

Doris Knechtel, Hattie Sheppler Transcript

CK: Today is December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and I'm at the Alpena County Library, I'm Cindy Kus, and I'm sitting with Doris Knechtel and Hattie Sheppler and Bob Lyngos. We are interviewing Doris and Hattie to find out about early life in Alpena. So, one thing that I discovered, just yesterday, is that ah, Hattie was from the North Side-

HS: Right.

CK: -and Doris was from the South Side.

DK: Big time (laughs).

CK: So- what was the difference in those areas- I mean was there sort of a, any kind of stigma that went with one or the other?

HS: Ah, not at first; because a lot of the really ah, prominent people, moved from the north side. There was, ah, Crow, A.B. Crow, and they, we all went to Lincoln School. Husky Graves, who was a law-, lawyer, ah, mayor of Lansing-

BL: Mmm.

HS: Wasn't he? And ah, Potvin, who became a very-

DK: Graves?

HS: -well known priest.

DK: Husky Graves?

HS: Husky Graves, yes. And, but, as they seemed, as they grew up and became more prominent, or wealthy, they moved to the South Side. So, for a while, and even now, there's a stigma, you know, connected with the North Side. Like if - if I say I live on Ford Avenue, oh my god (laughter), you live on Ford Avenue? Wow.

BL: And it wasn't always Ford Avenue either. It was Mill Street.

DK. That's right.

BL. And it was Trowbridge for a while, so -

HS: See, I don't remember Mill Street - yeah.

BL. There was also a large Norwegian population on the North Side, also.

HS. And a Polish-

BL. And a Polish one, yes.

HS. Polish population, yeah. Yeah, and, ah, but, ah, when my parents came over from Germany as immigrants, you know, to Ellis Island, they had sponsors, uh -

BL. What was that word? They had what?

HS. Sponsors.

BL. Sponsors, ok.

HS. Uh huh. And, uh, their sponsor I remember was a Mr. Polzin, who owned a grocery store, and how they were connected, I don't know, but he sponsored them to come here, so we've always lived on the North Side.

BL. I think I might know – there was a gentleman named Otto Gjourn who had an office in the old, um, Kreuger's Butcher Shop that was-

HS. Oh, yes.

BL. – and he sold tickets, uh, on the Norwegian Line, and I'm sure he knew Potvin, because Potvin was a Norwegian-

HS. Uhhuh.

BL. - and I think there may have been a connection between those two.

HS. There could have been. Yeah. But, uh, my grandparents came over with seven children when they left Germany . . . and so. . .

CK. What a move.

BL. What a move – that's – that's rather unusual. Usually the family-

HS. I think about that now, you know-

BL. Yeah, usually the family grew when they got *here*.

HS. Right, uh huh – well there were a couple that were very young, you know, my youngest aunt and uncle, but there were some who were old enough to go to work, and they seemed to have, uh, skills of some kind when they came, you know . . .

CK. A trade or something -

HS. Like my uncle was a – a jeweler, you know, or uh, whatever you call them – that works with jewelry, and, my, uh, a couple of my uncles were, they worked in the factories here but, uh, I didn't know all about that, but I had heard, you know.

CK. So those – those, you said those were your grandparents?

HS. That came, yes, with my mother and – and her sisters and their brothers.

CK. So your mother was one of those seven children. Ok. I'm trying to . . . and they all spoke German?

HS. Yes, in fact, my oldest brother and I started school at the Avery school, and we couldn't speak English. But- it was not popular to be German – it was right - so we learned how to speak English in a hurry. And now I wonder why they have to have everything in a different language – why people come here aren't, you know, willing or expected to learn the English language because, yeah . . . we did.

CK. Do you still speak German?

HS. Ah, not well – because you don't use it. I can understand it, when, you know, but to speak it, I don't do a very good job. Bits and pieces, yeah.

DK. But when you had to take care of your grandparents, you went back and you were speaking it very well.

HS. Uh huh, I did – well, yes, I had to learn how to speak it again because that's what they spoke.

BL. They didn't learn English? Or -

HS. My grandparents did not. Very little. Uh, my grandfather worked for Linke's, the flower shop? And then he was custodian at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church for a few years. But, no, they didn't, but all the-, all their children of course did.

BL. So that's the Knechtel connection, then?

DK. No, I'm the Knechtel.

BL. Oh, you're the Knechtel, there's a connection there with – with Margaret?

DK. Yeah.

HS. This is a Bolenz connection – a Bolenz connection, yeah.

BL. Remember to talk about that.

HS. Yeah, uh huh. But, uh, Mr. Linke was German, you know, and they kind of – I guess they kind of connected.

DK. They . . . and they kind of . . . They took care of – they were all good workers. Always good workers.

HS. Yeah, right, yeah.

CK. So, was it one of your uncles, Hattie, who started the jewelry store?

HS. Ah huh. Walter.

CK. Ok.

HS. Walter Bolenz. Yep, that's him.

CK. And where was that – located?

HS. It was on the North Side. Um, I'm trying to think just exactly where it was . . .

BL. I think it was in . . . 'cause Freierts was in along there – my uncle worked for Freierts' plumber, and I think it's where JJ's Pizza – that restaurant is.

HS. There was a restaurant-

BL. Across from John Lau's.

DK. Across from it.

HS. There was a restaurant, unhuh.

DK. And then after that it was a bike store, and a – all kinds of -

BL. I got these from Kat Tomaszewski.

HS. Oh, did you? Oh, ok. North Second, yeah, yep. Freierts, yeah, I remember. Johnny's Bar (laughter) – everybody knew that place.

DK. And there was another one on the corner.

HS. When, uh

BL. And, um, did Kujawas have a bakery in there also at one time?

HS. Kujawa worked for Douville.

BL. Oh, worked for Douville – in that ar - it was in that area, though, ok.

HS. Uh huh, it was on the north side and Kujawa was, um – I'm trying to think of his name – he worked for Douville's and later on he worked - also worked for Marceau's Bakery.

BL. Ok, but there was a . . .

HS. I don't think he had his own bakery.

BL. Ok, 'cause I know his son, Bob, worked for – for in there also,

HS. Oh, I'm sure, yeah

BL. but there was another Douville's further up the block – further up Second Avenue then.

HS. Yes, there was.

BL. I didn't realize there had been two of them.

HS. And that's when they used to have the, uh, bread trucks, and they, you know, took bread to all the stores. I mean, it wasn't like they do now-

BL. Unhuh.

HS. -it was the local bakeries that serviced the stores.

DK. Bread didn't last for ten days, either.

HS. So, yeah, I remember him. I remember he took his daughter – I was, um, five years older than she, and they used to like me to come over and, and spend time with her – she was an only child – and he took her and I, I think I was probably about maybe twelve and she was probably-

CK. Seven . . .

HS. Younger, and uh, he took us on the train and we went to a buying trip in Chicago.

BL. Oh my goodness.

HS. I remember that so well because the train left from here, you know, and they had the train and we went on the train, he went to, uh, Chicago on a buying trip and he took the two of us with him, and that was such an experience for me because, you know, I never got out of town, got out of the north side hardly ever – So that was, yeah.

BL. Good.

HS. And on his hundredth birthday, they had at his house on Ripley?

BL. Mm hm?

HS. And, uh, I asked him "Do you remember that trip?" "Oh, yes", he remembered - his mind was very sharp. I said, "Do you remember taking us?" and he said . . .

BL. Now, when did he pass away? Uh . . .

HS. Oh, golly, I don't really know the exact time, but-

BL. Ok. That's ok. Now, you may have those pictures if you wish, there's copies there for you, yes.

HS. Oh, really? Oh, my, thank you.

CK. And so, did it stay – did the store stay in the family for . . .?

HS. This is the third generation.

CK. Third generation. Ok.

HS. Mm hm. His daughter and her husband, uh, Bob Adams, and Wally, they had it, and then, uh, her daughter, Sue, and Wayne Calkins have it now. Yeah. I think it's – he would be very happy to see what they've done with it, you know.

BL. Well, if – if we both think about the family businesses that were in Alpena that are gone – just, you know, I think Master's Shoes was probably one of the last ones, Masters and LaLonde and, you know, so many of those.

HS. Uh huh, I know I remember the Kreugers, of course their meat market was on the north side, so we all used to get our meats from them.

DK. I ran across a picture of, um, Kreugers where they had, uh, food stamps posted on the – during the war, you know how many food stamps

BL. Oh, yeah, the ration stamps.

DK. Yeah, the ration stamps.

HS. That was quite the-

DK. I ran across that last night when I was glancing through those things.

HS. When you used up your stamps up and that was it.

BL. Well, if you turn up any more pictures like that we'd love to get copies of them, like the Kreuger's picture and things like that.

DK. Oh, yeah, there, there's some of those.

BL. Good, thanks.

HS. I don't know if, uh, my sister in law

DK. I think –

HS. -would have any, because my brother has . . .

DK. I only have - there's only three of them there, but it's – it's a Kreuger out n -, I - of course I didn't live there, these, these must have been with the Knechtels.

HS. See, my brother – youngest brother and his wife bought the Kreuger home on Hamilton Street,

BL. Oh.

HS. So she still lives there and my brother has passed, but I don't know if she would have anything, you know, that might be left in the house, you know?

BL. That would be – that would be nice if it's - you're able to do that.

HS. Uh huh, yeah.

DK. And I was surprised when I ran across it, in his, um, corner, you know, how many food – how many ration stamps you needed or something like that, I kind glanced at it, I didn't even know it was in there, I couldn't remember.

HS. I would – I would know when he died, because I do have the little, you know-

CK. The card.

HS. Card, but –

BL. And we can look it up.

HS. Offhand I don't . . .

BL. No, we can look it up here, very easily, yeah.

HS. Oh, you could look it up, sure you would.

CK. Now, Kreuger's was a grocery, or -?

DK. Meat market.

BL. Meat market.

HS. It was a meat market – they made their own sausage and everything, you know, and, and uh . . .

BL. They cut some meat also,

HS. Oh yes, yes.

BL. But they were most famous for their German bologna and their-

HS. Oh, yeah.

BL. -mettwurst.

HS. Mettwurst, yeah, I know.

BL. And, uh,

HS. That was wonderful.

DK. Oh, yeah, I can remember that, we always used to fry it up.

HS. I know.

BL. And my dad was from Norway, and he loved their sausage;

HS. Uh huh.

BL. but we always had to go to Climie's Bakery for the bread.

HS. Oh, I know.

BL. Because the rye bread there was so good.

HS. Climie's, yeah, Bakery.

DK. Was Kreuger's in the same place as the Marine Market was at one time? Bob– the Kannowski's had-

HS. No, the Marine Market was farther – uh,

DK. Closer to the bridge?

HS. Closer to the bridge.

BL. Closer to the bridge - about -

DK. Ok.

BL. - in where the post office is now, I think, right in that block.

DK. Yeah, that's - that's the one I remember.

HS. I think so, yeah.

CK. And was that a fish market?

DK. Marine Market was same one, it was owned by the Kannowskis.

CK. Oh, same as it is now.

BL. Yeah, same – they called it Marine Market because they, uh, furnished food for the boats.

HS. Yeah, and still do.

BL. The freighters and everything – still do.

DK. Still do.

BL. And I've been on some of those boats and it's still wonderful, so-

HS. Have you? Yeah, yup. Because they grew up in our neighborhood, they lived on Ford, the Kannowskis, you know and they, they're still friends with our boys and yeah, that was a close-knit neighborhood, yeah.

BL. Well, that's nice.

CK. What were some of the other businesses that were located in your neighborhood?



HS. In our – on the North Side? Swallow's? Hardware?

BL. Swallow Hardware.

DK. Yeah . . . Cohen's?

HS. Scott's Ice Cream Parlor.

BL. Mm hm.

HS. Yeah, we used to go and dance there, after school they had a section where you could go and have music.

DK. Wasn't it Cohen's?

HS. Cohen's Hardware?

BL. Where Alpena Furniture is.

DK. Yeah, and the, um, supply store, too – er, um,

HS. Well, there were a couple of grocery stores there.

DK. –that Carney used to work for it one time, Alpena Wholesale, um –

CK. Alpena Candy and Cigar?

DK. Yeah.

BL. Right there.

DK. Yeah, Alpena Candy and Cigar. Yeah.

HS. The cigar company? Sure, the Cohen's owned that.

DK. Mm hm.

BL. Now that's what I want to ask you about, the picture I'm showing you is a – a made-up drawing and it shows the D&M Train and it shows the Alpena Bus Line. Now you must remember, I think, the bus line?

HS. Yeah, uh huh.

BL. Do you have any memories of the bus line?

DK. Yeah, because I – I rode it when I, when I first, before I had a car, when I first got out of school – er, when I - yeah, when I first got out of school there was busses. Yeah.

BL. Ok. They ran up until 1951 when they stopped them.

DK. Yep.

BL. And we had a hard time figuring out what color they were,  
DK. I can't remember.  
BL. -but they found a driver, and they were red and black.  
DK. Were they?  
HS. Were they? Red and black. I don't know if I ever rode the bus lines.  
DK. Oh, I, - I  
HS. We walked everywhere we went. I don't know if I ever . . .  
DK. I used to ride it to work.  
BL. And speaking of walking everywhere – do you remember when they were doing repairs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue bridge-  
HS. Oh, definitely.  
BL. and you had to go across -  
HS. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Uh huh.  
BL. the – the, uh, catwalk, like-  
HS. Yes, yes.  
BL. on pontoons?  
HS. I do. Uh huh.  
BL. Was that pretty scary?  
HS. Oh, we loved it. I remember when the bridge used to swing.  
BL. Oh really.  
HS. It was a swinging bridge, and they used to let us stand on that bridge when they swung it?  
BL. Mm hm.  
HS. To let a boat go through? Yeah, and they-  
BL. And who did the swinging? Who was the-  
HS. Well, I don't know  
BL. –bridge man?  
HS. who the engineer was that did that, but I can remember standing on the bridge and then they'd swing it, and we'd watch the boat go through, and then they'd close it back up.

CK. So instead of raising up like this,

HS. Yeah, it would swing.

BL. It would go, it would go like this,

HS. Uh huh.

BL. and the boats could go on either side.

HS. Yeah, uh huh. It would.

BL. It was a man by the name of Lund, but I forgot his first name.

HS. Oh, was it?

BL. One of the Lunds,

HS. One of the Lunds.

BL. He worked for like thirty years on that bridge.

HS. Oh, really. See, I very, have a very good friend named Dana Lund, I don't know if she was connected with that.

BL. I believe that a Max Lund is a-

HS. Oh, Max?

BL. Max is a desce- is one of the relatives,

HS. Ok.

BL. so I know they're – they're all related there.

HS. Oh, I knew ah

CK. Quinton and

BL. Quintin, yes. Quintin and Elsa.

HS. (inaudible) went to school with Quintin.

DK. Elsa.

BL. They were good friends, 'cause we all went to Grace Church together.

HS. And Douglas Lund. Oh, yes, yes, I'm sure you did.

DK. Ok.

HS. I just had a call on my answering machine from Anne the other day. She's in Ann Arbor now. Anne's in Ann Arbor.

CK. Did - So you went to Avery School?

HS. Uh huh. Avery – and Avery was kindergarten, first and second grade.

CK. Ok.

HS. And then you went over to Lincoln, started at third through eighth.

BL. Oh. Hm.

CK. Interesting. And how about you, Doris, where did you go to school?

DK. I went on the South Side, I went to kindergarten was at the Lockwood School, isn't anymore. First through third was the Baldwin School, and then I went to McPhee.

BL. Hm.

DK. There isn't any of . . . and that was up to the eighth grade.

BL. Now the Lockwood school was on the corner of Third – of Fourth and . . .

DK. I don't know what that . . .

BL. Lewis.

DK. Lewis, yeah.

BL. Part of it is still there.

DK. Yeah.

BL. 'Cause it – it burned – the top story burned, then they made it a two-story building, and then eventually it became a one-story building.

DK. I hadn't thought about it in years. But you know when you say the North Side, the North Side back then was more prof – more - the people there had more money than the South Side had; the bulk of the people. Where – where our home was, which is by the gas plant, the last nice house was Fletcher's, had already built there at the corner of Campbell, or at the end of Campbell.

BL. P.K. Fletcher. Phillip.

DK. Yeah. And um . . . the Allen's, they had a lovely home.

BL. Chester Allen and Lillian.

DK. Yeah, yeah. And then they had that house, the Hamilton's – and, uh, theirs was not . . . it's still there, because somehow or other there - there must've been something when they sold it.

CK. The little yellow house?

DK. Yeah.

CK. Mm hm.

DK. That. 'Cause she only owns back to – and then, then after that, it was a lot of vacant lots. Our - we played ball from Crapo St. down, I mean, they were, there was lots of vacant lots that you could play, or they were summer homes.

BL. Well, I understand there was a dairy in that region pretty close-

DK. Oh, yeah.

BL. -and even a farm?

DK. Yeah. Oh, yeah. At one time there was horses right across the street from us. McGilvery had horses over there. In fact, in the house right next to us, he lived there for a while and he had a horse.

BL. And were people keeping chickens and things in the back yard at that time yet or not so much?

DK. He didn't, no, he was strictly, he was strictly horses.

BL. Ok.

DK. And uh, yeah, but I mean, it wasn't – it wasn't real prosperous, it, I mean there were a lot of vacant lots.

CK. And it was –

DK. Particul - particularly on the side that wasn't the lake.

BL. Mm hm.

DK. And the ones that were on the lake, um, a lot of 'em were just summer places like the Coville's was just a summer place, um . . . I can't remember all of 'em.

BL. Was that the Douvilles, did you say?

CK. Coville's.

BL. Co – Coville's, ok.

DK. It's, it's at – it's at the foot of Blair.

BL. Ok.

DK. And it's still closed up in the winter, I think they still where . . .

CK. But your home was right on the lake.

DK. Yeah. Beautiful, we - and we had riparian rights and all and all this kind of stuff. And uh, it, I mean, it was the, it was gorgeous, I mean the lake was gorgeous, but it was not built up. You had – Tolson’s had a store up there, uh, and they used to keep deer and stuff in a pen that you could pet, and, and you had, uh, how many restaurants and stuff as you went on out that way . . . bars . . .

BL. We have a great picture of Mr. Tolson holding a deer in his arms.

DK. Yeah . . . yeah. And, uh, but I mean it wasn’t, it wasn’t - didn’t have the reputation of being where you, the elite meet, when you got as far as my house. (Laughter)

CK. So you were more on the outskirts of town, would you say that?

DK. Yeah . . . it wasn’t really the outskirts, I mean there were houses out there, but nobody fussed whether you had a horse in your back yard, and they, you know, people didn’t cut their lawns way down or anything – get a horse in. (Laughter)

HS. Chew the grass.

DK. But, uh, it, it was just -

CK. It was more thriving on the North Side at that point.

DK. Because they could work at the plants, they were into the quarries and they got paid more money.

HS. Cement plant.

DK. My Dad worked for the Ford Motor – uh, Ford Motor Company, he was a parts man, he worked for Fred Steele, I mean, all the way up, that’s – that’s all he did, you know, and uh, he was a parts man, and he built carburetors, he didn’t have an education or anything.

BL. And there was Fletcher Paper, too, and the Besser Company,

DK. Yes.

BL. there was a lot of opportunity on that side of town.

DK. Yes, there was.

HS. The Cement Plant.

BL. The Cement Plant, absolutely.

DK. It makes a difference.

HS. Uh huh.

DK. And -

CK. They were closer, they'd be closer to work.

DK. And, uh, the gas plant – I, I don't, of course I was too young, I don't even know how they got the gas out, but it was the most fascinating place to me to go and watch it – why my mother would ever allow me to go there, I don't know!

BL. Into the plant?

DK. Oh, yeah, 'cause you could walk, you know, right through the – and they, they had these big furnaces, and they were long and these fellows worked so hard. There were, I think there were three furnaces, and then they'd pull the coal out of there, hot, and pour water onto it, and then they'd put it in wheelbarrows and take it all the way out, right onto the lake, right on the – well, where, where um-

BL. Myssels' house was? No.

DK. No, no – she, she's over from where, that was property of that, but that, but the uh, coal pile was right where, uh, McCoy's house was.

BL. Ok.

DK. Right down there, right on the thing, 'cause some of it would go into the water.

BL. Well, you know a few years ago they had to take all that soil out because it was polluted.

DK. Well he came out smelling like a ro-

HS. That's right, I remember that – I remember when they did that.

BL. Well basically what they did was heat coal in those ovens and then capture the vapors, and that was the gas, is what they were doing.

DK. I guess so - I mean you would know, I don't, I - but it was fascinating, they'd pull all this out and pour it (making sound effects).

CK. And then you could just walk in and watch 'em.

DK. We were kids in the neighborhood, they – nobody cared where we went. (Laughter)

HS. That was just like when my mother and her sisters worked at the Garment Factory, we as kids were allowed to go in there and ask my mother a question.

BL. Oh my gosh!

HS. "Can we go here, can we go there?" We'd walk down the aisles and you'd hear buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, machines are going, nobody ever stopped us, we'd go in there and my mother was working, "Can we do this, can we do that?" and nobody ever stopped us from doing that, yeah.

BL. Do you remember what was on the corner of State and, um, Campbell Street across from the Fletcher house?

DK. Sure, Reinke's, um, had a grocery store there and right behind it was another grocery store, um . . . that, that's always, that was a grocery store.

BL. Ok. Ok, because there were only neighborhood groceries at that time, until -

DK. Yeah.

BL. -like the A&P came in probably.

DK. Yeah - until the A&P came.

HS. We had two in our neighborhood, we had the LeFave grocery (DK: in background: - Reinke's in . . . and then she married, um . . .) on the corner of Ford and, uh, Hubert, is it? And then, Zadow's grocery was down on the corner of uh, Second and Alfred.

BL. Ok.

HS. The Zadow grocery, there were two brothers and two sisters who ran that store.

BL. There were two sisters that ran - is that the one on Hubert and Ford?

HS. Uh.

BL. There were two sisters that ran that for a long time afterward.

DK. That was LaFave's.

BL. That - that was LaFave's. Ok.

HS. That was LaFave. No, the Zadow grocery was on the corner of Second and, uh, Alfred.

DK. Alfred.

BL. Ok. At one time, there were between 35 and 40 neighborhood grocery stores in Alpena.

HS. Oh, I believe it, I know. My mother used to have a tab there, you - you know, and we could go and they paid like once a week and when you went or whenever, maybe every time they got paid, and, uh,

CK. Like the westerns on TV. (laughs)

HS. She sent us down to pay the bill and we'd get a sack of candy - they'd give you a sack of candy for paying the bill!

BL. For paying, because you were good payers.

HS. (all: Laughter) So, anyway.



CK. And then I heard you talking about the Black and White grocery, too . . .

HS. Well, that was on Second Avenue, that was on – across the river. Across from ah, Ryan’s . . . Ryan’s, um, Restaurant? Know where that was?

DK. From, across from Culligan’s Plaza

BL. Yes, in where the Penney’s store was? Along in there somewhere?

DK. The Penney’s store, and then the Black and White.

HS. There was Emmick’s hat store, Pickett’s on the corner, Pickett’s on . .

DK. But the Black and White was across the street.

HS. Yeah, it was across the street.

BL. Then Emmick’s hat, next to Pickett’s?

HS. Uh huh.

BL. Is that where Zoa Cohen had her hat shop later?

HS. Yes, uh huh, and then Ryan’s Restaurant and Bar was next door to them, and the Black and White was right across the street, ‘cause I was a waitress at Ryan’s and they used to get their groceries from-

DK. Black and White.

HS. Black and White, right across the street, it was a restaurant and a – well, they had beer

CK. They served -

HS. Beer-

CK. food there, too?

HS. Oh, yeah, it was very popular.

BL. Ok. Did Polzin run the Black and White, did you say?

DK. No.

BL. Or no.

DK. Wilson

HS. Wilson, yeah.

BL. But Polzin was in that area?

HS. No, he was – wasn’t he on the North Side?

BL. Ok, maybe he was.

HS. Yeah, I'm quite sure he was.

DK. I know the Wilsons had the Black and White.

BL. Ok.

HS. Yeah, so . . . anyway.

DK. 'Cause I went to school with Dick-

HS. Mm hm.

DK. -at that time.

BL. I remember my Aunt Gudrun Olson had a bulldog in the early days and she went into the store, and the owner said "What's the name of the dog?" and she was just about to say it - the dog's name was Roland - and she remembered that the owner's son was named Roland, so she didn't want to say, she said something like 'Rover' or 'Spot'.

HS. She gave it a different name, did she? (Laughing).

BL. Yes.

DK. Does anybody ever talk about uh, at the foot of Park Place, where they used to have fish? They had - there was the - the dump.

BL. And there was a fishery there?

DK. Yeah, they used to have little fish-

BL. Ok.

DK. and there was a - a green house - I can remember it was green and supposedly-

HS. Oh, you mean the color of the house, was green.

DK. Yeah, the color of the house.

BL. There was a fish hatchery there, behind City Hall-

DK. Yeah, mm hm.

BL. -that's the one you're thinking of.

DK. Right. Right down at the foot of that street.

BL. Mm hm.

DK. Of course then there was a creamery at the, uh, on Chisholm St.

BL. Ok.

DK. There was a creamery there,

BL. Ok.

DK. 'cause my – my grandmother's house was right where – where that, uh, why I think it's empty now, uh, used to be beyond, beyond Save A Lot on the other corner.

HS. Where the hatchery – where the fish

BL. So you, she was near where the Carter house was, the supposed oldest house in Alpena, it was built in 1860, it was right about where, it was in where Billy French had his machine shop in there?

DK. Billy French was over here (tapping).

HS. Oh yeah, I remember him (laughs).

DK. Here's the street, here and she was on Park Place,

HS. Uh huh.

DK. . . . and the dump was here.

CK. The dump was on The Lake?

BL. Yup.

DK. Yeah, the dump was on The Lake at one time.

BL. It was there for a long time in the 1960's.

DK. Yes, it was.

BL. -and early '70s. I went down there, digging for bottles.

DK. And my brothers used to go down there and shoot . . . shoot rats and . . . (Laughter).

CK. (Laughing) have a good time!

BL. Have a good time.

DK. That was great, man.

BL. Oh, that was a big sport in Alpena.

DK. She had a – she had a, a big house, she had a house right down there, it was real nice – it was a big.

CK. Your grandma?

DK. Yeah.

BL. We probably have a picture of it.

DK. On my mother's side.

BL. Probably have a picture of it somewhere.

DK. It's uh, and uh, Chapleskis' used to live down there.

CK. What was her name?

DK. Her name was Kennedy. Uh, the, she was marri-, this was her second marriage.

CK. Mm hm.

DK. My mother's maiden name was Francis.

CK. Ok.

DK. Anyway. But I can remember going down there, and that was a fascinating place to go watch, too.

BL. I bet. (Laughter)

DK. See, we had all kinds of good things to look at!

BL. And there was a ballpark back there, too, behind the City Hall, I've seen it in pictures. Somewhere in there.

DK. Mmmm. Could've been, could've been.

HS. Ah. Back there, hmm.

DK. But, um, and then of course then they had the – Kennedys had the fish places where, you know, like where their docks were. Where the, uh, Senior Citizen's Center is, in there. There was the Kennedy bu - , uh, Fish Dock and the Gunderson's.

BL. Yeah, I think the Gunderson's were probably the last one in that area.

DK. I think so

BL. And I remember going there.

DK. I think so. Yeah I think, uh . . .

HS. Well, didn't the Dutchers have a fish-?

DK. They were uh, they were s – they were, they were not, uh, on, they, to my knowledge they were not on that territory.

HS. I remember along The Lake . . .

DK. I think, I think, I think I think someplace along the line that they used to sell from the North Side someplace.

HS. They did, uh huh.

BL. I see.

DK. But I don't know whether

HS. But I don't know whether they had bought the fish – (interruption)

DK. I don't-

HS. -- and sold them or whether they caught 'em.

DK. I know they were fishermen.

BL. They fished, they did a lot at El Ca-

(HS., DK., speaking all together – inaudible)

DK. They were fishermen, but I don't know where.

HS. Nordstrands, also, Nordstrand's fish, but-

DK. And that was much later than, than the Kennedys and the, the Gundersons.

BL. The Dutchers fished a lot, uh, in El Cajon Bay and north, up in that area.

DK. Mm hm.

HS. Oh, did they, uh huh?

BL. Yes, so it would make sense that they would.

HS. Sell on the North Side.

BL. Sell from the North Side probably.

DK. See what a dull life you led? (Laughs)

HS. Well, I remember along The Lake, where they had the Piepkorn Coal,

BL. Mm hm.

HS. And Olds coal, you know, because they used deliver it to our house and chute it down the basement; we had a coal furnace, you know, and uh, I remember that

DK. So do I, I worked for Ole's Coal.

HS. You bought it, you bought it by the ton, usually.

CK. So a truck would come-

HS. Uh huh.

CK. With a chute-

HS. Uh huh, and I still have the chute in my house, you know.

BL. The door-

HS. It's just a metal - metal door, and uh, yeah, they'd chute it down the basement. I'm still in the same house, I've been there for sixty-five years.

BL. Wow.

DK. When uh, when we had a coal furnace, too.

HS. Oh, everybody did.

DK. And at that time there were – there were three houses built on two lots, and the lots on State Street are only ssssss – sixty some-

BL. Sixty- six.

DK. Ok. But there were three houses, mind you, so our driveway, our driveway - and that was a challenge – you got to drive the car when you could back it out – but uh, when, uh, we had coal, after they once, uh, we used to get it from the back, they'd come in and put the coal in. And when they sold that little Model A truck, they had to put a coal chute in the front of the house, because you couldn't get – a truck would not go through there! (Laughter)

BL. I often wondered in the South Side and the North Side, some of the houses are-

DK. Oh, yeah.

BL. -two or three feet apart!

DK. Yeah, and shared driveways, a lot of 'em.

BL. And how do you – how do you paint that, and I – was that just for economy's sake, do you think?

DK. I guess people thought that's all they needed.

BL. They didn't need a yard.

DK. No.

BL. People didn't live outside that much, I guess.

HS. I don't know.

DK. Well, that's . . . and look over there right now, uh, the people that bought my Mom's house, they've only got – what, 35 feet, I think it is?

BL. Mm hm.

DK. And then, 'course, the other house that was setting next to it, McCoy bought, and he's – he bought it before the other fellow died.

BL. Yeah.

DK. And then he just enlarged his, but other than that, he was . . .

BL. Well that was Nesbitt's house to begin with.

DK. Mm hm.

BL. Yes.

CK. Hm.

BL. Dr. Nesbitt

DK. So, anyway.

CK. So . . . I just wanna, I wanna put a time frame to this, 'cause I know – don't think we've discussed that. So when the fish docks were, or the fish . . . companies, were down by where you said the Senior Citizens is now? Around what year are we talking? What time? Just . . .

DK. The fish docks, they went out.

HS. (Quietly) I'm not sure - you probably would know, Bob, about it.

DK. They had to go out, probably in the 30s.

CK. Ok.

DK. Probably in the 30s, I don't know, maybe . . . '37, '38, in that territory.

BL. When they went out of business?

DK. Yeah.

BL. Yeah. And they probably started?

DK. Because the fish didn't – weren't,

BL. No.

DK. - weren't biting either.

BL. No.

DK. er . . .

BL. And they would've started in the 1900s, early 1900s for sure

DK. Yeah. Mm hm.

BL. And maybe a little bit before that.

DK. Mm hm. And I, I wasn't around them that much because my mother of course, we didn't live there.

CK. Right, you didn't live on that side. There must've been a fair amount of activity on The River back then, because you had the, um, Fletcher Paper, was in, going full-

HS. We used to - I didn't see much of the fish boats, but we used to watch the cement boats, you know, we could see 'em coming in from our house, and then . . .

BL. But on the river, the coal boats were probably the most prominent.

HS. Yeah, probably.

BL. . . . because they would deliver the coal to Fletcher and to the coal yards up there and at the mouth of the river.

HS. Right.

CK. Where did the coal come from?

BL. Um, south, probably. Somewhere.

CK. Brought it up on trains, or?

DK. Uh uh, uh-uh.

BL. No, on by ship.

DK. By ship.

CK. By ship, by ship, of course.

BL. It was the easiest way to unload it.

DK. Yeah. 'Cause I know that for a fact, because I worked for Olds.

HS. (simultaneously with previous) West Virginia was a big coal area –

DK. Hm?

HS. West Virginia was a big coal area.

DK. I worked for Oles Coal for quite a few years.

CK. Were there passenger boats at all, that you recall, or -?

DK. No, only that one that they used to have, that summer passenger –



HS. Yeah, that used to come from Detroit . . .

BL. They had that great big one, there was one called the *South American*.

DK. I have no idea.

BL. That was a really big vessel that used to come even in the 1930's and 40's.

DK. But I think it only was once a year.

BL. Maybe once a year.

DK. and that was a big deal, and only . . .

HS. I remember the Snow Train, the train.

BL. Oh, yes.

HS. . . . coming and bringing-

DK. Oh, yes, the Snow Train!

HS. . . . people in the wintertime, you know, from down below.

BL. Tell us where people stayed when they came up here when the hotels were full.

HS. I don't really know . . .

BL. Do you remember?

HS. . . .where they stayed, maybe with family? Did they have family?

BL. People would rent out rooms . . .

HS. Rooms?

BL. . . . to strangers . . .

HS. Did they rent out rooms?

BL. . . . in their homes, yes.

HS. Yeah.

BL. And they always used to laugh, because the train ran from Detroit to Bay City to Alpena, and people started partying in Detroit.

HS. Oh, I . . . yeah.

BL. And by the time, in Bay City, and by the time they got here, they used to laugh that they would *pour* some of the passengers off the –off the train, and then the Queen was always there, sitting on the back.

HS. Right, right.

DK. Oh, and that throne was always so pretty.

HS. Oh, I know, and I can remember when we were-

DK. And Mich-e-ke-wis.

HS. When we were kids, and we thought it was such a big deal to skate around the ring with the Snow Queen, you know.

BL. Do you remember who the first Snow Queen was?

HS. I . . . really don't remember the first one – who was it?

BL. Mary Maharg Fletcher.

HS. Oh, really.

BL. Mary Fletcher was the first one.

HS. Really. I remember a couple . . .

DK. We used to sell -

HS. . . . of them, but not the first one.

DK. . . . pins or something, uh, the one who could sell the most pins.

BL. Yes.

DK. . . . got to be the Queen.

HS. Yep, yup, mm hm.

BL. And do you remember the tob – the toboggan sled at-

HS. Oh, I've gone down that a few times.

DK. Oh, yes.

BL. Tell us a little bit about that if you have some memories of it.

DK. Oh!

HS. I just remember-

BL. It was a *gigantic* sled-

HS. . . . we used to go there and go down, you know, you'd go up the stairs and up the . . .

BL. Wasn't it? They said you'd hit 40, 50 miles an hour sometimes!

HS. Oh, I guess – it was a thrill!

DK. You know what, in the wintertime, uh, of course, we lived in the 700 block.

BL. Oh, you were right by it!

DK. Yeah-

HS. Yeah, you did live close by-

DK. After it had been there for a while, the – my brothers and I – the fellows would let us ride it, and we'd go skating, and then we would take the toboggan, and if you got out on the lake, you could almost make it home!

BL. Yes, because it – it-

DK. And then we'd ta-

BL. . . .was angled so you could go down and go down and down the beach.

HS. Oh, right, I know.

DK. Oh.

BL. it was right by one of the water works.

DK. And if somebody didn't hold ya tightly, your knees would hit that side – oh, did that hurt!  
(Laughter)

HS. Oh, I've been down that a few times.

CK. You took your own toboggan?

DK. No.

BL. No, you rented 'em. I'll have to show you a picture of it, Cindy – because it stood-

CK. I - I saw the-

BL. Yes, it's like 50 feet high or more!

DK. And then-

HS. But it didn't cost anything to ride it.

BL. It was free.

DK. And-

HS. You could go, you know -

DK. And you got on it, then all of a sudden -

HS. Oh, yeah, and there were quite a few people.

DK. (Simultaneously with line above) it'd let loose and you'd go down.

HS. . . . on one toboggan and we'd go down, I don't know how many they had held-

BL. I put a-

DK. More than one.

BL. I put a picture of it on our library website.

HS. Uhhuh.

BL. -and a woman wrote in and said – “That's very scary, no wonder my great uncle got a heart attack and died after riding on it”. And she maintains that's why it was stopped. And I've never been able to prove that story, I couldn't get a hold of her.

HS. I've never heard that. I don't know why that was stopped.

DK. Shouldn't have been on it!

BL. That's right!

HS. Well, you know, our entertainment in those years, I can remember we'd go - come home from school – (inaudible) on the North Side, and we'd do our chores or have get to eat, then we'd pick up friends all the way down the street and we'd walk to Mich-e-ke-wis, skate all night . . . well, not *all* night, but skate for quite a while, and then walk home. So, you know, that was quite a -

CK. That was quite a hike!

HS. We got enough exercise.

DK. Nobody was overweight!

HS. No.

CK. Now remember - No wonder you don't remember the bus line, you walked.

BL. Yes.

HS. No, we did - we walked wherever we went.

DK. They - they weren't running then, when like the toboggan slide and all that.

BL. No.

DK. That was after that.

BL. After that.

HS. And sometimes someone would stop and offer us a ride. Well, that was no problem, getting in the car and taking a ride, you know, never thought twice about it. That was just a- (Laughter)

DK. If they were breathin' and drivin', you drove.

BL. And there was a famous hamburger restaurant across from Mich-e-ke-wis.

DK. Oh! Push-em-up Tony!

HS. Oooh!

BL. Do you have memories of that place and him?

HS. Sure! Sure, that's when I was dating, that's where we'd go, the movie and go and get a hamburger from -

BL. Can you share a little bit, stories about him?

HS. Push-em-up Tony's, and that was our date. Didn't cost very much – I was a cheap date.

DK. It was wonderful.

HS. Yeah, yup. We were

DK. He was a character.

CK. So what did they - was it a drive in, or -?

DK. Oh, heavens, no.

BL. No, it was a little diner.

HS. Yeah, a diner.

BL. With a grill right by the door.

HS. Right.

BL. Um . . .

DK. And if you – if you didn't like onions, honey, don't go there.

BL. Don't go there – and, "Do you want hot sauce? Do you want hot sauce?" No. Pffffffft! He'd get- (Laughter)

HS. That was a lot. Another saying, now, you know we'd skate, we never had, you know, money for any treats or anything, we could smell -

BL. Aaaah.

HS. -that smell! I was so hungry!

BL. Oh, I remember it when I was a kid. And he had a cat in there, and they used to joke that he'd pet the cat and then make the hamburger patties . . .

DK. That was not true.

BL. No. No.

DK. He was a very clean man, he really was.

BL. He was Yugoslavian, I believe.

DK. Yup.

HS. Yup.

CK. What was his name?

BL. Uh, Tony – and I can't pronounce the last name.

DK. I can't either.

BL. He had an Americanized name, but I can find it.

DK. And he used to send money – I, I worked at the bank back then, and he used to ah, send a lot of money back to his family, and it was a name about that long.

BL. He had, um, he had very pretty waitresses, and I remember someone telling me that they, they were very heavily made up, and lots of lipstick (and very sharp-looking, and a couple came in, an older woman and her daughter came in and was reminiscing about Tony's and I *almost* said that, and I thought to myself, 'No, keep your mouth shut', and she said "I was a waitress at Tony's". (Laughter)

HS. Yeah, I know he used to let them drive his car.

DK. Yup.

HS. Yup. They got a few perks if they-

BL. Yeah.

HS. . . . looked good enough, you know. Doris Kline was one of them.

BL. Oh really?

DK. Oh, did she work there? I didn't know that. I didn't know that. But, uh, my, my good friend Lois Hampton, her dad, that was the only house on Mason Street, that she lived on.

HS. Yeah, oh yeah, how about that?

DK. Oh, gosh.

CK. So, what else, other things did you do for entertainment? In the wintertime, you'd go to . . . go tobogganing-

HS. Yeah.

CK. . . . and skating.

HS. Yeah, skate.

DK. That's pretty much it.

HS. Pretty much, yeah, we didn't you know, have a – we'd go to the movies for ten cents, you know, or something.

CK. At The Ma- Maltz?

HS. At The Lyric, because they used to have a -

DK. On Saturday, oh boy, you could go all day.

BL. And Lyric was cheaper.

HS. Yeah, it was. And we'd go there and, and you could stay all afternoon, because they'd keep running 'em over and over, you know, and, well, we did – I don't know, we never thought about what do we do next? Play outside, you know? I don't know.

BL. Sometimes they even ran old silent serials, too, at the Lyric, just to kind of fill in. But I remember *Flash Gordon*, they were showing that even when I was a kid yet.

HS. *The Green Hornet*,

BL. *Green Hornet*.

HS. And oh, a lot of, cowboy

BL. *Tom Mix*.

HS. . . . series. *Tom Mix*, yeah.

CK. Where was The Lyric located?

BL. Uuum,

DK. On, uh, I think-

BL. On Chisholm Street-

DK. On Chisholm Street!

BL. . . . about where the Culligan Plaza is.

DK. Yeah.

BL. where the parking lot for the - behind the Culligan Plaza, right in there.

HS. What is that name of that street?

DK. Chisholm Street.

BL. Chisholm Street.

HS. Chisholm that runs down that way? Ok, yeah.

DK. 'Cause I - I was really, uh, just had my license, I got my license when I was fourteen, and, uh, anyway, I - was snowing in the wintertime, and I came along, and it was on a Saturday, and I don't know where I was comin' from, whether I'd worked or what, but I - this kid, I hit him with the car, and he was going into the, into The Lyric Theatre, and I got out and I was so upset, and he said "C'mon, we're goin' to the movies!" (Laughter) What's your name? He gave me his name and I thought, I - I can't, I can't just let him go in there, whether he was hurt or not. I went down to the police station with him - "Aw, don't worry about it, they've got so many, they wouldn't even miss 'im". (Laughter) They were just being funny. They must've known the family, but . . . that kid. (Laughing)

BL. Which hospital would it have been? Which hospital would it have been then?

DK. McRae.

HS. Yeah. McRae.

BL. On the corner of Washington and Mirre?

HS. Yup. I remember that.

DK. Yup. It would've been McRae.

HS. And I also remember the Poor Farm. Remember the Poor Farm?

BL. Oh, yes.

HS. Because as kids we used to have to go caroling from the church over there and visit people - it was - it's the Health Department now, isn't it?

BL. Yes - Uh, no, it's part of the college.

HS. Oh, is it? Part of the college?

BL. Which church did you attend then?

HS. St. Paul's.

BL. St. Paul's, ok. Uh, do you remember, on the grounds where the hospital is now, there was a little detention house-



DK. Mm hm, my mother was there.

BL. . . . where they put people with contagious diseases?

DK. She was there for one Christmas.

BL. For - ?

DK. Do you want me to tell you what I got for Christmas that year?

BL. A lump of coal, I hope not? Um, may I ask what she was there for?

DK. I – I . . . diphtheria or something?

BL. Could've been diphtheria, was quite common, or smallpox, perhaps, or . . .

DK. And I know that, I can remember them bringing her– there was a bay window on the front and I can remember them bringing my Mom to the bay window.

BL. You obviously couldn't go in.

DK. Oh, no, no.

BL. But you could see her through the bay window.

DK. We could see her through the window.

HS. But they used to have cattle there, didn't they? And, and they used to have their own - grow their own vegetables?

BL. At the, uh, "Poor Farm" as they called it then – yes, they did. I'm not sure if they had cattle, but I know a garden for sure.

HS. I thought they had-

BL. They probably did. But I know across the street, by the Duck Park, which they – I hate that name – was Oxbow Farm, where they had a dairy farm there. So, in that area-

HS. Mm hm. Right.

CK. So, the Poor Farm was what

DK. Is the community that community -er the college or whatever's . . .

CK. What was it – what was it used for?

BL. When people grew older and were destitute or couldn't take care of themselves

DK. (Laughing) Like Tendercare is –

BL. It was called – it was called -- Like what?

DK. Like Tendercare.

BL. It was called, um, “going on the county”, they often said.

CK. Oh, “you’re going on the county”?

HS. They took care of ‘em, yeah.

BL. And if you were able to work, they would send you out, uh, free labor on farms and things like that, and if you couldn’t, you didn’t.

DK. Better setup than what they got know, probably.

BL. Yes.

CK. So speaking of going to work out on farms, I recall you telling me that there was a . . . truck that used to come into town and pick people up -

HS. We used to have to meet at – at, at the corner

DK. That was the Eagles’.

HS. Eagles drove it. Mrs. . . no, not Mrs. Eagle didn’t . . . Well, yeah, she did drive it, because she was also the patch boss.

DK. Eagles.

HS. And they - just a big truck, you know, and, and pick up us kids and we’d go and pick berries.

BL. Where did they pick you up?

HS. Uh, I think it was on the corner of State and something else, down there. I can’t remember the exact, ah, name of the street, but we’d have to be there at a certain time, and we’d get on the back of the truck, and they’d drive us out to the strawberry farm – strawberry and - and raspberries when they were ripe, and it would cost us 25 cents.

DK. Twenty or twenty-five cents.

HS. . . . for the trip.

BL. Ok.

HS. So when we made, uh, our fee for our trip, then everything else was, you know, kind of our spending money for the summer.

BL. About how much would you make, do you remember, a quart?

HS. Well, I think we used to get like five cents a quart, picking berries, and then, I I don’t know, you know, we goofed off a lot, too, but - probably we were lucky if we made maybe three or four bucks or fi-

BL. Well-

DK. Still a lot of berries.

HS. And then we'd make sure that we made another quarter so we could go roller skating at uh, the roller rink, over here at the – what'd they call it – German Hall- used to be.

BL. German Hall. There was a roller rink – upstairs?

HS. Yeah. Oh, yeah.

BL. I was up in that building, not too long ago, and it looks just the way it did in the old days.

HS. Really.

BL. Yes.

HS. Oh, yeah. It was upstairs and you would have to, uh, rent roller skates, you know.

BL. It's now Nowicki's Sausage Shop.

HS. Yeah.

BL. On the corner. It has the most beautiful tin ceiling and everything.

HS. And we used to, oh we used to love to go roller skating, but, it was a quarter, and if we didn't have a quarter, uh, my future husband who was then working – and his sisters, and his one sister and I were very good friends – and we would ask him if we could press his pants for a quarter.

DK. (Laughter) He had the best pressed pants in town.

CK. You must've done a very good job, Hattie!

HS. We would press his pants so we could go roller skating.

BL. One thing about the strawberry patch, while I think about it – did you take your own lunch out there?

HS. Yes.

DK. Oh, yeah.

HS. Oh, yeah, you carried your own lunch, uh huh.

DK. I got ground up meat and pickles – ooh!

BL. Ooh, my favorite still.

HS. I can remember my mother would send us with a little can of baked beans and an opener, and uh, we ate out of the cans. (Laughing)

BL. That was lunch.

HS. Yeah. (Laughing) Uh, I don't know, sometimes I wonder, where was my mother? What was she doing when I was doing all this? We were pretty well on our own, because she was a widow with four kids, and we kind of raised ourselves. I always tell the story about smoking, and my – I had three brothers, and uh, of course you know, learned a lot of life's lessons there, and uh, my brother and I, the oldest one, and a couple of his friends went out in a field . . . do you know what Indian tobacco is?

BL. Corn tassels?

HS. No, it was a weed.

BL. (inaudible).

CK. It has brown on top-

HS. Yeah, and you go like this with your hand, and you had a handful of what looked like tobacco, and we smoked that in newspapers, and I was so sick . . .

DK. (Laughter)

BL. Well, who knows what it was?

HS. That was the end of my smoking – I've never smoked, I guess it was a blessing in disguise. I came home, and I know my mother was working and I was supposed to be doing some housework, and I was sick in bed. She never knew what really made me so sick, but, yeah.

BL. Don't bet on that. (Laughter) I used to go home, and think I didn't smell of cigarettes, and later I found out . . .

HS. Oh, my gosh.

BL. Oh my gosh. You do.

HS. But they couldn't afford cigarette papers, you know, and we smoked it in newspaper.

DK. After they get a load of it they knew where to find a cigarette butt, too, eh?

HS. Oh, I know.

BL. Kind of on the same topic, I know that they made cigars in Alpena for the longest time - do you have any memories of that?

HS. Well, I knew where it was –

BL. Mm hm.

HS. - up above the Power Company building.

DK. Yeah.

HS. That they're gonna tear down.

BL. Ok.

HS. It was upstairs, because-

BL. That was Larsen's Furniture at one time.

DK. Yep.

BL. Later.

HS. Was it Larsen's Furniture up there?

BL. Mm hm, he moved there at one time

HS. Really?

BL. Later, yes.

DK. Ok.

BL. But it was up there. Ok, that one I didn't know about.

HS. Because my, uh, sister- in- laws, they both worked there.

DK. My mother worked-

BL. Making cigars?

HS. Making cigars.

DK. My mother worked there for, for a little bit.

BL. People are so surprised about that,

HS. Yeah.

BL. . . . and I said, well they just brought the leaf in and set them up with the - the molds and everything.

HS. Yeah, I guess, I don't know how they made 'em . . .

BL. And there were Alpena brands and things.

HS. Yes, uh huh.

CK. Huh. I wonder where they'd go the tobacco, they would just . . .

BL. Pennsylvania probably, there was a lot grown there, or anywhere further south.

HS. Yeah, there was a

BL. And on the corner next to where Rene's Jewelry was, at the last point on the corner of River and Second, Jacob Levin or Levine had a big tobacco shop there also, but that was probably gone by that time.

HS. Mmm.

CK. And the bowling alley, did you ever go there?

DK. Mm hm

HS. About The Trianon?

CK. The Trianon.

BL. The Trianon Nightclub, did you go there, and the bowling alley?

HS. Oh, yeah, I was not a bowler, but I knew there was a bowling alley, and had been to the Trianon.

BL. Yeah, Howe ran it. Mr. Howe.

DK. Yeah.

HS. Yeah. Yeah. What's a bow – he had the bowling alley. Yeah.

CK. Is that related to Grace Howe?

DK. I've got, I've got a picture of it, of that.

HS. Do ya?

DK. Of - in the back, 'cause we were city champs.

HS. . . . pictures of . . .

BL. (laughter) Ok . . . Come on now, I want to see those pictures!

CK. Doris, you're gon - gonna have to . . .

DK. Yeah.

HS. I don't have any pictures.

BL. Um, I don't know if he's related to Grace Howe or not.

HS. I don't know whether he was.

DK. I don't think he was.

HS. You don't think he was?

DK. I don't think he was.

BL. And later there was a fire there and then he moved out to where the bowling alley is now.

DK. Yeah.

HS. Oh really. I don't . . .

CK. And did they have dances and things up there, too?

HS. Oh, sure.

DK. I never went to the Trianon.

HS. The Trianon, yeah.

DK. I - I couldn't get in, I wasn't old enough.

CK. What - what was it like? What . . . There was the bowling alley, was part of it

DK. There was . . . yeah.

HS. Well, this was, The Trianon was all separate.

BL. Were there two separate staircases?

HS. Yes, yes.

DK. No.

(at same time) HS. No, not two separate staircases. DK. No, uh uh.

BL. Ok, you went one way for the bowling alley

DK. You took one set to the bowling alley and the other went into the Trianon.

BL. And left to the Trianon?

DK. Yeah, on the river side.

BL. Because they overlooked the river.

HS. Right. Right. Uh huh.

BL. They had, uh, entertainment dances, they had entertainment.

HS. Uh huh, uh huh.

BL. They had someone like Betty Hutton's sister sing there.

DK. Yeah, at one time. Yeah, or so they said. But I - I - They wouldn't let me in.

CK. And I think Bobby Rigg said that his Dad, Tubby, played there.

HS. Tubby, uh huh . . . could very well be. Uh huh. Yeah.

BL. Hm.

DK. (inaudible) . . . but, uh.

BL. Someone told me an interesting story about the Trianon at a – it was in the summer and all the windows were open, and a underage boy came in and wanted to be served, and they wouldn't serve him because they knew he wasn't old enough, and he started causing a fuss. Well, the bartender came around the bar and was going to call the police, and the kid ran down the length of the building and jumped right through the window into the river. (Laughter)

DK. Wow!

HS. Oh, my.

CK. What about work? What kind of work did you do early – or your early jobs.

HS. Well, I think my first real job was at the Alpena Hotel. I worked for the Keenan's.

BL. Mm hm.

HS. At the Alpena Hotel, as a waitress and ah-

CK. That was located where?

HS. On Chisholm.

BL. Oh, across from the Visitors and Convention Bureau.

DK. Yeah, and First Merit.

HS. They just rec – well, they didn't just recently tear it down, but it was (inaudible) the last--

CK. Kentucky – the Motor Lodge?

HS. Yeah, it was the Motor Lodge.

BL. Yeah, yeah. The O'Neil's owned it at one time.

HS. Yeah. Yeah.

DK. Yeah.

CK. And it was originally called the Alpena Hotel?

HS. Did the O'Neil's own it before the Keenan's?

BL. I believe so.

HS. The reason I asked you that is because Bill O'Neil – don't know if you remember-



BL. Bill and Yvonne? Or is this an older O'Neil?

HS. Uh, well, he's . . . would be about my age.

BL. Ok, no, I'm thinking of a different O'Neil then.

HS. Ok. He was the desk clerk.

BL. Ok, then they're related to the Bill O'Neil I know that's married to Yvonne that are younger than – younger generation.

HS. They probably were, and uh, he was the desk clerk, and Lucille Nowak - the Nowak's used to have a clothing store?

BL. Mm hm.

HS. And she was part of that family and she worked there, and they ended up in a relationship and getting married, and uh, he used to have a beautiful tenor voice, Bill O'Neil, and my mother-in-law, well, she wasn't my mother-in-law then, but she cooked there, and uh, she used to have Bill sing for his breakfast.

BL. Oh. An Irish tenor.

HS. He had a beautiful Irish tenor.

CK. And then where did you work after that?

HS. Well, I worked at, um, Ryan's, you know, as a waitress also. And then during the war, I worked at the Thunder Bay Manufacturing Company, we made machine gun parts,

BL. Mm hm.

HS. . . . worked on a drill press and a milling machine.

BL. Oh my gosh.

HS. And uh, I also . . . then when . . . of course, after the war there was no work there, I was laid off, drawing unemployment, and I was getting so bored – there was a sign in Marshall's Bakery that they needed help, wanted help, and I worked at Marshall's Bakery and then I worked - then I worked at Alpena Public Schools as - in the reading and math program-

BL. Oh!

HS. -and then after I retired from Alpena Public Schools, I worked as a volunteer at Shelter, Incorporated and then they wanted me to be a part of the staff, so I worked there until I decided un-uh,

DK. The third time

BL. Enough.

HS. I'm eighty two, I just want to be – I don't wanna work anymore. So.

DK. That was the third time, it's like her birthday, she's . . .

HS. Oh, and I also did work at Traynor's in Highland Park for a while. I moved down there with a family of friends, and I worked right across from the Ford factory in, in Highland Park, and, and I remember that so well, because at that time we couldn't refuse to serve the colored, but we had a special menu.

BL. Oh.

HS. . . . that we gave them when they came in.

BL. Mm hm.

HS. With the prices, you know, jacked way high.

BL. Oh my goodness - to discourage them from staying.

HS. Mm hm. And of course, then they would look at the menu and leave, and that was pretty scary sometimes, because they would gather outside like protesting the whole situation, you know.

BL. They knew what was going on.

HS. Sure. But at that time, that's how things were, you know.

BL. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

CK. Mm hm, mm hm.

DK. That was in the 40s, wasn't it?

HS. Oh, gosh, I'm thinking.

DK. Or 50s?

HS. I don't really remember the years, but it was, uh . . . Let me see, I was probably about eighteen, maybe, so that was, born '25, it'd be around-

CK. '43.

HS. / BL. '43, yeah.

HS. But it was a whole restaurant, they were so busy because the shifts, you know, they'd get out of the shifts that they worked and they'd come across the street and get something to eat before they went home. Yeah, so I worked in quite a few places.

CK. Places – you did.

HS. When I think back, you know, I think, yeah, I really did work in a lot of different places in my time.

CK. How about you, Doris, when did you start working? Where was your first job?

DK. Well, I babysat for a long time, and then uh, when I was in high school, I had working papers and I worked at Woolworth and that was when it's like for Kennedy – Kennedy's Jewelry, I worked there all the time I was in high school, and, uh, and I got out, and then I worked for Ole's Coal, then I went for the bank

BL. Which Oles was that, that owned it?

DK. Frank

BL. Frank, ok.

DK. And, uh, and then I left there and I went to work at the bank.

CK. Which bank?

DK. At that time, it was Alpena Savings.

CK. Ok. Ok.

DK. It was a very small, really nice to work.

CK. Bob, did you want to ask something about the Knechtel connection?

BL. Yes, what is the Knechtel connection? Family connection, with - with the greenhouse.

DK. With the greenhouse? Um, Vic is one of five boys in that family, and Harold was the oldest, and he married Margaret,

BL. Ok, I see.

DK. And, uh, they had the two kids,

BL. Mm hm.

DK. Sue and Dennis.

BL. Ok. Um, there's another – there's a character in town that I've been working with a lot of his papers and I wondered if you ever ran across him, and that's Henry Gustin. Does that ring a bell? He was an attorney.

DK. Mm mm.

HS. No, it doesn't.

BL. Um, do you - when you were kids, the library would have been in the old Fletcher building that was on this site.

HS. Uh huh.

BL. Do you remember coming into that building or visiting the library there?

HS. Oh, sure. When we were in high school, you know, we used to come and-

BL. Ok. It burned in '36, and Emily Oliver was one of the early librarians. Do you have any memories of the inside of the building, anything at all, probably as a, maybe not as a child

HS. My memory was of the spring outside, the smell.

BL. Ok, that's – ok, that's, that's still true today.

HS. We used to call it muggy water and it was just a good thing we . . . you know, say “take a drink, it's good for ya!”

BL. And people did.

HS. Oh, I know - I did.

BL. Ooh, you're braver than I am.

DK. The post office was over here. At that time.

HS. Yeah, the post office was across the street.

BL. Right across the street. The Federal Building. And Harriet Hansen worked there forever and ever and ever. Behind the desk.

HS. Harriet Hansen, yeah, I remember her.

BL. She lived out at the end of Washington and she walked from there, here and then walked back at lunch to take care of her mother or sister, who was disabled, then walked back to work, and then went home in the evening.

HS. Yep, yep.

BL. For thirty years.

HS. Really.

DK. Well, you know, everybody walked then.

HS. Well, yeah, it was no big deal, you wanted to go someplace – my parents never owned a car, so, you know. If I was, you know. It was kind of-

DK. I think we had more snow back then, too.

BL. Yes.

HS. It did seem like we never had snow days, yeah. Uh, it was a treat for us to go to the South Side, to go for a ride.

BL. Really?

HS. You know, somebody'd take us - well, when I first started dating, you know, my husband, and he got a job at Besser's – he worked there for 48 years.

BL. Mmm.

HS. And uh, out of high school he got a job.

BL. Mm hm.

HS. First he bought a bicycle – he used to walk to work- he bought a bicycle and he used to ride his bicycle to work. Then he bought another bicycle, because he wanted one for every day and one for Sunday. So . . . then he bought a car, and his sisters would say to me, "Ask him to take us for a ride, 'cause if you ask him, he'll take us." So I used to say, "Dick, take us for a ride . . ." this usually was on a weekend, he'd take us for a ride and oh, that was such a treat, we'd get on the south side of town and . . .

BL. Sunday drive.

CK. How far would you go?

HS. Well, just around town, all around, you know, kind of a - not too very far, but that was when gas was three gallons for a dollar, so it . . . uh huh, yup.

CK. And was Besser at that time was it located where it is now?

HS. Yeah, it is. Yeah. I have a picture when there were only the first group. Where they are, you know.

BL. Do you have any memories of, uh, Jesse Besser himself, or . . . ?

HS. Oh, yes, because when I worked at the Alpena Hotel, he use to bring his salesmen in there.

BL. Ok.

HS. He used to eat there quite a bit.

BL. Oh, he did?

HS. He always had a three egg omelet.

BL. Ok.

HS. And, uh, he was such a gentleman.

BL. That's what I understand.

HS. Because he used to introduce me, you know, he'd say, "this is so-and-so," you know, and they used to - we used to close up after, uh, the lunch period at two o'clock and then open up again later in the day for dinner, and he used to sit there after the place closed to, you know, to dinners or lunches and with his salesmen and they'd have their meetings, and, and uh - yes. And, uh, his wife, Anna Besser, so my husband tells me, would come around the shop, you know, and visit with the-

BL. Really?

HS. -people that worked there, and, and I know that when he got married, he got a nickel raise, 'cause he started at fifty cents an hour.

BL. Your husband?

HS. Mm hm. He got a nickel raise, and she came and asked him, "Did you see the raise in your check this time?" And she used to be in the shop a lot.

BL. Really? I didn't know that.

HS. Yeah, and visit with the workers, you know?

BL. They used to say he would wear his galoshes around all the time to preserve his shoes, it was kind of a story.

HS. You know, I don't remember that, but I know he was a non-drinker.

BL. Well-

HS. And uh, the fellas, the salesmen would be there before him, and they'd be in the bar, well the minute that he came in-

BL. Well, there's a story, too, that in business in the old days, gifts of liquor were very common, and, um, she would confiscate all of them and uh - Anna Mulvena Besser - take them to the dump and pour them out or break the bottles.

HS. Really?

BL. Yes. She would not give them away or let anyone have them.

HS. Yeah. Yeah. Well, he was a very gentle, very gentle, big, tall guy.

BL. Yes, gentleman.

HS. Uh huh. Yeah, I waited on him several times.

BL. Well, good.

CK. So, did she make note of the f- why he got that raise, did she tell him it was because he had gotten married?

DK. Mm hm.

HS. Well, I don't know, I guess, he must have because, uh, it was a well-known fact I guess when he got – but, uh, yeah, he was, uh . . . and then, when uh, my husband went to school, they sent him to school, uh, he was a tool and die maker, he was leader in the tool shop,

BL. Mm.

HS. but, uh, he got his other education after high school after he worked at Besser's, you know, through them.

BL. Through them.

HS. Mm hm. Yep, they had a lot of labor problems, not when he was there so much, but later on. You know, but every contract time you could bet your bottom dollar there was going to be a strike, and . . .

BL. This was not a union-friendly town.

HS. No.

BL. Never.

HS. It wasn't then.

BL. Never was.

HS. No.

BL. Hm.

HS. The fellas that worked there before union, before the union, they got together and uh, started a whatever, and worked the stock markets, you know, so they would have something.

BL. Extra.

HS. Some sort of a investment.

CK. Ok, ok.

HS. So, they had – they were quite successful with that, you know, for a while because they were thinking of retirement and things, you know?

CK. Mm hm, mm hm, and when you've got more than one mind working on that, you can –

HS. Right.

CK. Yup. Well, that was good foresight. Well, I think . . . we've covered a lot of topics, is there anything that anyone would like to add?

HS. Can't think of anything.

CK. I, I have one question. Do either of you have memory of the bean factory that was by Thunder Bay Manufacturing, where they processed dried beans?

BL. Near the train station.

CK. Was it?

BL. It was a big, square huge building.

HS. I do not.

BL. Roger's Brothers Seeds.

HS. No, I do not. Uh uh.

CK. Ok. Yup.

DK. Nope. That doesn't ring a bell at all.

BL. Ok.

CK. It was a seed factory.

BL. Yeah.

HS. Seed factory? Mm hm.

CK. Bob, anything else?

BL. Nothing that I can think of – this has been *so* much fun, I've *really* enjoyed it; I hope you have, too.

HS. It's been interesting just reminiscing, you know. It's been fun.

BL. It really is.

DK. You know, if - if Vic were alive – he always said that, where we live, 'course-

CK. You did eventually move to the North Side.

DK. Yeah, I'm an import. (Laughter)

BL. And what street was that, then, that you were on?

DK. On Ford.

BL. Ok, Ford, that's right.

DK. Yeah. And where we are, I've got a picture of them, where you know where you can see The Lake-

HS. Ah.



DK. -and there's something about when they put this railroad track, because that at one time that was the Knitz farm from what Vic said.

HS. Oh, behind - that would be behind me.

DK. Yeah. From behind – that they had to (HS. Yeah. I had heard that name) - that they had to sign off because they put the railroad track back there -

BL. Ok.

HS. Mm hm.

DK. Well, now, DPI would be back there, er, they - I'm sure they've taken all the railroad tracks out.

BL. The Gilchrist Lumber Company office was right on that corner for the longest time.

DK. Was it?

BL. They tore that down about five, six years ago, um, on the corner of Ford and, and uh, Fletcher Street, and then the Gilchrist mill was behind that, toward the river.

DK. They certainly made a mess of all that.

BL. They sure did.

DK. That pretty, (BL. Terrible) pretty land, uh, going out, 'cause, I mean, I - I've got that one picture of, uh, Vic and his dad in the - in the boat sitting, sitting on the - where they set it behind their house, and I've got a regular forest back there now.

CK. Thank you!