

Interview with John Tobin

Marquette, Michigan

July 19, 1996

Russel Magnaghi (RM): Interview with John Tobin, Marquette, Michigan July 19th, 1996. Now, Mr. Tobin can I start out by asking you a question, what is your birthday?

John Tobin (JT): April 22, 1906, the time of the great earthquake.

RM: Out in San Francisco?

JT: Yes.

RM: That is where I am originally from, so I am familiar with it.

JT: Oh really?

RM: Could you tell us a little about your early years growing up in Marquette, where did you live in Marquette in those early years?

JT: On the corner of Crescent and Third, 825 North Third, that's where the credit union is now. The only thing I can tell you much about the early years, they are pretty dull, pretty dull, we were quite impoverished, everybody was. We didn't know that, we thought we were doing okay, we had plenty to eat and we were wearing clothes. And we did really suffer at all, but I was like 7 before my first day of kindergarten, when I first came to kindergarten.

RM: Okay now, the kindergarten was in the,

JT: Longyear building. As you came in the front door alongside of the steps and to the left was the kindergarten room, Ms. Bates [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was the ___ teacher, it had sandboxes and little chairs and tables, colored paper, ___, crayons, all along, heavenly for a kid, I just thoroughly enjoyed myself there. And I began there in 1912. Stayed right with the building right straight through, graduated in '24. Last class in the attic, that was the last class in the building I had,

RM: Now what was the, do you remember what the classes were like in the building? Was it crowded?

JT: No, no we never had more than 24 in a class, I think starting with kindergarten was about 24, the first grade, and second grade, yeah I think we were 24 in a classroom, and that continued on through the 8th, 7th and 8th grade were together in one room, and Ms. Emendor [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was of course the ___ teacher, and I think we probably didn't have more than 30 students all together in the 7th and 8th grade together. Because the freshman went on to the next year and there were only, 12 in the graduating class, some dropped out, I supposed we might have had 15 probably, freshmen starting in, and as we moved on the others came, about the same number. About 15 graduated in the class in high school. I think there wasn't any more than that because there were only 12 of us that graduated.

RM: Now you said earlier when we were talking out in front of the building there that you remember the construction of Kaye Hall?

JT: Oh yes, Oh yes. Because, the tunnel from the Longyear building around to the Peter White building when around the foundation that was being built then for the Kaye Hall, the new building, yes they were just doing the excavating and it was just kind of rough ground to begin with and little by little it began to take shape, they got the foundations in and then the stone began to come in and that was cut up in Jacobsville up in the Copper Country and shipped down by boat and picked up at the Pitt Iron Dock up by Presque Isle. And loaded on flat cars and the street car, had a sighting on the hill there and brought the flat cars of stone in there and brought by a team up to the building site. I don't know if there was any cutting down there or not or if it was already cut I'm not sure, the cathedral they did the cutting down there, St. Peter's Cathedral, and I think this must have been already cut and marked.

RM: Now you talked about the tunnel, that tunnel was there before they started building Kaye Hall?

JT: Yes, oh yes, because there was a steam tunnel that brought steam over from the Longyear building all to the Peter White building from the boiler room which is back a ways back there by the tennis courts.

RM: Now was the, do you remember that, what the building was like that extended on the south side, extending North off the Longyear building was the library, and the off of the Peter White building was the gymnasium, do you remember those?

JT: That must have been much later, at the time I was there, the only buildings that were over there were the Longyear, Kaye, and Peter White, which was taken down. So there wasn't anything else built that was in my knowledge at that time they came in later, 1924, it must have been after 1924.

RM: Now what is that, that you earlier you were talking about the gym, the old gym or the,

JT: The Peter White building, that is where we had to go for gym classes, there was nothing in the Longyear building like a gym, so we had to go through the tunnel and over to the Peter White building and then down by the gym.

RM: So it was below the, the gym was a little lower than the,

JT: Yeah it was several steps down from the main floor, it wasn't very large either, it was quite a small gym, and it had these two pillars in the center which were wrapped with mattresses because we kept bumping into them playing basketball running backward and, oh pillar [Laughter].

RM: Was it large enough to play basketball?

JT: Just about, just about, and then it was pretty crappy at that but we played anyhow.

RM: And you were talking about the showers?

JT: Yeah you came up the steps to the main level and the showers were off to our right coming up the steps, and they were remarkable because they had the ____.

RM: Now do you remember going into like the, did the students go over to the Peter White building?

JT: Yeah.

RM: Now do you remember anything about that?

JT: Well yes, actually Dr. Louis's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] laboratory was there and all that, biology lab, and the chemistry lab Pop Louis, ever heard of Pop Louis?

RM: Mm hmm, yeah.

JT: He was a character. Science ____ lived on the corner over here, Magnetic and Fourth street, the corner house, his wife had been after him for a long time to paint the porch furniture, the wicker furniture, it needed touching up, and he said ah I'll get to it and she kept pestering him about painting the porch furniture, one day he came downstairs and she said, do you know what day this is? And he said yep, this is the day I am going to paint the porch furniture, and she said no it's our anniversary. [Laughter]. He was a grand old man.

RM: Now did he teach courses for the high school?

JT: Yes.

RM: So did a lot of your teachers teach both the college kids and the high school students?

JT: Yeah, because the high school curriculum wasn't very complete, and in order to get sufficient I had to take some college courses. That's how I got into mechanical drawing that is how I got into Whiticker's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] class, which I told you about. Yes, and fortunately for me I took mechanical drawing under Mr. McIntock, a grand man, he was a model.

RM: Could you comment on some of the teachers that you had?

JT: Yes, L. O. Gant, he taught Physics and he was a rather pompous character, didn't like him too well. At that time we were just starting in on radio, radio was just coming into life, my friend was across the street and another friend of mine had we were ____ radio transmission, and Mr. Gant had fallen by the wayside somewhere back there and he didn't keep up with what was going on, he would ask us questions in class about radio and that or he would make some comment about it which wasn't too... so we didn't exactly get along too well together, I never had any problems, he was kind of odd, very pompous and very knowledgeable about everything. He was good teacher.

RM: And then you said you had Pop Louis [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]?

JT: Yeah, I didn't have Chase [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], he was the history teacher and Mrs. Silver [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] of course, and I guess she married Mr. Gant didn't she? Or did he marry H. D. Lee, I'm not sure, I think it was H. D. Lee that she married and he was, the principle of the high school. And Eddie Warton [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], Skis Warton [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], he wore size 12 shoes, named Skis Warton. Dr. Don Bottum was probably the favorite, he was the best liked and probably one of the best teachers I ever had. Very fun man. Mrs. Matich [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] of course was something that we never cared to talk about much, she was such a prim, such a fussy little old lady you know, she said oh Mr... back me up to my chair, oh Mr. Tobin my goodness you remind me of a bear with your clumsy ____ so I never did care for her. And Ed Watson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] he was always teasing me about the clumsy as a bear.

RM: And then how about the, are there any other teachers?

JT: No none that stick out, Bottum and H. D. Lee but he doesn't teach I don't think. One other, I can't remember his name now, he taught history. His name just got away from me. But thier went too many

of them, of course we had John Valker [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] for history in high school, John and I are pretty good friends actually, he was from the ___ and he was a great fisherman, we met occasionally on the stream, the last time I talked him was ___ that there really aren't characters like their used to be, but of course he was one of them [laughter].

RM: Now do you remember did you ever talk to or encounter or interacted with any of the presidents like, Kaye, Munson?

JT: Kaye was a friendly man, and he stopped to visit with my mother from time to time looking at the rose bushes so I was pretty young at the time, but I did know him and he was a very friendly little man. Well and Pop Spooner, I don't want to forget Pop Spooner he was a math teacher, I took algebra from him. And Casey Wiggins [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], that was a character, he was a good man though. Very good thinker.

RM: Now what did, do you remember anything else about President Kaye?

JT: No that is about all I can tell you, just a friendly person, very calm.

RM: So he would be what, walking up the street and stop by your house?

JT: My mother had rose bushes, moss roses, and he admired them so he would stop and look at them. It was kind of comical because my mother only got through fourth grade and he was the president of the school so it was kind of a contrast there, they got along alright there though, they talked about flowers.

RM: And then how about John Munson?

JT: Munson, he was very allusive. We saw very little of him, he stayed pretty much to himself.

RM: So let's see, the other one would be,

[Tape stops, then starts again]

RM: Okay, then you went through the K through 12. Then when did you come to Northern as a student?

JT: 1926.

RM: 1926, and what was that like in terms of starting classes, did they have freshman initiation or something or?

JT: I know, there was no freshman ___ just came to residence and went to classes, there was nothing much happening at that time.

RM: Did you have to wear a beanie?

JT: Yeah yeah freshman had to wear a beanie,

RM: For like a week or?

JT: I don't recall how long, I think probably to right around thanksgiving time, the weather got such that the beanie was impractical completely___.

RM: And then do you remember at that time did they used to have a large medicine ball?

JT: Oh yes.

RM: What did they call that thing?

JT: That's a medicine ball, and it wasn't volleyball, I don't remember, I can't recall what they called it, I remember bouncing with it around back there by the tennis courts and over in that, I don't know if there is any,

Unknown Woman: Like a big canvas ball?

JT: Yeah, it was probably about 3 feet in diameter.

UW: We use them still in school, they are called cage balls, big canvas,

JT: Oh Okay.

RM: Because we have movies of that, Jack Deo had that movie and you'll see these kids are like,

UW: Down on the floor?

RM: No no no it's the college kids and they are all standing up and I guess the idea was to, and it might have been like the freshman versus the juniors or seniors or whatever and they would then try to push this ball from one end of the field to the other, and in the process I guess you took prisoners. And so you would grab somebody and tie them up and throw them on the side, they were out of the running, and so eventually you would eliminate the opposition and push the ball to your,

JT: Yes, yes. I remember seeing that happen but I wasn't involved in it.

RM: Was that done just anytime or a certain time of the year?

JT: Well it depends on the weather, pretty much a main factor for outdoor activity, and fall is more rainy and cold and sleeting, and when there was a nice day it was everyone out, the weather kind of ran the program.

RM: Now could you talk a little about the heart, the heart of Northern?

JT: It wasn't very much of a concern to us, we enjoyed it because I think it was built around 1910, the class of 1910 I think, that seems to be in my memory, that was the year that they were doing some excavating and are dumping the earth, and some students, our class, thought it would be nice to, there was some resemblance of a heart there naturally and they simply added to it and got the sod and sodded it and got the nice, three planters, and as far as I know there was no other significance to it, it was just that it was a present to the university in that particular class, I think it was the class of 1910, and they left that for their memento.

RM: Now was it, do you remember how it was used by the students after it was put up?

JT: Just as a gathering place and they would sit around and study, I don't think there was any physical activity, nothing of that sort, it was just kind of a little park,

RM: Sort of a park within in a park.

JT: Yeah that's right, a study area. A lot of people sketching at easels up there, and doing sketching of the buildings, it seemed they sat on the heart and ___ on the buildings. But the heart itself didn't seem to have, to my knowledge, any significance other than a nice place to sit and study and romp around.

RM: Now before when we were over by the heart you had talked about the street car that came down and how it passed through the front of the building, could you just talk about that a bit?

JT: The street car was a marvelous thing, and it began at Presque Isle. Where that, little shop is now to get ice cream and all that. There was a platform and the street car stopped there, and then it ran from there up through Presque Isle, turned over Fair Avenue, and up Third Street, and at Third Street it went the Hewitt Avenue and it turned, went up one block on Hewitt Avenue to front, and then it turned and went down Front Street, and on the way back at Arch Street it went down as far as Spruce Street and out Spruce Street and back up Hewitt again, making a loop around there. And usually it would be one car, coming up Third Street would wait at that corner of Hewitt and Front until the other car came around the loop because people would get on the street car down, around Spruce Street to go downtown and right around, the other car would be back downtown, so here for a nickel you could down from Baraga Avenue right down to Presque Isle. It was a nice little car, little four wheeled cars because of the sharp turns and they had to be pretty close coupled and they rocked beautifully, they were nicely heated, they had electric coils under the streets in the winter time, heated the seats, hot seats it worked. They cut the current to the motor through those resistors so there wasn't any consumption of current that wouldn't normally be used, it didn't cost them anything to run the heaters, in the summer time the resistors were outside and ___ heat the air. Yeah they were very nice in the ___ they had too long street cars with double trucks, 101 and 102, they had air brakes because the other car had a wheel that ___ breaks my hand. But 101 and 102 couldn't stop coming up the hill in town at Bluff Street because they couldn't start again at that Bluff Street crossing so they couldn't pick up 101 and 102 at that corner in front street you had to go up to Ridge Street or else down Washington and it couldn't make the stop. Well the powerhouse, the old ___ is still standing, over there, and right across the street is the powerhouse, and then they had very heavy ___ lines that ran along parallel to the track a very heavy cable, and the ___ to the trolley because the trolley wire was small in comparison to carrying the current, it gets them up the hill from downtown so all along the track there is heavy ___ line 600 volt line ___. There is a little story to that too, they ran a wire from the street car line up to the cathedral, St. Peters Cathedral, and installed a motor to run the organ, they had to crank the organ by hand and some, a couple experiences Father had the idea and ran power up there, there was no electricity in town at that time so they ran this wire up to the cathedral and they had a motor that grinds the organ, the power was on when the street car was running and church was running, it turns out just fine. Eventually when the city put power in that was abandoned and I wound up with the motor, I drug it home on a sled and used it for a generator for our radio, 600 volt dc, just fine for playful use. That's a little bit of history where that came from, the washing machine motor would run it, and it did just fine. _____ it was quite a machine actually, I don't remember the name of it, but it was a good one.

RM: And then you said the students, or the more prosperous students and faculty would take the street cars?

JT: Oh yeah. And they all get off down there at the end of Fair Avenue and walk up that path was just always shoveled all year long. Oh yes the faculty and some of the students, most of the students came from over in that area over on Arch Street and Spruce Street. There were very few, my friend across the

street Albert Erickson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and I think were the only ones in that neighborhood that went to that school, because Ed Watson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was over on Ridge Street also, Roy Janson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] yes all the students came from over on the hill.

RM: You are talking about the students going to the laboratory school,

JT: Yeah that's right, and then there was a fairly good sprinkling of Finnish students from the swamp.

RM: Now what does that refer to?

JT: The swamp? Anything North of Center Street was the swamp. It was inhabited by the lesser citizenry,

RM: Now, oh go on,

JT: Anyone that lived in the swamp was considered beyond the pale,

RM: Now earlier you were saying that then the students that didn't take the street car walked to school, could you talk about that trail?

JT: Yes that was the, it turned off there to the northwest about where Jacks IGA. is now, and cut through the woods. There was no street then, Presque Isle didn't run through, it was just kind of a straight path from there, right over to the walk at the,

RM: So that was all empty then?

JT: Yes, nothing there at all, the only house that was there was Birdie Weston's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] house, it's still there, and it is the large house on the east side about the middle of the block. And Birdie Weston [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] built a garage on College Avenue, it was only a two car room and he built a garage there right on top of our path, so we had to go around, we didn't like him for that. There weren't too many that used the path, Bernie Wellhouser [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], Oliver Erikson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] oh Gunner Carlson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], and myself, I guess were the only ones in that area. And sometimes after school started there wasn't much of a path because it was knee deep facing the north wind out there I remember it real well, against the snow flakes, oh I can't think about it, all of this wonderful warmth inside here, I just can't imagine what an experience that was. It was like going into another world.

RM: So all of that land where, in front of the University now Presque Isle, in between Presque Isle and Third Street, that was all woods?

JT: Mostly.

RM: With the street car coming out of the,

JT: There was a couple houses on third street down there at the end, and then Mr. Stahl [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], had that big house right across from where the end of the heart is, there is that really big colonial, that was a square building, Mr. Stahl [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] he was a teacher here, I don't know what he taught never did have him. Do you know about Mr. Brown and Mr. Copper?

RM: I've heard of him.

JT: Brown was a sarcastic person, nobody liked him, he picked on his students and made fun of them, in psychology class. And Mr. Copper was a very quiet man and he would give his lecture and he never spoke much, good teacher.

RM: Now where did that trail, you said that trail came through there and then it came up to the college and then did it continue?

JT: No there was a trail at the end of the streets, Longyear, where the Peter White building was and went down to Waldo, and then there was kind of a trail that ran from there to the northwest, I don't know where that went, I never used it much. In the winter time we used to go sledding there, there was a big sledding hill.

RM: Where?

JT: Right at the end of Longyear, at the end of the Peter White building.

RM: Oh okay.

JT: On the north end of the pavement. A nice steep hill down there on Waldo Street. That was one thing that kids today have missed completely is bobsleds, did you ever have any experience with them?

RM: Oh yeah.

JT: Do you know where Front Street is?

RM: Yeah.

JT: And the fire station is, the fire house?

RM: Yeah.

JT: The firemen used to take their hoses and ice that hill from Crescent Street, down to the bottom and they had red lights at the intersection so the cars would stop, look out for the sleds. And after supper all the kids who were able to were up on the hill, and the bobsleds and any kind of sleds and be yelling and hollering and we start there just at the side of the fire hall, and wind up almost on Fair Avenue. Ed Watson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] had his Buick, and he would tie the bobsled behind the Buick and haul it back up to the fire hall and then right back down again. Oh it was delicious. Well things were so different then it's hard for you to imagine for Christmas one year I got a beautiful long set of flexible Flyers, and I used to take my mother after supper and go up to Hewitt Avenue just around the curve from Third Street to the top of the hill and put the sled in the wheel tracks, the flange way of the ice, the wheels would pack the snow down and then there was icy grooves there, catch the runners of the sled and we would slide all the way down Third Street, all the way down Fair Avenue, and can you imagine trying to do such a thing as that today? And then we turned around and walk back again, about twice was enough to go home [laughter] that's impossible now. The only thing we would run into once and a while was Dr. Longwood [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], and his one horse would be sound asleep in the cutter __, a big heavy bearskin over him, ____ bring him home.

RM: And is that what people wore in the winter time around in wagons that way, bearskin and all those things?

JT: Yeah, buffalo skin, horse hair or horse hide, cow hide was very popular, especially ones with the white and black dots, cowhide. I guess we had a hot brick in the bottom to keep your feet warm, it would last a little while. It wasn't too bad, it was comfortable, not much wind,

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JT: Well the recreational facility.

UW: Stopped traffic.

JT: Oh yeah. It was a nice hill too. I'd like to ride one more time.

RM: Because that's almost maybe a half mile?

JT: Oh yeah maybe it would be about a half mile I guess from Prospect Street to Crescent Street down on Fair. It should be a pretty good half mile run. You go pretty fast, cross Magnetic you would just be singing. Tie with a ropes, the sled, for steering, look out for little kids on the sleds.

RM: Now you were talking about the trail that used to continue or one of the trails that continued to Granite Street?

JT: Yeah that's right, see the fairgrounds were fenced off, that's where the physical, oh I guess, what is it maintenance, the barn out there

RM: Yeah the green barn.

JT: Yeah by the railroad tracks, well that is fence ran around, all the way south where the end of the fairgrounds, and bright and early we had to go around the area, around the fence and down that way, and sometimes about the middle of the field there were three posts that were set close together, so we could go through those but the cows couldn't, and we would go across that field. But there was an element of danger in there because that's where Burt had his bull and we had to be very careful not to disturb the bull and it was a lot better for him by the cemetery and come through there. And then that was the Big Bay road then which is now Wright Street and it went as far as Granite and turned and went to Big Bay. Two ruffs in the sand and then a car, which is very unusual to find a place to pull off so someone goes by and then went back up, it all just worked out pretty well.

RM: And then you said the bridge across the end of Granite Street,

JT: They took that bridge out later and moved it up to the foot of the hill Wright Street, where the old power station is put the bridge there, and someone went through it a couple years ago with a truck and broke it all up so that was the end of the Wright Bridge.

RM: Oh.

JT: Yeah it had the double life. Besides being a picnic area.

RM: And you said one time you had a picnic there,

JT: Thanksgiving dinner. My mother fixed up a big basket of stuff and my Aunt Rosie [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and Uncle Victor [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and all of us kids hiked from our place up to the Wright Bridge and had our thanksgiving dinner there and back home. We used to go there a lot in

the summer time for picnics, it was a favorite place, my Uncle Victor [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] loved to fish, it was good fishing spot there down river, sometimes we came home quite late at night I remember, sometimes we would make a torch out of birch bark, wrap birch bark tight for when we would go through that field with that torch for light. We had one year a disaster there, went through that field, we never went through it again. We had gone in the daylight, we were partway through the field, there was a little grove of pine trees there and we sat down to rest a bit. And there was our dog Nignalong [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and he got himself in trouble all the time, and he went and dug up Burt's Bull and got the bull moving, and then the dog came to find us, with the bull and pursuit you see. So the next thing is you get through that gate, where the three posts were. And my little cousin Vera had a nice long stick that she was carrying she got that caught within the gate, and we were trying to get her to get loose of that stick and get through there and the bull was coming behind us and it was a very close squeak and we made it through but just barely. I think it's a fallen myth is the bull killed Mr. Burt. It was the following week. Oh it was a vicious character. Birdie Bull was a ___ looked after him. It was narrow for us, I never forgot that time.

RM: So then that trail came across, came out of the holy cross cemetery then it went across the field,

JT: Burrup's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] field.

RM: And then the fairgrounds was more down where the,

JT: The fairgrounds started right there at that corner, the whole thing at one time was all fenced in. Burrup's farm [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was a part of the fairgrounds, he had part of the racetrack he used that area kind of a lease deal.

RM: Oh and the race track would have been by the armory?

JT: Yeah, maybe not down that far, it was closer to the railroad tracks. I would say it was probably two blocks east of the railroad, on the corner. Because the fair buildings were back along that edge, around back the barns and the display areas.

RM: So you walked behind the fairgrounds?

JT: Mm hmm.

RM: Okay.

JT: Came out about, oh somewhere where the high school is now in that approximate area. You were heading always northeast around the corner of the fairgrounds, heading northeast was almost a straight line to Fourth Street, and you actually head to Fourth Street. About Center Street, I'm sorry I am leading you astray, Center Street and then take Presque Isle,

RM: Now would you walk up along where the college was?

JT: Yes.

RM: So you followed that,

JT: There was no definite place, there was quite a few trails considering the weather and how you felt. You walk along there on a nice day a long trail, winding.

RM: And all that was

JT: All woods, all woods, it was beautiful. They never had a forest fire there. The only place that was open was the cemetery, the catholic cemetery, that area, it was always a field, a pasture, and the telephone lines ran along Wright Street and they were, oh, real tall poles with quite a few cross irons I suppose and 6 or 8 ten pin arms on there, and the wires were strong on there and the wind blowing through made a harp, a humming trough all those various wires, and there would be a routy one on this layer, but mostly it was almost like a harp being played, all along that old line from the cemetery to about Granite Street, almost twelve poles.

RM: Could you go back and tell a little bit about your gas station, where it was located, and something about the beer garden,

JT: Well the originally, the brewery there are several buildings there and one big building behind the office building, that was the brewery. And that had a building something of a castle and it had a big turret which is the water tank. And the brewery ran until prohibition put them out of business. The city of Marquette was always very progressive and forward looking, annexed the property around the brewery, just that one little square, ___ to the city, just the brewery property to get the tax revenue for the brewery and not have to maintain anywhere beside it so that was kind of ___ or two. Yeah, they were in fact ___ the same line I think, it just came up ___ Avenue...and then just about a quarter of a mile each way, they annexed that to the city. But when prohibition came, oh it was beautiful the old brewery, it was pretty popular I mean pretty good business. And there was little man named Albert Swanson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] short and broad looked like a dwarf, and he had little beer barrels with a great deal of dexterity and they used to bring the beer barrels down where the new center is now, where they are remodeling for the ___ hotel, that was a bending saloon. And they used to bring the beer down there and they rolled it down in time to the basement. And I remember Albert with these kegs and there was a hand line that went down to the basement, horse drawn, of course, that was quite a picture too those barrels on that wagon, this little guy rolling them down there. You could just smell the beer there on certain days when you were out in front.

RM: Really?

JT: Yes yes you can, if it is a damp day in the summertime you just turn the sidewalk on that corner and you will be able to get a wiph of it. It still exists. Very popular place. They have a nice yard and stuff and once in a while you have a problem, maybe something, ___ from down, lived in Hogan's Alley [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and she became an alcoholic and she came with a jug full of whiskey and we filled it up for her and said 50 cents, she said can I charge it? No we said and took the jug and dumped it back in the barrel again, she when home cracked the jug, took up a sponge. A lot of characters.

RM: Now where did you say, Hogan's?

JT: Hogan's Alley [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. Hogan's Alley still exists. Just before you start up the hill to Shiras hills, there is a little street there called Hogan's Alley.

RM: Oh yes, alright. And then you said the room to, at one point you had a gas station there, brewery.

JT: That is where the one little building is now. The gas pumps were on the side if you was traveling going up the street around that way, 41 didn't exist. 28 came and make that trail and went around the

brewery property and went back out on the Villa Capri and across the road and yeah, we were in a pretty good spot. I didn't start the station, a hockey player named Peggy O'Neil was the start, began it, and his popularity as a hockey player got him pretty good business. So the place was very well established when I took it over. My lease was on a gallons basis, I paid him so much a gallon for the use of the property. And it was a nice little building, it was long cold winter though, I remember that, having a little box stove in there to keep warm. Oh made as much as 10 dollars a week! And business was good, that was back in 1934 and by 1936 we were making 25 dollars a week which was big pay! I made a 100 dollars a month in that time I was doing alright. I bought a 1936 Ford, it cost me 643 dollars including the heater. It is quite different from today.

RM: Now you said across the street then from the gas station, at one time was a pond, a fishing pond?

JT: Yes, east of the gas station, right across, now there is a welding shop there now. Weski's Pond [SPELLED PHONETICALLY].

RM: And that had what kind of fish?

JT: German Brown, he got it from the border of Germany. That's how the German Brown got here, they were not native to this country at all, but they did well they got into the creek and they got into Cox's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] pond, there was a pond across the road from that, that's Cox's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] farm, and the German Brown got into that too. I know Cox was very upset about that. The Moose Lodge at that time was in the end, Cox's end it was called the evergreen end, and they raised chickens and fish in that pond. And we had a pretty nice café, restaurant there, Josie Cox [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and her sister ran it. And they also had another ___ at the foot of their largest hill down the hill you see a little building, alright that's the spring house, and there is a pump there and when the Cox's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] went down to Wetmore the logging was going a bit down there, they went down to the bank at Wetmore and lease the property to a ministry here in Marquette, the name I have forgotten now. They had it down for several years and when they came back to take over the farm again, they had to settle on what the settlement should be and probably the deal was they had built this spring house and put that pump in there and they thought they should get some compensation for that, so will Cox said yeah alright, I'll give you a 40 of timber Munising way, on Grand Island. It was it useless, ___ just as well. So that was traded for 40 acres of land over on Grand Island originally, then the Cox's found pretty good water so they established a route providing drinking water to the city called Polaris water and they had jugs, big five gallon jugs and racks to hold them, and anybody that was anybody at all bought Polaris water, including the hospital. See at that time the city of Marquette had very bad drinking water because the furnace out there dumped their creosote into the lake and the creosote when there was a North wind worked its way down to the intake. And we could smell the creosote in your tea, it was like medicine, taking a drink of water here in Marquette, oh how could you drink that stuff? It was so bad. So that is why the Polaris water was so popular for drinking water. But eventually it was found out that the Polaris water wasn't too good and the health department shut it off. We were back to the creosote. That creosote you can still smell it when you drive by there, they just dump it in the ditch there and it ran right into the lake which was heavy run along the bottom right into the water intake. The drinking water was terrible. You turn on the hot water faucet you can smell the creosote all through the house.

RM: When did that happen?

JT: When there was a northwest wind.

RM: No what years about?

JT: Oh gosh, from the time that I can remember it probably started as far back as I can remember they dump the creosote in there, and it continued until they shut the plant down and it was used in the destructive destruction of wood for the charcoal and used the power ___ to use all sorts of chemicals, including strawberry flavored vinegar, and strawberry flavored jello, the strawberry flavor was made right there, an alcohol, they used to use along on radiator and cars in those days, I was up and underneath cars, and the charcoal. And they made acidic acid, acetates of all different kinds for kinds of vinegar, it was quite a plant actually. Pig Iron was of course a big item, smeltered blast furnace they would pour it every night about 9 o'clock, the sky would all turn red when they ran the iron, they would blow a whistle and then the sky would all light up.

RM: Where was that located?

JT: Right between the,

RM: Oh you are saying...

JT: That's where that dock is out there, that's for pig iron. That was very very popular, some characteristics are very valuable for certain types of iron. I worked with Master Electric company in Dayton a coop, I was going to Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati, coop student and worked for them, one week period I was up at the ___ Master Electric and they were using a pig iron from Marquette which is probably highly prized, they made very thin castings and one machine they called a healthizer [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] which was upright with a ___ on it and had a couple things with ___ and belts on it. And the stand that it stood on had very thin iron and that pig iron had the right consistency to strong enough and thin enough to make that stand. So they were still using in in 1928. That was the end of that thing.

[Tape stops, then restarts]

RM: At ___ plant, were there people living down there?

JT: Yes.

RM: I mean as like a town?

JT: ___ building company houses for this location.

RM: Oh.

JT: There were probably five houses there, big company houses. There might be one or two still standing. There is all kinds of new buildings there.

RM: Just to the east of Presque Isle, and then there was something behind like a row of trees?

JT: Yeah, no there's a street back there.

RM: No I meant there are trees now.

JT: Yeah, I think they were pretty burned at that time, just the company houses you know? ___ company house location. At that time, a lot of immigrants come here mostly from Finland and we used to watch

them walking down Third Street they would get off, it was a train, and walk down third street to the furnace, __ walked ahead____ talking about, right down the street___.

RM: Oh so these were, immigrants just coming off the train?

JT: Just coming off the train yep,

RM: And they had jobs up here?

JT: Yeah, their employment was insured before they left, passage was usually paid and they had to repay it from there when they got their first paycheck. There were kind of quite a few bunches, a, the present tourist park was a great place for them for recreational activities, mostly on Saturday nights and Sundays. A lot of card playing and other gambling games. And the falls, old Dead River Falls, you might have seen pictures of it around, the falls, the old Dead River Falls, you may have seen pictures and that toboggan on Dead River Falls. The falls were ____ the water went over like that and left a space behind where you could walk behind the water, and they used to go there to take their showers and they would drop their clothes and walk over to shower, the falls __ to clean up. A regular procedure.

RM: Now when did they build, when did they develop this Big Bay road and built the..?

JT: Well the street car track ran in front of the cemetery into the fair grounds and that was all there was, is just the street car track, and little by little they built a road alongside of it. And eventually when they built the dam and the power plant and closed off that bridge, then they completed the roadway then.

RM: Oh I see. So all of this then, all of Wright street and all of this was just woods. It had a little street car track going through it,

JT: That's all, up to the fairgrounds into the cemetery, the street car would run there in the summer time for people going to the cemetery, there was a special little car that ran up there under certain conditions.

RM: Oh so this was a special line?

JT: It was a special line. There was a Washington Street on also, on the corner of Front and Washington, about as far the present insurance company that just built that is just starting there, City Insurance on Washington street, the big deal was Monuments Works [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was there at that time and it ran as far as the Monument Works [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] about 7 or 8 blocks, yeah 8 block on Washington street, and one special little park.

RM: Harlow Park?

JT: Yeah just past Harlow Park. Originally, the original street car line when up to the old Hotel Superior and had a line up there that might have been, oh that was used maybe once or twice. That street car, if they would have kept that would have been a wonderful tourist attraction.

RM: Yes, the pavement, the tracks are there ___ over the tracks.

JT: It was even a good deal really, in the winter time it was marvelous. And the street car track was plowed, nothing else was plowed, plows didn't exist! They had sidewalk plows that looked like a carpenters ___ that goes up and down the middle like that, and it had _____ and four horses would pull it, it was a heavy___ and it would kind of climb over the banks and make a trail where the sidewalk was

supposed to be. But they would have to slow down so the walking wasn't too bad, ___ until spring came and up to your knees, it was awkward. But it was an improvement because it was cement sidewalk was improving over a board sidewalk, we used to have board sidewalks, and a there would be a couple of stringers like this and when the planks went across this and sometimes you just stepped off to the side to let somebody by and the plank would come up and trip them, it was embarrassing. But yeah I remember the wooden sidewalks. For the most part they were alright. ___ xylophone.

RM: So do you remember, you were here in 1931. Do you remember when they built the, '31-'32,

JT: Yeah.

RM: Do you remember when they built the ore dock in the lower harbor?

JT: Oh yeah yeah sure! I had to gas station on Baraga Avenue at the time. Do you know where the pizza shop is now on Baraga Avenue? That was my gas station.

RM: Oh okay.

JT: Yes that is when they built the ore dock. I had a friend who worked there they hired him as a nail driver, or a carpenter. Sure, I remember that well.

RM: Were people surprised that it was built, it was constructed so quickly?

JT: Well I think they were, there was a great controversy over it, with location because they wanted to buy property, there is a sharp curve ___ which they had to put in because they couldn't get the property for that, there was a school hall there at that time and they wouldn't have it, the price was way beyond any reasonable, so they went around the pool hall and put that train in there which restricted their number of cars they could push up the dock. You couldn't push more than so many cars because of the curve and it was dangerous, cars falling off of there. Yeah but you see there was a dock there before that, the supports were still there, they built on top of the old dock that was there before that. Well number 90 used to push the cars up the hill and Johnny Aspera [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] used to say he just marveled at that engine moving those cars up the dock that was something really something. In those days that depo, that's too bad that was never recorded. There were some marvelous things happened there. All the transportation of course was by rail at that time and that was a very busy terminal. And there was a northwester that came in there, Soo line, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and there were a few different rails running there, traffic going perfectly all the time, cars, trains, coming and going. My grandmother's house was on Baraga Avenue, just a walk up from the station, I used to sit on her front porch and hear the trains running all the time. Or when there was a pretty dog in crate on the platform, oh what a nice dog! Where are you going anyway? And he comes out, he don't know where he is going, nobody know where he is going, he don't have his label. [Laughter]. It was a busy place ___ was just down the track, almost to Front Street, and the Adams Hotel was across the way, that was a busy place too, very busy.

RM: So then I guess you are glad to see that the renovation is going on to that county old building there?

JT: Yeah they had apartments up there, my dad lived there in his latter years, he didn't want to go into a nursing home, my mother died and he was left kind of stranded you know, so we looked around to find a place for him and Orchard Rest Home, up on 4th street, and nice room for him up there and got him all set up and he was real happy there, look out see the ___. It was a nice spot and the next day the lady

called me up and said your father ran away from home, he didn't want to go to that place at all. He went down to the Adams Hotel and got a room there in a hotel. And he would go over to Benings [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and sit down with a glass of beer and a book. He was a great reader, he read everything about the French Revolution that was ever written, and he would sit there at Benings [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and read a book and drink a beer and he would have a ham sandwich if there was time. He never worked more than he had too, he was an accountant up in ____ and get busy and go up there, maybe Newberry or a township nearby, say Negaunee, he had auditing jobs all around the area and he would get out and get busy then for,

[TAPE STOPS ABRUPTLY]

[END TAPE 1 SIDE B, BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE A]

JT: My parents had a house on Baraga Avenue and our own house up on Third Street, we weren't too excited about it.

RM: Now did your father, had he been born in Marquette?

JT: One of the first recorded births in Marquette, 1869.

RM: Oh, okay. Now was he from the old country?

JT: No he was born here, my grandfather was from the old country, he and my grandma.

RM: Now did they live in Marquette?

JT: Yeah on Baraga Avenue.

RM: Oh so your great grandfather, or your grandfather?

JT: My grandfather. They had a nice house there on Baraga Avenue. There is an electric shop there now, the house burned down of course by the time, a brick building there now where the house used to be. A nice place too.

RM: Now was is, Baraga Avenue was that, at that time maybe was that going to be the main street down Marquette?

JT: Yes you see my grandfather was a ____ and he had great ambition to run Baraga Avenue right straight through to be a highway to go out to Negaunee. And as I said the city of Marquette was always very forward looking, and when they got as far as Fifth Street, the real estate people thought there is a ton of all that property of the highway, it's so valuable right across from a railroad stop is a great place to put housing and the income for the taxes was going so very high up, Wright Street so it Baraga Avenue stopped at Fifth Street, it would be anything, and my grandfather resigned as a ____ and what do you guess, Baraga avenue was supposed to be the main street. There was a beautiful cast iron fountain in the middle of the street just to the right of the gas station, it's a pasty shop now. It was a fountain for people, for the horses, for the dog, I don't know what, a big old cast iron, it ran all the time, a beautiful thing. I don't know what ever became of that, but it was right in the middle of the street. See the city __ or whatever you call it, the place where all the farmers came anyways,

RM: Oh the farmers market?

JT: Yeah like the farmers market, yes, that is where they were building this museum of the children. That was the area there. There was a building there, but mostly it was a ___ and the blacksmith shop was next to our, where Angele's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] shop is now, that was a blacksmith's shop. Horses came to get their new shoes. And of course there was a tavern further down, a barber shop and a tavern on the corner there, the Shoreline Bar.

RM: Now what was the Shoreline Bar, wasn't that painted red white and blue or was known as the flag, no the red white and blue saloon or something?

JT: No not that I know of, just the Shoreline Bar. Well the Busy Bee, for a lot of them it was the Busy Bee.

RM: It is gone now it used to be close to the corner of,

JT: Called the busy bee restaurant ___ a little show café and I guess they had a room upstairs too. But the barber shop was next to the blacksmiths shop and the city building and oh yes, there was a little shop there, Mr. Trouty's Shop [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] was the harness maker and do you know where the College Cleaner is? Right across the street from that was Mr. Trouty's [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] tanner shop where he did all kinds of leather work. And his grandson I guess is the Trouty ___ as the restaurant is a hotel down the street, yeah they are a part of the same family. And across the street of course where the laundry is now was a butcher shop. We used to go over there, my grandfather to get a steak from that shop and bring it back and my grandmother would have the kitchen stove red hot _____ would disappear. It was real good Irish cooking. She had heavy curtains between the kitchen and the living room and she would draw those curtains open and ___ and she would throw the steak on there and it would fog up something terrible. We had a little clock in the kitchen and it is so old that the shadow of the pendulum in the back of its case.

RM: Oh my word.

JT: It was an old clock. She says it always tells time because the hand's pointed at 3 o' clock and it struck half past noon is 5 o'clock, you had to know the clock, it was an old clock really, a wall clock, we made a lot of fun of it.

RM: When you were, were you working down there when the, when they had the big fire and St. Peter's Cathedral burned?

JT: Oh yes.

RM: You remember that?

JT: Oh sure. There was three churches burned at the same time, I think St. Peters was first, then the Presbyterian church and then, there were three church fires almost one right after the other. The fire Marshall was beginning to get suspicious, there was no arson, it just happened that way. Too many candles I guess.

RM: I can't think of any, do you have any other questions that have come up?

UW: Where was the hotel, the big hotel?

JT: Hotel Superior? It is a subdivision on top of the hill I think it is called the Summits isn't it? That's where it was. Right by the Devil's footprint, there was a footprint in the rock up there and we called it

the devil's footprint, in the bald rock, something had been in there, probably ice or something volcanic ashes, there was a perfect footprint, or giants footprint sorry giant's footprint.

RM: Is it still up there?

JT: Oh yes I think so if you can find that river ___ it was very common, it still should be there. Right at the end of, let's see what street is that now? Jackson Street, I think, at the very end of Jackson Street is where you might find it. Unless somebody built a house on top of it. Which is a possibility.

RM: And then the Hotel Superior was sort of this side of Bothwell School.

JT: Yes, yes. It was just right by Bothwell School.

RM: Right on the crest of the hill.

JT: Beautiful building. Lovely towers on it, it had a beautiful porch, we used to walk up there sometimes on Sundays and look at it. Trying not to be a hazard when they tore it down.

RM: it was amazing that it didn't burn, it didn't last too long in terms of use, and then it stayed for years just abandoned just sitting there, and then it was taken down.

JT: There was originally a plan for a very high class tourist trade, overlooking the bay, _____ transportation, steam boats, they ran excursions up here right along, and it was supposed to be a great drawing car, the street car ran right up to the hotel, and then nobody came. It was just too bad, because it really was a beautiful building, would have been, today it would have been an ideal situation, they were about 30 years ahead of their time.

RM: Well between that and the street car.

JT: How about Donker's candy shop and ___ café?

JT: Frank Donker's, want to hear a story about, it's kind of interesting, Frank Donker's was the original, was kind of a flunky, a few fellows went deer hunting, he would be the person to take care of the cabin and the camp was somewhere around Buck Road, and this particular night they had a buddy had a little bit too much to drink and Frank Tonella [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and it was one of them, there were several prominent men anyway, and they got into a fight into a row, and somebody by accident grabbed their gun and shot Frank Donker's arm off. And so right away they realized they had themselves a problem, so they set Frank up with a little candy store on Washington street for compensation, and that is how Donker's store got started. But Frank was the last old guy, he drove pretty good for just with one arm ___ and he made quite a bit of money off property then. Employees to keep him from suing, Tonella's _____. Very interesting. Yes I remember as a little kid my dad taking me to Donker's to buy Christmas tree ornaments and they had a, it might have been like ___ ducking machine, anyway a turning table, and they had a little Christmas tree on that, it was a music box is what it was, because it played a tune, and ___ and rotation and plays some music or whatever it was, very pretty old thing. We bought some Japanese lanterns and ___ to hold a candle, things like that. And we bought our firecrackers there all fireworks, Fourth of July, sky rockets and roman candles. And there were quite a few different kinds of fire crackers and torpedoes, we had a bunch of fun. You had a stick of pump for free, spend a whole half a day blowing firecrackers away. Nobody got hurt around here much. There was always somebody that had a ___ one and show off and get burned. People across the street from us borrowed

our shoot for launching a skyrocket, it just a couple of boys ___ Eriksons [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], they set their first skyrocket off and it went came right on our front porch [laughter]. All the cedar roofs with those ___ shingles___ they were all fire hazards, we had a lot of fun back in those days, those things are gone now, Cowboy Jensen [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] used to ride his horse home at 10 o'clock at night on the gravel, still a crutch stone street, where the horses hoofs kick off sparks and have the worst galloping. ___ out there at Birch farms. So ___Jenson, my verdict, even if he is still living___ brother. Now Cowboy was a big man he had this, was a character and he had this horse and he, galloping down Third Street you heard clopity clopity clopity and see the sparks, and then he would never be seen again you know? And then, another thing, I heard somebody coming down the street whistling a popular tune, to hear a man walking down the street whistling at ___[laughter]. Those are the things that are gone forever. Along with the 12 o'clock symphony, when 12 o'clock came all the factories around here all blew their whistles and there was so many of them, there was the ___ shops up north, and the Lake Shore Engine Works out here, the South Shore shops, ___ manufactory, the quarry, there was another quarry I forgot the name by now, where the, there is a bunch of office buildings in there now, on the corner of Grove and the highway.

RM: Not ___?

JT: Was it keystone or something? There was a stone quarry in there, the railroad track ran in and picked up the stone right in there.

RM: Oh where the Chippewa Square is,

JT: Yeah Chippewa Square! That's it that was the quarry.

RM: Oh.

JT: They had a whistle too. Of all of these whistles would start blowing approximately the same time at different pitches around town, along with the church bells ringing ___ it was an orchestral piece of music.

RM: I mean I had no idea that that happened, that's quite the experience.

JT: Twelve o'clock coming home from school you hear all those whistles blowing and church bells ringing it was beautiful.

RM: Would the boats stop and blow their whistles?

JT: Oh yes there was continuous whistle blowing because they signal which dock they were coming into, who they were, they had their own code, their name, and who they were and where they were going. And then to each other, signals. They had a fog horn too. That was a beautiful big horn, that fog horn. It sounded raw out of the barrel across the lake, you could almost see it, it echoed back from the hills again. I'll never hear that again.

RM: Well it sounds like you tell a story of Marquette that is a lost Marquette, I mean it is just not there you can't see,

JT: You can visualize it anymore. The people too are so different you know. There were different characters and some of them were really comical for instance where the hospital is now was Riko Steele [SPELLED PHONETICALLY], we used to go fly our kites there and there was a grove of maple at the end of

Lee Street and every spring there was a little freshman that used to pitch his tent there and had a big iron caldron and he would tap the trees and make syrup and he just keep tapping more and at the end of the season he would fold her up and sell the bottle of syrup. And somebody said to him, how you make your syrup so nice and clear because all the cinders falling, oh he said, I strain it all through my blanket. You strain it through your blanket? Well sure he said I got to wash it anyway. [Laughter].

RM: When did they put of the Piqua [SPELLED PHONETICALLY],

JT: Handle factory?

RM: The Piqua Handle factory [SPELLED PHONETICALLY].

JT: Oh, I would say around, as a wild guess 1915 or 1916, in that area,

RM: And that was one of the first,

JT: Oh that was way out. That's why they had to have the bus to bring people in because College Avenue, it was Hematite Street then, it went out as far as Presque Isle.

RM: So now all of those rows of houses are today and the hospital and all that,

JT: ___ Michael Stevens was the main cow pasture, and occupied large part of it. When they built St. Luke's hospital the first hospital, there's pictures of it and you can see the terrain between Fourth Street and the hospital and it was all stumps and broken down fences and it was just rough country, there was nothing in there at all. They built the hospital I remember them saying, who is going to go way out there for the hospital? You know, because the hospital I was born in was up on wood street, St. Luke's was originally right behind the Peter White library and became Elizabeth Apartments now I guess it is called now, that was the hospital, but they originally didn't like it much because the church is across the street ringing the bells forever sick people didn't care much for that, all the clanging, because there would be a contest every Sunday of who can ring the bells the longest, three or four churches that had bells. That is a lot of climbing.

UW: What about the A. Cox [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] facility?

JT: Oh that was a ___sanitarium Morgan Heights Sanitarium for tubercular patients, sure. And they ___ in the end, my wife was a nurse and she worked there at Morgan Heights. Dr. A. Cox [SPELLED PHOENTICALLY], nice place up there, nice sheltered place behind that cliff. That is where the Pine Needle Quarry was just down there. They go the stone for terrazzo, kinds of stones that worked out nicely for terrazzo floors. Mr. Jenson [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] had the quarry, he also had the Jenson Hotel [SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. There was another hotel right next door that was originally called the Brunswick where I washed dishes for Mrs. French and ___ Dr. ___ would inspect the forks as he run the ___ on them.

RM: Now the Brunson, or Brunswick, that is was next to the,

JT: Right next to the Jenson.

RM: Now who used those hotels?

JT: Travelling men. Oh sure. ___ Hotel Marquette of course was the big hotel on the corner of Rock and Front Street. It burned down oh quite a few years ago, but that was the place, Mr. Lewis's hotel

[SPELLED PHONETICALLY]. He had the, what was it called, Halloween Farms. As you drive up 553 from Marquette going south, there are some farms called the Halloween Farms and that is where Lewis raised all of his produce for his hotel, cattle and hogs and vegetables everything from the Halloween farms. The old railroad run away the south shore, ran along that route to the carp river and turned north no turned west at the carp river just above the ski hill and ran along that bank and came up out at Morgan Heights, that was the route north and the route west they called it the western grade, westren grade, it ran down along 553 and turned to the right just before you got down the hill to the carp river, and I guess there is a road in there now, and that went along through back as far as it came out at Morgan Heights, or Morgan Flats I guess that is a subdivision now. It was right across the road from, from Morgan Heights Sanitarium. And if you look, going past there on the right hand side you can see the pile of net where the rail road tracks used to cross there and go over to meet the other track over at Morgan. If you drive by there, you will see on the road to the right in that water, you see it was an even grade it started off there, really in down town Marquette, what, east uh south Marquette and follow that of course where the road is now and then cut through there, they had a really gradual climb until they got to the Morgan Flats, and then they can open her up. They had a little track from there for several miles and they made tracks across there, right across the highway, quite a sight to see there at night, fire reflecting on his smoke and all, red smoke, whistle blowing and bell ringing I think tearing across there, oh frightening, it really was a monstrous machine.

RM: Now was that the DSS?

JT: That was the DSS line.

RM: And that was the main line?

JT: That was the main line. The other route, lines in there now was only to be used to come down to Marquette because it was perfect grade, grades are 3 and a half percent in there, it was just meant for downhill, the other westren grade was only for the west. That was a much better grade. There was this other one, a fellow named Earl Bines [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] came over from the Soo line and the thing went into receivership and then came over to manage it and they shut off the westren grade and just used this short run up the hill. They used 2 locomotives, which was cheaper I guess. But the present grade is always a hazard for runaways because of the steepness of the grade and I remember, quite a few years back, I was probably about 10 years old or so, the first runaway that we heard a whistle blowing frantically downhill, the short blasts runaway runaway! Run down town quick because you make the turn on Baraga Avenue that is where it is going to tip over, that's where it did tip over of course, hurry up and get down and see that. And signal maintaining, somewhere around 1946 or so I had the crossroad signal on Fifth Street, to take care of because the section crew was in there changing out a rail and of course they would pull a rail and the signal would come on, so I would stand there and keep the signals off and flag the crossing. And they had this section of rail out and they were replacing it and up on the hill you hear toot toot toot toot toot toot toot, and I said oh we got a runaway coming down here, he said aw that's crazy. I said listen, and he said my god you are right. So hurry up and get a rail in there and make here safe you know, well it was frantic I am telling you, you hear this thing coming down the hill and traveling, and the section, I grabbed a rail got it in place grabbed some angle bars on there specked her down and made it safe and a train whizzing by I say was going about 40 miles an hour across that street, we just flagged for the people down at the crossing, used to flag the crossing down below and everything went well until they got to the curb on Baraga Avenue and they

dumped over there of course. That was a scary one. That is one railroad wreck that I prevented, with the rail off you can imagine what a pileup that would have been at this street, about 25 railroad cars or more, [laughter] with the locomotive on top.

RM: They were able to get?

JT: Oh yeah,

RM: That's is for a movie, I mean whistles blowing and ...

JT: Yeah it was really frantic because, getting somebody down to the various crossing to stop the traffic to let it through.

RM: See that part of life in Marquette that you don't you don't even think of,

UW: Which you know it's an everyday occurrence,

JT: I've saved two bad wrecks. There was one up the Saxon, we had a ___ plant there across the northwestern, and the northwestern had a passenger train that came out around, actually somewhere about 4 or 4:30 in the afternoon heading for Chicago, and somebody was wrong in the crossing it with our ___ plan, it was a false clear on the northwestern track and when you go off the track, I was checking for voltage finally I found a broken rail and this place the track came up and made a wide curve going to Saxon, there was a pretty steep bank here and a ditch that water filled down below it. This rail was broken right in that spot and was swinging no speck to hold it. It was close to 5 o'clock and the question should I run down the track and slide the train down, if I do I got a passenger train tied up I until I could find a ___ to fix the thing and let them through with a several hours delay, or should I take the chance of running back to Saxon which was two miles away to see if I could pick up some men, head back and make the rail safe for the train to go through. I mean which is the best thing to do? So I hurried back to Saxon and the northwestern section crew had already gone, and the south shores section was crew just coming in, and I said we got a broken rail up there it is swinging on the curve, ___ just a signal. So we got a couple of men and the guys grabbed some angle bars and throw them in the back of my car and we load her back up there parallel to the track approximately. We got up there and got spikes and they got the rail in place and but angle bars and specked it and I haven't heard ___ saved that one anyway, so I was close to get a citation for that I should say.

RM: Oh my word.

JT: But I was very happy with myself, I said I earned by pension with that, both ____. There were some exciting times.

RM: I should say, my word.

JT: There were sometimes ___ finding signal maintaining, if you drive down Lake Street, and the ore dock you will see a pole tied to the top of the dock, ___ out over the street and there is a yard arm with a lamp on the end of it and that is where it was a switch stand, the trains go out on a single track, there is a double, two tracks to the right and two tracks to the left, very important for the ___ was riding on the head car to see which way the track is lined and the only way we could see it was when that red light was on above there, so at 3:30 in the morning in November during a sleet storm I got a call to up put the light in because they couldn't see the ___ on the signals. Can you imagine climbing that pole in a snow

storm and put a light bulb up there at 3:30 in the morning, yeah. I had a lot of fun. I have another two thing that are kind of comical too. Maurice Picker [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] got married and he held a reception in, ___ bar out there, ___ that was his shop and he held a big reception there at night. And my wife and I went and we were having a good time, 1:00 the phone rang, I knew it had to be for me, who else would be calling at 1 o'clock in the morning, I always got to keep in touch with the dispatcher he had to know where I was at all times, so running out to the phone, sure enough it is for me, the crossing signals were all working down on third street, something is wrong with the crossing signals, so I had to leave the reception and down Third Street and I found the trouble, two wheels, you know how they run over on the ice and they had just touched the insulation insufficient just enough to take a hack saw and as the ends off of, 1 o'clock in the morning in a rainstorm down there hack saw sawing ends off, sounds stupid but it did the job

[END OF TAPE 2 SIDE A, BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE B]

JT: ___ just under the wire by two weeks, and then first day was April 1st, which came on a Sunday. So ___ getting paid, they docked me for that Sunday because I always didn't have work that day, and hadn't started a job yet, and that kind of bothered me because it was a monthly salary, that's pretty darn cheap you know for, you talked about one day, every Sunday I'll give you this much for that, so the time came to retire, they put a little date on it, if you retire now, we will pay you 50 dollars a month, not for retirement but Soo Line pension, Soo Line will pay 50 dollars a month if you retire right now at 65, otherwise there was a lot less payment amount, the longer you worked the less you got on retirement. So I said alright I'll take the 50 dollars a month and retire right now so that was what, 25 years ago? I've been getting 50 dollars a month [Laughter]. Very well, very well, paid for that one day.

RM: Did you know, I'm just looking at this, why they called it the Halloween farms?

JT: No I have no idea. Lewis [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] named it that and I have no idea why.

RM: It seems kind of strange. Polaris I can see, the North Star. Was that ever like a motel or?

JT: Hotel. It was a big, real fine hotel and dining area.

RM: In town, but was that ever a motel or some kind of a place for people to stay, or it was just a farm?

JT: Oh it was just a farm.

RM: Just a farm.

JT: It was always strictly just a farm.

RM: So that 553 then, I have to think properly here, there was no road out there, just the railroad line that went out and that's it?

JT: Yeah and they had a little farm road that had two ruts for the farm machinery,

RM: For the Halloween Farm. But then after that there was nothing farther,

JT: No no, just the line.

RM: So when they built, when they built, when Longyear gave the property for Northern, that was like out in the woods that was end of town,

JT: ___ just like St. Luke's hospital.

RM: So this would be places where you put these institutions because you are out of town, you have the space and the property was cheap?

JT: Yeah, very cheap property. ___ and probably some other considerations there.

RM: Where was, like, the end of town would have been, if you were to say like on Third Street the end of town would have been,

JT: ___ Jack's IGA.

RM: Was there, across from Jack's, the four seasons travel and photo place, was that an old farm?

JT: No, it was the Maple Inn. There was a boarding house, it was a big building. In fact, they sawed it in half and moved one half down and I think that house is still there. Oh no, the bank is there now isn't it? I guess that house is gone now, I guess the bank must have taken the property over. But that was the Maple Inn.

RM: That was where the, Four Seasons is today?

JT: Yeah, the next corner is on the right side of Magnetic. Right across from, kiddy corner from Jack's IGA.

RM: Oh okay where the bank is now.

JT: Yeah that right, that was the Maple Inn. And that was the end of the line, there was no sidewalk or anything beyond that.

RM: And those, ___ the street?

JT: No just a gravel, a gravel road. They chartered that for a while, and I guess ___ down the street ___ school that day and they were putting in the tar and I told ___ put on the bottom of your shoes to save your shoe soles so ___ walked in the tar and he came up and left tracks on the sidewalk and he got mad at me and ___ woods on the side and started walking in the frozen, it looked like he had snowshoes on, it was sticking to his feet. And he was so mad he kicked me, and I had white pants on, and I had a kick mark on my white pants, and my mother got the biggest laugh out of that. [Laughter] ___ half soled shoes, you should have seen him, he didn't enjoy it though he was real mad at me.

RM: So you had a lot of fun growing up then?

JT: Whatever does the trick I guess. A bowl of cherries ____. It was kind of nice you know, everyone says I was anyways, it must have been right. I had a good time, ___.

RM: Now when you were growing up that was and you were attending school here in Longyear Hall, what was down Presque Isle like we had out here, when we drove down we have all these houses here, was that built up at that time?

JT: There were a couple houses, with strawberries, and across the way there was the Halloween Farms. There were two or three houses along there. Mostly the street car track, there was nothing beyond that. I don't think there were any businesses that I recall, yes Jean Kay's pasty shop is on the corner of center

and that building was there then, that is where we turned later on to catch the trail, going up to the center street and pick the trail up there to go to the Wright bridge. ___ Center Street, and I would cut over from there... that was much later.

RM: So this probably, this trail that you are talking about was this probably like the old, probably originally the old Indian Trail?

JT: I would suppose so, I don't know where it began, of course we had logging camps around and there were quite a few mills, saw mills, and the men walked home, particularly the trails which is now tourist park, there was a sawmill somewhere up the line, and walked home from that and cut through the trail through there, the old railroad bridge used to cross there and they went across on that, that is long gone now. Yeah there, the trails are good enough to ride a bicycle on. I used to take my bike and all those trails were fenced off here and there maybe to somebody's camp, ___ farm, there was no one living there, it was just summer camps.

UW: What about the orphanage?

JT: ___ thing, ___ was it a good idea or not I don't know. I was glad to see it close down anyway. I didn't ever trust the nuns, oh they were a mean bunch. I had to go to the Baraga school for a while to get confirmation, I had to go through some catechism and what not, and they ___ and all that, and when the time came for to go get our ___ little white handkerchief tucked in my pocket ___ we don't have that stuff around here she said, we weren't allowed to have anything fancy or anything like that, they were your typical, they were very very, I would say vicious people, they didn't like anybody I guess, themselves included. The kids were all scared of them.

UW: Did you see many of the children, were the children out much in the orphanage?

JT: Well we all stayed right there, the chapel was there and the nuns... where the nunnery is now.

RM: Well because they also had, the hospital is there across the street St. ___ hospital. The convent for the school had, the school, you had the hospital, and then you had the orphanage, everything was right there.

JT: It was quite a community.

RM: See, once these places close down you tend to forget but at one time there was a lot of activity, nuns and kind of going to work for the different institutions there.

JT: St. Mary's hospital was something, didn't burn down. ___ Hardwood floors that squeaked when you walked, and elevator was ___ I was there for three months, I got to know it pretty well. ___ recorded stories of the city, some of them are pretty interesting.

RM: This has been very very interesting, I mean so much I didn't know about,

JT: The fish docks down there are quite a place too, there was a group house down there, I had a little 16 foot ___ I had a boat house down there about where the park is now, there were several boat houses there. It was pretty nice, ___ I had a lot of fun with that.

RM: Wasn't it kind of at one time there were all these fish houses there and it was kind of like a little town?

JT: Yes, ___ works there at the same time, but yes it was quite a place. My first automobile was a 1911 Hupmobile and the body was built there, when it came from the factory had this enormous big glass cage on top of it which the machine wasn't able to maneuver and Father ___ had bought the thing and he had that body taken off and had them build like a roadster body and that was pretty good. It quit, and they couldn't get it running and he said you can have it if you can get it running and that was 1918 so, he had a nice garage for it, I learned an awful lot from that car.

RM: You said you got it from Father _____ down in St. Johns.

JT: Yes, a very fine man. He was like a ___ father to me, we had a lot of great times together. He had a 1918 Oldsmobile roadster, pretty neat. And we used to go out picking chokecherries to make wine. We would go out there swimming too, there is a swimming hold there on Dead River a beautiful place. There was a clay bank, a beautiful clay it was just like grease, and he taught me out to make pots, and he would make a pot and we fashioned _____ we had a lot of fun in that clay. Did I tell you a story about that time? I was an electrician on the steam ship Isle Royal, the ship between Chicago and Isle Royal, passenger excursions. And when we started up the ship ran completely dead and we had ___ on deck and one of the artists was quite taken up when we came into Marquette Harbor, the beautiful sight and how the lights, Marian Smith what a beautiful place she said, I said well you ought to come up sometime and really see it, and she said I think I would like to do that. So in the meantime I am engaged to a nurse down in Charlevoix, and we still had a lot of our stops, ___ sometimes they would drag me up as far as Mackinac city, I would take a ferry out to Mackinac island to catch the boat there and then go on from there. Anyway, Marian Smith came up from Chicago said she would like to see the area up here. Well, I hadn't expected that at all, became at the same time Rian [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] calls up from Charlevoix and said she was taking her vacation she was coming up. So, I got myself into more fixes, manage to keep the thing going, not that she was happy about it at all, then I told Marian about he beautiful clay up here on Dead River, so she wanted some of that, so Rian, Mary and I went up to Dead River with a clay bag, and the river had changed its course, and the clay bank was on the other side of the river now, it was just sand over on this side. The river is deep we would have had to swim to get over there, and I said oh gosh, and I said okay lets swim over and get the darn stuff, Rian was horrified. ___ then when got the clay, and obviously things got stretched a little bit there, you could imagine the position I was in.

RM: Where is the clay bank today?

JT: Let me see if I can describe it to you. Going up to Negaunee, somewhere past the ___ the road turns off to the north, the old highway, and you drive down that, ___ power lines, and the power lines go down to the river, where you make the turn, that is where the clay bank is, where the power line makes that turn. That is the best directions. It is in Marquette Township.

RM: I didn't know there was any clay...

JT: It was just like grease, not a grain of sand in it.

RM: Did they, did he make, Father ___ has he been bringing make the pottery,

JT: No, what Marian ___ did she made stuff up out of that clay and she fired it and ___ pretty good, pretty good stuff.

UW: Neither of those women were the one you married?

JT: Yeah Rian [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] I married.

UW: Oh okay.

JT: No Marian went back to Chicago. She was in the Chicago academy of Fine Arts, number two ___Michigan.

RM: Yeah the Chicago institute.

JT: Yeah.

RM: Now what jobs did you have thought your life?

JT: I started with concrete, when I was 12 years old, now you talk about kids 14 years old flipping hamburgers, I had a wheelbarrow and concrete and then from there I went to be an apprentice with the Lakeshore Engine Works, and let's see, and I guess probably the garage would have been the next place, 1925, Nash ___ Overland ___ and several trucks, I spent a year there, then I went back to school, and after that I went into the army and I was in there for a year and a day, because they ___ by accident, my sister came down to visit me and I took her over to Marshall Hall across from Alexandra ___ amusement park over there, ___ Marshall Hall, the amusement park and the ___ down there ___ Alexandria. So it rotated and we jumped on board and ready or not we took our suitcases _____ person came along looking for our tickets, tickets to ___ he said, these are not the right tickets this is one for over to Marshall hall, this is a Charles B. Mackalaster [SPELLED PHONETICALLY] and next stop is Hampton Roads, Virginia. So ___ all that time, it was worth the trip I got to see florescent water, I had never seen that before, the ship stirred up the water and just, ___comfort you know, and we know where it was anyways...

RM: Then after you got done with the army,

JT: Then I went to the University of Cincinnati, and I was there for 2 years, until they dropped the bomb on wall street, I had to take care of that situation, the only job I had available was being a ___every other month for 30 dollars a month, and making money on that. So I think I came back and ___ there long ___ what happened then, excepting I wound up, oh yes I remember now, I came back and I had worked a summer, and I got enough money together to buy a small boat down in Wisconsin for a lady that wanted a little small cruiser. So I bought the boat down there and I sailed it, oh that was a trip you should've taken, from the first stop was Washington Island, I got seaweed into the intake of the pump as I pull into the dock here dock at Washington island, compass wasn't fastened down to the chart table, rolled all over that house, well that ___ they are all through I guess, ___ look down and was able to see the compass down there ___ and got it back up, and that was the first stop, the trip got better from there. Anyhow I made enough money on the boat, to go to Michigan Tech for a year and while I was there I got acquainted with a sailor who was going on the steamship to Isle Royal in the spring, and through his intercession I got a job on the steamship so I spent the summer on the steam ship Isle Royal, and that was a summer. We would leave Chicago after dinner, over as far as Manistee, all the fishing boats on top of the docks away from the... came back out again, went up to Charlevoix, the steam ship Isle Royal was never going to be operated except in close quarters except by tubs it just wouldn't ___in close quarters, we docked on every dock between here and Chicago, well yeah, ___ always tell when Isle

Royal would come in because of crash crash crash and you, so the dock should be knocked down and the old Swede ___ said hey hey down low _____ he couldn't handle it, the rudder wasn't sufficient to handle that long hull. So I had an experience on that that I never forgot. My first day operating it we came up from Chicago, and our first stop was in Milwaukee, just before 6 o'clock, just towards dusk, we were pulling into the Milwaukee harbor I noticed the lights were flickering, I ran down to the engine room, there were two generators, two steam driven generators, one generator had a great fire around the ___, she was going to burn up for sure, so I had to start the other engine up, and nobody was around they were all up on deck, I started up the other engine, got the other generator running and come in and cut this one out. And went ashore to a drugstore, now can you imagine fate? I went in and asked for a water glass, and ordered mica, now why would a drugstore have powdered mica? I can't imagine what it would be for. For some __ but they had powdered mica and water glasses for sodium silicate, and _____ insulation and it was all burned up, but ___ took those bars out and put it in the water glass with mica to reinsulate her, but there was nobody on that boat but myself that could have done that, at that time I was responsible for the lights on the whole __ ship coming into the harbor ___ lights were going out all the time like that, I said shew... sometimes things smiled on me, not often, but occasionally. I remember that experience pretty well. It was better after that. We had good meals, lots of great food. And I had to make keys, people would lose their keys to their stateroom, so I would take either key and set it up _____ I don't know what the heck was easier. [Laughter] Nobody complained, never had a complaint.

RM: You have some very good stories.

JT: Oh I had some fun out there, I really really enjoyed her, great life. I never had any ___ time.

UW: I better return you to your wife pretty soon huh? I told her I wasn't going to bring him home until tomorrow

JT: ___ yes thank you.