be a schoolhouse out there, they never come in town, out by my brother Don's place used to be the Fire Center School Hall. Them people out there never come to town they ride a bus no way to get into town or school they had their own school and their own place. It was small probably ten students, ten or twenty students you know town was big you know. You had all the grades in one school! First grade up to eighth and you turn there by the schoolhouse on Deer Lake and there was about eight

or ten houses in there. There used to be a lot of houses down closer to the lake but they are all torn down. I remember when they built houses around there, I was a kid. They had a pig iron first, then when they built Deer Lake dam bigger, it flooded all that.

(I) Ok ok.

(GW) So that thing was underwater, we used to go up there fishing with the building sticking up out of the water, the pig iron furnace. But they knocked all that down now, I see that none I had gone up there last time.

(I) Remember you were talking about aerial photographs?

(GW) Yeah.

(I) Back we were talking early about those airplanes on top of that one roof there is that big marker it says Ishpeming City and then there is a big circle with an arrow on it. What does that big circle stand for?

(GW) All Way Landing Field.

(I) All Way?

(GW) It's supposed to be it's recognized as All Way but in those day they didn't have there was such few aircraft around that the only place that had any big airports were the cities and there wasn't much flying down there. You couldn't go up there was no radio contact, if you get up in a storm you couldn't find your way down.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) You get up in the clouds you don't know if you are flying little or going up or straight down you know you can't tell. You get up in them clouds you know...

(I) Yeah.

(GW) And the, a circle today means that if it's a circle it means all way, you can land any direction on it but then they had the circle and they had a runway running along the river bed.

(I) Ok.

(GW) Oh I'd say about a hundred yards from the river what they call trench out there the run...

(I) Where the sewage treatment plant is?

(GW) Yeah this way from it.

(I) Ok.

(GW) The sewage treatment plant would be right on the very right end of the runway that's where it would be.

(I) That's pretty flat.

(GW) Yeah well they had put just like a road a wide gravel road, it was all gravel there was no cement.

(I) You know what that road lines up with the way the arrow is! Is that why the arrow is pointing that way?

(GW) No that arrow is pointing from the air, the airport is that way from there.

(I) Ok.

(GW) Is that direction see? It be that direction, the airport is over there.

(I) Yeah if I'm not mistaken that's the way the arrow points! Is that...

(GW) Yeah but the road is running along with the river, the arrow just shows you were to find that circle.

(I) Oh ok!

(GW) It points to the circle.

(I) Ok.

(GW) If they can see the circle you can see the... I remember one time it was a heck of a big storm, oh almost like a tornado it was a terrible storm one afternoon in the summer time. My brother Rin [Spelled Phonetically] he is a flyer now, he was only a little bit of a kid and he had lie all the time, he saw a dot coming from the west right after, you see this big storm had just moving over it the sky was all clearly did you ever see that? That storm one time?

(I) Yeah yeah.

(GW) Well he saw that dot coming, he was standing watching it and after while I could see it and what the heck that would be? Now this was bad in oh golly we had just built that airfield then and although nobody had around here with an airplane, only Art Vabish [Spelled Phonetically] used to come up from Escanaba and sell rides on the weekend then go back. He had a Waco and he used to stunt fly and parachute up here, he was a regular jumping, I remember the names of the guys even.

(I) [Chuckles]

(GW) Only twenty-one years old jumping and parachuting people, and they were selling parachuting jumping equipment. That was quite an attraction, rain was soft and we were watching, it got bigger and bigger and he said that's an airplane! And we watch it pretty soon the thing come out, three engine Focker it was built by Focker you can tell the heavy see.

(I) Is that German company?

(GW) Henry Ford made what they call Gooser, Gooser, what the heck... you know the Trimotored Ford looked like a Focker but it wasn't real it was a copy something like Focker but Focker made the Focker.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) And it launched the grand, it was all yellow it was a grand, some oil company from Texas I forgot the name of it, grand something. Grand River Oil Company in Texas and big circle on it all yellow plane and a big circle, Grand River Oil, it was an executive plane I guess. And it was families on there, there must have been, there was sixteen people pile out of it and they were crying, they were scared. They were in that bloody storm!

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) These pilots you know and we drive down the field because I could see the field from our house so we ran across the swamp over the field and before you know it there were hundreds of people out there. They never saw a big plane with two engines on it, three engines. The pilot got out by the time we got down there he had circled over the field like that there like he was hesitating and finally he made a, he come down over from that... from over the Carp River follow the Carp River you know where it comes on. And then he got down on that field and it was water on the runway, the water was splashing mud all over the damn thing you know. And these people got out and they were crying because women and kids mostly women and kids I don't know the hell where they were going, hardly any men in there just the two pilots and the pilots said the engines were still running. So he got and he said where is this town he said... well you're up in Ishpeming he spotted the airport before and he spotted that sign down there. But he said is that anywhere near Detroit? Oh good god no you are four hundred and fifteen miles north.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Oh my god he said we got drifted off course, they were blown off course they were coming from Texas to Detroit and then of course they got blown off course they got in that storm and see in those days aircraft never went above ten thousand feet because if you go up ten thousand feet without pressurized cabin you could tap out. Loss of oxygen, you don't get up that high without oxygen, you ain't got a good heart you could die even. So they had to stay under ten thousand feet, all the aircraft in those days. All you ten thousand feet a storm goes up forty fifty thousand feet, you couldn't get above it and it was so big he couldn't go around it and he

got into it. Got through it but they were flopped around that plane for quite a few hours up there, drifted the way in the hell up here and he said that pilot said to me, all he could see was with I never said so many damn woods in my life right now, there was nothing flat you can land on where in the hell are we going to land? And then he spotted the lake so they stayed this way from it and he see this town, he spotted this town, he saw the little towns up there like Sigma and everything, little villages and that they were only a few houses but he followed the highway and come into old Ishpeming and landed. Then he said on this field he said they had, how long is this runway? It don't look very long. Lawrence Nope [Spelled Phonetically] knew how long it was and he told him well I can't get off the road he said with this plane. Is there any airport near here that needs a bigger field? He said yeah he said there is field I'm sure you can get off easier in Negaunee airport that was enough for one he is the airport one time too. You know where that waterworks is in Negaunee?

(I) Yeah.

(GW) Where that housing outfit well from there down to the right was all hills and airport?

(I) By Buffalo Hill? Or Patty's?

(GW) It's called Beverley Hill, you go down by the water and turn left that's the highway then.

(I) Oh.

(GW) The highway goes right around the airport.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) They used to, I'm not old. That wasn't built yet except the Eagle Mills.

(I) Ok.

(GW) Eagle Mills runway is high on a hill, high up you don't have to --- he said you can get off there. So he said all that they had taxis come, buildings had taxis here and he hauled the people to town with a motel. Guest, they were serious I don't ---. They stayed there and they flew the plane empty, Big Melk [Spelled Phonetically] got him to show him get down to see where that airport is. They would probably get lost see, Melk would know but Melk got in and I thought that was something he got to ride in a trimotor plane boy. So they took off empty get up they flew down there and landed and then the next morning they taxied the people from there and down there and they loaded the plane and then they took off. They went down to Detroit or wherever they wanted to go.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Rio Grande that what is was, the Rio Grande Oil Company I never forgot that it was a crazy thing.

(I) That's quite a bunch of stuff you got there.

(GW) Yeah my brother got parts of that from Ernie Burgs [Spelled Phonetically] airplane but he got some of them what they call those things ---. That thing would jump you know and then the Stinson's was, a Stinson tried come up here. A fella from Marquette, two guys from Marquette over. I can't think St. Louis's I think --- ----- Donald Trips [Spelled Phonetically] father came up with them, do you remember Donald trip and county?

(I) Yeah.

(GW) Well his father looked just like him, you'd see him all over in Clown Trip. He was only about fifty years old when he died, but he knew these people, these fellas, I don't know how he knew him he was in Negaunee he worked in Negaunee. He flew up from Detroit in that plane and that was around here quite a while he used to fire storm around here. Then when the plane got I don't know how they quit using it, it was parked in the Negaunee Airport for years and the kids were in playing in it, you know like and old junk car. Then the fly – was a pilot from Negaunee was a pilot and he was going to fly the Atlantic ocean so he got out of the all the dough. He fixed the plane up with some extra tanks and everything and I don't know where he took off from New York but he was never seen again, he went down the Atlantic. It was after Lindbergh's flight, it was it seems to me he tried it in 30', 31', 32' or something like that. But he tried that flight, took off from New York, he was going to Norway off Rhoads Island. Fly the ask anybody about it.

(I) Why did he?

(GW) He used to drink boy but I don't know. I remember one time in Negaunee he come flying, he was drunk he would fly out of honest to god he was a serious alcoholic but in those days they always just die. There was no laws I suppose to, there was no written laws to enforce it you know. Flying you know, you ain't allowed to get down under a thousand feet over a town now I don't think. But I tell you he flew to take off the chimneys, he used to light up the chimneys.

[Laughs]

(I) Probably drunk flying his plane.

(GW) Yeah he was. But then I guess he straightened up after that and then he was going to fly the Atlantic and become famous well there is another person in the water. But there are lots of guys tried it after Lindbergh and before Lindbergh, lots of planes in that ocean. Hell from 1923 those guys tried to fly, there were a couple of guys that was I forgot his name, a lot of names too. They were from an aircraft company and they disappeared in the Atlantic, two of them the two pilots but Lindbergh he did it alone. And then Cortigin [Spelled Phonetically] do you remember when Cortigin flew to Ireland? Wrong-way [Spelled Phonetically]

(I) Wrong-way Cortigin?

(GW) He flew with a dolly cub a small small plane. And you know he said in order to get the wrong way in jet, he didn't have any passport or no permission to fly that. So he took off and said he was going to California and he went over and he landed in Ireland and he made it over there.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) That's why they call him wrong way Cortigin when he landed he had to get, he had to go for to the American embassy and get a visa. A visa up there or something some way to get a passport to get out of there! He didn't even have a passport!

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) That was in 33' I think he did that Cortigin, Wrong- way Cortigin. You heard of him?

(I) Yes I heard that!

(GW) He was an Irish man, lot of gut.

(I) Do you think you said enough?

(GW) I don't know. Some tape left? If it's ok

(I) I don't know if you are getting tired or...

(GW) No no I go all the time I'm always alone anyway, I have to go an event at 11 o'clock. Yup it's just like when I started a business, you know I started a business I didn't even have before all we had at out the shop was one wheelbarrow. We didn't have any money, we started with nothing believe it or not. I was working at the mine at the same time and I was paid for every night, well you see what happened first when I worked at the mine all the paper I earned I had to quit working. So they were looking around they found out I was making paper, I was looking for work but nowhere else to go anyway. So they at the mine the guy say hey how about you make paper? yeah. He said how about come out and give me a price on some rooms for the --. Oh gosh years went by and no paper produces they all went to work in the ore industry, they found you know that anybody who couldn't fit 4-F for the draft didn't pass physicals they would go down and work in admissions plant in Milwaukee or wherever. Then they were looking for guys who were worth their gravy you know, pay them big money, outside of town here were paying bigger money but then they were getting ripped off by the rich. You know delivery folk so that there was no paper hanging and those that did work went quit their shops and worked the mine they wouldn't do nothing. Only eight hours at the mine, I remember opening up some of them down there they had a sign and during the war it said closed for the ---.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) You'd be surprised how many businesses closed for that. True story he closed for the duration.

(I) Of the war?

(GW) Gone off to war everyone was drafted off, certainly young fellas or else they figured they'd quit and then go work in the admissions office see. When I was working for building tanks which is down the river use --- Men from Detroit --- and that's why I had so much, you know I never looked for it and then working one house yeah while I was at another place so they kept cutting everybody see.

(I) Ok.

(GW) So I had a book you know a little book to keep track I had seventy-five rooms to go all the time, I couldn't below that for a full year. Until 41' from the day of Pearl Harbor, I was hanging papers Pearl Harbor right over there on North Street and heard the radio going. And every once in a while they'd break in and they'd say something about bombing and I wasn't paying much attention but Polly Left [Spelled Phonetically]. Do you know him?

(I) No.

(GW) He said listen to the radio he said, god that guy must be hard hearing he had it so loud you are living next door you are deaf, he was so loud I could hear it from his house and we were ten feet house working in, painting and hanging in paper. Then he stopped when he heard we interrupt this broadcast to announce that the United States is in big trouble with Japan with bombings right now at Pearl Harbor. And he said we don't know how many people were killed or how much damage but he was going on this and that is now. He never said Honolulu has not been bombed yet, they mentioned this several times every five minutes they'd break into the broadcast! You wonder these broadcast Swanson's Funeral Home in Marquette sponsoring Sunday mornings or you know usually you know old expect but they'd break into that every five minutes. Then they said that the radio then they come over here only as far as you could heard every few minutes they'd announce it. So we said hell we are at war... [Switches Tape] It was question congress meeting and they declared war on Japan right away and then the next day they declared war on Germany, because you know they were having trouble with them they were sinking our ships too! And I was, I had registered in the first draft and I was just barely married and they said you were going to consider yourself a single man so I had to register as a single man.

(I) Oh god!

(GW) I was only married three months see they figured I suppose they thought I had married to get out of the draft I wouldn't have gotten married if I knew it was going to kill my time from -- . They made sixteen million men registered that day, sixteen million and then I was living upstairs

in Honolulu Flats, I come home and said to my wife I said you know it would be a good idea if we break up the house, we only had loose furniture anyway this was before we got married. So we had used furniture so why don't we get rid of the furniture and move her mother and dad live here I think. You move home because I know damn well I'm going to service and I'll be called up and I don't know when I will be back. Sure enough, I got a draft card, up there they come up, state police come to deliver it, deliver it from Marquette. But they were going to every house around so when I came home that day she said your draft notice you got to go tomorrow morning to Ishpeming on the bus at 6 o'clock in the morning. That how quickly you had to go! They notified you that afternoon that next morning. So I said well I might as well start hauling stuff home there in order to keep the house because you'll be alone in there, your parents are alone all the time. So I figured... [Tape cuts out] So anyway the midland life we had got to bed had to go bed early trying so I could get up. So in the middle of the night you know they come knocking on the door, getting up move and these were four guys standing there. It was the draft board, Jesus didn't they give you six more hours. Oh no we were here on business but he said we got to notify you said don't you go tomorrow in the draft. Are you sure about that? If you were called in of course would be, he was on the force I knew he hadn't. He said no that's right the mining company we have a meeting and they were meeting all over the night you know with the draft picks. They were there was no end to that they didn't know which home I went to bed early they were working all the time. So he says, no he said the CCI needs lot of men to work and they were going to start floating ore tomorrow at the old mine and you got a job there. But I said jeez I got no job there to be honest with you. Yeah you have it now be up there 7 o'clock tomorrow morning, report to our post. Well I said ok as long as the draft board otherwise you know we were told we that dodging the draft, failure to go is twenty years you'll get. You'll soon be red foot. So I knew this him ok so I thought jeez that was a relief so the next morning I'm up mining working on the steam shovel showing me what to do I work at the jack. One side of the steam shovel you broke ore. Well then I worked for two or three days before I even got a physical and then you know Bart said one day is enough, tomorrow you go down to the hospital you got to be examined. I had a job I worked well now they got to examine me, so I had a physical down there and then I well we worked all that summer, that was before Pearl Harbor. Then I got laid off when the loading was over, see I was classified as C4 was my classification you got A B and C and D and 4F of course 4F meant you failed your physical. Well I didn't even get the chance to get examined see so I was classified as C4 working as a miner essential orders because the guys working with me, one fella there that had two kids and he was there, he was absent in the ore mine, I don't know if he was sick or he was out drinking or what he was doing. But Jesus he got drafted, you had six weeks training and ship out and you got killed in more average. That's how quick it was everything was going in a rather short timeline had happened. So when I got, see when shipping season was over then I was laid off and I thought that was it, they would call me and I'll be taken just like everybody you couldn't go down town you wouldn't find a kid around town under eighteen up, over eighteen years of age. Some kids even seventeen were enlisting and claiming they were eighteen when they weren't, you couldn't find them in town you know. It

was empty so then when dust when I got this job over there with a businessman downtown while his house was over there and we had these pink paper you know. So, when I was working that's when this Pearl Harbor insistent happened.

(I) Oh ok.

(GW) That's when I said to ma I said well we are all going now and then I just wait for each... well you get a notice every month with different part with your classification notice. So we had to prepare for that again, well then I got called... I got called back to work again! I wasn't supposed to, I was supposed to go into the draft instead if the draft come, before they call be me back but then they come one day they said I was working there a few days and they had a paper that said deference I don't know what the hell that meant, deferring. Well they said they it will keep you out of the draft for ninety days that all we can guarantee it because we need you, you are more important here than you are in the Army because this is essential war industry. Well ok, I said I signed that paper but they kept deferring me all the way through the war but I never lost a shift! I never stayed home one day in five and half years, then I worked Sundays and all we didn't stay home for Sundays you worked Sundays, as well every Sunday. And then I was out paper hanging every night on day shifts I was, I was hanging paper from five o'clock till eleven o'clock every night, every night. I couldn't get caught up with the jobs you know.

(I) Oh!

(GW) And then shortly rationing everybody had, everybody seemed to want sugar and I never cared much for sugar so we would take our...

(I) Ration share.

(GW) It was worth and everything it was enough. But I could never get enough coffee so I was out in these houses you know and the people just say well I knew them well and if I mention sugar I had gold! And I said jee you need sugar? Jee could you get any sugar? I said well it ain't black market or nothing no I'll trade you my sugar for coffee. Well jeez they would give you any amount of coffee for sugar, I didn't want to rip them off I was fair I said well whatever it was worth, I wouldn't sell it you just trade it. But jeez I almost had enough coffee to get, I never use sugar myself and the women never baked, a lot of these people had to have sugar to bake but you know to make everything else. But meat rations of course we never run short of meat here, we got a we bought a pig someplace for meat you know out by National Mine were people worked. They wanted to raise a pig so we would go on living with it. We'd have enough pork enough five dollars a pound by the time you got through with the pig the way it was you know eaten. To feed the pig at that time was hard to buy you don't have food for it, you know buy price so we gave that up. And then I know on one job I went out up North Lake, I traded you know the guy had no money so we had to barter so I paid for two rooms he gave me three chickens and a dozen eggs and shredded -- that's what I come home with! My wife looked what do you mean you, well I said they don't got no money to give me so they gave me some chicken.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) He offered to buy but I thought it was a novelty so I took a picture. Oh we had some experiences.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) But then I got deferred all the way through the war. And then I was like I say I only pay for all that time.

(I) Well you were a busy man!

(GW) Yeah but I never got tired of it you know, it was something else to do! You couldn't go out the woods unless you want to walk every place. It was, you know you couldn't, you weren't allowed to go out and drive your car out in the winter anyway. If you go down the highway on a Sunday and you were dressed up, state police see you they'd stop you and say is this trip necessary? Where are you going? They want to know where you are going! One time I was out here by the cemetery and a troop, a whole army went by god there were many many trucks! And then I took a second look they were all German prisoners of war. They were lot, a whole bunch of them at that time, where are they going? You wanted to know, you weren't allowed to say nothing. Nobody if you see anything happen you were, there were signs all over, the enemy can hear you know there was always slogans you read about in school they were here. They said that just like plants and curtains are alive they hear, which meant they were covered then see. You don't talk about anything you see and the whole, well it must have been a mile long convoy, army convoy and it was guys American soldiers in the back with rifles. Inside were all Germans and I'd seen the swastika on the uniforms, they were German troops and I found out where they went. My wife's people lived in Iron River, Camp Gibbs for the Camp Gibbs was a Prisoner of War camp. They had about I don't know how many thousands they had up there. They had quite a few and down here at night trains, see they converted all the railroad trains during the war so they run on the mainline they were busy. They had trains going by here all blacked out and I could see canvases over the top and there was cannons and tanks oh the trains were blocked. They had two engines pulling and two pushing, steam engines and they were going slowly through town. No lights, no lights at all but they were you could just hear the front end of the wheel I was standing down there by the one, --- Rainbow bar you remember that?

(I) Yeah.

(GW) I think it was there. Yeah train goes right by the – by the Grace church, well I'd see trains going right and they were all going west to see that how short. Soo Line now but they used to go right up through Ubin [Spelled Phonetically] and another rout to California. They would haul all through the mountains here, two trains some of them coaches all blacked out they must have been troop trains but you weren't allowed to say nothing. And trains were going day and night! All night long!

(I) Oh my...

(GW) One after another, I don't know where they were, they come from down that way they had to cross at the Soo, they must have been turning them across the strait. And then one night, it was a late October and I was local car fellow there and I suddenly heard a lot of noise from the compressor up there, you hear the banging of the compressor and the noises around the mine. Ordinary noises but then I heard this terrific roar and rumbling and I thought look up and by god there was big big bombers coming over and I thought what the heck kind of bomber. They were so low and they were at night, see the reflection I turn around, I could see the stars though, they were American B-19s, flying fortresses. Four engines jobs and they were on routine mission, they were probably pilots and navigators learning and they were probably most likely got lost. And when they saw these lights on our trestles they were oh over two thousand feet long! They must have thought they were run-aways and that thought they were gonna land on that. Dog god they were coming down and Curtis [Spelled Phonetically] was up there saying what in the hell them people thinking? Are they going to land on our stock piles?! It was black out too, but they were down low to look at... they didn't know what they saw these lights they didn't know where they were I suppose. When they see these lights they thought they'd get down and get recognition and then that night one of them... then they went some went to Marquette, they were circling Marquette and some guy went out to the airport with gasoline and put on the sign of runway and lite it and then the planes were gone by that time.

(I) Oh.

(GW) He knew they were in trouble but he couldn't communicate with them and then one crashed and killed a bunch of guys on the Porcupine Mountains. They were flying too low and they run into them high hills up there, they are up pretty high. It takes a corner to crash there.

(I) Now you say the town was blacked out does that mean everything was out for the night?

(GW) No the lights, the streetlights were on, the *trains* were blacked out.

(I) Ok.

(GW) There wasn't a light, there was only one little bit of light on the front of it and that's all you see, no windows. The lights on the windows were off

(I) In case anybody else was taking aerial photographs.

(GW) Yeah you wouldn't see them.

(I) Oh.

(GW) There was signs all over like this no sign.

(I) So you...

(GW) Don't say anything you see.

(I) You and some other men who were able to work in the ore industry during the war...

(GW) Anybody with essential ore industry if you didn't move any time it was up to the company to defer you. And if you lost any time, well you couldn't lost time that they let you go.

(I) Yeah. You really made use of your time!

(GW) Uh?

(I) You made good use of your time while you were here.

(GW) Oh yeah I made...

(I) You were working for the ore industry and then plus when you were not working you were working too! On your own!

(GW) That's how I got started in business, you know saved up eight hundred dollars I buy in war bonds! I bought a twenty five dollar war bond every month. You had to do that, and it just like red rust, they didn't ask us they took it out!

(I) Ok.

(GW) Which was alright I mean they needed it but I mean that how things go in times of war and the gold mine they quit that that quit by the way because it was nonessential. Gold isn't essential as the ore industry, that was running in Calumet and Heck was running that thing. Low mines so many I don't know if it's safe.

(I) Then the World War Two --- ---.

(GW) Yeah I saved up that much money in bonds and then in 19... the last part of 1944 November the wife said well I wanted to sell paper out of the basement here. Buy wallpaper and hang some of it out of the basement because I didn't have no property or nothing I didn't own nothing. No assets no collateral of any kind to loan nothing I didn't want a loan. So I thought I always thought business and try it out just for the feel of it. So I told her to see a place down town we can rent for just a little front, with a little bit of a shop. Just to see what ninety days would do, well she went and then she come home, well I got a shop she picked. Fifteen dollars a month, it was a little deed to it as part of the Ascard [Spelled Phonetically] building down there.

(I) Uh?

(GW) You know it's gone now, that's your stucco building that Kimp [Spelled Phonetically] had for furniture store? Right across street straight east off of Cross Street across from Stan's? Well there was a little barbershop there at one time owned by the fella by the name of oh Charlie had a shop there a barbershop. He had died so we took over that new place, it was only about ten feet

deep, it was about twelve feet wide. It was a small shop, well when I moved in there I just picked up what I had here and picking up cases of paint and different things. All it was a good wheelbarrow, but I thought well what we can do is now contact some paint companies and try to get a small order in. So I don't know how the dickens we got, yeah weren't allowed to travel nowhere, we couldn't get enough gas to go to Green Bay or nothing. You couldn't go out of town because if you were asked if it was essential or necessary. So the roads and we picked up, we oh that was the line that was going out, the whole paint company. So had some back and then I found out where they were order, selling their stuff for less than we were paying for it so we had to quit that one.

(I) Ok.

(GW) So then to consolidate it was going to out of debt, taken the emotion to sell wallpaper in the lumber yard. You know where the place? Because they had just got out of coal and wood, the quit that, well they bought a big stock of Nancy Warren wallpaper, now that's a good wallpaper line, its expensive four dollars a roll and that was a lot of money. Four dollars a roll for paper and I said to them I said well he sold it to me for less than cost and all brand new stock so I must have had...

(I) He was going out of business though?

(GW) Well no they wanted to close that out because it was a dead horse in their business, nobody ever asked for wallpaper in a lumber yard. Because he couldn't get anybody to hang it see, they hang they would buy from anybody who would hang it and actually the guys that paper hang they are going to buy from him and maybe sell it they ain't going to someplace else because they don't think you are going to be interested. So I said well I'll take that paper so we got about eight hundred dollars in cash for our bonds so we bought the paper oh it was a good buy. With the pigeon holes and put it up down there and by god everybody that comes wanted paper so I'd always send them to any store they wanted here. Somebody buy it at Jackson's anywhere around everybody was running out of paper. So when I said to them now, when you order the book -- he said where do I buy the paper? I said well I have paper you can buy where you want I but I had wallpaper and I'd like to sell what I got but if I could. He probably knew I had a better product apparently than other products in town. Beating the trades so they came in and they picked out, I had a ----. These are sold all every bit I had and then took a loan out and then it covered the rolls, we sold all -- hundreds of rolls and I sold all by ---.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) Good price for hanging it and then of course we that's when we were down on First Street, well then we were only allowed to be there ninety days because that's all we asked for that going in and he was going to make that furniture store bigger so I had to leave. So then John or old Swanson, Just Swanson had retired he was a man years ago, eighty five or ninety years old and he wanted to retire out of the building. And his son of course was a chemical engineer he didn't

have to work ---. So he was trying to sell it, he wanted to sell it to me but he had a lot of old stuff that I didn't want and honestly couldn't you know old paper. I didn't have the money to buy it anyway I said you better try selling it to somebody that can get a loan, I said I would be asking the bank for a loan to get enough money to get it. I'm sure they wouldn't be mad no collateral, I wouldn't have the nerve to ask them anyway. So he sold it to Billy [Spelled Phonetically] and Billiy Billy wanted the building because he owned the building next door. So he bought that and then he wanted, Billy wanted to sell me all of his stock. I said well I think that's all old stuff I don't really need that. Well he said then how about renting the place? I said yeah I got to have to have a place pretty soon and he said how about moving there? Thirty five dollars a month and then you can buy the stock and they wouldn't give you for it I would move inventory, I said I'll give you twenty two hundred dollars for it. I said I ain't got the cash but I'll have to pay you when I have the money. ---- Well couldn't give it away to nobody, hell he tried I know he had been around I found that out, I knew about that too but I didn't throw it out there. So when I bought that I paid it all off, peace me one time and but he kept raising the rent every month! Rent went up ten dollars every month because he got for a hundred dollars a month, my god I wanted to work for him I might as well be there quits or get another place! Well he couldn't rent anywhere else, they were all looking for too high of rent, you know we tried to get that bakery down there that had, he was kind of a shyster he wanted to rip me off ---- -. So I said to him I found him and I said how you build up a store in front of the house, it was his house see. Sure he said it was after I told him what happened. So I quit my job, now this was 1946 what was it October 1, 1946, I quit my job at the mine of course I asked the super first how soon can I quit if they were going to give me a job I didn't want to work ---. He said you can quit but why would you want to quit you never lost a shift? I said how do you know that? Well we watched you that's when they realize they watched that picture the --. Why don't you take a leave of absence instead of it. I said that ain't quitting I said that means I have to come back, and I said I'm pretty sure I'm going to make this thing go I need to be gone for good because I used to make twelve dollars in one night and I work all day at the mine for four dollars and eighty eight cents! Jeez I thought it time to stick to one thing you know and get out of that and stick to this. So I quit my job the 6<sup>th</sup> of October and of course Billy knew that I was in build of building he had anticipated building a place so he went and got the, what they call the elder men to get together and hurry up a zoning ordinance. Nothing, no business is north of Beaver Street and that went through that. He got that going and then they... they took that long to effect, well I had started to build a building, it was in effect, he had done that before October because it was made law on the first. Well I built my building on the grace period, you see when they make a law they cannot enforce it for thirty day I found that through my lawyer you know. He told me you know you can build but you better have it up in thirty days or they can make you tear it down. So I put this whole store up I took the poor shops, sell it all, because lumber was short oh you couldn't buy any you had all of the green and rejected material. I found a guy that had a whole pile of rejected green lumber outside my camp, I bought it all from him and on the sixth of October to the thirty of November is only twenty two, twenty three days. I tore the poor shops sawed all the lumber, dug a ditch and

put down a saw horse and put a small foundation and put the building all up inside the twenty two days. If you think I went to work, we were working, three of us Charlie Cornish, you remember Charlie, his father and me.

(I) Mmhm

(GW) Three of us we built that whole thing in twenty two days. We just couldn't believe it, while I was here the city manager, Holiday come one night he said what are you doing here? I said, building a room on the store why? Well you ain't allowed to do that he said it's zoned out, I said Mr. Holiday I said I can do this up until the first of November. I hadn't gotten up but I was smart ass about it. He said you well you better get on it, oh yeah I said this is going to be up! And he didn't like that he wanted his spot me, but then I had it up and I was doing business one day before the deadline.

(I) [Laughs] and that was when? Start of your business.

(GW) Then I put the sign, they gave me about a four hundred dollar sign and put it up over the siding, it was ten feet above the sidewalk, higher than any sign downtown. The bottom, to be mean they come up and told me I had to take that sign down or they would take it down and charge me for. I said under what circumstance? Well they said its unlawful to have a sign hanging over the side, how about all of them downtown, well they were there already. So I had to take my four hundred dollar sign and throw it away.

(I) Oh boy.

(GW) Then they threw the book at me with taxes, well there was a lot of crooked stuff, there was a lot of tricky stuff I mean some of them that I don't think were fair and all they were mean. I got around that. What I found out I paid too much taxes the ex-mayor called me, he was all through the job he worked for the guy --. They are way out of line on you because you are corner or some reason, well I said I'm out of the zoning ordinance I suppose that is why they want... they might have a legal deal I don't know. It might be fight with them but we got them to cut it down.

(I) [Laughs] That's something you were such a hard worker, you know.

(GW) Well it seems as though you get all kinds of hardships but then you got to not get mad. Don't ever let it get the best of you, just keep it cool and figure well when I anticipated well look how lucky I am! I didn't get over and get knocked off in the war, I felt like eight guys that graduated with me got killed in the war. Eight guys I registered with are gone, so I was lucky I didn't, I look at it that way, I'm lucky I didn't get knocked off over there. Just like a lad over here I was working for him yesterday, I never knew he was, I knew knew he was in the service! He only got one eye, he got both eyes and he is blind in one and I asked him what happened to him and he said well he got, he was in Germany during the war in 1945 and he got hit with a sniper, a sniper shot him right through the head the bullet come in took part of his ear off. He

only got his ears half inch shorter, the bullet went in here and come out up here, went in on an angle and I said well what happened? Well he said I was walking point I was with a light field artillery you know mobile artillery, they were a pretty big company, they were going to Leipzig about the time they were going to get down to Leipzig he said I never got there. I was walking along ahead with a Thomson submachine gun watching for, we didn't figure the town was hostile yet but probably was taken but we were coming up this comer colony we were in. And he said I had a Thomson submachine gun and of course the sniper always hits one of them first. I don't know where it comes from I never even heard it, I never knew I was hit he said, all of a sudden I woke on the ground and thought what the dickens am I doing on the ground with this thing? All of a sudden I'm laying down, what for, there was nobody around the other guys had scattered because they see that you going down see. So he got up and then he started to get kind of faint and the guy he passed out he said. He woke up two weeks later in the hospital or something in England and then he went from one hospital to another and he got wound up in the stayover. And then he got seventy percent disability but he works now, he works through the night but he got, he is blind in one eye. Jesus you are lucky, went through his head, didn't do damage to his brain only broke the optic nerve.

(I) The optic nerve.

(GW) Yeah. Well Gordon Schoola [Spelled Phonetically] I went to school he went to school and he got shot through the neck in the Serra Vasa, he got no voice. When I see him in California he only whisper you know. That's what was around he told me, he showed me, he got a bullet right through here, they are steel bullets you know not lead. But it cut his vocal cords. Jesus, so I was lucky I figured all the hardships I got man I could always you know laugh at them off. You can't laugh off shrapnel or a funeral. He was shot from shrapnel and died a few years after, Danny Steven's [Spelled Phonetically] was killed just ---. And Bobby Erickson [Spelled Phonetically] and Carter Mulkin [Spelled Phonetically]. Look at that kid over there...

(I) When you, since the war have you been back visiting in Europe and all? Do you have any...?

(GW) I was all over the battles fields in more homes, with home of the American troops here. And San --- now it's a farm that was a long time ---- . Thirty seven thousand American soldiers are buried there in --- . Yeah we went in there with a taxi fella he brought me in and then showed me all these crosses, thirty seven thousand my god I couldn't believe it, went mad. And I was at Sigma Hill that's the Sigma family you read about that in World War One? At Verdun? And Belmont? Fort Bull? ---. Gets all kind of all over there, memorials out over that place. But they all got shattered from when Hitler went through his time, they damaged a lot of them. When they were shelling I suppose. Yup I don't know long enough tape. [Tape Skips] I was digging there and I was over there and my Olf took me over there and was an archaeologist there, he must have been a professor and one of the head guy and he come over and wanted a tool! I was walking around inside this fence and this Olf introduced me to him, he was from the states and he thought I was an archaeologist, he said could I bother you for a the tool. Oh no I don't want no tool I said

there. Oh he said aren't you going to dig here? I said no I'm not an archaeologist, oh jeez I had to get out of there they chased us out of there. And they said that, I said that what is this you are finding? Well he said that foundation of logs in are chart there that was in the nine hundred village and the one below that is dead and digging it out you know and the logs are still there! They are charred, they must have charred them to keep them preserved but they don't rot, wood don't rot in the ground over there, I don't know why. But it was right near the river in --- these old buildings these teared down building and all they built in six hundred. You know they are log building and he was footing of one he said that was a village of six hundred, they knew that.

(I) Wow!

(GW) People lived, there is a very simple type of life and while I was standing there some girl was an archaeologist, had a big dish pan and they went down into a place that must have must have been a church one time. And then they said it was made into a park and they went down about four or five feet into the ground and she had a big skull she had! In a dishpan she carried it out to wash it off and they were studying that artifact, they found with it. That kind of how the heck long that was he said that would have to be buried at least must have been in the ground eleven hundred years! Look where they are digging because the history, they got all of them records back there. You can go back an awful long way.

(I) A church kept good records of everything.

(GW) See there weren't very many people educated, you wanna figure how they got records that old on our family, they must have been wealthy because the only people who were educated were wealthy and there was one in five thousand that could read and write if you figured out. But they were well educated, my grandma went to Heidelberg University, now my grandpa did but my grandma was educated in University of Oslo. She went to university I remember what that had mean with brains, we were all dumb but they were smart!

(I) I think it rubbed through though. I think it rubbed through, look at how you are able to remember kind...

(GW) Hell that's a gift I got. I can sit down and throw out my subconscious mind I never realized I can do that until I got on pain but --- can do the same thing. She is ninety years old and she can tell you stuff that you just find it awfully hard to believe! But she got it down, she remembers back to actually she was five years old. She can give you details of trips and everything and she is right on it. Very very alert and she is ninety years old but she is gifted with that memory but she said even she gets things like, she's got some kind of a gift she doesn't like it at all. But she said it's a permission I can... I can almost tell, I don't know what it is but I can tell when something is gonna happen. She said it is funny, she had one funny incident that she told me about the last time I was there. Back a few years her sister Anna was coming from Milwaukee up to see her but she never knew or told her she was coming. But her and uncle used to just go out and take a ride around up in this small town of Mercer. So one night she said Carl

let's go into the railroad station, the train will be in pretty soon. What for honey he said, you don't know anybody come in on train. No but I don't know, let's go I don't know why I got to go there. They went there and her sister got off the train and she never even wrote, never have any idea she was coming up there. She never told them, she was going to surprise her. Isn't that funny? She went in there and out from carl, he couldn't believe that, but my god he said there is something to that he said. You can, she didn't know what it was but she felt she had to go there.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) And that's what happened, she came off the train.

(I) Do you have that too? To an existent?

(GW) Well no, I can't actually say although sometimes I've, I'll tell you what I've had happen to me. I was away on a trip one time, I went down to Louisiana and you know where it was in Louisiana yeah. You know Henry Wadsford Longfellow wrote *Evangeline*. And I read that in school and you know there is a building down there, see Henry Wadsford Longfellow never was in Louisiana but he had a gift, he could describe *Evangeline* and the territory the house she lived in. It was so detailed I don't know how but when I read the poem, I had a mental picture of this and when we went down there we happened to come into this place, I had no idea that I was going into this. But we went into that house and before I was in the house, I don't like that feeling but I had it in my head exactly what was inside of that house and I know I had never been there before! I couldn't possibly, I never been in Louisiana before but its funny everything on the walls in there was there. I knew it was there, why I don't know, unless your mind was ahead of you. I can't figure that out. I don't like the feeling though, you don't like that but that's the only time I have ever had stuck with me. I don't know if it's a gift or a disgusting you know, you shouldn't be. It bothers you, that you, it feels like you been around a second time for some reason.

(I) Yeah.

(GW) And I don't know why and I don't like it, I don't like that feeling to know that you... you feel like you have been in there before. It's just like Ann Hathaway's house in England we went in there last time I was over there you know. A big trip, we took us we drove out to Shakespeare's theater, we couldn't get in because they had a show going and we didn't have a ticket, we couldn't even get in to look at the building. So we went into Ann Hathaway's house where he wrote all these plays, that original house is still standing to this day, it's very well intact patched roof and all. But you know, it's in a different time.

(I) Ok.

(GW) But it's funny when I went in there too I could feel, here is how it is the only way I can describe it is. When I looked at this stuff it looked, it felt that I was looking at for a second time but I know I had never been there before. What is it. I can't explain that.

(I) I don't know.

(GW) Yeah I went all through that house and it was original from way back in his time. Stratford on that lawn.

(I) Stratford-upon-Avon?

(GW) Yeah that's where it is. Yeah that's where the house is! Stratford-upon-Avon isn't that a river? On Avon what do you mean on that Stratford- upon-Avon? That's the place it was.

(I) Yeah that's all I can remember about but...

(GW) Ann Hathaway is the women he married. Very well to do women and she inherited that house and it was all a big patched roof on it. I got pictures of it here.

(I) Uh I'll have to look that up.

(GW) You know the real history is one thing but the real experience boy that's another book. You know in school I just went over history but it never really soaked in. But now when I went over to Europe and the last few years I learned more than if I went twenty five years through history class because you are there. It's just like going to Hastings you know where William the conqueror came in 1066.

(I) No I don't know.

(GW) You never read about that? He came from France and Normandy? He was there through the thrown of England see in 1066 when the king died he come, he invaded and took over from the Saxons. The Saxons were ruling England so actually the people of England today are descendants of North man. Normandy was named because of the Northman invaded France and stayed there for four hundred years and probably gated a place habits from our France descendants of the Northman. You know a fella told me he went to the Vatican and he saw the original scrip of the mass in the Vatican. You know what the last words were in there? And lord deliver us from the Northman. Isn't that a funny thing?

(I) Oh.

(GW) But they don't use that in the bible but it's in there.

(I) Mmm!

(GW) Yeah. But they were terrible people you know in the... they went into France and Italy they occupied, they moved there. If you ever read about the Viking they were terrible people

they are our descendants but it ain't nothing to brag about! They are pirates and bandits! But you know when we were in Ireland we went to Bunratty Castle, you ever hear of it?

(I) No.

(GW) It's intact its one small castle in Ireland that's intact and if you go thee you get, if you get a hotel or another we went to a bed and breakfast place. There aren't really no hotels there, is a small town and a lady said do you want to go out for supper? And we said we didn't know where we could eat. She said well if you want to go Bunratty Castle, well I didn't know what that was but they explained it to us. A bus will come here, they will have a supper and they will be here at six o'clock you can get on the bus and they will drive you out to this castle. It's an old Irish castle they call it Bunratty, it's all intact, the Vikings never sacked it, the Vikings never bothered much of anything in Ireland. For whatever reason they don't know, they went in there but they never took they guess the people were too poor to take anything from. So this castle was built in and around well the fourteen hundred and the draperies hang on the... these big drapes, oh god they were that thick. They are still the originals hanging there and we touched them and the stuff falls off. They said don't touch them much because we don't ever take them down, they fall apart they are that old. But the color was all faded out and we went in there and they have the king and the queen and all of these guards and it was just a regular uniform that they wore in those days. You honest to god think you walked back a couple centuries you know. And they have these old tin hats and swords and when we came in they announced you like they announce the my wife lady Hellen is coming in. We come up from a narrow little bit of a stairway, come up from the side and come out in this big room and they had a big iron gate with a fire in the middle of the floor is all stone. I don't know how they ever kept warm in these places, they lived in them. And then they had us sit at the kings table and the whole court and all were there then they had an act go on where one guy, the king, it was just like it was you were living in that time. They went through procedures just like you were a guest at the table and all of a sudden one of the guards said to the king well he didn't do something wrong. So they gaffled a guy and they hauled him screaming out and threw him in a dungeon and you can hear him hollering out there. And the dungeon just off the end of that floor and they went through everything just like you were living in fifteen hundred. Then our meal, that big wooden bowl they come put it on the table, it was ribs you know cooked. I don't know cow ribs or what it was and then they had a big wooden bowl on the floor and you would, no knifes or folks and no spoon, you eat with your fingers you grab one of them and chew it like you see in the movies. You eat that and you throw the bones in that big bowl.

(I) [Laughs]

(GW) And the only drink we had was mead. I never knew what mead was.

(I) What's that?

(GW) Mead is the drink they use in those days, its intoxicating if you drink too much of it. It's made out of honey and molasses and it's kind of a sweet drink it's almost tastes like pop but gosh after I had a couple of them I started to feel it. I didn't want it that bad. I didn't care for it.

(I) Is it watered down? Because it sounds pretty syrupy.

(GW) No its thin, no no its made out of honey and the end ingredients are honey and molasses but it's just like you are drinking your drafts of beer you know. But its stronger it's got some kick in it, it must have been the only liberties they had in them days. They went through everything just like you were in the living in the fifteen hundred. When they said that at this house you will enjoy it because it's only twelve dollars a person and then the bus ride and everything was included. We went over a drawbridge and it was an original its original as one of it, you can see the old logs in there. It hasn't even been pointed up and build its been very well intact. I believe the only thing they fix was the roof on it but everything else just like it was in even these big draperies that is hanging on there. And breastplates and swords and all the equipment is still there.

(I) George for anybody who wants to go over there what country and what city is that in again?

(GW) Bunratty, when you get into, when you go to Ireland, first you go to London. Then if you know anybody, it's better if you knew somebody in England to drive you rather than take the train, you can take the train I suppose out to... well it's better that somebody with a car. You can drive the Holy Head, that's up along the Ivory Sea and then you board a well it's a big ship, a big ferry you can put hundreds of cars on it. And it runs every couple, every three four hours and it goes to just below Dublin. There is a little town below Dublin they don't bring you to Dublin there is too much traffic going in there, it's below that the dock city where they dock. Then you can drive down to Cork and down over around to oh way down south, it's like a big island and then up to oh Gallaway Bay and then Shannon Airport is near there. Then if you want to go up to London there and Ballbash way up north. We were going to go all the up there but it was a strike on the country and no loose papers, you couldn't do nothing. We were going call home you know and we had to go to the Shannon Airport and call an international line because it a strike you couldn't telephone, no lose paper. And everything was on strike there but gasoline was two dollars and forty cents a gallon, we had to go to seven stations to get enough gas to get out of there! So we high vaulted across Ireland but all we had, we were going to Dublin took the ferry across the Irish Sea back and its three hours crossing the Irish Sea, that's quite the distance. That's quite a ways but it's a nice ride though I liked that.

## **End of Interview**