

Han Interview

Interviewed by Russ Magnaghi

October 4th, 2013

Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee, MI

Russ Magnaghi (RM): Interviews with friends of Tsu-Ming Han, people who worked with him and recreated with him, down at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee, Michigan, October 4th, 2013.

Dennis (D): I'm Dennis and I'm Tsu-Ming Han's son. (Audio cuts out.) So, any kind stories that you might think of would be really great.

RM: I do have a question, which I think you told us the last time but I wasn't recording, what was your view of him as his son (audio cuts out).

D: Yes, that's right. I mean, I was just a kid growing up and wondering, you know, what was going to happen at school or whatever and had my own interest but I never realized the kind of important work that he was doing. So, you know, he'd say, "Well I'm working on this such and such a project and I'm working with such and such and such persons." These were really important persons and I said, "Yeah sure dad but can I borrow the car keys tonight?" So, those kinds of things. He was a very hard worker. I remember him working. He was a real early riser and my bedroom was below his study and so, you know, he used an old—what do they call them, an underwood typewriter and every time you hit the shift key, you hear the "thunk" when it would come back. You could hear that and he spent many hours working. His favorite thing, I think, was to listen to the, was it, Ernie Harwell and the Detroit Tigers and at the same time, you know, be typing and working with that in the background because baseball is sort of one of those things that you can do in the background. A guy gets a strike or gets a hit and "Oh, okay," and start typing up again. So, he worked really hard. I think he wanted to make a mark in his field. He did it sort of in the context of private industry because that was an economic necessity that he get a job to support a family. I know that he scribed to doing a lot of further education and professional education but because of me being born and our family, he really had responsibilities too so he took a job with Cleveland Cliffs and he felt very fortunate and Mr. Johnson is here in the back and I believe he got the offer from the company to work and he was quite honored to be invited back after being a student doing summer work and so began his career with the company. His career was—he was pulled in two different directions, I thought, throughout his career. One was to be a worker for Cleveland Cliffs and make them productive and the other was to explore his questions. He had a lot of questions and he had a chance to explore them in the environment that he worked in. He felt very fortunate to be in that environment, even when he reached his retirement, they said, "You can go ahead and still have an office space in the research lab and work and follow your curiosity," and things like that. I thought, "Well, that's just an extension of his retirement is really just an extension of his passion." I remember some of

his coworkers saying that, "Well, you can tell Tsu-Ming is on vacation because he comes in at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m." or something like that. So, that was one of his passions was to do that. He also was a very strong advocate for formal education on the part of his kinds. He wanted to make sure that we did really well in school. We all liked to do sports. It seemed like a lot of the culture and recognition that you get as a student is in doing sports and things like that but his primary emphasis to us was that comes secondary. You just have to get the good grades and eventually go to college and get a more advanced degree in college and to use your mind instead of your back and to advance knowledge in whatever way you could. So, I think he wanted us to sort of follow his footsteps in that regard. That was one of the things he instilled in me, personally, was to work hard. He always thought that we needed to excel at whatever we did. Maybe I'll think of some other things to say a little bit later as other things flow.

RM: Great, thank you. Okay, do we have another person?

Man: The first time that I believe I met Tsu-Ming was when he had a house that was delivered by semi and it was to be constructed in the Eighth Edition and I don't know how many guys from the lab were there but we unloaded that semi faster than any semi that that driver had ever had. We unloaded it in a heartbeat. I think we only broke one thing all the while we unloaded it. That semi driver was happy to pull away from there saying, "This is great, I can be back home by the time I thought I would be still in town."

RM: So, then he had special carpenters?

Man: I don't remember who built it because I think some of the people from the lab also went up there and helped lay sod and different things too. Some of the funniest stories that I remember of Tsu-Ming was that one of the gentleman was asking for a raise at the research lab and Tsu-Ming said, "Well, my hands are tied. There's no raises in my department. I can't give you a raise." The guy said, "Well, it sounds like the squeaky wheel gets the grease," and Tsu-Ming's comment to that was, "Yeah but sometimes the wheel makes too much noise so you replace the whole wheel." I had one other one too but I forgot what it was now. Oh yeah, then the other one was, it was real busy one day and somebody asked him, "Gee, it seems like you're real, real busy today." He said, not that I "run around like a chicken with its head cut off," Tsu-Ming said, "I run around like a chicken with no head." That's the way that Tsu-Ming was. He was just a great guy and a hardworking man. There isn't a person in the world that could say he wasn't a hard worker and dedicated.

RM: Let's see, anyone?

(Long pause in tape)

Paul Rosten (PR): My name is Paul Rosten and I was the manager of (audio cuts out)—is in the pelletizing end of a lot of work that we do. We had to develop budgets for various projects, including the work that he was do for us and the pelletizing end. I got the nickname "Chiseler" from Tsu-Ming because I'd always try to cut down the time that he would spend or hours that he would charge to a particular project but it really didn't make any difference because he worked 12 to 15 hours a day anyway and only charged the 8 hours on his time sheet. He was a unique to say the least. He was an inventor. He developed a lot of

tests on various consumables that we use in the iron ore pelletizing field and one was namely "Bentonite." He set up a test to determine the active clay content of Bentonite to try and get the best quality Bentonite in our process. So, he had some glass test tubes and he had it all set up in a frame and he put it in the shaker and it just disintegrated. The glass broke and everything. He said, "I think it's going to work okay," but he had to go back and redesign. That didn't stop him but 12 or 15 hours a day? No problem. Weekends? No problem. I don't know if he had an enemy in the world. He worked with everybody, even the managers that who sometimes were a little disappointed in the time that he took to finish a project but he did it well. He was thorough. He was meticulous. Everything turned out really well, as far as from his concern. I guess the only other thing I would say is that, Joy Han was an angel. She spent many nights, I'm sure, waiting for him to come home, working on weekends but she courageously took care of her part and I'm sure spent a lot of time raising the kids because we know that Tsu-Ming was dedicated to his job. That's what he wanted to do but he loved his family and he loved his wife. He would not forget to say that one in a while when he thought he felt sorry for himself because he was spending so much time at the research lab but I give a lot of credit to Joy and that time that she spent on her own—taking care of and raising her family.

Robert Peterson (RP): My name is Robert Peterson. I worked for a couple of years for Tsu-Ming, cutting and polishing samples for him to examine under the microscope. Mostly, I got to be a good friend of his and I used to take him fishing quite often. One time, we were out fishing and I said, "Tsu-Ming, you stay here by this beaver dam and I'm going to downstream a little ways." Well, I was gone for several hours and on the way back I heard somebody hollering and I couldn't understand what it was. Ordinarily, somebody would say, "Redda, where in the hell are ya?" Incidentally, he used to call me "Redda" because I had red hair, now it'd be "Whita" I guess. Anyhow, pretty soon, I heard this mumbling and instead of saying "Red, where the heck are ya?" "Robert Peterson, I am calling for you." I thought that was so funny. Another time, we had a fella—he was our chief sampler at the research lab by the name of Rudy Pennala. One day, Rudy said to Tsu-Ming, this shows you what kind of sense of humor Tsu-Ming had—Rudy says, "Tsu-Ming, I know in Japanese to say hello, it's "Ohayou!" How do you say it in Chinese, Tsu-Ming?" He said, "Tennessee." Oh yeah, he also told me when he first came to this country, he was going to the University of Minnesota and he stopped in this restaurant and this young waitress came over to him and she said, "Can I help you, sir?" And he said, "Yes, I'd like some assa-crim," which Tsu-Ming pronounced as "ice cream" at the time. So, the waitress came and brought him two aspirin's and a glass of water. I said, "Well what did you do?" He said, "Oh, she was so nice that I swallowed them and I went." He was a good friend of mine, Tsu-Ming was. He was a great, intelligent man, I know when he first started in the English language, there are so many words that sound the same but mean different things. He'd ask me sometime what this word meant. Before long, I was asking him what words meant. He was a very smart man. We had a lot of enjoyable times together. That's all I've got say.

D: Red, my dad had a lot of fun fishing with you. He has this movie, this film that he took of you or somebody struggling to land this fish. It was the funniest film ever.

RP: It was myself and I had a 22 foot boat at the harbor in Marquette. Myself and Herb LaMere and Tsu-Ming decided to go fishing up to Big Bay one day. Well, Tsu-Ming got seasick, oh, he was vomiting and we had to bring him to shore. Herb and I, we left and told him we'd be back in a couple of hours. Well,

we went up by the mouth of Salmon Trout and we came back with about seven lake trout and we had one about 10 pounds. Oh, Tsu-Ming said, "Oh, I had my camera with and I wanted to take pictures fishing." I said, "Don't worry about it Tsu-Ming, we're going to get some pictures." So, we stopped at the Yellow Dog River and we had it all planned where Herb LaMere was going to have—I was going to try casting and then I was going to go like that and make off that they weren't biting and then Herb took the pole and we hooked one of these big lake trout on the line and he faked that he was fighting this big fish and then I run in the water with the net and faked that it was wiggling in the net. In the meantime, a guy was coming by in an Army jeep. He seen us struggling with the fish and he jumped out of the jeep and the jeep hit the bridge. He came over and he seen this big fish laying there and he said, "B-S," and he walked away in disgust. It was so funny. That's the story about that, Dennis.

D: Yeah, he'd take his camera wherever he went.

Marion Delarey (MD): Marion Delarey. Before the age of computer, Tsu-Ming would type his reports and then I would retype then and he called me his "English teacher" because I would maybe rearrange the sentences a little bit and fix them up a little bit. After he started typing on the computer, well then he would still give the report to me and I would do my little fixing up stuff. So, even when he was very, very ill, he was still working. So, I would stop by the house and pick up a disk and take it home and do my little fix-up things and take it back to him. I also have a funny story. Tsu-Ming did not like rice so, his mother made noodles one day and the house must have been quite open and the neighbor dog, there was a mean dog next door, have you heard these stories? No? Oh, dear, this is a good one. I've told this to several people. This mean dog came in and was up on the counter after the noodles. So, Tsu-Ming was just a child and he tried to chase the dog away, well the dog bit him. Of course, his parents went to the neighbors and told him the story and everything. The end result was that the dog bit Tsu-Ming and then Tsu-Ming ate the dog. That's one great story. I'm trying to think of another. Well, I might think of another as we go along. Anyway, he was always pleasant and smiling and cheerful and a joy to work with and he was a very hard worker. He loved his work so that was the end result. He just loved it.

Gene LaBerge (GL): I'm Gene LaBerge, a geologist. I first met Tsu-Ming in the summer of 1957 which was my first job as a geologist. I worked up here in Ishpeming for U.S Steel. They were called, I forgot right now. Anyway, I met Tsu-Ming then and we kept in touch quite frequently throughout the, what is that, forty-some years. My first job as a geologist here in the iron, I went on to get a PhD on the iron deposits in the Lake Superior region. Tsu-Ming provided samples for that study. Then I went to Australia and looked at the Hamersley Range in northwestern Australia. Tsu-Ming wanted samples from Australia because he had, as we just heard, this endless interest in studying and learning more. From Australia, my wife and I spent two months in South Africa collecting iron ore samples there. Then we went to Canada and we went up in the Labrador and there was never any surplus of samples that Tsu-Ming did not want to study. He learned something and I wrote several papers with him as a co-author and I feel honored to have done so. He was a fantastic researcher. He would get the samples and then get pictures that we needed to show what we were working with. He was more than just the research assistant or associate with me. He was a friend and there was no better. I just enjoyed him. I then went onto teach geology at UW-Oshkosh and I had a series of fall fieldtrips and I came up to Marquette range every third year, then I'd go to the Gogebic and then to the Mesabi but every third year, we would come up and we

would go into the Empire Mine and we got our own samples of *Grypania spiralis*, the organism that Tsu-Ming discovered and I should say when he first discovered this in, I think it was 1974, and he wanted me to co-author this and tell people what it was. I tried to convince him that I am not a paleontologist. If I wrote that, it wouldn't be accepted that much and we needed somebody with a name to do that and I didn't have a name in that area. So, I finally convinced him, I don't mean that he was reluctant, that he should give a paper at the Geological Society of America meeting and the meeting that year happened to be in San Diego. He sent the copy of the abstract and he said, "Gene, I want you to put this in English." Well, he was a better writer than I was but we did get it in and there were two people, experts in this area, microorganisms that were here in Ishpeming, almost before he got back from San Diego. He was afraid that no one would do it. Well, there were two people: one from the Geological Survey of Canada and another one from the Geological Society of America. I think everybody in this room has probably seen pictures of the little worm-like things, they weren't worms, and they were more like a weed. Anyway, Tsu-Ming was a guy that never got tired of looking for more things. As an academic, I think he was a great one and he would help us and he did on many trips. He was just a great man to know.

MD: This is another short story from his childhood. When he was about 5 years old, the bandits were overrunning China everywhere and he was kidnapped. The bandits threatened to cut off his ear and send it to his family. They wanted a ransom. Well, the woman in the house, I guess, felt sorry and let him go. He had a lot of experiences as a child. They had some really rough times where they didn't have enough to eat and the area was overrun with bandits.

Glenn Gariggan (GG): What we used to do, this is Glenn Gariggan by the way, he used to put a basket on the back of a grate and then the pellets would fall off onto the grate and then the basket would be on the grate empty and then as it passed under that, it would full up with pellets or green balls at that time. So then it was up to us to catch it at the end, down at the end of the preheat zone at 1800 degrees on a big long two inch pole with a little tiny hook on the end. I'd have to catch that and I'd bring it over to the furnace and put it on a pan and then we'd pick it up from there and put it into a container with a lid on it and cool it with nitrogen. When it got cool, then we'd bring it back to the research lab and take it apart according to Tsu-Ming's instructions—a pellet at a time. So, I had a big long pair of tweezers, about like that, and I could pick them out. Tsu-Ming was using chopsticks and he was twice as fast as I was, with the chopsticks. He was taking them out like this, I mean, I would be in there like this, and "plink," they'd go flying, you know. He had to separate them by color because Tsu-Ming would want them that way and I don't know how he analyzed it. I don't know that part of it but I know that we had a great time doing all of that for Tsu-Ming because he made it enjoyable.

RM: Let's see, do we have any—

Man: One more comment about Tsu-Ming's work. There's a picture here with Tom Wagner presenting the Goldich Award to, Sam Goldich was a teacher at the University of Minnesota when Tsu-Ming was there, and he went on and there was an award established, the Goldich Medal, it's called but that is an international award. About 1/3 of the recipients are Canadians, people who have made an outstanding

contribution to the geology of Lake Superior region. It is not just a little thing. It really is a very significant award and I was very happy to see Tsu-Ming get it.

Tim Han (TH): My name is Tim Han. I am his second son and my name is Tim. First, I just wanted to say that I probably could be talking nonstop throughout this whole thing because each and every one of you just bring up little gems. I appreciate all of you, no man walks alone, he is successful because of all of you. There are many here that he has spoken very positively of, that I've always had positive thoughts in my mind about and for the first time, I'm seeing them. It's unbelievable. There are people behind the names that I've heard over the years in very positive lights. There are very few people that he might complain about out of frustration and they are not here. But nonetheless, I want to thank you all. Okay, secondarily, I have not met you sir but I appreciate and admire you. I really respect what you're doing, that is wonderful. Growing up, yes, he was a workaholic one might say. I remember being lulled to sleep by the hum, not the hum but the thump of the typewriter that Dennis would be talking about. So, on rare cases it would be a washing machine because my family would invite some people over maybe, but that was rare but that was nice and soothing but the main thing you could count on was that typewriter going nonstop. Talking about people that help him along the way, for example, it just occurred to me, well it did years ago, he had, almost at best, broken English. So, as he puts his sentences on paper, in this very technical, very high standard type, cutting edge in his field, papers, I'm wondering, "How is he able to express anything?" And now I find out that there was somebody helping him, obviously, turning his intelligence, however in somewhat of a broken language, into something that could be understood. So, everybody always has help somewhere along the line. I'm finding out—

[END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A]

[START OF TAPE 1 SIDE B]

RM: Okay.

TH: You talked about some of the things that defined some of the hobbies and the things he enjoyed out of life well, we've already discussed the main one and that was work with mineralogy and his duties there. He was, before I forget I just want to say that he's probably the most honorable man that I've ever known because I think innate and by example, the way he interacted with people that sets a standard that I've always tried to live up to and sometimes it's frustrating because when you don't see that in other people or it's so rare these days...well anyways, he was a wonderful example. But anyway, he did have other—bowling for example. And Chuck Karinen was on his team as I understand, as I remember. Being as a kid we'd every now and then venture down there when they had leagues at the local bowling alley. We thought it was so exciting, it was so big, but of course it was just a twelve-lane bowling alley. But as a seven or eight year old it was so overwhelming. And I remember Chuck and my Dad and other people and it was just. He enjoyed bowling it seemed as though it that was his major, American-type of sport that he'd excelled at or spent time with. And I think that was the best sport that he—other than Ping-Pong, of course. Other than Ping-Pong, that was the main sport that he would confer time with—with his kids. Because we would so value, it was precious whenever he offered or he'd say "Let's go!" It would usually be a Sunday afternoon. Probably that spare hour that he's not working

where he would take us out to go bowling. And that was just fantastic. We loved that! And so he enjoyed bowling, he of course enjoyed Ping-Pong. He inspired us kids to get involved with sports, of course, and to try to do well. But as my brother Dennis had said, it was always the academics that we needed to prioritize. And even in college, he would insist, "Don't even think about working!" As far as making money, he would provide anything we need and of course he and my mom always had provided us kids anything we need to be a success. And he would insist that we not take any jobs, that we would spend whatever time studying. There was to be no time taken away from that, of course. So, I was relieved because many of our fellow friends and all that, many of them were working student jobs and they couldn't put, they didn't have the luxury of just after classes studying as much as we could. So I really did value that. Okay. And well anyway, there's many more things I think, but those are the main thoughts that come across my mind and I'd like to just pass this on and to have an opportunity when I have something later to say to do it. Thank you.

UNKNOWN: Okay, do we have any, we should have some more memories? Fishing, bowling, hunting? Did he hunt?

Wayne Johns: I'm going to put a different spin on this.

Unidentified Male Voice: That'll be Wayne.

WJ: Wayne Johns. Tsu Ming was more of family, you know. I'm interested in all the stuff that he's done. I know about that because I followed him pretty closely, but he was part of the family and I recall when he became engaged to Joy he had to save some money. At that time he was staying with my parents and. So, he bunked with a couple of other geologists that worked for CCI and saved money. But it was funny how my mother took care of all his needs when he moved out to stay with these guys. I was in Germany at the time and he needed cameras, so I got one for him which he used in his job and one for Burt Boyem. And I brought them back, they were good German cameras and he used that in his studies and during his job with CCI lab. But I recall one little statement- my wife was from Germany and I was engaged to her and I brought her back. And when she got off the plane down in Chicago I brought her right back up here. And Tsu Ming looked at her and she had cut her hair short in the back, and he described her as a bird without a tail! [Laughter from audience] So that kind of stuck. But got along very well with the family and Joy and he had the two boys and the girl and Sabina and I had two boys and a girl and they were about the age group. And we used to picnic together and enjoyed each other and we still do. And, he was family, you know? That's about all I can say. He was a nice man to know and he's a good example of an immigrant who's got language problems. He comes over here and because he's tenacious and digging in, look what he accomplished! Thank you.

Tim Han: There were perhaps some darker things that not many people know about and that is the challenges that he would face I would only find out about later. Us kids, being kids of course, we'd explore the house when the parents weren't around, probably go places where we shouldn't go. And I always was terrified, my brother was one year older: fearless! [Chuckles] So, but anyway we would go in, sneak into the master bedroom into the hallowed closet there, where we were not even supposed to be close to and so I was very fearful. But somehow I managed to make it there, I don't think I was by myself

so I don't want to implicate Dennis about this. But anyway, he had this huge twelve gauge shotgun hidden back there and it was loaded. And, and of course I wouldn't touch it and I knew what it was and you know, with the stern warnings from our parents we kind of knew where the borders were where we could not even dare even to think about going. So I don't think any of us ever touched it, but we would see it there and later would I find out of course being Asian in a predominately white Upper Peninsula as a young family starting out with all of the challenges that were mentioned, he was getting death threats as well and that was just, to hear, it's just hard to understand all the challenges that both him and my mom had probably faced that us kids just take for granted. But, and there was other stories I think. For some reason I kind of forget, but let me just, I just wanted to show that indeed there were challenges and it's just amazing that he was able to keep up that strong character throughout everything.

RM: As we're going along here remember that you might have some other, if you've already said something and if there's something you want to add, please feel free to comment.

Unidentified Woman: [Broken audio] I didn't know if any of you know this but as an example of how brilliant Tsu Ming was, he was one of only _____ students chosen to come to the United States for further study in all of China which gives you an example of how brilliant he was.

UNKNOWN: You told the story about, and actually I love being here because I'm hearing about some childhood experiences now for the first time, but one thing you said earlier about him being kidnapped. I mean both him and my mom have seen many tragic things. They've described war planes dropping bombs, how their wings just kind of tilt-off as the wing become un-weighted and stuff. Pretty terrifying things I imagine to grow up with. And my dad, when he was kidnapped he had to face, in a trial the kidnappers. And then he had to, he had to actually tell the people that they were the ones and he witnessed them being executed. So he had seen some pretty amazingly horrible things. So like I say, a lot of that has made him as strong as he was and probably helped just forge his success perhaps? But anyway, here.

RM: How old was he when that kidnapping took place?

Unidentified Han Brother: It struck me as being somewhere between five and eight-ish somewhere? Actually no, he was five-ish, yeah.

RM: He was five, okay.

Unidentified Han Brother: But he escaped _____ [speaker out of range of mic]

Unidentified Man1: I'm a little reluctant to repeat some of the stuff that Tsu Ming told at our various meetings about his early life, but he said that, I hope I've got this right. But as he was going to college, I'm not sure where it was in China but he was in a train one side of the Yangtze River and the Japanese were on the other side machine gunning the train and everybody was laying down on the floor of the cars with the hope that they didn't get shot. I don't know any much more than that but that it was a terribly frightening experience when you're locked, well the train was moving and there were bullets

flying all over and I don't know if people were killed but it was sure a frightening thing for Tsu Ming. But some of the early life that we think that we got it hard in this country, it's rather different in others.

[Unidentified woman in audience-inaudible]

Unidentified Man1: Okay, I didn't remember the school _____.

RM: Okay do you have any other, you must have some other. Any fishing stories? What?

Unidentified Man2: My stories on fishing won't too long winded because we did go fishing, maybe three, four times. But I don't ever remember us catching any fish together. So I just refused to go fishing with him anymore after that. I do have something else that you know, in the area of recreation you'd might call it, to share though. But as we got to know each other and our families were getting closer, it became pretty much a regular thing that in December we would go out to look for a Christmas tree. And perhaps Tim and Dennis would remember, Joy didn't ever come looking for the tree as I remember. But my kids and Tsu Ming and his kids would go. And we'd just walk all over the place and we had good areas to work on as my wife's father owned quite a bit of property which we had access to. But we would search and search for trees and none of them was quite good enough for Tsu Ming. I would have cut many of them, you know. But I finally had to satisfy or convince him that we had the right tree. I said well, you can just use it for a corner tree. You know, picking out one of them that I thought was just about as nice as we'll find, but I guess after that he'd always remind me about the corner tree for Christmas time. But we had fun together, and he's got lots of pictures. He always did have his camera taking pictures of kids falling in the snow and whatever was happening. Talk about the fishing thing a little bit.

TH: Our dad of course, I forgot to mention among his hobbies of course was fishing. This is Tim Han, his son again. And he would take me out, I did not have the patience to just sit there and just watch this bobber forever. [Chuckles] And he knew that so he stopped taking me out after a while. But nonetheless we would eat some great fish and I just wanted to thank Mr. Red Peterson for that. It seems like the stories my dad would talk about would be either him and Red or even Red on his own going out and just getting all the fish. He was like a god of fisherman. I mean he just had the talent, the magic or whatever where he could always...so. I want you to know that you always were in our kid's minds as far as being like just an unbelievable expert in fishing. But anyway he did like fishing quite a bit and me and my brother were just talking about the family trips he would take us on. And many of them would be around stopping in these remote, rural kind of rustic places that would offer a lake to fish from. And so that would be one of, I guess, his hobbies if you wanted to help characterize what kept him going and things he liked to do. So that's about that.

RM: Okay, do you have any other? What's going to happen here, everybody's going to go home and then say "I should have said!" [Laughter] Any others to bring to mind, any other stories?

UNKNOWN: Well this was probably an incident that took place in China that made him feel when he came here that he was really free. Because he said when he was a child the bell would ring in the city square and that was the time that they took people that were doing drugs and execute them. He

specifically told me about an older woman who was on the drug opium. Was put in a wheel barrow, taken down to the river, shot in the head, and dumped in the river. Now coming here to the United States he must have really felt free because of the situation, the differences.

Unidentified Han brother: Do you want to tell them about his driving abilities?

UNKNOWN: Another thing, I was just graduated from the State Police Academy and I was assigned to the Newberry post and I was working with a senior trooper and we were in the Seney area and who goes by, but Tsu Ming! And I told my senior officer, "That's a friend of mine that just went by. Maybe we could stop him and say hello." And so we pulled alongside of him and in those days the patrol car would pull even with the car, put the red light on and wave them over. Well when he did that Tsu Ming was steering the wheel, he turned and ran us off the road. [Laughter from audience] And of course we had our chat and sent him on his way but you see that house right there? My mother and dad slept in that little, in that front bedroom. And you notice the 45 degree angle of the lawn? When he was learning to drive he was trying to park his car there and the headlights would shine on the ceiling in the bedroom and he was having a little problems. And then of course my mother would get calls, he was up in Minneapolis, got in an accident. You know, he didn't know what to do and his English was not the greatest at that time and it was difficult for the police to interpret what he was trying to say.

Unidentified Han brother: Yeah, something to add. I don't know did he ever tell you the story when he took his driver's test?

RM: This is Dennis.

DH: Yeah, this is Dennis here. He and the police officer went out to the front of the Ishpeming City Hall there and his car was parked there. And he said "Okay, let's go for a drive." So he had to back up the car to get out of the parallel spot and he backed right into the car behind him and hit it! And so the first thing the policeman gets out and he looks at it and he says, "Well, doesn't look too bad. Let's go." So eventually he completed the driver's test and he got his driver's license. [Dennis and audience laughing].

Unidentified Male Voice: They did him a favor.

DH: Yeah, I think so.

RM: Over the years, did the driving improve?

DH: Oh, well he tended to have a lead foot especially when we traveled. [Laughs] Especially when we traveled out west. We went on some family vacations together and he was always an early riser and he always wanted to get there fast, you know, get there early in the day. That was his mode and he got us up in the wee hours of the morning and we went along with it and everything. He would get a ticket on almost every one of our trips. And I remember once the policeman comes up and he said, "You know, this is going to result-either you're going to have to pay a bond and you're going to have to give us money or we're going to have to keep you here." And he says, "I don't have any money." And us kids were in the back, "I got money!" And he says, "No! Don't! Quiet down."

[Joy Han speaks here but it is quite difficult to discern]

DH: Yeah, he did not want to go backwards. He refused to go backwards to whatever the police officer or whatever. So he ended up paying the bond or paying the ticket right then and there and the police officer watched him actually put it in an envelope and put it in the mailbox and then let him go. And I remember on that trip too, you know your parents always do stuff that will embarrass you? I remember that trip we went, we drove into Jackson, Wyoming and he gets into the first intersection there and he's kind of lost, he doesn't know exactly where he was and he says, "Can you tell me where The Jackson Hole is?" And we're saying this is Jackson Hole, the guy's just flabbergasted he said, "This is Jackson Hole!" He was looking for like a hole in the ground, some kind of geological formation or something.

Unidentified male voice: A good geologist!

DH: And us kids in the back, you know, we're just like, "Oh gosh, you're embarrassing us!"

TH: Okay this is Tim and about the travels, I just want to add that he was not afraid to argue with the cops at all! It was unbelievable, we were actually uncomfortable in the back. I think that was an age where the police were a little more upstanding because he definitely would have been tazed the way things are going. But nonetheless is there a Mr. Kenny Argyle here? Okay. That was a friend, co-worker. Does anybody know who that is? Oh, okay. Because we went down to Florida and there's this island along the chain going to—what's the end island there? Okay, It was Key Largo was the name of that island. On the way down there and us kids are in the back and of course we're kind of lost and we have a hotel in Key Largo and he had stopped either on that island or somewhere near and of course flagged down...

[Audio stops for a few minutes]

Hey Tsu Ming, if you're up there listening they're making up stories about you! [Audience laughs]
Listen, they say every successful person must fulfil four things all with "Ds"—Desire, Determination, Dedication, and Do Diligent Hard Work. And for Tsu Ming that all applies plus add a sense of humor. It was a privilege to work with him. We met each other in early 1950s when he joined the research lab staff and since that time we've become good friends. I remember one time in the lab I said to him. He had to go in to a check-up at the hospital for three or four days. So I said, "Now just remember if you're there over 3 days you get green stamps." Well the doctor called me up and said, "What the devil did you say to Tsu Ming?" So I had to go over and tell him it wasn't true. But it was a privilege to not only work for him to consider that a lot of the success Cleveland Cliffs had can be traced right to Tsu Ming. Never ending research! He performed a great job for us in the Tilden Mine which is the most difficult ore to treat. Found out about an interferro mineral that everyone commended on. I remember the task force meeting, I said to him everybody ought to applaud him for what he found. So I said to him, "Now you've found out the problem. What do we do?" I get choked up. And he said to me, "You the boss, you figure it out!" We did! But I also say why we have a tribute to him well, well deserved there's another person in this room that needs a tribute and her name is Joy. I often, excuse me, would go by the lab on Saturday and Sunday his car would be there and I would go in, "For goodness sakes!" I said, "You know you don't have to work on the weekends?" "I got work to do." And but she would be home

raising the children. Always pleasant, never complaining. She's a gem! So we just say "Thank You Joy" and "Okay up there, if you're listening to us. We still love you and you did a good job!"

[Audience applauds]

RM: Okay, do we have any other comments? Okay. Well I want to thank you for coming here today and participating. And it's always wonderful as an historian whose gathering information it's always wonderful to get people to come and talk because a lot of the history, especially the Upper Peninsula, is not written down. You don't go to a bunch of big books and find a lot of the information. But what I've tried over the years to do as a professional Historian is to use my professional abilities to gather the information, try to be as complete as possible and for this story as with many of them you need people to come and participate. So I thank you heartily for participating today and I'm at Northern Michigan University if you feel, and some of you I want to get back to because you have a larger story to tell. But if any of you feel you want me to come by, I can come by and visit and do a lengthier interview with you. Some of you have left statements and so on and so any help that you can give me in the future is welcome and the assistance that you've given today is certainly welcome. And I thank you for being here and I hope you all had a nice interaction. I think Tim had a good interaction seeing some of you people and being able to connect and so on. So thank you for coming, this has been a wonderful afternoon.

[Audience applauds]

End of Interview