

## **Interview with Lowell Johnson**

**Marquette Michigan**

**July 15, 2012**

**A warm and humid day**

RUSSELL M. MAGNAGHI (RMM): "Lowell, first question for you, your birthday"

LOWELL JOHNSON (LJ): "1945, December 14, 1945"

RMM: "Could you tell us, start off with your background; your ethnicity, and tell us a little about your family. I think your grandparents..."

LJ: "Grandparents, yes..."

RMM: "Came to this country,"

LJ: "Yes,"

RMM: "Maybe talk a little...just give a simple background about them. And sir, could you talk about the family relationship, the grandmother and grandfather."

LJ: "My grandmother and grandfather came into this country, probably in the late 1800's through Ellis Island I believe. And then they came through there they finally settled in the copper country in Swede town. And my grandfather, he worked in the mines up there, and I think eventually that killed him...the lung disease."

RMM: "Now what was his name?"

LJ: "I don't know what his first name was, I can't remember. He was dead in 1935. Believe it or not both of my grandfathers died in the same year. My dad's dad and my mother's dad both died in 1935. I don't know what it is but...and also my mother had a sister too, that died from the disease you used get back in the early days too...I can't think of what it was called..."

RMM: "Diphtheria?"

LJ: "Yeah something like that, yeah..."

RMM: "It was a childhood disease."

LJ: "Yeah, they didn't have any help for it back then, so she had died at like five years old or something. But my grandparents, yeah I don't...I cannot tell you what my grandfather's name was."

RMM: "Ok, and what was the name of your grandmother?"

LJ: "Velena. Velena Peterson. Velena Peterson. And her middle name was...I don't know if it was Emilia or what. If my mother was named after her...I think sounded normal but the names in that area..."

RMM: "Ok, so they were up in the copper country, your grandfather passed away in 1935."

LJ: "Yes."

RMM: "Then what did your grandmother do?"

LJ: "She lived in town on Sixth Street, and she never did work. What happened is her son being their mother's brother took care of her. He worked for Lakeshore and he was in World War Two and stuff and uh, he died when he was forty eight years old from some kind of a throat cancer he developed when he was in Verma in World War Two. He had said that they sprayed or something over there and it got to him. And he was working on a lakeshore and he went to get a drink and got up and walked towards the door and fell on his face and bled all out: done. My stepfather, not my stepbrothers son, his stepfather was there, and he was just coming in the door and said 'Hi Elmer,'" and Elmer said something to him and he fell face first and that was it. Gone."

RMM: "And what was his name?"

LJ: "Elmer"

RMM: "Elmer Peterson?"

LJ: "Elmer Peterson."

RMM: "Ok."

LJ: "And after that my grandma just lived by herself. She was a strong woman."

RMM: "Now, here in Marquette?"

LJ: "Yes, right on Sixth Street."

RMM: "Oh on Sixth Street here?"

LJ: "Sixth Street. They moved there I think in....I don't know, probably 1912 or somewhere around there. I don't know, maybe it was sooner. I can't remember if my mother was born up there in Swede Town or if she was born here in Marquette."

RMM: "So your grandmother then moved down here?"

LJ: "Yeah from up there. And my grandfather. And then when he died he died here."

RMM: "Oh, I see."

LJ: "Yeah they lived up there and then he got sick so bad that he couldn't work no more with that lung disease and he came down here and \_\_\_\_ said he never really could work. And he was done for...and that's why I never got to see any of my grandparents. I never knew them or never heard his name that much to really remember it. It's kind of sad that part of it but..."

RMM: "So they were all down here...the Petersons were down here"

LJ: "Yes, my dad's dad"

RMM: "And then your mom and dad were born, and their names and when were they born?"

LJ: "Uh my dad's was Orange Charles Johnson, he was born in 1905 I believe and my mother was born in 1906 and her name was Astrid Peterson Johnson, but I don't know what month they were born in."

RMM: "And then, so then they were living in Marquette?"

LJ: "Right"

RMM: "They grew up in Marquette?"

LJ: "Yes, yes...and I don't know my dad had mentioned one time. I don't know if he had met her in the Copper Country if they...my dad's dad come over here apparently his name was Carl Charles Johnson, and when he came over here that's when they changed it too, but when he was in Sweden it was something else. So when he came over here in the 1800's I think there was about nine brothers that would be my dad's brothers and sisters. And then when they came over here a couple of them when to Ishpeming

and Negaunee and a couple went to the Copper Country and a couple of them lived in Florida, and some stayed over there. Apparently he had a pretty good sized family that I didn't even know about until they made that historic book for me and the relations down state. He went all over, flew over there, and got all the information he could get for all the families. I am actually related to Elmer, or not, Elwood Matson. He might be my dad's first cousin. I believe his parents might have been married to a Johnson."

RMM: "Oh ok."

LJ: "I don't know too much about it, you know, I never got in. The old man never said too much he just left it alone. So he was related somehow to Elwood and them so there are probably a lot of relations around that, uh, the book I have it tells me a lot more about the history of family otherwise, I, they never talked about it."

RMM: "Hmmm, interesting"

LJ: "Yes,"

RMM: "Then what did your father do then. He flew up here and worked up here in Marquette?"

LJ: "My dad's dad he worked in the powder mill up here. And the one blew up down here by the tourist park and he went from there and he went up to National Mine. And then I really don't know what..."

RMM: "Working in the powder mills?"

LJ: "Powder mills yeah. So I don't know exactly what he died from. I can't remember how old he was. All I know is he died in 1935 so he might have been 70. I remember my dad's dad when he came in I was, when I lived down on Third Avenue down there he came back from either Oregon or Washington he was uh they called the men back then were professional loggers. He had logged here in the 1800's and they did the pines and stuff here and then they run out of timber here to cut he went out there and spent the remainder of I don't know how many years he spent out there until he finally got too old to work and he died here in 1945, 46, 47...maybe 47 or 48. I always thought that was my grandfather."

RMM: "This was your...?"

LJ: "He would be my dad's brother. I thought he was my grandfather. I was told when I was older, you know,"

RMM: "Because your dad had a whole bunch of brothers,"

LJ: "Yeah, brothers and stuff that came over with him in the 1800's. And then when they came over and he had died in 1935 so when my dad's uncle was I thought that was grandpa, see. And later in life he told me 'That was my uncle'...Fred... so like I said...and actually Fred when he lived here in turn of the century there was a log house down behind my dad's on the property down in there."

RMM: "On which street?"

LJ: "Down on Fair Avenue."

RMM: "Oh on Fair."

LJ: "You go down across the Badgers Crick and it was sitting in the corner over there. And, when we went through all the stuff here when my dad died he had eight lots and he thought he only had seven but apparently Fred back whenever, it must have been back in the thirties or whenever it was, never paid no taxes on that little acre of land because it was supposed to be eight acres but there were only seven. So when they went in to check on them they said no the state or the government owns that or something, whatever it was, so they had to buy it back. Pay the taxes or whatever the heck it was on that. Forty cents or sixty cents a year, or whatever the heck it was back in them days, but so that...but that log cabin was there and I remember when I was a kid it was all broke down in, you know bad."

RMM: "Was that something they lived in when they moved there?"

LJ: "That is what they lived in, yeah, that is where they lived, back there. But I don't really know how that went about. Some of that...my dad and them they owned apparently a lot of property along there, but when Clark and them all came in there he just give them the property. There was no money exchange or nothing back in them days. He just said, "Yeah here you can have a couple; two, three, four acres or whatever." You give them four lots or whatever it consists of. So I don't exactly know when he was in there. All I know is that thing was really old when I was born in '45 and I finally got old enough, 5-6 years old, it was busted down in."

RMM: "So it was kind of an early Marquette dwelling."

LJ: "Oh yeah, oh yeah, even that little shack that was on the corner right there. I think that was built in...before 1925. Because I think my dad built the house we lived in down there in '26."

RMM: "And that was Fair Avenue and what?"

LJ: "Right on Fair Avenue, when you are going down, it'd be Erie, before you get to Erie Street that goes up, ok, if you turn right you up you go up this dead end that comes up, we lived in that whole area there. My brothers sold all that property now. There is four houses there."

RMM: "Oh, ok."

LJ: "But the first one right there, the four on the corner, you count up four, that was original house."

RMM: "Oh ok."

LJ: "So if you go and look at the foundations of them places, then you can tell how old they really are, because they're not made out of...they were made out of separate concrete blocks with wires in between them."

RMM: "Oh,"

LJ: "You ever see them?"

RMM: "No."

LJ: "They're shaped like, uh, I don't know they were about that big, or about that thick and they kind of went, they weren't straight, they were kind of. I don't know what you call it. Kind of a weird deal."

RMM: "Kind of a ripple effect?"

LJ: "Yeah, yeah, it was kind of a rough deal, you know? And then they put wire between them. And that is what they had. Same with the root cellars and all that."

RMM: "Now did they use cement or concrete in between?"

LJ: "I think it was but I don't know what. Whatever they used it looked that color but the place...they tore it down now. It's been what, four or five years now. I wish I would have known about it before I could have showed you a lot of that stuff in there because that was all old. All old stuff in there, the way it was built, the sills and all that stuff."

RMM: "Now was this sort of built by them? The Swedish...?"

LJ: "Well this was built by my grandfather and them built it."

RMM: "Oh, ok."

LJ: "So a lot of it built with half trees. They'd take a tree say it was that big around, say five, six inch, and they'd slice right down the middle and they'd lay it on the sill with the flat part down in fact there is some in this house. This house right here is about one hundred and, I don't know, I've gone through and redone everything in it, but when, before I did it this house here, all it had in the walls was newspapers. And the sills up here, where I haven't, I just left them instead of taking that all out for the roof, but where the sills are up here there is half trees that are cut in half like this and its rounded and that what your presses and everything sit on. Well they're not presses they're handmade, but the only thing different on this here, this house probably from that one this house used to sit down next to the street and it belonged to Trowbridge himself. That's what Trowbridge is named after, this was one of his places that he came to when it was down there and then when El Morris, I don't know if Elmer was his first one or, when they bought it they put this basement in here and then they moved the place up onto the basement. That's why the basement is, it's got blocks that are only maybe fifty years old. My dad's place where he was born, them were the original ones that were made back in the, whenever that place was made. Like I said when you went into that house, I wish it was still there, it'd be worth taking a picture of and having it in a book 'cause I tell you, that place had everything you'd want in it."

RMM: "Because you see one of the things that happened in Marquette; there were Swedish carpenters and a lot of the houses in Marquette were built by these carpenters. A lot of people then tried to get plans and wanted to get plans and know where are the blueprints and so on, and there aren't any. They guy would ask you want a house, what do you want, and he would build a house."

LJ: "And if you wanted something built on they'd build right on to it. That's the way that one was, it had all the porches. It's amazing how they made stuff and it looked flimsy compared to what you have nowadays but it was all there. One hundred years later the place is still there, you know what I mean. It seemed to breathe and everything a lot better or something, I don't know... better than newer homes do."

RMM: "Interesting"

LJ: "But, yeah, that had a lot of stuff in there boy. You could have taken pictures of the way they had their stoves, their chimneys and all that. But it's the same with this one, there is a chimney in the middle of the house on this. Ok that's made out of rock. It goes up through."

RMM: "So you've done quite a job here,"

LJ: "Oh,"

RMM: "Totally renovating it so that the old house it must take a lot of \_\_\_\_\_?"

LJ: "Yeah, to put everything, to get the floors, the walls, everything. I'll insulate that with all that drywall and everything in there, ain't finished drawing the windows or stuff with the floors, the other room is all dry walled, the shed out there, bathroom: tore all that apart. I was lucky I did that when I was patter shop. I was patter maker so what I'd do is the walls were out of square, some of places; they'd be two and a half inches out of square so I'd just take some measurement and I'd take them to work, and I'd have permission to do that, the boss, after work so I'd go in and set them up on the plainer and I'd make a wedge on a two-by-four and run it through, and it would take from one end and taper down two and a half down or an inch and a half down whatever, I'd bring them home and nail them in the wall. Then when you put the walls up it was all square. To put that stuff I've got in my bathroom, it has to be perfect within, but I had the opportunity to do that with all the machines."

RMM: "Otherwise it would have been impossible."

LJ: "Yeah, no way."

RMM: "Yeah."

LJ: "You couldn't cut it with a saw or nothing but you made wedges...yeah, that's what I did her too. These are all handmade by John...what the heck was that...Connors...John Connors. He went around and made a lot of places in Marquette, and he made these cupboards."

RMM: "Uh-huh"

LJ: "That's why I never tore them out."

RMM: "Yeah, yeah."

LJ: "He made them right here."

RMM: "And it's all real wood?"

LJ: "Yep,"

RMM: "That you don't get today."

LJ: "Nothing is fake on them at all."



RMM: "Now, so then were born in Marquette,"

LJ: "Yes,"

RMM: "And you had brothers and sisters?"

LJ: "Yep, yep,"

RMM: "How many of them?"

LJ: "One brother, and one sister. And I don't know, I think my sister must be...she is twelve years older than me. My brother is six. Like I said, I was kind of a mistake. My dad and them...and my mom were forty some years old, and I think almost forty five. So that's why when I was born everybody was gone. But even my, I think my sister might have met my grandfathers and that, I'm not sure when she was born because like I said she is twelve or thirteen years older than us."

RMM: "Now you were saying yesterday when we were talking that your grandmother...you had some memories of your grandmother cooking lutefisk?"

LJ: "Oh yeah, yeah."

RMM: "Do you want to talk about that?"

LJ: "Yeah, well like I said she was really fussy about that. And to go any place today and try it, and when I have, and I like it you know what I mean, I have never come across the way she did it and when it went on to the dish how good it was, you know what I mean? It was...it tasted like a fish it was solid. Not that jelly stuff you get in a lot of places, and I just can't handle that, that stuff. And the sauces and stuff she made was all what she brought from the old country. Maybe that's why it was so good, I don't know. I was just young at the time."

RMM: "Now was your mom able to pick up the recipe?"

LJ: "No, not really. But she tried. She knew she wasn't doing what her ma did but she made it and we'd go down and we'd eat it and any of it, if it didn't turn out we just scraped off the stuff that wasn't any good and we ate the stuff that was good. But she couldn't get the sauce either to work for some reason. So whatever my grandmother did, she probably, well at the end there, the last few years, uh, she kind of went, kind of goofy you know and I think my mother probably didn't have the stuff written down, you know what I mean, so I think that's where she's goofed up on. And a lot of time what I've noticed with

older people too, that might have been with my grandmother too, they don't have any set rule how they make anything. They just go in and grab this and that and this and that and they might throw three different other things into it that you have no idea even being used, see, and I think that's the way my grandmother did stuff, because everything she cooked was excellent. She was a real strong headed woman too. Wasn't scared of nothing. You know, between living by herself and no husband and stuff like that. The only reason she died, Russ, she was eight seven I think, she went downtown to get groceries, and she was coming back and they were working on the sidewalks in town and he had taken the thing out, the big thing, she was walking around, walking with two big bags like that and she fell down there and broke hip. They didn't put the thing up, she didn't see it within five years she was gone. So that's actually what killed her, was that. Otherwise she'd probably living to be like your mother."

RMM: "Yeah. So you were going to school in Marquette. Where did you go in Marquette?"

LJ: "I went to Johnny Peres for to, what the heck date, eight grade, then they were closing so I went from there to Graverette, and that was the last class in Graverette to graduate. Then some went to the new one, she was one of the first ones in the new one."

RMM: "At the Marquette Senior High School."

LJ: "Yeah, the new one there."

RMM: "And then what did you do after you were done with high school?"

LJ: "Well I graduated in June and by July I was working the lakeshore. I went right to work and I wasn't planning on doing too much of anything else but I got in a motorcycle accident and busted my legs all up right here, and spent three or four months in a body cast with that. The best thing about it is I don't know if that was the bad part or if I'd have went Vietnam, but I just got out of high school I week later I got my draft papers. That's how fast they were taking you in '64. Anyways, it was on a Friday night I think. I had just gotten out from work and I was going out, going down Bruce and then, he was there and we were going someplace, we were going to do something, I was on my little motorbike I had and the guy trunkered and, and pulled right in his driveway and never even seen me! Hit me head on!"

RMM: "Oh!"

LJ: "Took the bike and bent the wheel up on it, eh, the carbonators were hanging out of there, blew me out of my shoes and everything. Never had helmets back in them days can't even imagine wearing 'em,

see, on them small bikes. But like, when he hit me, he hit me with the headlight in this corner over here. He was turning in, if he hit me here I wouldn't have made it, but he hit me here and when I went forward my leg must have hit the headlight and stuff when I missed the top of the car ramming it with my head on the side, see, and went down the road maybe 35, 40 feet and landed and my leg was all twisted and they had to twist it back. But anyways, I don't know which one would've been worse: if I would have went to 'Nam or got picked off of the bike so..."

RMM: "So then you were out of the running for Vietnam."

LJ: "Yep, what was it the one y I got then. Wait no, was it 1Y or 4F? One of them. But then I, Son was pregnant at the time so we ended up getting married in cast, on crutches. We weren't planning on it, but it didn't work out without the crutches so we got married with the crutches and everything and then..."

RMM: "And that was what year then?"

LJ: "'64"

RMM: "'64"

LJ: "Yep, or '65... '64 or '65. Might have been '65, Russ, because I got picked off on the bike and I am trying to think of what month it was...August? Or was it July...kind of left it off in the corner, I don't remember too much of it anymore so...but anyways that is what happened and we got married then."

RMM: "So you worked at..."

LJ: "I was working at Lakeshore,"

RMM: "Lakeshore...and then, how long were you working there?"

LJ: "I worked there 27 years."

RMM: "Oh, ok, so from what about '64?"

LJ: "'64 to 24 or 27 years later...that would be '89, '90....'89 or '90, yeah."

RMM: "And then you worked for the city for a while?"

LJ: "City, yeah I worked for the city there I went from Lakeshore to the city hall there."

RMM: "And that was because Lakeshore had pulled out?"

LJ: "Pulled a whole bunch of us, yeah. The only thing I did over there was a custodian's job. It was pretty hard to get anything else but that's what I did there."

RMM: "What did you do, you kind of mentioned..."

LJ: "Oh, at Lakeshore? Well actually what we did there...I started out in the foundry part and I wanted to be a machinist when I went there you could take a course to do that. Anyway, I worked in the foundry part of it there and we were making laps and stuff for Ford Motor Company and General Motors...we used to grind their glass with it. They're like pie shaped, just like a piece of pie and they would put a dozen or sixteen of them in a circle and they would turn in water and that is how they polished the glass so you could see out of it. That's why the glass back in the olden days was a lot stronger than what it is now. The glass you have nowadays cracks really easy, you know, and we made them and base plates. Big base plates we made for General Motors, Ford, GE, Bowing, all kinds of companies."

RMM: "So you had quite a complex corporation."

LJ: "Oh, yeah, they came from all over the United States to get stuff made here, that's how good the appliances were. People never realized where the stuff that went out of this plant in Marquette went and places around the country where you could get it a lot easier than coming all the way to the U.P., at a dead end, to come all the way back to California. Well they'd come all the way, Bowing would come all the way out of Oregon or Washington, wherever they're from, they'd come all the way from there to here to have stuff made and bring it back to there. Because when they'd put it into place 99% of the time it would fit and it would work. Other places they would bring it in when they would do machines and stuff like that a lot of it wouldn't match up, it wasn't as good. So Lakeshore was pretty well liked back in the olden days, you know."

RMM: "And then you said they had contracts with the U.S. Navy."

LJ: "Yep, then we got into making wenches, we did a lot of repair work for them big cranes that they stuck in the nuclear disposal dumps underground. We done a lot of repair on them. We had one just a trolley assembly on top it was big as from that wall to that wall...I think it was 24' by 24'. The motors were so big we couldn't pick them up with the cranes, we had to call one of the big places in town just to pick up one motor, there was two of them on this unit. It was just huge."

RMM: "And what did they do, truck them in?"

LJ: "Yeah, they trucked them in on special trucks. The trailers on the trucks were designed...they had separate trailers all the way through. The trailer was probably...oh maybe the yard long and they could stretch it out. And it would pile up like this, onto each other and when they wanted it had all the controls on one dash, you'd just push the button and trays used to lay them right out. And then they'd get in there and they'd put all the loads on there and they're on even and you push the button and it levels it right out. So if there is thirty ton over here and only fifteen here when they got through leveling it all out it would level it right in there. :

RMM: "Now you said they very good...they had to follow specifications?"

LJ: "Oh, yeah,"

RMM: "Will you talk about that a little?"

LJ: "Well anything that I did on a wench or anything that I was doing for the government they'd have me sign off on it. They'd have a booklet with it that you went through so when you got through putting this on; bearing, bushing whatever you're doing drilling it, setting it up, getting the spur gears all that stuff in there when you got through you had to run it and make sure there was no noise no nothing. Test it, run it on the test and lift the weights and three times the weight sometimes, whatever they wanted you know. And then you'd sign it off and then they'd come in and they'd look it over to a certain point oh, ok, they'd line it up, put it on the truck and out they'd go to San Francisco or wherever it was going, you see. Most of the time they went to the ship then, and then when they went there if things didn't check out they'd send it back to you. See I was lucky enough that I never had anything come back in my name, but you had to do a really good job on it, you couldn't just throw it together. It was a lot of machining; I guess you'd have to look at it to see. If you ever go on the navy boats any of that stuff, destroyers, anything, you'll see the big wench on there? If you look at the tags on them 90% of them were made right here in Marquette. Big Anchor Willis, as it said on these big oil tankers, them huge, one link is made in Sweden. It is about that big around, is five or six feet high, weighs 500 pounds, it's a special chain. That's where it's made, in Sweden. We made the wench for them too. We had so much trouble with them out there that we made a rowler system that would go on the side of the boat and the link would lay in the roller. They had the skid plates before; they were peeling off pieces that were five or six inches of metal; peeling right off the side of the boat, because the anchors weigh 250 ton or something

like that. When they hook up the hose or something, where they empty the oil into, the ship has to stay steady. It can go a certain amount but it can't...what they do is they drive forward and they drop the anchors out and then they back up and drop the anchors out and then they pull and center it so the anchors are pulled tight on all four corners. That is the kind of stuff we had to make."

RMM: "How many people worked there? Like, you know, when you were there?"

LJ: "I don't know, maybe 150."

RMM: "And then when they closed what happened to the work crew? Did they all leave or did they find other jobs in Marquette?"

LJ: "Well, some of them went to Wisconsin. Like me, I just took the job there, so I could stay here, but most of them...some went to the mines. I don't really know where a lot of them went, actually. I didn't see them around to see, and when I do talk to somebody they say 'what's his name, I haven't seen him in 15 years' and some of them are dead and gone, you know. They just come in and took the plant and moved it from here to Ironwood."

RMM: "Iron Mountain?"

LJ: "No, Ironwood. Ironwood they opened one up...or Iron River. Yeah, Iron River. Ironwood is the one way up by Wisconsin. Yeah it would be Iron River, and the other one in Wisconsin there. Right across the border by Oneida Lakes."

RMM: "Wausau?"

LJ: "No, just wait for a minute...right on the other side of Oneida Lakes there...Rhinelanders."

RMM: "Rhinelanders."

LJ: "I think there is something in Iron Mountain I am not sure, but they just went in and opened the place up, and then he came back a few years later and wanted some of the guys to come back because he realized he couldn't replace the...you just can't throw 135 years of experience out the door and expect you are going to get it back. And one of my good friends went to Wausau and he got a job in teaching welding and stuff like that and he said he would send guys up to them and they wouldn't stay very long. They'd leave without, walking in there used to get a job."

RMM: "Better pay?"

LJ: "Well, probably a little bit of that and probably a little bit better conditions, you know what I mean, to deal with. When you deal with an employer like that you don't realize that people get a little scared of him. I mean, if you can do what you did here after people worked for you thirty years and forty years and whatever its been here and all the sudden shut the door and throw everybody out and not do anything about it, you know, help them, you're not going to have...other people are not going to have that much faith in you either. So there is a little bit of everything there that goes in that area. Some of them went back to logging because they did not want to deal with his tactics, you know what I mean?"

RMM: "Yeah, yeah; attitude and whatnot."

LJ: "Right."

RMM: "Interesting"

LJ: "Like I said when they do stuff like that they don't see what the repercussions are going to be where they are going into these areas. I wouldn't have known that without Bob being a teacher, see, and having that knowledge that sent them people up there."

RMM: "Now how did you...you kind of also had, you had your life here in Marquette and so on but you also had, kind of a, you were a nomad, kind of a somewhat colorful career focused on the woods and the land around here. Talk a little bit about that. How did you get interested in being in the woods and learning about the woods."

LJ: "Well, I guess when you grow up with all your relatives and everything and Grandpas and all that being hunting and fishermen and my dad, way in brother and laws and brothers and everybody you just get out and do it. But back then it was a whole...when I was staring deer hunting and stuff...like where my camp and that is now...there was nothing there. That was all woods in there. There was a road there but no camps. And there was no camps, I think that one over by the river over there...by the Clark in there, was there, by Siblin. Or it might have even been the other one over there, I can't think of what that one is called. But none of them places up there were owned by anybody, that was all timber country when I was younger. What they did is they just came and built camp there, and the timber company didn't seem like they didn't care. There were places like that all over up in the woods."

RMM: "So that's why a lot of these places, these camps, are kind of rough built. People didn't spend a lot of money on them."

LJ: "Well what they did is went in and built them and tracked out of them and fished out of them and it was during the depression so they lived out there. So they'd go into town and maybe sell something if they had a deer or a bear or whatever they'd go in and sell it and get a few bucks and buy some utensils and whatever they needed, but that is they only way they survived. And then when the mines started opening up I suppose they went in to work in there but otherwise there was a lot of that going on up here. They'd live right out there all winter. But they couldn't get in. It'd be a long ways into Ishpeming or Negaunee or...it'd probably be closer to go to Michigamme. Or by, what do you call there...Clarksburg, in that area."

RMM: "Coming around the back."

LJ: "Yeah, cause you'd just go straight out, and it's probably only fifteen miles if you're...otherwise if you go to Ishpeming or Negaunee you have to go way down around the...of course the basin wasn't there I don't think. I can't remember when that was put in there."

RMM: "So what year did you get your camp started?"

LJ: "Probably '88...1988. I think I bought that..."

RMM: "So up to that time there wasn't really a lot up there."

LJ: "Well no, see when I bought it I really didn't buy all that, all I bout was the trailer. I couldn't buy the land because Longyear owned it. I leased it for fifty bucks a year. So, when I leased it, and that's what everybody was doing around, that's what I say, that land was owned by Longyear all up through there. And it was not supposed to be sold. When old man Longyear was alive he said that land will never be sold. Longyear Inc. or something got a hold of it and you know how that its. The money was there so they sold it to us. I was kind of surprised that they did. A lot of times these places up here or anything on water they try to sell it to people who have more money and stuff that come in. But they actually give the people on the lake who had the leases first to buy it and they gave us a good price on them so...instead of paying outrageous....so it turned into a pretty good set up. Now you have people from the area that actually own the properties, you know."

RMM: "Now how many acres is your..."

LJ: "I got one."

RMM: "One acre there? Now what did they charge you for it?"



LJ: "I think that one was about twenty three something...I think I paid \$23,000."

RMM: "Oh."

LJ: "And I think what they figure it's worth is \$100,000 or something like that...today...I think back then it was worth probably eighty...what I'm saying is they gave us a pretty good deal for what we had. I know they could have sold it out from underneath us pretty quick. But then again the amount of people around that basin there probably would have been an awful lot of problems you know what I mean. Some of the people had pretty good camps and they allowed them to build them. Same with me, they allowed you to build a sauna and all that stuff...but the only thing that the sauna I mane like a fifteen inch slab on mine so I figured if I ever had to move it if they said well you're all done...your lease...which they were threatening to do...I could have picked up and put it on a low boy and got it out of there. Bought another piece of property someplace and kept my sauna. But...like I said we lucked out. We got the property so..."

RMM: "Now how did you....like now you spend a lot of time in the woods, you were talking about going out with the moose and getting the antlers and whatnot...talk little about how you got interested and some of that."

LJ: "Well I just like being out in the woods...you know what I mean...going and snooping. I am always going someplace...I always want to go further and further and further. And I guess that's why I always enjoy going to Canada because when you get up there you have miles and hundreds and thousands of miles that you can go...and its more wilder...you don't want to get lost up there twisted up...you don't come out...bugs got 'ya! But here, like I said, a lot of people get out in the woods and say, 'ohhh man, you gotta be crazy going up there'. You couldn't get lost here in the U.P. if they blindfolded you and dropped you in the middle of the woods. I mean where is it possible that you could get lost. I'd like to find that place. Because there are logging roads all over...if the suns out you know the sun comes up in the East and goes down in the West. So I mean you just say well, geez...lets go this way. We're going to come out to a road, and when you get to the road you say 'well ok, well as long as that suns out...well Marquette must be this way, eh.' And you go. Sooner or later you come upon somebody and they tell you 'well ya, its right here.' Well your car is about ten miles over that way, but you know what I mean, you only cut through a short corner. That's what scares people. If your truck is parked here you walked across this road, well I know, and you walk this way or this way...well this road might have come in like this and headed back over here...well you'll never see that area. So the more you walk this way or this

way the further you're getting from there. So if you know where you are at, like me most of the time, I just turn around and go back through. And it's only half a mile or quarter of a mile. So I guess what it is if you go and spend time out there I can visualize just about where I am at. If I get into an area and I've been around it all like where I took you up in them roads, that's what in normal conditions if you got back up in there and they changed them roads like they did right there it is almost impossible to find them to where that is. But if you can visualize...like if we get in an area like that, if you can visualize 'well I went up a hill' you're going up the mountain, well the highest point is going to be here so you gotta kind of look at everything when you are out there to, I don't know, it just kind of comes to me, so then I just go. But all them roads they put in there when we got there, I mean, where is the road? They all look the same. So what I'm saying when I came back out I said 'Well this gotta be the road,' and we went up and we found it. But without that kind of a sense, or something, you can't really explain it I guess. It's there and there is nothing you can do. You can't like go out with guys; they just can't believe that I can get around and do what I do. It's there, I don't know. So I guess I'm lucky. To change the subject one time I went to the Porcupine Mountains with my dad we were only...I think I was only what...five or six years old. And that was back when they only had a trail up there to the top of the mountain. It was about a mile up there. So anyways, I barely remember...I just remember the old man getting ahold of me in the car anyways...and somewhere along the lines I went for a walk and I went into the woods and I walked all the way back through the woods and come right to the car and got in the car and sat down and waited for him the old man he thought he lost me. Well five or six years old and you're up in that...that was wild back in them days up there...I went all the way back, Russ, got in the car and was sitting in the car...they come back there and they were just wild and looked in the car and I was sitting in there he was relieved but he was still...I can still remember...he was so...I think he wanted to drive me all the way home. But anyways, he told me that story later in life when I got older...he says 'You know, I was never so scared in my whole life,' he said, 'I could not believe in that big woods up there,' he said, 'I turn around one second you were there the next minute you turn around and you were gone!' He said 'I run like a bugger all over trying...he said 'I could not figure out where you went. What you have or what it is...but he noticed it when I was younger....that when he'd take me in the woods...you showed me one time where to go and I'd go right through there. Never even hesitate. And I could come back ten years later and go right in there as long as nothing's been disturbed. If it's been disturbed then I'll have to work at it.'"

RMM: "So you didn't have any particular training when you were in high school? You didn't really get into Biology or anything like that?"

LJ: "No, you couldn't train yourself for it. I don't see how you could. The way I look at it there is no way that you can go in the woods, walk in, and then kind of visualize where to go and how to get to where you want to go. You know what I mean, it's just, you go in there and somehow along the way you end up where you want to go."

RMM: "The rest of us would probably get lost!"

LJ: "Well I get tangled up! I mean once and a while, but it doesn't bother me. Unless it's getting close to dark or something at night, as I get older here now I get a little more nervous because if you get tangled up on something somehow, not paying attention, you gotta get down in there...you have to turn around and get out of there in a quick hurry...well when it gets dark you lose all your feels but..."

RMM: "You got interested in moose and you were interested in wolves."

LJ: "Like I said, when I go looking for horns and stuff, what I do is I go in deer season because a lot of times when you're deer hunting you see the moose out there. When you see the bulls you just remember where you seen them. Because that's the time of the year you're there in muzzle loading, a lot of times I'm up my camp there...I'm in there in December, in muzzle loading. Now December, January, February, I don't know exactly when they lose them. If that's the last place I've seen them, there, the chances are if he spends the next couple of months there in that area, that is where you are going to find the horns. You aren't going to find them where you see him in the spring. So if you go back up in the spring and he's way back closer to camp or something you aren't going to find the horns there. But if you see him up in January or February up in to them other areas that's where the horns are going to be, because that is where they drop them. And they travel a lot, see, that's what the problem is when them moose. They could be here tonight, we could see them there at this time here and a day and a half now you could be sitting up in Michigamme and see the same bull. You go right in a straight line... but that's some of the reasoning I use, and I go out when I go out when the snow is still on the ground with the four wheeler and I find where the tracks are and where a lot of rubs....and when I find the rubs a lot of times the horns ain't too far from them."

RMM: "So this is just knowledge you developed by..."

LJ: "Doing..."

RMM: "Yes, experience,"

LJ: "Yeah, going out looking for them, yeah, and they're hard to see."

RMM: "Because you have quite a collection now."

LJ: "Yeah, I don't know how many I've got. Probably seven to eight of them. Only got two sets...one we found this year up there was a bigger one. It's probably about this big...pretty good size...we found it around Michigamme up there."

RMM: "About four feet?"

LJ: "Yeah, probably about three and a half or four feet; a nice one. But there was five bulls in there, but this is the only one we found, almost run it over with the four wheeler. We never seen it the first time through, we come through the second time and there it was! They're hard to see, Russ, real hard! They're huge and everything but you can look right at them but you can look right at them and it doesn't seem to register, because it looks like a limb, like the tree limb."

RMM: "And it's brown so it blends right in,"

LJ: "Yeah, and all the lines in it, like bark and everything. That's why there ain't a lot of people that have them because it's not real easy to do."

RMM: "Now did you run into wolves up there? What is your experience?"

LJ: "Yeah, I see them all the time. When I'm out riding in the four wheeler or something you'll see them when you go down through the woods if you're watching you can pick them up. A lot of times you'll see them in there laying or sitting on a hill or under some pines or laying or something, coyotes all that stuff...bear. I guess it just depends if you can pick them up .Like anything else they're hard to see. When I go out fishing and that I see them out there come up on the Huron one...the middle branch one of them there...there was two of them once on the hill by me. They don't seem to bother you, it just kind of makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck a little bit when you know they're there like that, and they are big. The male is considerably bigger than the female, but I've never had any problems with them. I just don't want to be the casualty, that's why I carry my pistol with me when I'm out there. I always carry that when I'm out there. When it's windy, that's when it's bad when you're out on the places where I go and most of the time it's not on any roads and you've got to walk back in to get to any of these places; it's the only place you'll get any fish. And when you get back in there if its windy a lot of times you're walking along the river or crick and its making a lot of noise and the limbs and trees and

you can't see anything...well I've walked up on bear and deer and all that just laying along the banks. I mean you might get from here to the counter and if the wind is blowing in my face he can't smell you and can't here you. And if you startle and animal when you're out there you aren't going to do any good to try to slap them with the pole. At least you can shoot your gun in the air or something to get him...you don't necessarily have to shoot him but at least when that gun goes off they're going to go. That's the only thing that really bothers me when I'm out there is cause I've had it happen lots of time on bear and stuff..."

RMM: "You get too close,"

LJ: "Yeah, they walk right up. And a lot of times I walk right up and the little cub was right up on the salmon trout up there. I climbed up on a rock and I jumped across this crick...there was a little bear this big! He started to squeal and run a little bit and I thought I never did see where ma was and I just stayed right there and the bear run...that was it...I just stayed there for about fifteen minutes waiting and I thought well, it must be gone someplace, and I went back fishing again. So, I've run into lots of that. Lots of bear, coyotes, bears, wolves...there is a couple of them at camp there that I see. Sun sees them when she's coming back from camp there to go to Norlight there...they'd be laying on the red road right there...you know where the clearing is when you're going out before they logged it...well before they logged it right there on the left side was male and a female laying right there. I don't know how many times she's seen them."

RMM: "Just sunning themselves."

LJ: "Or whatever, yeah, just laying on the road about forty feet. She says stop the car one day...he just laid right there and looked at them...never even moved, and then she took off."

RMM: "Now can I get your...we were talking about it yesterday...your observations about what is happening today with state land that outsiders seem to be getting control of. We were talking about things like Kennecott and the development of mining companies and what is happening to the woods; your observations on what is happening to the woods today."

LJ: "Well, I guess when we hunted when we were younger it was like a...you just never seen any private signs you never seen or had any problems, really. The only time you run into any problems out in the woods arguing with anybody or somebody telling you, you ain't allowed in this is if you got into some private property and it was in deer season. Well everybody's got their little spot where they hunted so you just learned to respect that. You'd never go back, you just go somewhere else. Well the time has

come that you just get later in years you just get people from other areas out of state or wherever they come from...Wisconsin or something...well they come in and their tactics of hunting is way different then what it is to ours. I don't know where they learned it or get a lot of this stuff from but, if you come into an area and if you've got a blind and you're baiting it they have a tendency to come in close to where you're at or sit on one of your runways coming into your blinds and...it's just been a lot of changes in that area. Plus when you get into, like I was saying yesterday, they come in back...well that was probably back in the '60's or '70's and that...they used to come in a lot of places and put them private signs up! So they'd have that whole forty or two forties or a section wherever they're hunting all to themselves and as soon as they'd leave they'd take the signs down and leave. But back in them days there wasn't a lot of people in these areas, like I'm saying, up by camp. So there wasn't anybody to say does he own it or doesn't own it. And the DNR and the rest of them, they'd never go in there. The only time they'd go in there is if they'd have a complaint. If somebody filed a complaint against you or me they'd come up and check otherwise nobody knew what was going and you never knew...because I don't think you even had...what do you call them books where you could check the property and stuff..."

RMM: "Plat book?"

LJ: "Plat books, yeah. You could, and most people couldn't afford it anyways, so. But yeah, that's some of the stuff that's come up. And now you've got a lot of your logging companies, since Hudson took over there, they've come in and put gaites on roads and they sell properties like up in different places...like once guy, well this one I was told this, that he worked for Mead so he buys a forty where this road goes through. Well there's thousands of acres behind it. Well he puts his camp right here on this road he can put a gait on it. You can't drive through his property, he's paying full taxes or CFR or whatever they call it, you still can't go through...you can walk through it, but all his friends can go in there and hunt those thousands of acres but we can't. Me and you can't do it or other people. That's the stuff that kind of discourages a lot of people there. If you are going to pay low takes over here on all this property behind there why is only this group of people allowed to use it. That's what it boils down to. How many people can walk fifteen miles in a circle or straight in...impossible! So that's the kind of stuff...they've put gaites up all on 510 and they're pissing them on it because the roads get torn up but yet they run on our roads. Like what you came up yesterday, we pay for that. Why can't they leave their roads open. If its CFR land or whatever, there is another word for one of them too that I can't think of what it is, but if that's what they pay taxes on then you and I and everybody else should be able to use that land. It should not be

gaited off, the way I look at it. If it's gaited off then they should pay full taxes, just like you and I do. So that's some of the stuff that I see coming up."

RMM: "Then you were talking yesterday about some of the attitudes of these people that are coming in that are posting and becoming very official about ownerships and so on."

LJ: "Well I see them up there by camps, there are some of them that come from Lake Charlevoix and that area down there, there seems to be a bad bunch of people in there. All the years I've hunted I've run across the Charlevoix bunch and there is another...Rodger City and in that area there...that northern part of Lower Michigan. But anyways we were out four wheeling a couple times out there where I've been approached by women mostly. Guys don't say too much cause I'm a guy and you're a guy, but the women will come out and say what are you doing out on them roads with the four wheelers and I'll say pardon me? And they'll say 'you're not supposed to be...did you check with the timber companies?' I says 'What? Did you check on them?' They says 'What do I have to check on?' And I say 'Well this is private property. If I can't drive on it you shouldn't be walking on it either.' And they say 'Well you can't' and they're boisterous people, you know, just downright nasty. I just say whatever and walk away, I get back on the bike and leave. I've run across that many times. For what reason do they think that they come into an area like this for hundreds of years and they come in in the last twenty or thirty years and try to change what they have there that's beautiful and if they change it to the way they want it, it ain't going to be beautiful no more. It's not going to be wild like they think it is. Why can't people just you do your thing and let this guy do his thing and this guy do his whatever it is just leave it alone like we did. I might not like everything that you do and you don't like what I do...who cares? But if you put a snowmobile trail in and a walking rail in and a ski trail in whatever you put in lets everybody work together to get the job done because the property you're on isn't yours in the first place so the next thing you know you're going to piss off the timber companies and everybody else around there and everybody's going to be in trouble. So that's the way I look at a lot of the stuff that's been taking place and I just see that there are a lot of greedy people."

RMM: "Very possessive of the land and being theirs and so on. Didn't you say that there was also a situation where they would post "State Property" to keep you out?"

LJ: "Oh, they'll post anything. They post not only "State" they'll post whatever. I mean even... they'll post whatever! I could go out on my property and be eighty years old and not go out and deer hunt and not

even use my property which was a lot of it up here like that. You never knew if you were on private or not, that's what I'm trying to say. Nobody cared. Nobody cared..."

RMM: "Today they're putting up signs on areas that are not their property."

LJ: "Oh yeah. Yup."

RMM: "Keeping people out of State land which is adjoining their property."

LJ: "Oh, yup, that's happening all over down by where my buddy is at doing the same thing. And the state doesn't seem to want to allow you to go into these places. It's almost like in certain areas like 'Well, yeah we won't do anything. We know there should be a place into that and post it for people to go into that state land but eh, we aren't going to do it.'" You know what I mean? So it's almost like the areas in the counties are working to keep people out of them areas too."

RMM: "So there is somebody who is wealthy that has property there."

LJ: "Well it doesn't even deal with that. It's almost like some is open and a lot of it isn't open. It depends on where the state property is. If the state property is, probably like you said, if somebody is wealthy...if the state property sits in an area where there is a lot of places around it and everything and there is only one way in the state should be required to have a road to the edge of that state property as far as I'm concerned. If they don't go into it, if nobody else is driving into that state, leave it that way. But if there is anybody from any of these camps or any place around driving that state then they should put a road in there for you and I and everybody else to get into that state property, you know what I'm saying. But they don't do that. They'll do it in some areas but they won't do it in all areas. So it might be like you said it might be who owns around that state land and how much is there so that they'll leave it for this group of people say 'Well we have enough people using that state land, we don't need more in there.' Well that is their logical way of thinking I don't know. "

RMM: "Weren't you telling me yesterday that there was a situation where the state had a roadway access to a boat landing on the lake?"

LJ: "Oh on Fence Lake up there, yeah. I don't know how, like I said, they went in, I guess what I remember what I was talking to somebody about that from up there in Michigamme and I think what they said, if I remember right, something about if you don't maintain a road, a county road, if the county hasn't maintained it for so many years or whatever there is a way of getting that...claiming that road. So



whatever organization or whatever bought that land around there...so I think what it is right now if you buy just one lot on that lake it's like a quarter of a million dollars or something...just for a lot. And you have to have a \$500,000 camp, nothing cheaper than a \$500,000 camp. So you get the drift of what I'm trying to say of what's going on with that lake. So I think that's how they got that road closed. It's no longer a county road. They might have lost the records and said 'Well it never was,' but it was. And that's the stuff that you run into in areas around here. In every place, it doesn't make a difference where you are at."

RMM: "Now, weren't you saying that also kind of ties into the mineral rich land up by your camp and things like Kennecott and so on."

LJ: "Yeah, a lot of them areas where they put their plants and stuff in now they've never really sold out and it was state land. So, you know, in the last hundred years they must have known these areas they were going to go into because every single one of them is sitting on state land. So I mean 'Duh,' that's the way I look at it, you know what I mean, when you stop and think down by Duleys and Iron Mountain and different areas it's all state. That's what the land is there for. What are you going to do? Nothing."

RMM: "It's just convenient."

LJ: "Exactly, like 'well there it is,' like what do I do with it even though...if I could have just seen his face...like 'if I catch ya, I'm going to arrest ya.'" That's pretty shocking when you come on the state land you've been hunting on...the bone yard, I think it's called down there...I think it took me a few times...it's a pretty good sized area too...its right next to the river down there...the Menominee River...and yeah, 'If you come back again, I'm going to arrest you, Yeah, that's why I say a lot of the stuff up in here has been...I had a guy tell me one time I was telling him about the bear we shot...we went up where the Phillips 56 gas station is up here in the corner, well there was a house there...and that's where they lived...I think they were renting it...but anyways they had a...I don't know if it was their brother or what it was...he was from down state...Charlevoix area and that...Traverse City...and he's in there and he comes out and he starts giving me and Bill shit about shooting the bears...'Ehhh you guys shouldn't be doing all this...' all this and that and he says 'We got land...' same old bullshit about the land, see, what you deal with out in the woods there, but anyways I said to him 'What do you mean? What's the problem?' I could tell he was a sarcastic little thing. He says to me 'Well, one thing about you people from up here,' he said, 'You had this land long enough, now we're going to buy up and put gates,' I don't remember if it was gates or something, but he said, 'You're all done running all over the place using the

land the way you want it.' Or something like that, Russ. I almost had him, but the wife grabbed me. I was going to...he was a scrawny little...but that was....that was thirty years ago now...I was in pretty good shape then but..."

RMM: "But that was the problem,"

LJ: "Oh, oh yeah! That's when it was starting. Like I said I figured about thirty years ago they started bringing in people, I don't know where they were coming from or where they were coming getting jobs or what they were doing up here but I tell you right now, they were not the friendliest people to come in. I had trouble when I deer hunted up by...and I saw a bunch from Charlevoix that came one day over there and he sat in front of me where I had my blind. I walked down there I told him and I says 'Do you got a problem.' 'What do you mean?' I said 'Come on don't act stupid,' I said, 'You see me sitting right up there,' I said, 'is this the way you hunt?' I knew where they were from because other guys had told me where they had trouble. I said 'Is that the way you hunt down there?' I says, 'Cause if it is why you just pack it up and go back,' I says, 'Because we don't want to shoot people up here accidentally or anything else. Usually when you see somebody with a high powered rifle you go the other way from them, you don't sit in front of them.' Well they were agitated, they want me out of there see. I says 'If you aren't out of here in five minutes, fifteen minutes,' whatever it was, 'I'm coming back down.' So he sat down there and I started getting out of the blind, he gets up and goes. That's the kind of shit that two weeks later...It couldn't have been two weeks...deer season...week later comes back to my blind went for lunch...they were watching see...so he comes down...a big guy about six foot six down there, he sits in my blind. I comes back there and I says 'Is that your blind?' 'Well no.' I said, 'Well its mine.' I said 'What are you sitting in there for then?' He said 'I just felt like sitting in it.' I said, 'Yeah, that's right, you can't.' I don't own it,' but I said 'I'd probably advise you to get out of it and get going.' I said 'I'll take a walk over here and I'll come back and you'd better be gone.' I came back and he was gone, we never had any more trouble. But that's the kind of people you deal with. What they did...another thing they came back...oh it must have been five years later...they'd been camping there for about thirty years or something on this road. I come driving along here and looks at this road and says Charlevoix Dump Road or something like that here on Plumb Crick and them went in there and seen the mess. Well at the end of this road they had garbage left. They didn't take nothing out, Russ. They dumped it all over the hill so you figure there's thirty years of garbage dumped in there. A log company come in and seen that somebody probably got pissed at them because they were such...whatever you want to call them...so the logging company come in there and went after them. 'Dump...You clean her up. Now. And don't ever

come back.' So that's the type of people you deal with. It wasn't just me or Bob or Bruce or anybody like that. They were just a group of people that came in and that's what they deal....that's how they deal. Another one up there by Bruce they own a section of land...they hunt...the guys like a little Gestapo in there...he's got his little troop that hunts on that section of land that they got and the rest of the clowns all hunt somewhere else. Sitting in my blind one day this guy comes up, he opens the thing up, and gets in the blind, I said 'Where they hell are you going?' 'Well, I was going to sit,' I said, 'Well you aren't sitting in my blind!' I'm sitting there, Russ, I says...I was kind of stunned, you know, he's kind of a mouthy little bit, I says 'Get outta here,' slammed the door and the two little clowns left! It's just unbelievable the people you run into out there, but 99% of them...where do they come from? They're arrogant...real arrogant people, you know."

RMM: "Now are these people good hunters, or are they just up here for...?"

LJ: "No! I don't know what they do! They got more stuff...they got fifteen hundred dollar guns, new clothing, looks like brand new trucks...they got all kinds of crap. But half of them couldn't...they belong on those TV shows in there where everybody sits in the blind and watches the cornfield...and that's Mildred and that's Fred and that Toivo and that one...they have all the deer named and everything...that's a six pointer that's four years old, that one's ten...let's get a...what the heck is it...management deer...let's take the management deer. What the....it's kind of stupid when you think about what hunting is all about. Hunting isn't...to me it isn't just going out there and blasting a bunch of stuff, you know what I mean. You take pride in what you do and respect the animals you are hunting. I turn down bucks all the time. I just don't go out and blast them. If I can't get a good shot at him and he turns and runs from me and he's got a big rack I won't shoot. I do not want to wound that animal and have him suffer for a day or a week or something...you know what I mean he got shot or something. But if you shoot at him and you hit a stick or something...then you gotta look for him. That's the kind of type a lot of those clowns. I don't know, they've got all that junk..."

RMM: "It's more of a show. It's not really hunting, they're just going through the motions."

LJ: "Probably...yeah...big fancy pistols and all that kind of stuff...big pearl handles....the guns like a big forty for or a five hundred bag or something, you know what I mean...it just about busts your arm to shoot it...I mean, me, I come out with my regular clothes and rifle. I just enjoy sitting there listening to the stuff that's in the woods and watching the deer walk around, if the does come around I watch them and see how long it takes them to know I'm there. All you have to do is watch their eyes, you can see

their eyes their eyes will go like this...they won't even act like you're around, but they're already looking for you. Then you'll see them kind of veering off like that and as soon as they get something, gone. Never see them again. So you learn a lot of stuff when you sit there that these guys don't even see. I think that's why when I go in the woods I go a lot of times by myself because it's hard to find anybody that likes to do a lot of that stuff. It's probably like your job. You get into doing what you're doing and it's just..."

RMM: "It's kind of a solitary thing, you're enjoying it, you're doing it...and you go out in the woods and you don't have a crowd of three or four people with you and a lot of chatter."

LJ: "Not that....it's just that if you go out you just...I don't know...I've always been that way...like when I leave camp I put 150 or 170 miles on my four wheeler in one trip well, most guys think you're nuts, but it don't bother me when I go I just go and snoop and go all over the place and that's how you learn, that's how you learn what's going on, you know?"

RMM: "Could you recount the story about the fellow that closed the road with the burn and so on to..."

LJ: "Oh, Cadillac up there. A lot of that is hear-say, what happened...but he did close the road. But yeah, he just went in and closed it, burned her up, but gates in and...the roads are still closed today. You know John...I think his name is John...he's got a camp on his property and he owned a lake in there...and he shut him off!"

RMM: "Sorry?"

LJ: "Sorry! He shut him off when I worked at the city. I told John, I says, we were both sitting by the back door....John and another buddy of mine...we were sitting there bullshitting. I says to John, 'I've heard some stories about him from other people that have camps up there.' He says 'Oh yeah?' In fact, Fred Sorry, they have a camp down...I don't know if John's related to that Sorry or not...they might be cousins or whatever...but they were the ones that were telling me about him. But anyways it was month or two later John comes in and he says, 'You were right!' I says 'What?' He says 'That son-of-a-bitch locked me out.' He says 'I come to my gate and there is a padlock on it.' Or 'Not my padlock...' he said 'It was padlocked but somebody else had locked it.' I don't know if there was a letter there or what...I can't remember the whole story...but he was pretty pissed when he was talking about it. He said...there might have been a letter there that told him 'If you go through this gate I will arrest you for trespassing...' so

he went to court for it. I saw him up in Menards a couple years ago he says 'Well I won them.' I says 'Well that's good. At least you got your property back and permission to go on your road.'"

RMM: "It's like all of the sudden worthless property if you can't get on it."

LJ: "He tried...I think what he wanted to do...I think what John said is he wanted to sell it to him, cause it's in the middle of his sections that he has there. He has like...I'm not sure how many sections...four, five. So, John's just sitting in there...guess what, I want that. But he lost. I'm glad to see that."

RMM: "And then you said that this was the same guy that closed the road to hurt him."

LJ: "Same thing. But see, he knows that he can do that. Because the logging companies have stipulations in there that don't want to be touched. So if you're smart enough and have the money to back it up and get the right lawyers you can do just about anything you want. You don't have rules."

RMM: "Manipulating the rules and..."

LJ: "Right, well the rules....it's there but it's also you have to have the lawyers to come in and say well this is the way it is right here, you're doing it, why can't I do it, and I will do it. But you have to have money to do it."

RMM: "Didn't you say the DNR came armed to open up the gate?"

LJ: "Yeah, and he told him, he said you don't touch it. You touch her and I'm going to take you to court and take your job according to what Fred and them said. And they didn't touch the gate."

RMM: "And it's still closed now?"

LJ: "And it's still closed, so they knew something was going on. If you can stop the DNR and the DEQ and that you're pretty much safe."

RMM: "Or you have a good batch of lawyers."

LJ: "Yeah, I think he does by the sounds of it he's got a corporation or something, so he might be...it's just like Oldenberg, the one that took over Lakeshore. They probably have thirty-five, forty, maybe a hundred lawyers at any snap of the fingers...whatever they want to know...send her over there you get the slick back, you do whatever you gotta do. But that's what's...then you got the other guy up there by Nestoria, I think he's got eighteen sections...so that's what's happening to a lot of properties in the U.P."

RMM: "So it's being bought up quietly by the kind of wealthy outsiders."

LJ: "Big money, yeah. And there's probably people that aren't just by themselves either. There are people that are...I think John Engler and them used to go to this one up here. So you know that he is on the...he might even be paying a certain amount or given....who knows what they do? Best not to know the way I look at it. I don't to know!"

RMM: "Because there is nothing you can do about it, you'd just be very upset."

LJ: "Or things could start happening that you don't really want to know about! All the sudden short this bill over here the next thing you know you've got all kinds of problems! Yeah, that's the way I look at the U.P. If they ever get to the point where they don't mine in the U.P. anymore it's going to be really interesting to see what will really happen to the U.P. If it would be turned into a complete place to come for vacations or....what...what would you actually think the U.P. would be good for? The college; like it's here...they could stay here. But as far as any businesses what else could actually be here. Nothing."

RMM: "Then people talk about tourism but tourism brings...they talk about tourism on Mackinac Island...but then the prices, the prices to stay the prices to buy something and so on...become outrageous."

LJ: "I think that's the only thing that could be left up here that I could see, but it wouldn't be as confined as what Mackinac Island is. You'd have a couple of resorts here and here and through and through. You're only get so many or you're not going to be able to make it, because there are only so many things that you can look at."

RMM: "I'm thinking more of ownership of the property. In the old days you could go out you'd have a camp your grandfather had it your father you had the camp. That's it. Today a lot of that property is getting expensive then you have the taxes that are built on the prices of the property."

LJ: "The only thing that saves our butts up here is the timber companies. Otherwise I don't mind them a bit, they've always been good to us. It's only been the last fifteen years since they've turned. But that's...that falls into when you go back into these properties where the gates are and go in there to see what kind of people are there...then you see why the gates are there. Most of them I know right now aren't Yoopers. So to get them gates put in there I don't really know what the story is behind all of it. But they...especially five-ten. I'd say all them gates that are put on there they are people from wherever here...town, hospital, college, whatever. They bought eighties, forties, hundred twenties whatever back

in there. And then they put the gates way out on the roads and they own the property way back wherever. So to me if you own the property back in there then put it back on your property, you know, don't put it up here. I might want to fish on the cricks and do stuff just like you do and everybody else does. We're not all crooks. There is only a certain amount of cooks...it might be your kid. It might be mine, might be yours, might be his. But I said, when you start doing that all in the U.P., where is it going to stop? If the timber companies ever get to the point and sell it to the wrong people it could end up like you've got in Nebraska and all the rest of it....in Montana...it's all owned by the state; the big ranches and stuff. But yet they have control of it, and you can't go on it. You step on their property to hunt, and there's not fences. You've got your GPS that's it. If you step over that they're watching you with glasses. He says, as soon as you shoot....right there. He said way off on private property. They come right over too see where it's laying. If it's laying over the lot line, it ain't yours. You can't drive on them, none of them or anything. But the ranchers can. It could turn out here the same way. What's stopping it?"

RMM: "And it seems to be going in that direction."

LJ: "That's why I'm scared with people that are crying about ski trails, they're crying up by us...they don't want you down here...they want a gate so you can't cross their stupid ski trail and stuff. Who cares? If you're up there complaining to the logging companies and the state and everything else...sooner or later they're going to get tired of your ass in their complaining. They've got better things to do than listen to a bunch of cry-babies running around like little kids worrying who's stepping who's, you know? That's what scares me. What's turning the bigger corporations, because a lot of them aren't here. There somewhere else, and their attitudes are already at that point of 'I'm not going to put up with that bullshit.' So that's what I'm scared of, that they're going to shut everybody down. I'm getting too old to worry about it anyway, I guess, but that's my feeling of all the years living here in the U.P. is all the crying and corruption as its come this way, and its going against people that have power that don't want to deal with it. They talk nice to you but they don't want to deal with it and they can shut it down any time that they want. Years ago we could go out and cut wood and whatever. They didn't do nothing...didn't touch nothing. They could care less if you cut wood. Now, you look in certain areas and you have to watch what you do because of certain people or whatever wherever they come from they buy land it's almost like they own the whole area. They buy a forty here and everything forty miles around is...they watch it. It's theirs. They've got this set of mind that they live on this different planet or something. That ain't the way things work. And, like I said, it could be shut down in the future."

RMM: "So you've enjoyed your life in the land that....so if it comes apart..."

LJ: "Oh yeah...I don't...it don't matter. If you tell most people that they just look at you and think yeah right. Well I'm telling you right now shit happens, and anything can happen. Been on this earth long enough you've seen enough changes and enough things happen that you know people up above there that got the power...they don't really give a shit. If gas went to fifty dollars a gallon they could care less."

RMM: "They're making money."

LJ: "They're making the money and even if they had to pay it wouldn't make any difference. You tell some of them that...oh no no no.... I just think, well whatever. Live in your little world because..."

RMM: "That's why you see a lot of people running around they're going to go this way or that way or something and so on....do you know who you're backing? These people are not...the Republicans are not backing the common person...why would they, they never have. Do you have the money that's going to catch their attention? No."

LJ: "The part that gets me is I talk to some of my buddies and I think they feel like they're more powerful when they vote for a Republican because the name...you know...and I say to them 'Well, what's the deal?' They're saying 'Well yeah but they...for hunting and guns they'll allow you to...' I say 'How do you know?' They say 'They tell me that.' Oh ok. That's the only reason you're voting for that Republican is because he's allowing you to have a gun? Good luck!"

RMM: "And when was the last Democrat who said you can't have a gun?"

LJ: "Guns will always be here in the United States."

RMM: "Unless you're in some place like San Francisco or something but even like...even like California has some...all sorts of very open gun laws."

LJ: "Right! What's the deal?"

RMM: "It's a very liberal state and all so people kind of overlook it. So when they look at the gun laws they say 'Oh my God, you can carry a concealed weapon in California.'" So yeah, and this is just a façade."

LJ: "When somebody tells me that I look at them and I say why would you base voting or giving somebody possession to go in in and destroy the social security and Medicaid or whatever in there because you can carry a gun? It's already in there! I mean come on! Just think! I'm not even a genius, I



consider myself...I made it through high school and I put four years in an ICS course for pretty tough for that patter makers job...same thing as going to college but..."

RMM: "For instance then they go into say 'Well, then be it a constitutional amendment.' Look, the women couldn't get a constitutional amendment for themselves; women make more of the population. You think you're going to get a constitutional amendment shutting down guns? Don't waste your time!"

LJ: "There's trillion of dollars in that hunting and fishing and people carrying guns and whatever! It doesn't make any difference...if a criminal wants a gun, he's going to get a gun. He can get it any place he wants. Just like back in the Prohibition, or whatever they called it when you couldn't drink. Everybody was drinking."

RMM: "Not a problem."

LJ: "No, not a problem!"

RMM: "I was sort of...I don't have a gun or anything, but I was looking in one of the sporting places over there..."

END OF TAPE