

INTERVIEW WITH AUDREY MOSER

LIFE ON DRUMMOND ISLAND

November 8, 2010

Interviewer: Russell Magnaghi and Diane Kordich

SIDE A

Russ Magnaghi (RM): Okay Audrey, first question for you. Your birthday?

Audrey Moser (AM): August 4th, 1930.

RM: Okay and could you—and the interview's going to be about your life on Drummond Island, I say that for the transcriber so they know where we're going and for the transcriber Drummond Island is at the Eastern end of the Upper Peninsula. Okay, alright could you tell us a little about your background? How did your family get to Drummond Island?

AM: Well in 1853 Daniel Murray and Betsy Seaman came to Drummond and there was no one here then, the British had left and there was just a few Native Americans. They came from Beaver Island they were Mormons when King Strang was there. There was a lot of the Mormon religion that they didn't believe in, especially the polygamy part. So, they just got in their sailboat and left, they first landed on Manitoulin Island, Canada. We don't know why they didn't stay there but they came around to Drummond. You know where the museum is on Drummond? Well, right out there in front, they homesteaded that and that's where their home was. They built their home there and it's no longer there because it burnt. One of the great granddaughters ended up with that property and she donated it to the township so we'd always have a place for a museum. And Daniel Murray was married, twice, and had five children with his first wife and only three of them survived. His wife died, one of his sons from this marriage is my great-great-grandfather, Samuel. Samuel came to Drummond, married a girl who came from Ohio and they had three children, my grandfather was one of them and then it comes down to my dad. So, he was one of the original Seaman.

RM: Okay and how do you spell that last name?

AM: S-E-A-M-A-N.

RM: Okay, and what was your grandfather's name and your father's name?

AM: My grandfather, well it starts with Daniel Murray Seaman, Samuel Seaman, George Seaman, Floyd Seaman and then me. So, I'm fifth generation of the first European settlers here.

RM: On Drummond Island.

AM: Okay, that's my father's name. Now, my mother came—was born in Calumet, her father came from Norway and her mother came from Finland and they...

RM: What year did they—they come and their names?

AM: His name was Christian Solomonson.

RM: How do you spell that?

AM: S-O-L-O-M-O-N-S-O-N. And my grandmother's name was Mary Gustava and her maiden name was Lentula and then her married name was Solomonson and they settled in Calumet and that's where my mother was born. So, you've probably heard of Maggie Walz. They were one of the first settlers that she got to come to Drummond. There was five families in the first bunch and—that came here and they homesteaded over at Johnswood. My mother went to school over there. I have that book, *Islands of the Manitou* and they interviewed my mother in it. I don't know if you've read that book, but it's good Finn history in there. I've got a copy of it.

Diane Kordich (DK): We have a copy of it.

AM: Do you?

DK: Yes, _____ gave it to you.

RM: Okay.

AM: And it also, in the back of that book shows the picture of my mother's homestead over at Johnswood.

RM: Now was there anything— there was a place, it had a name, Johnswood but was there a—obviously there's a settlement there before the Finns arrived.

AM: Yes, yes and all these Finns were working in the mines up in the Copper Country and they didn't like it and of course, my mother had two or three brothers working in the mine plus their dad. So, they thought if they could come to Drummond and work here they'd get away from the mining. And then there was this big mill that started up in Johnswood and they worked at that and there was quite a town there at one time. I mean there was a movie theater and a butcher shops and stores but there's none of those buildings left, and the reason being because they had to pay so many taxes on all that property over there and so after the Mill burnt and there was no more employment over there, they tore all the buildings down.

RM: So, what did they—when they first settled there, they came as farmers?

AM: They came to homestead, I didn't know the price of what they could get 40 acres for and it was you know, very little money for them.

RM: So, were they planning on farming or dairy farming?

AM: No, no dairy farming just farming and what they did—cause Drummond was so rocky, they picked all the rocks out of the fields and they made fences out of them and to this day you can still see a lot of fences over there.

RM: And this was—what year did this take place or did it start?

AM: My memories going...

RM: You were saying earlier 1905.

AM: They came here in 1905, my mother was 10 years old and she told about the trip from Calumet. They went to Marquette, from Marquette to the Sault and then they got on another boat and came to Drummond, the *Alva*. And she said they brought all their household belongings that they could and they got a cow and dog and she said her mother dug up all her perennial flowers and brought them to Drummond and we still have one growing, isn't that something?

DK: And which flower is that?

AM: Do you know the name of flower? [Yes] What they called it was "Kiss me over the garden gate". I looked it up and it's Golden Glow. I mean as crowded as they were in that boat she brought those perennial flowers.

RM: So, they came from the Copper Country then by boat. They didn't go by train but by boat all the way over.

AM: Yes. To the Sault Ste. Marie and then from Sault Ste. Marie down here on the *Alva*.

RM: And the *Alva* takes them from the Copper Country to the Sault?

AM: No and I don't know the name of that boat but can you imagine being in the boat with a cow and a dog and all of your flowers? And then when they got here, she said, at which Maggie Walz had told them that there would be a place for them to stay, but there wasn't and there were five families on that boat, that came at the same time but they weren't on the same boat. So she said some people had this shed, that they had kept sheep in, they could stay in there and I guess it was pretty bad but she said within one week her mother had that floor scrubbed white with lye, all her braided rugs that she'd made on the floor and her flower sack curtains on the window and my mother described it and said it was very cozy. Then instead of starting their house, the first thing they built was their sauna, isn't that something? And in that book there's a picture of the house that they built, the ways the Finns made the corners, you know, the duck tail and all that so.

RM: So, in the beginning there were five families and then how many families eventually settled?

AM: Well, they said there was about three hundred people, not three hundred families. Three hundred people came but you know, after that mill burnt they just left and of course they didn't pay any taxes and so all their property went back to the state. I have a 1930 plot map down at the museum and the state didn't hardly own anything and now they own over 70% of the island and that's where they got a lot of it. You know, when they repossessed all those Homesteads.

RM: Now, they originally settled to farm the land but then there was this mill, the saw mill but who owned the saw mill?

AM: It was Johnson and Woods and that's how they got the name of that town, Johnswood. That was the name of the two that owned the saw mill. At the museum we have all of those pictures from the old mill and stuff.

RM: Now, how long did this endeavor—this colony, the Finns, stay in the area?

AM: I think that mill burnt in 1919, I'm not sure. I can look that up in just a second.

RM: When the Finns got here, they ended working, kind of by coincidence, they were working the saw mill? They were able to work at the saw mill, so they had extra income over say potato farming.

AM: Yes, and that's the picture I was telling you, that's their homestead but I was going to look and see what year. Her mother died here. She said her mother used to walk to the store and I guess it was quite a ways and she never wasted a minute, she had her yarn in her pocket and she knit while she walked. She made all of her husbands and sons socks and sweaters and mitts and she died walking to the store, she had an aneurism. She was only 60 and my mother told that she had to lay her out, she said she gave her a bath and fixed her hair and I don't know how she could do that to her own mother. Then her father went back to Calumet and got married again and he's buried in Calumet but my grandmothers buried here on the island. So, I rattle on and it's not even...

RM: No, no that's all part of the story. Now, just when you're talking about—you just showed me the photograph there in the book "The Island of the Manitou." Could you mention a little and you mentioned this before we got the interview started, just for the record, about the people from Finland and then this Arnold Allinen, the architect from the story, that were here this summer. Could you just go over that again for us?

AM: Well, they came to Sault Ste. Marie, Canada to that Finn Festival, that's where it was this year, the international one.

RM: The summer of 2010.

AM: Yeah, well the one speaker there was Arthur Koski and his mother was born on Drummond. Her name was Ellen Laakso. And so he was the speaker at this and then he came down to Drummond to meet these people from Finland. Then we took them around and showed them some of the old places. There's one old Finnish place that this man has bought and has kind of restored it. I mean, he's put new roofs on it and he keeps the grass cut and there's a house and a sauna and the barn. And I called him and got permission to let those people go over there and they took a lot of pictures. They took a lot of pictures in the museum, every part of it. And then the next day was the one with the professor from Wisconsin came and he was looking for the same thing, except he was only doing the U.P.

RM: And he would've been—this professor would've been this Arnold Allinen from the University of Wisconsin?

AM: I don't remember, my memory is bad but the people from Finland spoke real good English. My mother never taught any of us how to speak Finn. None of the Finn's did because they didn't want their children to speak Finnish because they weren't allowed to go to school here unless they spoke English when they started Kindergarten. And I guess it's because they wanted the children to—you know, this is where they're gonna be living so they should speak English.

RM: It was kind of the, what they call the Americanization process. I know at Northern, one of their mandates was when they were preparing teacher's, that they were going to be going out and teaching the children of immigrants and they should be Americanizing them. So, that was all a part of the idea. So, that's how they dealt with it here. Now, a lot of kid went to school speaking their language of their family whatever it might be but I guess, the process was interesting—when they went to school they didn't speak English so that's what they were trying to teach. So the situation forced them to speak English.

AM: I know, I come from a family of 11 and my mother could speak it, read it and write it and...

RM: None of them? Not even the older ones?

AM: No, no. She would never speak it and there was some other Finnish lady who couldn't speak English and I used to take my mother there to visit with her and I'm sitting there and I don't know a thing they're saying. There probably talking about me and she talked Finn with her.

RM: Did you ever kind of pick it up?

AM: Oh, a word here and there but not very much.

RM: Did you get the gist of the conversation when she was talking to this Finnish woman?

AM: Not really, but you know the Finnish people—whenever you went to visit them and my mother was the same way. On with the coffee pot, right now and out come the coffee cake, oh they were wonderful bakers and cooks and stuff.

RM: Did they ever make cardamom bread?

AM: Oh, yeah.

RM: What were some of the other things?

AM: Oh, my mother made rye bread, Finnish rye bread, she always made it for my brother and I don't know _____ that was a kind of a soup made with fish and oh let's see. I don't know if this was because she was Finnish but rice pudding she used to make for my brother's all the time. And I never knew how far she went in school, and I didn't like to ask her, but she did talk about this on teacher her, a lady that was Spanish. And oh, she really loved her but when she got older she could write the nicest letter and spell these big, long words and she probably didn't go past the 6th-7th grade and you know what her favorite magazines were? USA news and World Report and Newsweek and she got the paper every day. She lived to be ninety-nine and a half and her mind was good right till the end. In fact, we had her at home, except the last two weeks we had to put her in the hospital. She could tell you where every foreign country was and just educated herself.

RM: And she spent her whole life on Drummond Island?

AM: Well, she was 10 when she got here.

RM: But from then on she was here.

AM: And my dad had taken a job over on Mackinac Island as a bus boy in a restaurant. She went over there as a maid and that's where they met and they ended up getting married. And came back to Drummond and spent the rest of their lives here. Isn't that something?

RM: So, they went to Mackinac not knowing each other and met over there? Well, that's an interesting story. Now how many of the Finn's that came with that Maggie Walz group, remain on the island?

AM: Oh, quite a few of them because my mother was with the first five families that came and gosh I don't know how many families came. But down at the museum I asked these two older Finns to write

down all the names of the Finnish ones they remember and gosh there must be 50 or more on that list.

RM: So, then they stayed and then after the mill burnt...

AM: That's when they started leaving here.

RM: Oh, they started leaving but did any of them—some remained like your family.

AM: Yes.

RM: How many then were left?

AM: Drummond was hard to farm because it's so rocky, everybody had their own couple of cows and chickens and stuff like that. As far as farming, I mean they grew potatoes and carrots, and I remember my mother saying they'd have a root cellar that they'd keep them in so they could use them in winter. And the Finnish people had a house for everything. There was the well house and the chicken coop and the sauna. In the well house they could keep buttermilk and milk and everything down in the well to keep it cold 'cause of course they didn't have any refrigeration.

RM: So they continued, the ones that stayed, continued farming?

AM: A little bit.

RM: But they didn't get into anything like going into something like fishing, commercial fishing?

AM: Yes, there were some that went with the Makinen's and got quite a bit of fish.

RM: How do you spell that?

AM: M-A-K-I-N-E-N.

RM: First name?

AM: There was Otto, Enoch, John, and Alma.

RM: And they were all into fishing, commercial fishing?

AM: On the south side of the island. Oh, I can't think of any other jobs they went into and I suppose that's why a lot of them left.

RM: So, then there were just a handful that stayed down there? Okay. And was it that they couldn't leave or didn't want to leave or they enjoyed the island?

AM: Well, I think they enjoyed the island but they had to make a living too. They used to have this big Finn hall over there where they had all kinds of entertainment. The people over here in the settlement, would also go over there. They'd have movies and plays and then that building burnt, but it was a big hall that they had with a stage and the whole thing.

RM: So, they would have plays...

AM: That was before my time even and I don't remember that.

RM: But they would have Finnish plays?

AM: Oh yeah, and they had ball teams like they would play kids that lived over on this end of the island. They had a big ball field over there. My late husband was born over there and my mother-in-law showed me that you can still see part of the old foundation of the home where he was born.

RM: So then, are there many people you know, from that early settlement still living on Drummond Island today?

AM: Of course the older ones have all passed away but there's some of the family like the Laakso's and there's some of the Kemppainens and of course, me and my family. And Mrs. Bailey, see the Bailey's were the second family here after the Seaman's came about 20 years later, the Bailey's came here and they settled on the south side of the island and then lumbered that all off and that was a big family that had 16 kids and then there's Bailey's that married Finnish girls.

RM: So, then the-- originally the Island was kind of out here with timber and then some of the earliest people that came then cut the timber, cut into lumber?

AM: Yes, Johnswood was a big operation. They even have trains that run all through there, all through the east side of the Island to bring the logs out and then the mills right at Scammond Cove over there. I think there's still a chimney you can see, you know, that's still standing from when the mill burnt. And then they shipped it by water, see there's a big dock there.

RM: M-A-K...

AM: I-N-E-N.

RM: And so then this area—oh, so now all of this is state land even though the water part is state land, okay. So this Scammond Cove area was where the Finns were located.

AM: Well, yes all through here. I mean, they were separated. I mean, they never built except that one little part where the little village and the movie theater but there all through here and a lot of these old farms back there, people bought them up for hunting camps. They're still standing and they're way out in the boonies but we have a map marked on that book that we're writing and there's the Houtomaki's and the Rouamaki's and...

RM: So then, if they came in 1905, they then would appear in the 1910 Federal Census. So, they names would all be listed there.

AM: And Beth Maki even got a lot of their homestead papers. She got copies of my grandfather. You should talk to her, she's done a lot of research.

RM: Now, she's Beth Maki in Negaunee.

AM: Negaunee, I have her phone number if you want me to give it to you. I'll go get it right now before I forget.

RM: So, what happened during—now we just have to talk about Drummond Island, kind of in general. What are some of the things that you're familiar with and so on like I was sort of interested in particular like the year of the 1920s, the prohibition era, were there any stories you could relate about illegal liquor activity on Drummond Island?

AM: I wasn't born until 1930, the end of the Depression but you know I read stories about how hard it was but I never realized, I guess because we had a garden and we had cows and chickens and I always had lots of food and my father was supervisor for a year. When Roosevelt had that W.P.A my dad was the Supervisor and they did a lot of building on Drummond.

RM: On Drummond?

AM: Oh yes, _____ planted a lot of trees and all that but it was—growing up here we didn't have electricity until 1956 and so everybody had their own light plants but you could only run your lights. You couldn't have an iron or a toaster and you had this big set of batteries so you couldn't run appliances on those batteries. Here's a little funny one and this is true. We knew we were getting electricity within 6 months after they got all that cable under the river, so, my mother bought me an electric toaster. And I had five little kids and we finally got electricity. We were all sitting around the table and I put the toaster on and I put two pieces of toast in and it worked just fine. My kids were just fascinated with this toaster. I put two more in and bang! And the toast hit the ceiling and I said, "Oh my god, what happened!" My five year old said, "Oh I put some firecrackers in there to see if they'd go off." He's 55 years old now and we still tease him about it. Don't let David have any firecrackers! That was the big thing when we got electricity over here. And the roads used to be so terrible, they were all gravel. And you know, in the summer when it was hot, we didn't have any air conditioning in our cars and you'd come across the ferry and you've got that ten miles and all the dust, oh you'd have to roll your windows down cause it was so hot. When you got home, you had to wash your hair. You're just covered in dust, it was awful. And of course ferries didn't run like they do now, they just made a few trips. Today, we send about 50 people over there every day from the 7th to the 12th graders and the ferry runs all winter now and so they don't have to stay over there. Well, when I went to school over there I went to the 8th grade here and then they took you over in December and you had to stay till May. You stayed over there, they paid your board and room and so a family might take in six girls or six boys. But I had a sister who lived there, and she had four little kids, that I stayed with her.

DK: _____?

AM: If you came home you got back any way you could. They would never take that school bus across the ice because they were still driving up and around and bringing groceries and gas and stuff.

RM: Oh you mean driving on the ice into town here?

AM: Not into town no, they'd go from the ferry—the old ferry dock down there but you couldn't go right straight across, there was too much current there so it didn't make good ice. They had to go up around Pipe Island and that way. I came home one weekend. I don't remember how I got over here, but I had to get back and somebody gave me a ride down to the edge of the ice. There was some man there with a pickup and I said "Can I ride with you?" We always like to ride on a pick up because we figured if we went through we could jump. We got out there and it had rained the night before and there was water on top of the ice and there was lots of ice there but you're driving through this water across this river and I said to the man "Oh, I'm afraid." He said, "Don't be afraid, hearse just went over and they didn't go through." I was probably about fourteen or fifteen but yeah, it was quite a chore but now today they take those kids over there every day.

RM: But they were able to get out of the current of the river and into solid ice?

AM: Yes. So, there's about fifty kids that go over there now. They make them go on the bus because they

couldn't have two deck hands trying to watch fifty kids running around the deck. Somebody could go overboard, and then they go back in the afternoon and get them.

RM: So, it was very rural and out of the way? And I guess that's why even today when people mention Drummond Island they usually ask where is that?

AM: Well, till Monahan was here and he kind of put Drummond on the map because of the Free Press. You know, you'd read the Parade magazine and it just talked about Drummond all the time and people just flocked here.

RM: Could you talk, let's kind of get back to that. Could you talk about—and that could part of your experience, could you talk about just before Monahan and then...

SIDE B

AM: Monahan came here on vacation and he saw this place that was called Rhinehart's. When Rhinehart had it, he just had the big lodge, you've probably been down there haven't you? Where Bay Side is you know, by the dining room and that? Rhinehart just had a couple of guest cabins, but he owned quite a bit of property and when Monahan saw it he thought he wanted to buy it. At that time he owned the Detroit Tigers and he wanted it for a retreat for the Tigers. I know that because my son used to be the captain on his yacht. He'd bring some of the Tigers players up here and my son would take them out on the water. And then he said he was never gonna do anything to compete against you know, like building motels and rentals and everything because a lot of people on Drummond depend on the tourism business for a living. But then he started, you know, he'd build a motel and all those log cabins and opened a restaurant and all this. But there's a lot of good things he did for Drummond too.

RM: Can you talk a little about them?

AM: Yes, well, he used to have a Maple Syrup Festival in the spring cause they didn't make maple syrup down there and he gave all the proceeds to different places on Drummond. He did quite a bit for the Catholic Church cause he was Catholic. But then he wanted to dredge this whole bay to bring his big yacht in and they had a meeting at the town hall and there was standing room only and they just couldn't let him do that because they didn't know what that would do to fishing here and it was shortly after that he just sold everything.

RM: How did the local people deal with him in the beginning, was there...?

AM: Well, he put a lot of people to work who weren't working and but then after the building was all done, all those cabins then they were laid off. I know, at that time my son owned a restaurant and bar here over at Johnswood and man he used to have that group for lunch. The people that he brought in here to work and it really helped a lot.

RM: This would've been the construction?

AM: Yes.

RM: So, it was kind of a love hate situation in that it was kind of him coming in and _____ and kicking dust around but it was providing jobs.

AM: And then of course he built that big golf course, The Rock and it now brings a lot of people here so cause you know, I see a lot of people in the museum and they say they were here to play golf at the

Rock. So, it's a pretty famous golf course.

RM: So, was there a lot of—when all this was going on was there and like you mentioned the Free Press, was there a lot of kind of legend that lived about what he was doing or what people thought he was doing or they weren't really sure what was happening?

AM: Yes, for instance, when they started clearing the land for that golf course, my mother said "You know, there's some graves up there by that corner." And so she got my brother and she said, "You go down there and tell them that there's these Matthew families, there's three graves down on that corner there." And so they went and told them and he did put a little fence around them and rocks so people would know that there were some graves there. And then of course he bought an island and that has Indian graves on it. But I don't know, I didn't see very much wrong but he made his mark here.

RM: So, he did though—the things that he did, the building that he did at the golf course and so on, has that had an impact on the Island, an ongoing impact?

AM: Oh yes, you know, the people that own it now, they have—they promote a lot of different things that bring people to Drummond like golf and then in the winter they have those dog races and they maintain some ski trails and these people spend money on Drummond besides being down there.

RM: So, you get more than just the people that would come to local hotels.

AM: Yes, and they have the "Chapel in the Woods" and there's quite a few weddings down there in the summer and it brings more people here so we get some good but...

RM: So, it's an ongoing process. But you were saying earlier, I don't think we got it on tape, that a lot of—or _____ became known through the Detroit Free Press that you just talked just a little about.

AM: Well, he had a Halloween party out on Rutland Island and he had it catered from the Rooster Tail Restaurant in Detroit and all the big wigs came up here for it and the Islanders were kind of upset because they were out there partying on Halloween around all these Indian burial grounds. That kind of upset some of the people here.

RM: They saw him coming as more of an intruder into their life. Now, did a lot of a people on the Island then, some of them got jobs during the construction period then did others get jobs...

AM: Well, like the in the kitchen and waitresses and when he opened up you know, he had Pins (?) Restaurant and bowling alley and then Bayside dining and that employed and then all the—they got quite a few motels and motels _____ and then you know, a lot of ladies working in the laundry and cleaning and rooms and then the people took care of all the mowing and landscaping and...

RM: So, just kind of in general, about how many people would he employed or a percentage of...

AM: Oh gosh...

RM: Hundreds?

AM: I don't know if it would be hundreds, I really don't know how many he'd hired—but I know like all that golf course work was done with people on Drummond that had construction, bulldozers and trucks and everything.

RM: So, in the hay day when it was being constructed then there was a lot of jobs and then they continued on a lesser scale in terms of the services.

AM: Yeah, cause see he was doing you know, that big bowling alley and that restaurant and a motel and a golf course and the _____ house and then he built some more log cabins. Now, the condos that are down there, those were built after people bought it. There was ____ on it and then he built himself a beautiful, big house and that's for sale and maybe they've sold it by now, I don't know.

RM: So then about what year was this going on?

AM: Oh, probably in the 80's early 90's.

RM: What has happened since then, you know, what has happened more in the recent years of Drummond Island in terms of the economy and what has happened since he sort of left?

AM: We, my late husband and I, had a resort down by the museum which has been sold since he died. We had that for 30 years and often the same clients, the same people stayed with us for 30 years and they all come see me when they come to the Island. They're not staying in that place anymore.

RM: But they still come to Drummond Island?

AM: Oh yes, yes and I mean we knew all these customers and we'd have their cabins ready for them and they knew which one to go in. I might not even see them for two or three days after they'd been here except I'd see their car down there. But you know, cottages, little housekeeping cottages, just don't rent as good anymore. They want condos and really modern and fireplaces and everything like that.

RM: So, you've got well—you said, your husband passed away so this was going to be just extra work for you?

AM: Well, I couldn't because you've got to bail boats and you know, I just couldn't run it on my own and my kids were all older and gone away from home then so...

RM: And then you probably had to retire?

AM: Yeah, yeah and then I'm still working at the Museum. Well, they want somebody from Drummond you know, to kind of be in there, who knows the history and so, I've been there—I think this is going on my 16 year.

RM: So, you kind of left the resort business and went into the Museum. Was there any, kind of going back to the some of the early history, was there a place around here where they had maybe around the turn of the century, when they were expanding the blocks in Sault Ste. Marie. Did they have Italian, _____ rolling stone? Someplace on Drummond Island?

AM: Yeah, but I don't know that they were Italian. They quarried down past the Museum, where right now they're building a big boat storage thing. It was a small quarry there and that's where they got the rock for the Soo Locks. You know something funny about that? My uncle, my mother's brother...

RM: His name?

AM: Trying to think, his last name was Solomonson, Ed Solomonson. He was working on the locks along with Joe Kemppainen from Drummond and my Uncle went through and he drowned and he was very young and this Joe Kemppainen tried to save him. I guess they were working out and there was ice and

he went down and he couldn't get him out and he drowned. I have an article on it that's down in the Museum.

RM: Now, that was the _____ that was the one from the 1960's?

AM: Early but that's the quarry where they say that the rock came from Drummond. Well, it was from the quarry down you see when you come across; it was from down just passed the Museum.

RM: And that and it wasn't—was that limestone as well? Okay, and that was used for the _____, I forget okay, but it's the first _____? Okay. So, that was down in that area. Do they still quarry or...

AM: Down here? No. No, it's just the one down at that the—where you see coming across the ferry.

RM: Then what is the—and could you talk a little about the status of the old site of Fort Drummond, the old British fort.

AM: Yeah, of course that's all privately owned down there now and all there's left is their two or three chimney's that are still standing. We have a display in the Museum of the fort. A lot of people that live down there didn't want it in there. I have orders to tell them, the first thing that this privately owned, and you can't go down there. You know, there are a lot of summer places in there too and it should've been preserved years and years ago. St. Joe preserved theirs and Mackinac Island.

RM: And how do they get—get into private hands then?

AM: Well, after the British left, I guess it reverted back to the state and then this Dr. Luther bought up a lot of it and then he sub-divided and sold it you know, you could buy lots down there. And down at the museum, there was one of the chimneys still standing where you see that quarry and they were going to mine underneath it and they said, "If you want to come down and take it down rock by rock, you can have it for the museum" and we did and brought it up there and put it back together again. It's really nice. And then, there's somebody that had a grave markers that was made out of wood, from one of the British soldiers and that dated back to 1823 and you could still read the description on it. And then we got a nice British uniform that's on loan from the Canadian government and it's down at the museum in a safe _____. And oh, we have a lot of the cannonballs and then Michigan State had to dig down there and we've got things that they've found. Also, divers come in and went underwater and they said the British threw a lot of stuff overboard because they all left that boat and we got all of that stuff in there.

RM: So then you preserved then that heritage of that—it's preserved in the museum.

AM: Oh yeah, and then they built a sandbox display about the size of this table and the archaeologist who went down there, that's how many old foundations we found—we found on the building still standing. And he marked all on this map—where they were and where the block house was and where the hospital was and so then I can show them on that map on there how it was laid out.

RM: Now, he was allowed that the private people could go in there?

AM: He was allowed to go in there, yes and they gave Michigan State permission to go in there and have a dig _____.

RM: So, it has been preserved on paper?

AM: Oh yeah, everything was.

RM: Did you ever run across like documents from Canada that would be the original maps of it or anything like that?

AM: We do have a lot of names of the voyagers and things that when they left here a lot of them went to ___ [Pen] and if I've got the list of names and I use that a lot. People in there are looking for you know, late names.

RM: Now, these were the settlers that were either at the Fort or living around the Fort?

AM: Yes.

RM: Because there was—I ran across a...

AM: You asked about, let's just say seven years ago when it was at Marquette?

RM: Up in Marquette, yeah.

AM: I went too and I got in touch with this author, Koski, he lives in Colorado. The one that I told you his mother was born here on Drummond. He's big in history.

RM: Oscar Koski.

AM: Arthur, yeah. Oh, and he sent me a lot of stuff for the Museum. I mean he sent me that "Finns of Michigan" book and the flag and had poems of one of the Finnish ladies had written and framed. Anyway, when I was in the museum I found all these pictures of these old Finlander's but no writing on them, no idea who they were. And I asked you know, different people on Drummond and they didn't know who they were and I thought, well I'm going to take those up to that Fin Fest and I got this Arthur Koski and have people from Marquette, who used to—the _____ sister's used to be here and see if they can recognize any of these. And he blew them up on a screen, Beth Maki helped him and had all these Finn's from up there and you'd be surprised how some of them recognized who they were. Oh, that's my grandfather or my great grandfather. So, I've some of them identified, too and if there was doubles I gave them one of them. But you know, that was—then they, we went up there on Sunday and of course, you couldn't get a motel even Munising or any place around there but the lady up at Bay Cliff or Big Bay had a cabin and she let my daughter and I use it. And they didn't schedule me till the following Sunday, I had to stay there all week cause I wanted those Finns to see those pictures. That was fun, staying up there.

RM: So, you've done quite a job then preserving the local history but especially the history of the Finns. So, what has happened in more recent years with tourism continues and is the main focus of the Island?

AM: Now, the quarry used to employ a lot more men than they do now. Sometimes, they only run two shifts and they used to run three all the time and one of the reasons being they don't have the market for this. Dolomite is used mostly in processing steel but the United States buys so much steel from China, they don't have the orders for it as much anymore and now my son, he doesn't come in here very often because he can't take a full load because the waters so low. You know, the company doesn't want to send a boat in here if you can't get a full load because it's not deep enough there. So, that's why they send them to Manitoulin. They've got more, the water's...

RM: So, the quarry over there?

AM: Yes, so that's one of the reasons why they don't run three shifts here because they don't have that many orders for it like they used to have.

RM: And they only really get it out, inexpensively is by water.

AM: And their not mining right where you see there, there mining two miles back in and they bring it out there and crush it and ship it.

RM: Okay, so when your coming in on the road and you see these big chunks of _____ that's where it's being mined?

AM: Yes, and that's where it's being hauled out of, those big _____ trucks, the big rocks and then they're put in the crusher where you see there and then loaded in the boat.

RM: So, that's kind of a declining industry then.

AM: Yeah, I mean to what it used to be.

RM: So what do they kind of talk about the future?

AM: Yeah, well if they quit buying the steel from China it'd pick up again.

RM: And that's probably happening with all the quarry's then _____.

AM: Yes, and then there's one in Cedarville.

RM: Cedarville, yeah. Now, was there any or was there—you said there was some Finns that got involved in commercial fishing. Was commercial fishing ever the thing of Drummond Island?

AM: Oh yes it was. It wasn't the Finns it was this guy, he was from Cheboygan and his name was A.J. Shawl and he ended up owning 12 of these islands out here. You know, he must've homesteaded them or something and I have a 1950 real-estate sign, he sold those Island for like 1200 dollars or 1500 dollars and some of his grandchildren come in the Museum and they saw that and they said, "those Islands sell for over a million now!" He owned 12 of them and sold them that cheap because they had Michigan State come in here and stop this commercial fishing because it was ruining it for people that were in the tourist business. You know, taking all the fish and I have a book down there that I got from someplace and told how many tons of fish they took out of here.

RM: So, you're talking about just in the bay...

AM: Or down in Scot's Bay, that's where he fished, James Island.

RM: So, it wasn't farther out, just in this area, okay. And did they then ship the fish out of here?

AM: Yeah, I think they shipped it mostly to Cheboygan and then from Cheboygan over down Lake Michigan, down to Chicago and all over.

RM: So, Cheboygan was the _____ processing.

AM: Yes.

RM: Okay, so this was the fishing center and then it was processed.

AM: Yes, it was big and...

RM: And that would've been in what year in general?

AM: We should be down at that Museum and we should get that book right open and I can tell you what the year was. Probably in the 30's maybe, 20's or 30's?

RM: So, your saying then like what we've talked about the 1930's, Drummond Island was kind of off the main route of things and so things like the Depression didn't have the impact that it had on us.

AM: Yeah, because when I was growing up on Drummond, you know, that's 80 years ago. Everybody had their own chickens and cow and probably a pig and we always had a small garden. I mean, you plowed it with a horse and everything and you did a lot of canning. There used to be berry-picking days. Now when I go out and pick a bowl of raspberries, enough for a pie, back then we picked enough that you canned them in quarts. I mean, the whole family would go. They'd go over to detour by boat and stay in a tent. They'd stay over there and pick blueberries and they would build a fire and they'd process them right there and they'd take their jars and can them.

RM: Oh, oh my.

AM: And strawberries and everybody had an apple tree or two and another thing I remember when I was a kid, gosh, you didn't want to go out after dark and have to walk home because you might run into a cow. They'd just let them go all over and it was funny. It's a lot different now.

RM: And so now you think the berries of the crop is down?

AM: This man, when I lived up behind the golf course said, "Well I'm your new neighbor." And I said, "Yeah, I know and you're right in my strawberry patch." Everyplace I used to go picking berries, there's a house now. Well, you know, there wasn't back then.

RM: So, the development of the Island then has seen _____.

AM: Oh yeah, and then when Monahan has all that advertisement, the people just flocked here and bought up shore lots. I mean, there's hardly anything left on this far side and the price of property has just skyrocketed here.

RM: Now, does that also have an impact on the taxes?

AM: Oh yes, there are a lot of beautiful homes here, you don't see because they're all on these side roads. There are million dollar homes here.

RM: And then I guess there is also a lot of _____ and quiet areas (?).

AM: My daughter built a house over on the south side and it never built up over there because there's no protection. Wind comes all the way across Lake Huron, there's no Islands like out here. See, we're kind of protected. When she bought there, there was one other place. Now, this was ten years ago, there's nine other one's now already and she paid \$10,000 for her 200 feet and then one just come up for sale next door for \$135,000. Isn't that something?

RM: So, that's sort of the new era for Drummond Island then?

AM: Oh, yes.

RM: It continues as a destination for vacationers. Do you get a lot of people from, in particular, people from Ohio come in?

AM: We get quite a few people from Ohio and a lot of them stay here all summer and have their summer places. Some of these people that have been coming here, their grandfathers were here and built these cabins and their still using them. And now, in the summer, I know because my oldest son retired from the ferry with 36 years in, my middle son is the director of the ferries here and Sugar Island and Neebish Island and the bus lines. We have to run two ferries a lot of times in July and August because you can't keep up with the line. No schedule, just two ferries, back and forth yes. That's how many. They used to have one that carried what, ten cars? They used to go on the hour but he just cut the night shift off some. Because he cut maybe two boats off, maybe the 2:30 AM and the 4:30 AM or something. Now, he's got people griping about that, but you can't make the trip over there with one car. You know, they'll just have to schedule their trips a little better. So, you can tell the difference how many people are coming here now, and with places here. And I used to know everybody in the phone book not anymore, I used to go to the senior citizen dinners anymore they have on Mondays and Thursdays. There are always new people that go to it. People that own an Island out here come and eat that two dollar dinner twice a week.

RM: So, you've seen quite a bit of change then?

AM: Oh, yeah. Oh I guess so.

DK: In the '40's did any kind of war activity happen here?

AM: Oh yes, and I have done a lot of research on this, on World War II. Of course, I was just a teenager then. For such a little town, there were fifty-two men they took from here and two of them were killed. We had this inner service council and I'm on the board and I suggested that we honor somebody every year. I said, "Why don't we do those veterans that are left?" There are only six of them. And so, I went and got them, we had a big banquet for them and everything but then come 4th of July, I asked them all if they would ride in the 4th of July parade because that's the year that they opened up the monument, in Washington, for the World War II veterans. So, what we did, we made and built it in my garage, we made a small one like that, except we just put that names of the Drummond Island guys on there and put the Gold Stars. And I got a World War II jeep to pull the trailer and we had those guys in the 4th of July parade and I wanted them to wear their uniforms and only one guy could get into his but the wore their hats and some guy lent me these 6 rocking chairs and we gave them candy to throw to the kids then. I'm telling you the crowd just—well we won first prize but it was so nice but I talked to all of them and they said they'd do it and there still the six left.

RM: There's six of them?

AM: Yes.

RM: Yeah but there wasn't any activity here like they had at the Sault there were Coast Guard and what not.

AM: Like welcome home afterwards or?

RM: No like defending or concerned about...

AM: Oh, no the Sault was and they had those big _____ things. Yeah, I remember those. No, they never did anything. My, I have two brothers, this is really funny. You know during the war, they'd never let you know where they were stationed...

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE B

TAPE TWO SIDE A

RM: Tape two. Okay.

AM: Okay, well anyways so they were both overseas and wanted to let the family know where he was. So, he'd write a letter to my mother every week and the first one said, "Mrs. Floyd B. Seaman," which was his middle initial or my mother's name from my dad. The next letter she got it was, "Mrs. Floyd U. Seaman." We figured this out, why doesn't he know my middle initial. The next one we got it was an "R" and he kept it going till he spelled Burma and that's where he was. They finally figured it out why he was doing this and that's where he was. So anyway, when my other brother came home, we knew the war was over and he was coming home and he had never had a furlough from the time he was drafted till he was sent overseas and he was in the North Africa and the Battle of Sicily and came home. And I was over at Detour at my sister's and he just opened the door and walked in one day. Oh, did he ever look awful. His hair was this long on top and his teeth were knocked out from here back and of course, I had to come to Drummond with him you know. And my mother didn't—she knew he was coming home but she didn't know when. Well, it used to be the mail come in at night here, like at 7:30 at night and the Post Office used to be down across from H & H store and everybody went there about 7:00 and Aunt Myrtle sorted the mail and she had to hand it to you. And half of Drummond is standing there waiting to get their mail that night and he walked in and my mother was standing there. She just about fainted, oh it was really something but they never had any parade or anything for them when they came home. Of course, they all came home at different times, you know.

RM: Sort of keep on track...

AM: So anyway, I was telling you about this thing we made of like the memorial, like they had in Washington with the Drummond names on it and I thought, oh we worked hard on that. We made it out of ply wood and then we took gray paint and made it look like it was marble and we had this guy paint all their names on there and I thought gosh, what are we going to do with this. You know, it's too bad to just throw it away. So, I got a hold of the supervisor and I said, "Would you let me put that up in the back of the cemetery?" I said, "Most of these guys are buried there anyway." He said, "Well, if you want to get a cement foundation in there and get it up there" and we had to cover it with something so the rain and stuff wouldn't hurt it. You know, like the Plexiglas. So, when you go by the cemetery look in the back of it, it's standing up back there with all their names on it and it's in the old part of the cemetery you know, clear it the back. So, we did save it.

RM: After all that work, you know?

AM: And most of those guys are buried there and the other 6 that are living will still probably be buried there.

DK: What kind of entertainment, since you were kind of stuck on the island, what kind of entertainment did you have to keep yourselves happy?

AM: They had a Grange Hall here and in fact, it's you know where the Post Office is? You know, up on the corner? Well, that whole block down there was all my family, my brother built that Post Office and the next one's my grandfather, the next one is a grange hall but my mother ended up owning it. But I don't know how and then the next house is where all us kids were born. And oh, they had box socials and square dances and masquerade parties and you know, lots of entertainment. And then in later years, they used to have a youth center and used to have it where the Town Hall is and our younger kids could go there. And then they had card parties, the Bridge Club, the Bridge Club and quilt bee's and I got a lot of pictures down at the museum of all the ladies sitting around and quilting and no, there was always something to do.

RM: Was some of the community here kind of one large family, almost?

AM: Yes, kind of.

RM: Because did most of the people live in this town area or they—or the bulk of it.

AM: Yes, they did. In fact, they used to _____ out where the Museum—that was the settlement but you know, a lot of the old places aren't there anymore. Well, that old store there, that was there for a hundred years and of course it's closed now and then there was this big lodge called the O-me-kong Lodge. That was there for years and it's right next to that store, of course that's been torn down.

RM: How do you spell that?

AM: O-M-E-K-O-N-G. I've got a lot of pictures of it down at the museum. It's a nice big lodge.

RM: And what was that, kind of a private club?

AM: No, anybody could stay there and I have all the books dating back to 1926 where they signed in and I'll have these grandkids now, "oh, my grandmother used to stay there" and they'll sit down at the museum and look through and "oh, there's the name!" We got them all in the museum.

RM: So, when did sort of tourism become important here?

AM: Well, they had a resort in, what year was it? Probably the 1900's and it was called Seastone. Do you know where Harry Rob's place is? You can see it when you're down at the museum across to that other point? That's where this was and it was Seastone—two names Seaman and Johnstone. There was the two Johnstone girls who were from the Seaman family and you've probably heard about Schoolcraft and Johnstone in Sault Ste. Marie well, from that side. One of the Seamans, Stella Seaman married into the Johnstone family. They started this resort and I have one of their brochures. They even rented wigwams and canoes from this resort and it had the prices you know, 2 dollars a day and it was really something. And then this lady, Leila Seaman, whose mother descended of the Seaman's, then she started that grocery store there. She had it for years and it was only about, maybe 30 years ago but it was sold and out of the Seaman name and of course, now it's back in there again cause Denny Bailey who owns the Yacht Haven whose dad's his mother was Seaman and his father was a Bailey, now they own it so it's back in the Seaman family again.

RM: Now, are you related to her?

AM: Oh yeah, I'm related to all Seaman's as cousins.

RM: And so, how much of the island are related that way?

AM: Oh, lots cause Seaman's married Bailey's and Bailey's married Seaman's. You got to be careful what you say on Drummond, you could be talking about someone's cousin.

RM: So, that continued, that family connection continued until the Monahan years when you got this influx of people from the outside.

AM: Yes.

RM: So since, in terms of what you've been telling us, with these you know—from the early days and so on then, the island was kind of inter—all these people were inter-related and it was kind of one giant family through all of that time pretty much.

AM: Oh yes.

RM: And how many people are on the island today would you say?

AM: I think, I know in the winter just about a thousand of that stay here. I have no idea what the summer population is because there's so many from new places here. I mean, you can just tell by—I should have asked Chuck to give me a thing to put in the museum about what the—how many people they used to carry across on the ferry to what they do now, how many hundred more it is.

RM: Because we were kind of surprised today, you know, it's the middle of November practically and it was running on the hour and there were, what was it, about a half dozen or so cars on the ferry. It wasn't like empty, it wasn't like one car.

AM: Gosh, every time I've been over there late, you had to go to Traverse City last week and gosh, going over. And especially the certain boats, 8:00 in the morning, you'll want to get down there early or you won't get on it cause there's so many people. And there's a lot of people from Detour come over to work here.

RM: So, it's really not a barrier—that the river there is not that much of a barrier, people just go back and forth. It's not a problem.

AM: Yes, but it's awful when you race to catch that ferry and it's just pulled out from the dock.

DK: When we first tried to get there, that's exactly what happened.

RM: Yeah, this was not this time.

DK: That was years ago.

AM: Do you have a place here?

RM: No, no, no. We met the-- or Diane worked with Chris Henning.

AM: Okay.

RM: And she had, she taught teacher education, art education and then her student would be up at the Sault and so that's how she met her, so that's how our connection would be kind of a more personal connection with the island. It's through the Henning's that way. So and the other time's we've come over—we came over once on, I've been here numerous times but came over for the Historical Society of Michigan at Monahan's, the resort there. We came for that and we've come on other occasions. We've had different reasons to come over and it's been very nice to come to the island numerous times but that's our connection. Now is there something—oh I know, I wanted to ask you, you mentioned the Reinhardt's, how do you spell that?

AM: Oh gosh, I don't know.

RM: Reinhardt?

AM: That sounds close enough. He owned a big trucking line in Detroit and I don't know he got here but he had a lot of guests but he made friends with a lot of island people, entertained them on dinners and everything. And then I don't know if he died or he wife sold that place or that's the one that Monahan bought.

RM: Now, a lot of these islands you said were sold inexpensively. Now, who lives on them today?

AM: Oh, there like—you take the one right straight out here, the little one that used to be...

RM: You mean, the tiny one here?

AM: Yeah, you see the boat house on the end of it? You know, if you look right through that gap out there and on a clear day you can see Canada like Bruce Mines. Okay, now there's a big one and then a small one right in front of it, right in front of it. We used to always call it Fire Island and the Chester's from Ohio owned it and of course, they're all dead now but there's a group of lawyer's from Ohio own it. And right behind it is Bald Island.

RM: The larger one?

AM: Yeah and...

RM: Okay and I see there's something on the right side of the Island.

AM: You mean, sticking out there?

RM: Yeah.

AM: That's a shoal. See the water's so low.

RM: Okay, over, okay. Yeah.

AM: Yeah, the one behind and then in front there's a boat house there.

RM: Yeah and that was the one owned by the Ohio people.

AM: Mhmmm and then there's Howard Island and way out, a guy from Florida just bought Burnt Island and it's a big island and he was in the Museum one day and he said, "You know, my wife wants me to buy Butterfield Island." He said, I said to her, "Why do you want another island? We just bought one?" She

said, "Well as soon as our friends in Florida know we've got an island, there gonna want to come and visit and we'll put them over on Butterfield." And this gal, my best friend when I grew up on Drummond and she had moved to Arizona and they just bought, she just passed away and he just bought Long Island and he's got it all fixed up. Oh, you gotta see the dock on it. You could dock an 80 foot yacht there cause he had my family over for dinner.

DK: And what's their name?

AM: Isaacson and then there's the other one down the way there is Campbell's Island of course, they're all dead and I don't know who owns it now. And then there's Grape and Grape is subdivided and La Point and that's subdivided. You know, there's two or three different places and Howard Island out here. I can see those lights from here but yeah there's home _____ on every one of them.

RM: Now, did the Dole's, the pineapple family, do they have a place down here?

AM: Not that I know of. Yeah, there's a lot of boats out here in the summer because you know, they can go down the bay fishing or they'll go out if they're going to go to Cockburn, Meldrum Bay, or Manitoulin.

RM: Because also I think this is the only place where you have customs, so you can go by boat and leave from here and go into Canada.

AM: And you know, not last year but they used to come off the ice and the snowmobiles right over here. They'd come right in front of here but since Homeland Security has been in here, they stopped every one of those sleighs and search them.

RM: But they could still cross?

AM: Oh yes, but it's really cut down on the traffic.

RM: Because I guess this in the old days, this was kind of a little just out of the way place so there's a lot of movement _____ to Canada.

AM: Oh yeah and then they'd come over here on their snowmobiles and load up with whiskey and cigarettes and not pay any duties, skip back over to Thessalon or St. Joe. They don't do that anymore.

RM: And that's all since...

AM: Yeah, 9/11.

RM: Because now, how far is St. Joe Island from here?

AM: St. Joe isn't that far. You can see it on a clear day. And they put a tree line up in the winter; it goes right across here and all the way to St. Joe. The Canadians come over half way and then we go over the rest of the way. Everybody here you know, go out and cut a tree for Christmas, a live tree. So, they collect them all after Christmas and then they stick them in the ice. So, if you get out there, you know, you can go from tree to tree in case a storm comes up. You know, so they can see where to go.

RM: And so now they can still do that because of the Customs.

AM: Yes.

RM: So, that tradition has continued.

AM: Yes.

RM: Because otherwise if you want a visit St. Joe Island you have to go all the way to the Sault and then you have to east and then come down the Island to the portside.

AM: Let me see if you can see it today. Yes, no you can't. See that farthest island.

RM: Yeah, yeah.

AM: Well, it's just beyond that, not too far. It's only about 10 miles over there. They can zip across there in no time.

RM: Because when the British has Drummond Island, they used to run cattle between here or bring them down from that better pasture up at St. Joe's and they would bring them back and forth.

AM: Yeah, have you ever been—they restored the Museum over there.

RM: No, that's one place that I haven't been too and part of it is the distance you know. So, you just don't but sometimes you'll be going east or something and it's too far to get to the other side.

AM: And it used to be going to Thessalon and that's 27 miles right across there. Gosh, I haven't been over there for a long time.

RM: So, if you have a boat that you have a rather easy access to Canada and everything else other than Sault St. Marie. So, all of a sudden this is a different perspective when you bring some of these elements in that you're across from Canada and you're not that far and all of a sudden the Sault is like out of the way.

AM: We're too close I guess cause people think we talk like the Canadian's, eh? You know.

RM: Now, do a lot of people go from Drummond Island to Cockburn Island?

AM: Well, if you have a place over there cause there's no place to stay unless your stay in your boat. They have beautiful docks over there.

RM: What is it just a wilderness island?

AM: Yes, it's been lumbered off years and years ago and their lumbering it off again and there's all these old houses over there and people have bought them to go over there and stay in them. And then a lot of people going on to Manitoulin to Meldrum Bay and there's nice little town there. And then of course you hit all the rest of them going up there, Gore Bay and Little Current and my late husband and I had a boat we used to go over there all the time.

RM: I think that's good, that's part of the unknown part of—well, my feeling is that when you have the international boundary it's almost like a wall. People then don't think that. Now a friend of mine, they've done a lot of boating and they'd go on over here from Marquette. Well, they used to go from Marquette to the Sault by boat and then continue but a lot of people don't realize that you have all of this water and islands on the side of the United States, you can continue to enjoy and so on. And so, in that circumstance then Drummond Island is part, I mean, part of this collection of islands here.

AM: Yes, there's a lot. It's funny and now on the south side of the island, you don't see any little islands out there. And that's why I think it hasn't built up because they can't hold a dock over there because the ice just takes it right out.

RM: Oh, the ice does?

AM: Oh yeah.

RM: So, you don't get that kind of severe damage to this side.

AM: Yes.

RM: And then I guess you also get a lot of wind and whatnot coming from Lake Huron.

AM: Oh yes, all across Lake Huron, yeah. See where it's broken up here, I mean we get some wind but nothing like my daughter on the other side. And like she'll call me and say, "oh, it's so windy." I say, "it's not even moving, the trees aren't even moving over here." But then I'll get a northwest and she'll be over there with no wind.

RM: Oh, you also get the temperature difference.

AM: Oh yeah.

RM: With the wind blowing from the North or from the South, yeah.

DK: How did you meet your husband?

AM: They were both from Drummond, lost them both.

RM: I take it you were married twice?

AM: Yeah.

RM: Oh, oh. Now were they...

AM: My first husband was killed when he was 36 and I had five kids. The oldest one was 10 and the youngest one was 5. Then I got married again and he died of a heart attack when he was 49. Oh I lost a lot right then. My brother had Lou Gehrig's disease and I had two brothers that had heart attacks but my mother lived to be 99 and a half and...

DK: You have those genes.

AM: Oh, I don't think so. I'm just—when you look at me, well I've been poked with needles and _____ and I looked—I'm so embarrassed down at work and I'm showing somebody something on a map and they're looking at my hands. And it's like oh god, they probably think that I've been in a fight or something and it's just from all the meds I have to take. But all my—I have five kids and they're all going to retire on Drummond, two already have except one. I was living back behind the golf course, it was the year that Monahan built that golf course and you know, they had to close that dump up there. The bear, oh my goodness, just about drove me crazy. I mean one even got in my house and I just hated living up there. So, my son, the one that's the director of the ferry, he'd been in and he said-- I have this piece of property down here and I saved it for years. I don't know why. I never thought to build down here. He said, "I'm going to build you a house down there" and what's nice about it—he has an apartment

upstairs. He has his own kitchen, living room, two bedrooms, bath. His own phone line and his own computer and everything. So, if I get sick in the night all I have to do is call him. I don't have to worry about getting the grass cut or shoveling snow. And this company he works for, provides them with a four-wheel drive pickup with a plow because he might have to plow out the ferry dock in the mornings. So, it gets my road plowed and he did all this stone work, we got all the walks clear down to the lake. It took him three years and he bull dozed up all the rock here and it's so nice for me.

DK: You're lucky.

AM: And he drives to the Soo every day for his job. His office is in the Soo.

RM: Oh boy and so he has to clear the dock though.

AM: If a plow hasn't been down there yet and of course he's got to plow, this is a private road, and he's got to plow me out here. And this guy next door is Mike McDonald, he's just retired. He was the judge and he's a cousin of my kids. He's not related to me but through my husband. And then the next one over is another cousin of his. So, we're all from the Seaman family.

DK: And here you were over on the Monahan property and you could've been here all the time.

RM: Oh, this is nice.

AM: No, I was living where the bear were bothering me. I was behind the township golf course. It was just terrible. In fifty years, I'd seen one bear here out in the wild. That summer I saw nine and I don't know why they bother me so because I never had garbage or anything. I mean they'd get in the garage and they'd get in the pop cans and I hang my clothes outside although I have a dryer but I'm old fashioned. I hang out clothes like this looking behind me because I thought. What if one sneaks up behind me? It was just terrible but see those bears were so used to feeding out of that dump and they closed it. And we had a heck of a time with garbage here now. It cost us so much. I have to buy ten bags and it cost me \$23.50 and they can't have more than thirty pounds in them and we have to haul them either out to Wazz plaza there or up to the Mobile station. And we recycle and I have a compost pile and still, it cost a lot for our garbage, especially when you have to haul. So, the other day I load all my stuff for recycling and haul it up to the Town Hall and I get over there and the trailer's gone. So, I had to go to Traverse City and I went in my daughter's car and I let it in mine and the Saturday I had to go to the Soo to go out there. All that garbage is in back of the car yet. I took it yesterday and finally dumped it. I mean it was just—I rinse out all my cans and plastic and stuff but gosh.

RM: Well, that's sort of a problem with islands that you have stuff that comes on the island but it has to leave the island.

AM: It used to be you know, everybody just went out to dump and you could dump anything and you don't now. You sort it.

RM: So, the dumps closed now?

AM: Closed completely.

RM: So everything is taken off the island?

AM: Everything is taken off the island and then they have it dump day. It costs the township \$10,000 for that one day. And you can take, well you can't take like old paint cans or stuff like that, well they have it

open three days but it costs the township \$10,000 to have those big dumpsters come in and if you got something big like an old couch or mattresses or stuff like that.

DK: Water heaters, stuff like that?

AM: Yes, stuff like that.

RM: You just have to plan ahead.

AM: Yeah, you just got to hold if for a year, you know. Oh I have this old grill. Well, we got to leave it for a year till next June.

RM: Now, in terms of the island and I think you mentioned before we were on tape. How much of the island is owned by the state now?

AM: Over 50% now. Well, when I was telling you about that 1930 plot map I have down at the museum, would say maybe they owned three or four, "forties" and that was it on the whole island. But now—and they also own Harbor Island, that big island out here and Seney has taken over and their going to make hiking trails through it and I think they're also going to open up the old state park here down at Maxton that was closed about 15 years ago. And they're putting in a new boat launch down there and stuff.

RM: Is that at the eastern end of the Island?

AM: Well, it's Maxton. That would be the Northeast. Yeah.

RM: That whole area, is that state land? I noticed it was like a red line through it? That's all state land up there?

AM: Yeah, mostly there state land is on the Johnswood side but they still have some down at Maxton.

RM: What is the hunting like here?

AM: Oh god, we have more animals and more birds you know, they have bow and arrow season in October, duck season, partridge, bear in September. They take a few bear off of here every year and they have rabbits and they have coyotes and muskrats and mink and beaver and otter and deer, lots of deer. And they've even seen wolves, a couple of them. And Mike McDonald has one of those trail cameras and he's got a moose in it, over on Bald Knobs. My boys have a forty way over on the East side of the island and they got hunting camps over there. And they have trail cameras that they just leave up and he said he couldn't believe it. There's pictures of moose on there. Every once in a while, well I've lived here all my life and one time I saw a moose. They swim over from Canada but they must not like it here because they don't stay but there's one over there. Oh, these guys you know, this hunting god, for the last week my sons have been getting ready for that hunting season. Oh, they're cutting wood and planning all their stuff. I think they have more fun getting ready for it and they don't make a grocery list and everybody will bring the same thing. This one will bring a ham and that one, "oh, I brought one too." They just have a—of course, old ma here, I have to make them their sourdough bread and their cinnamon rolls.

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RM: Now, do they come back with deer or just a good time?

AM: Well, maybe out of three of them they might get one. My oldest son just got back from Wyoming. He went out there hunting antelope. He didn't get one but his son did. And then they went to Quebec hunting caribou.

RM: Now, do you get an influx of hunters from the mainland?

AM: Oh, it used to be years ago. Everybody took in borders and I mean, they didn't even have inside bathrooms, some of them. They have to use outside toilets but not so much anymore. Oh, you'll get some and a lot of these ones they'll go and in Johnswood especially, bought up these old Finn farms that are still standing, that's what they use.

RM: They use the old building and camps?

AM: Yup, yup.

RM: So, they're preserved then?

AM: Oh yeah.

RM: Well, that's good.

DK: Only since a week, no?

AM: It's 15th, it opens.

DK: Yeah, that's about a week.

AM: Then the Catholic Church puts on a turkey dinner on the night of opening day, the night before. And I think, they've been doing it for over fifty years and somebody was saying that the first time they done it, they did it down at the Grange Hall and they only had like five or six chickens. Now they cook twenty-four, twenty pound turkeys.

RM: Oh my word.

AM: And they start serving at 5 and they have every kind of a homemade pie that you could imagine and it's put on by the Catholic guild. Let's see Thursday night they have this veteran's dinner and it's like me, if you're a widow, you get in free. And it's a beautiful program and they have that whole town hall decorated with every kind of an Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard uniform. And then they have the Amvet's from Raber come in and they do all the stuff and then they serve you this beautiful dinner and that's Thursday and then Sunday is the hunter's dinner and I go to that all the time but I said, if your serving turkey at the veteran's dinner, I'm not going to the hunter's dinner because Chuck, my son's birthday is the 30th and he always wants a turkey dinner and we just had that. My other son's birthday is in September and we had turkey.

DK: _____.

RM: And then you got to have Thanksgiving.

AM: And then Thanksgiving is coming up. Yeah, hunting's big for the guys and it's pretty dead around here. These guys—I'll be the only one back here. They'll all be at their hunting camps.

DK: Do they have like plumbing and getting things fixed?

AM: Yeah, a tree fell on the home of this girlfriend of mine, she was here today and she said, "oh, they're there fixing my roof." She said, "I called them yesterday, even though it was Sunday and they said you better get this done before hunting season because I know I'll never get it done then." And then the first of December the stores don't open on Sunday and they all close at 6:00.

RM: Oh, the winter season sets in.

AM: Yeah, the winter season sets in. we've got our first fast food thing. At Wazz plaza, he's got Chester Chicken, that's the first fast food thing that we've had on Drummond. Now I suppose we'll have all these McDonald's and Wendy's.

DK: You'd think for the summer month's you would.

AM: Yeah, he just got it in. Somebody said the first night that he opened up, he sold 300 pounds of chicken.

RM: So, it's going to go? It's going to be a success?

AM: Oh yeah.

RM: Now will he be open all winter?

AM: Oh yeah, he's open all the winter and he's open early. You know, he opens about six and everyone stops there to get a cup of coffee to go to the ferry. Actually, I think they're going across the ferry to buy their gas because you could save 30 or 40 cents a gallon. Gas is really expensive here and both stations, they kind of keep the same price.

RM: The thing is, it looks like as you move down the road towards I-75 the price drops.

AM: Oh, yes.

RM: The farther west you go, you know.

AM: In fact, last week, I think it was \$3.39 here and we got gas at Sam's in Traverse City, if you have a card, \$2.71.

RM: We get breaks in Marquette down at Econo Food has Holiday Gas has 10 cents off of a gallon, I guess.

DK: After 12 gallons.

RM: And then they had a thing where it was a dollar, you got a dollar off your gas if you keep on Holiday. So, you work out some pretty good deals.

AM: Well, everybody here if they just don't have any, they just stop and get about two gallons to get to Detour, you can't get into that Shell station. They're lined up getting gas.

RM: Oh, that was good.

AM: And he picked out the funniest things to show and I never told my kids that I'd done this because I wanted to see it first before they did. And so, they called me and my daughter and her husband were sitting here and the televisions they said, you are going to be on in the morning, three times—9, 10 and

11 or 8, 9 and 10. They said, "Who you've been talking to on the phone?" I said, "Oh some of this museum stuff." And I got up the next morning and I watched the first showing and it wasn't too bad. I mean, I didn't look too fat and I showed him such interesting things. Well, he started out showing all the old pictures of like Daniel Murray and Betsy Seaman. Now, this is Audrey's family and all this stuff and I tried to show him different things and he saw this old gas iron. And I'm showing him how this worked because I used to use one. You put gas in it and lit this thing and that's what you ironed with before we had electricity. Then I showed him about this wood plane that's curved that this man used because he built two of the ferry's, the old one and another one, they're all wooden ferry's and that's what he picked to show. I thought god, there's a lot more interesting things then that old gas iron and that wood plane. And then of course he just asked me about my family and how long I've lived here and everything so, it was pretty good. So, that night when the kids were all here I said, "Well, I'll let you see this movie." They didn't know a thing about it. Chuck said, "I heard about it up in the Soo." He said, "My secretary said your mother was on T.V. this morning."

RM: But that was good that you got that much time because usually they'll do an interview and if you want to get on you have to say something that's clever and that they'll show. So they might do—I've done like you know, a ten minute interview with somebody and you get 30 seconds if you're lucky. You might get 20 seconds, you know.

DK: Why, I don't know if you said this on the tape, when did you say electricity came to Drummond?

AM: 1956.

RM: 1956. And then things like television and all.

AM: Oh, I know it was after that because you could run a television on a light plant. And you know...

DK: What is a light plant (?)?

AM: It was a little generator but it had a whole row of these glass batteries because everybody had a little house outside for the light plant house, they called it. And of course, everybody had—you know, they used to cut ice out of the bay in the winter and they've had it in blocks and everybody had an ice house and they covered it with saw dust. And you had a refrigerator and you just went out and got a piece of ice and rinsed the sawdust and put it in your refrigerator but you couldn't have, on your light plant, you couldn't run a wash machine or have a toaster or an iron. You had the old gas irons, which were so dangerous. Can you imagine putting that gasoline...?

RM: And then lighting it?

AM: And lighting it. The handles were all scorched because they had wooden handles on it and I'm showing him that. Why did he pick that?

RM: Because it was so dangerous.

AM: And I told him and I used one all the time and I said, boy they were dangerous.

RM: So, how did that work then? It was filled with gas.

AM: And then you'd lit a match that you stuck in there and you had one little thing. Oh no, what you had to do first, after you put the gas in, you had a little hand pump and you had to pump that tank full of air

and then you turned it on and you stuck the match in that hole and of course it would flame up at first until you got it adjusted.

DK: Sounds like playing with a propane torch.

AM: I had two of them down at the museum.

RM: Oh, you don't put on displays?

DK: Well, what did you have for lights then? Kerosene lamps?

AM: Oh no, your light plant. You could have lights but that's all you could have.

RM: But before that you had kerosene?

AM: Oh, kerosene lamps? Yes, or they called them Aladdin lamps and then you got to wash those chimneys every day.

DK: Oh boy.

AM: Yeah, it was a lot of fun and you cooked on a woodstove.

RM: And then the wash was done by hand?

AM: Yeah or gas. We had a gas washer because I remember I had one before and you'd have to start it—you had thing like a big club sticking out and you start it with your foot and it was a gas washer.

RM: So then you had to do this outside?

AM: Oh yeah, everybody had a building out beside where they did the washing. And of course you had no dryers.

DK: Oh, this is totally amazing in 1956.

AM: Yeah, that's when we got electricity, yup.

DK: And telephones you always had?

AM: Oh no, no. We first got telephones; just a few people got them at first. And there was 15—there was 5 on a line and there was 15 kids on my line and you'd never get on that phone if somebody wasn't on it.

RM: So, then you'd ask them to get off when they're talking to they're friends.

AM: Yes, just kids, you know.

DK: And what year was that?

AM: Oh god, what year was that? Let's see well, I know there was one in front of Grandma's house, a booth but she died in '71. So, it was before '70. I don't know what year we got the phones. First, there was just one or two phones and then they hooked up a few and then a year or two later then everybody got one. Now, they've got them way out in the boonies. I mean you can, _____ over where my daughter lives and they've got them all over.

DK: That's pretty crazy. Well, thank you ever so much for having us over. You don't know the _____ but thanks for having us.

RM: Well this is very...

DK: Hopefully, my husband will using all this info...

AM: Well, god I get talking about stuff with _____ that doesn't even interest him.

RM: Oh no, everything's been very you know, very interesting.

AM: Well, I'll tell you who _____ Bailey will tell you a lot about the Finn because she had _____ with that book and she gave her a lot of pictures.

DK: _____?

AM: Yeah.

DK: And okay what is this _____ on your book with Beth Maki?

AM: Well, we wanted to get it published this year but we're not going to do it. She was here when the Finn's from Finland were here and she stayed with me for a couple of days and she's really—she's got, she told me know that she's got so much on Maggie Walz that she's going to write a second book about her.

RM: See one thing...

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE B