

Transcript: Alpena Garment Factory

The following interview with Clarise Grzenkiewicz, regarding her work at The Alpena Garment Factory, took place in her home on December 10, 2015. Cindy Kus and Carole Cadarette are in the room with her. As a result of a recording malfunction, the beginning of the interview was cut off. The interview starts off with Clarise talking about the area of the factory that she worked in.

CG: Worked ah, in the cutting part, where they cut all the patterns and did repairs on machines and stuff up there, I did a lot of the heavy work. Yup.

CK. And where were you, at what point in your life was this?

CG. Uh, this was, um, I had to be sixteen in order to get a job there, and already my mother, Mary Kramer, and my two sisters, Beryl and Eloise, were already working there, and I think Marion also, because she was only a year and nine months younger than me, so – or older than me – so, we were all working there. It was just the thing everybody did.

CK. How - how big was it – was it several floors?

CG. Well, probably two floors, I'm thinking, 'cause this was where the fire station is, I think, now.

CK. On Chisholm Street.

CG. On Chisholm, then.

CK. Mmhmm.

CG. Yup. They didn't - they moved, uh, later and went out – after, it was, um, where they, uh, made the tents and stuff out there, what was that, name of the plant out there, on Long Lake Avenue. Fraser Products, right?

CK. So it later became Fraser Products?

CG. Yes, I would say with different owners. But-

CK: OK.

CG. - at the time we worked there, it was Randall's, that owned it then.

CK. Ok. And what kind of work did you do there?

CG. I did, ah, sewing, with the sewing machine, and, uh, most of it was – uh, they had sections of – women would do - I did front waists. My mother would do the sides, she did overcasting, that's when it was all finished and it'd go to those people. And they came in bundles, and they paid ya by the bundle, and it wasn't very much. So if you weren't very fast and very good at it, you didn't make very much. You know, 'cause when - I think Mom did pretty good because they were, it was all,

they all, oh, you wouldn't believe unless you seen it. And then they'd go and put that under there and it the dress would go up in through that whole dress, 'cause it was all cotton dresses.

CK. Everything was cotton.

CG. Everything was cotton dresses. Yup. So that's what we wore in them days.

CK. I saw them called . . . hold on a second here, there's a picture . . . of the Garment Factory and it says "wash frocks". Do you remember that? And I think the idea was they were – you could wash 'em and wear them and . . .

CG. Oh, yeah, they were all looked like this, throw it in the washer and wash 'em. You know, it's all cotton material.

CK. So it sounds almost a little bit like an assembly line.

CG. Oh, it was. Yes, it was.

CK. You had the part you did, and then it moved over to the next person.

CG. Yeah, because your needles, see, were different, like your needles for overcasting was – the whole seam was covered, and as it went, it cut that other part off.

CK. So how-

CG. But I did all like this – if there's a pocket on it, I did that and maybe put the collar on, and stuff like that. That's what I did.

CK. So when you say it came in bundles . . .

CG. It came in bundles and I can't recall how many, but it'd be a big thingie, about that big, and you'd open that, and then you'd do that, and you got paid by the bundle.

CK. Ok.

CG. Probably at least twelve or more in there.

CK. Per day?

CG. Oh, no, you'd do more than one a day, I'd say.

CK. More than one bundle. Yeah. What were the conditions like, of the place?

CG. You know what, I was thinking today about that, you know – we never had, hardly ever had a fan, and it was hot in there, but - and you had salt pills by the wat – by the drinking fountain. Salt pills. That you drink and keep you cool? (laughs) Can you believe that? Honest to God, that's the truth.

CC. Because you perspired a lot

CG. You perspired, so you had to take

CC. So they wanted you to replace that with water pills as you drank the water from the water fountain.

CG. Mm hm.

CK. Let me add here that Clarisse's daughter, Carole Cadarette, is sitting with us, so when you hear another voice,

CG. Yeah.

CK. . . . that's Carole. So what about in the wintertime?

CG. Well, the wintertime it was-

CK. Was it warm enough in there?

CG. Oh, yeah. It was heated ok.

CK. And all those bodies, working away.

CG. Yeah, I can't remember being cold or anything. Yeah.

CK. Was it clean?

CG. Oh yeah, it was clean. The working conditions other than that wasn't – they weren't bad working conditions, you know, but that's just the way it was. Nobody had electric fans and air conditioning – who ever heard of it? You know? So . . .

CK. And your employers, did they treat you well? Did . . .

CG. Some of 'em did. We were lucky, we had a, we had a – um, floor lady they called 'em, and it was usually a – a lady, an older lady and if you were lucky you got one and got on the good side of her, well, she liked ya. Least I had a nice one, Lida Vam, I still remember her name. I think she . . .

CK. What was her name?

CG. Lida Vam. But I think she's probably gone bye-bye now, 'cause she was older, you know. (laughs)

CK. Uh huh, uh huh. Yeah.

C. Yeah.

CC. Mom, how many – did they work just during the day, one shift or was it more than just one shift?

CG. I think it was just one shift, I believe. I don't believe there was any night shifts. It was like from seven til four or seven til five, probably, or maybe even longer, but . . . and that was six days a week.

CK. Did you live out at Long Lake at the time?

CG. I lived on French Road.

CK. And how did you get into town?

CG. Ah, we had a – well, my folks always had a car, but we had a lady that lived out here and she used to give us all a ride. There'd be six of us in that car every day, going to town and back, going to town and back. Then she got lucky and she won a car at the fair. She got a new car. Oh, my God, we were in heaven.

CC. And what was her name, Mom?

CG. Ah, Tilly Morley.

CC. And she won a car at the fair?

CG. She won a car at the fair. Before that, we had an old Whippet. (laughs) And in the spring of the year! (laughs) In the spring of the year, in the - down there in the swamp, the mud come up, the logs that they built the road with years ago were stickin' up, and we got stuck and we'd have to get out and push, in the wintertime, (inaudible) . . . (laughing)

CC. And I assume, Mother, you all rode to work together?

CG. Yeah, oh, she had her car full. Yes,

CK. She said six of them

CG. . . . . our whole family rode in it. Yeah.

CC. Ok. Uh, we - we didn't establish – Mother said you had to be sixteen?

CG. Yeah.

CC. We did not establish the year that would have been. So . . .

CG. Well, I was 21 in 1940, so back up.

CK. 1935.

CG. Mmhuh..

CK. 1935. So you worked - how long did you work there?

CG. I worked there until, uh – til I got married. Yeah.

CC. Which was 1940, when they closed.

CG. 1940, yeah.

CK. Mmhuh. Five years.

CG. Mm hm.

CK. You spent a good amount of time

CG. Yeah, and Mother stayed on. My mother stayed on.

CK. Oh, and continued at the Frazier . . .

CG. Oh, yeah, and then when they moved, I think she moved over and went – after she moved to town, she went and worked at Frazier's. They were making tents then for the Army. Aah, she did that, those heavy things.

CK. So, did they give you breaks? Did you have

CG. Oh! Noooo.

CK. - a lunch or dinner break or whatever?

CG. You had your lunch, but you didn't get no in-between breaks, no. But you could get up and go and get a drink and come back –

CK. Take a salt pill-

CG. -and that, I mean, they didn't hit ya (laughs). It was, it was a good job, because it was a job.

CK. Mmhuh.

CG. Other than that, all I had before that was babysittin' jobs, for a dollar a week.

CK. So how much did – when did you get paid?

CG. I think we got paid every two weeks, I believe. So we made about twelve dollars a week.

CK. And the floor lady, or the floor manager kept track of . . .

CG. I guess so. I imagine she had to take care of, you know. You punched - they had a thingie that you punched when you went in and when you left, yeah. It was pretty modern.

CK. But you didn't get paid by the hour, you go paid by the piece.

CG. Oh, no. No. You got paid by how good you were,

CK. -the bundle

CG. . . . and how fast. Yeah. That's why . . .

CC. And where would you say, Mother, uh, be brutally honest with us and yourself – where do you think you were as far as a piecework lady? Did - did you pretty much at the top or somewhere in the middle?

CG. I think that I was pretty good

CC. Were you fast at it?

CG. I don't think I was too fast, 'cause I probably would've made more money, but . . . we got along ok on it. We didn't have to – we paid her, I forget, maybe a dollar a week to ride and paid a little bit for board and, and bought all our clothes at the Gately Company and paid for it by the month. (Laughs)

CK. Where are, where did all those dresses go? Did they ship them?

CG. Oh, yeah, they shipped them out, yeah - they went - those went all over, they were very popular.

CK. I have some pictures of the dresses . . .

CG. Very popular.

CK. Does that look familiar? There's that one . . .

CG. Well, this looks pretty modern.

CK. Ninety four cents (chuckle)

CC. (Inaudible, mic dropped)

CG. These were not, uh, dress-up clothes. These were like work dresses.

CK. The ones that you worked on . . .

CG. That we sewed on, they were all strictly cotton.

CC. That's pretty high society there.

CG. There was nothin' this modern, no.

CC. They were house dresses, right?

CG. Yeah, house dresses – that women wore to work in the barn or in the garden or whatever.

CC. Well, women never wore slacks, they - they just wore – they wore house dresses.

CG. Well, yeah.

CC. And it usually an over – over apron

CG. An old apron, yeah. ‘Cause there was no such thing as slacks. No way.

CK. No, you didn’t wear slacks, you wore dresses

CG. Nooooo.

CK. Were the dresses affordable? Could you buy them?

CG. You could, but I don’t know if, uh, if we did or not. Probably didn’t want to wear ‘em anyway, you know, but, after sewing on ‘em all day. (laughs) But, oh, yeah.

CK. And the garment factory closed in 1940 ‘cause there was a strike at the factory. What do you remember about that?

CG. Uuuh, I re . . . , and that was bad news, ‘cause my Aunt was workin’ – my Aunt was *picketing*, and of course we wouldn’t, you know. My mother wouldn’t let us, we never could do nothin’ to protest anything, you know. But – oh, yeah, they had quite a jangle there, they’d be on the – on the sidewalks, slurrin’ and givin’ the bosses heck. (laughs) If you’d had a recorder, you’d probably a gotten some goood stuff! (laughing) That went on for a while, yeah.

CK. Did they try to get you to join the union? Do you . . .

CG. Well, I guess they probably did, but, uh, it just never – never got off the floor at all, I don’t think. Not as long as I was there, anyway. Never had a union while I was there, no.

CC. So, did you just not go into work when that commotion was going on, Mother? Or did you . . .

CG. No, I don’t think we went.

CC. You just didn’t go.

CG. We just didn’t go. No.

CC. But you didn’t lose your job over it.

CG. Oh, no. We didn’t want . . .

CC. Why were they protesting? Wanted more money?

CG. They wanted a raise.

CC. Wanted better working conditions?

CG. Yeah, they wanted more money, yeah. Wasn't very . . . we didn't wanna go down there and fight Aunt Alta. (Laughs)

CC. Mmmm!

CG. My dad's sister. (laughing)

CK. She was . . .

CG. She was picketing! Oh, yes she was!

CK. It says in this article that eventually many of the worker's demands were granted, and a compromise was reached. And that on January 15, 1940, work was resumed at the Alpena Garment Factory, then it says the workers' victory was short-lived however, because six months later they

CG. They sold – they closed, I think, and they sold out, I think.

CK. And they dissolved it. Mm hm. Do you remember people coming from other place, like organizers or anything like that, regarding the strike?

CG. Mmmm, well, I guess probably we just didn't go to work the days they were striking, 'cause we never, I don't remember anything a lot around. I'm sure there was, though. Oh, yeah.

CK. These are some pictures of the people striking.

CC. Do you remember anything like that, Mom?

CG. Oh, yeah, I remember that. (Leafing through papers . . . Laughs . . . inaudible) can probably find somebody I know.

CK. There's probably a few people you knew . . .

CG. (Laughs) I probably know all of 'em! You know, those pictures are so old. Yup.

CC. Wow.

CG. Oh, yeah, was quite the days.

CC. Were the machines you worked on, Mother, the sewing machines, were they electric or were they, uh, the trun . . . ?

CG. No, they were electric.

CC: They were electric.

CG. You pressed on it, you didn't have to pump on, no, you just pressed.

CC. Ok.



CG. Yeah. They were all electric, yeah.

CK. And this is a photo of the interior, does that look familiar?

CG. Mm hm. Oh, yeah.

CK. And I'm guessing those are the bundles that you're talking about.

CG. Yep. Yep. Oh, yeah, see all the . . . that's all of them where the, where the thread is, see, that's all the machines, right there.

CK. So how did you . . . ok, was the thread, (laughing) I'm just trying to imagine this – did you have to match up thread, did - was that taken care of for you? They gave you the thread and -?

CG. I think that ah, they gave you the thread, but you had to put your - thread your own machine and everything if you had to change any colors. You had to put 'em in there and do your own.

CK. And if your machine broke down . . . ?

CG. Oh, you had to get a mechanic (laugh).

CK. One of those guys that worked there.

CG. Some of them were pretty good.

CK. Mm hm.

CG. (Long pause) Yep. I could've been one of 'em. (laughs) I'm sure I probably was . . .

CK. Did you have friends that worked there with you?

CG. Oh, everybody – everybody you knew worked there, everybody that wanted a job worked there.

CK. And then when you got off work, did you just head straight home, or -?

CG. Well, most of the time, 'cause we always rode with somebody.

CK. So you were all going together.

CG. Oh, yeah. You didn't go very much, you're pretty tired after a day's work of rasslin' them things, you know?

CK. (laughs)

CC. What was the time frame that you worked, Mother? You said you worked days, so you had to report at what time?

C. I think - I think we went to work at seven. Seven 'til probably five.

CK. That's a good long day, especially in a warm . . .

CG. In the summer when it was hot. Yep.

CK. Anything else that you can recall?

CG. Oh, gosh, I'm tryin' to think.

CC. Second – both floors, Mother, were both floors of the Garment Factory used for the same thing, or was the offices upstairs?

CG. I don't think, yes – I don't think they were sewing upstairs. I think it was just, uh, offices up there and uh probably they kept a lot of the, you know, the um – oh, what'd you call it – materials and stuff up there, bolts of materials.

CC. When you talk about the, they sent them, they sent everything out, most of it did not stay in Alpena for the stores in Alpena, and it went all over the United States. Did they go to places like, let's say back in those days, Montgomery Ward to re-sell maybe?

CG. They must have went someplace, 'cause man, they did a lot of 'em, you know?

CC. And they went out of here by how, do you remember? By truck, by train -?

CG. I really don't know. I don't remember, anyway. I'm sure they went out by truck, or probably train.

CC: Ok.

CG. Probably went . . . cause they had a lot of guys working there, too.

CK. I think a lot of them went to New York-

CG. Did they?

CK. -that's my understanding. And it says that . . . they steadily provided employment for over 100 men and 1200 women during that period of time, during those 20 years.

CG. Mmhuh.

CK. They had 1100 machines operated in plants around northern Michigan at Cheboygan, Onaway, Rogers City as well as Alpena.

CG. Yeah, I know they had other places. I guess that would probably be true.

CK. And at peak production, more than seven million dresses were turned out annually. To be shipped to all corners of the American continent. And during the period between 1935 and 1937 – when you worked there – the company, and that would include the places, other places in northeast Michigan, they had the capability of turning out as many as 36,000 dresses a day. So . . .

C. You know they had to

CK. . . . that was a huge employer.

C. They sure had to go a lot of places for people to have that many.

CK. Yup. So, this is getting off a little bit, but I'm curious, if that was a place for women, largely women to be employed, at that same time, where were men in Alpena employed?

CG. Oh, at, uh – at, which is LaFarge now.

CK. The cement plant here in . . .

CG. Huron Portland. Huron Portland.

CK. That was the biggest employer back then?

CG. Oh, yeah. Yup. The only other place there was for women who worked was at the bean factory. They had a bean, uh, uh, like a, where they'd buy the beans that people grew and then the women would sort 'em. Margaret Dubie worked there.

CK. Where was that?

CG. It was over on across from the fairgrounds in there.

CK. Where Thunder Bay Manufacturing is?

CG. One of them buildings in there, yeah. That was where the bean factory was. I never was in there and I never worked in there, but a lot of the girls did.

CK. So they took beans that . . . .

CG. Dried beans and they had to come down a, probably a

CK. Assembly line of some

CG. And they must've had to, whether they had to do colors or whether they had to take the husks out, you know, the loose ones, probably, cause they must've ha – they were dry by then. I'm not too sure what they did do there, they didn't, they didn't keep 'em – they didn't can 'em or anything like that there, no. It wasn't a cannery.

CK. Ok, ok. It was working with the dried beans.

CG. Yeah, it was with the dry ones. Yeah. Oh, yeah, it's a long time ago.

CK. A long time ago. Well, I'm so glad that you're here to, uh, talk to us about it.

CG. (laughing) Well, I am, too! I wish I could remember more.

CK. Well,

CG. Of course, what I'd remember you wouldn't want to put in your story anyway, but it was pretty – it wasn't bad there, you know. Working conditions were pretty good, everybody was happy and . .

.

CK. Yeah, it sounds-

CG. We had enough money to go out once in a week, the Trianon and dance a little bit, we'd find a guy or somethin', or dance ourselves – the girls could dance together (laughing).

CK. Where did you go to dance?

CG. We called it the Trianon, it's up, it was the bowling alley upstairs over Alpena Furniture.

CK. Ok.

CG. It was a big bowling alley up there. Used to have a lot of good music, out of town music up there.

CK. What kind of music was it? I'm tying it into our other topic . . .

CG. It wasn't rock n'roll, I could tell you that, no, 'cause that wasn't . . .

CC. Big band, Mother?

CG. Yeah, big band stuff there, 'cause that wasn't in yet, so. That, and the Owl was big then, the Owl Café. When Mc – uh, whatchacallit had it there.

CK. MacDougall?

CG. The MacDougall's.

CK. Mm hm.

CG. Oh, yeah.

CK. They - you danced there, too?

CG. Oh, yeah. They had a wonderful band in there. Yep.

CK. And tell me one more time – the Tri – what was that place called?

CG. Trianon, they called it the Trianon.

CK. Trianon.

CG. Yeah.

CK. Ok. And, since I have you here, I'm gonna to go off topic a little bit more – but, what did - what other things did you do for entertainment back then?

CG. Whatever else did we do? Well . . . we went to ball games, 'cause we had people that played ball, just like they do now, you go there . . .

CK. Baseball, softball?

CG. Baseball and . . . but people bowled, because they were bowlers, but I never did, I never threw a ball in my life, but a lot of them did bowling, and they

CK. And that was above

CG. They had that big one up there – they didn't have the other one out - 'till later years, so . . . Oh, yeah, they had things to do – they had things to do.

CC. You went out of town some, too, mother, to – you talk about going in an old car and loading it up and going out to Spratt -

CG. That was up to Lachine, yeah.

CC. Or Lachine, yeah.

CG. They had a dance hall in Lachine, in fact the building's still there, but they had uh, country dancing, square dancing and if you knew anybody was goin' in your area, they filled up the car – (laughing) and it wasn't all girls, it was boys and girls! (laughing) We had a good time, we didn't hurt nobody and nobody hurt us, an' . . .

CK. Well, it sounds like a good life.

CG. One time Clarence Smigelski rode all the way up there- was standin' on the running boards – remember when the running boards were out so you could stand on 'em an' hangin' on to -- (laughing)

CC. Mom, did you belong to any organizations then like the Rebekahs or did that come later?

CG. Uuuuh. Not much later. You had to be a certain age, you know. Of course Grandma, my mother, and my aunt and all them belonged to the

CC. The Rebekahs

CG. The Rebekahs, yeah. That was the Oddfellows.

CC. Oddfellows, Rebekahs

CG. The men were the Oddfellows and the women were the Rebekahs.

CC. Yeah.

CK. Did you meet at the same place?

CG. Oh, yeah – still there.

CC. Still there. That building downtown that was just recently sold – was Hometown Realty and now they've sold it. They had no clue what they were going to do, I offered to come up with some history, but . . . In fact, first time I ever entertained was outside of the bar was there.

CG. As a little girl, about what - six, seven, maybe eight. (laughing)

CC. Did you ever do any entertaining, Mom?

CG. Did I?

CC. When you were in school?

CG. I don't think so. Don't remember.

CC. Yes, you did.

CG. I did?

CC. Well, yeah, you said you knew how to play the ukulele a little bit, and you and aunt Marina'd go and entertain.

CG. Well, probably a coupla chords on the ukulele. Yeah. I don't remember now where we went. (laughs) Probably somebody's birthday party or something; because people did have a lot of house parties. It was, you know, always a weekend, somebody'd have a roll back the rug and bring in a couple of cases of beer and whatever, you know? I can't remember – other than - who else would be playin' music about that time? There was always places, some places to go if you had a way to get there, you know.

CK. Mmhuh. And so you started working at the Garment Factory when you were sixteen, prior to that, you went to school?

CG. Oh, yeah.

CK. Where at?

CG. Mainville School, here on French Road.

CK. Maple?

CC. Mainville.

CG. Mainville.

CK. Mainville.

C. It burnt down, but there's a home there now, but yeah. And prior to that, I babysat my nephew, when I was . . . well, I babysat the Desarmeau kids when I was eight. Eight or nine.

CK. You started your working career pretty early.

CG. Oh, yeah, we - my sister and I used to go, we'd take a week at a time, we'd go one week, and the other one, we could walk up there, stay with them. Their mothers were workin' at the Garment Factory. So, I'd sit there a while. They were working out.

CK. Ok.

CG. Their dads was parked out to Rockport, most of 'em were working at Rockport – that's called LaFarge now, too – Stoneport. They were – men – were working over there. So.

CC. Oh, yeah, besides, uh, Huron Portland, there was not only that, but as Mother said, Rockport, but there was also Besser Company in that time frame. Besser employed men.

CG. Oh, yeah, Besser was . . . they were, uh operating.

CC. Within the timeframe of the, of the Garment Factory, when they were employing men, so, so was, besides the Huron Portland or the cement plant, so was at the, uh, Besser Company.

CG. Oh, yeah, there was a couple of other industries in Alpena, too.

CK. Was Abitibi around at that time – or later?

CG. No, Abitibi wasn't there yet. No.

CC. That came later.

CK. Ok.

CG. But there was a foundry there, across from the – in there, across from the Fairgrounds. Some kind of a foundry that they did . . .

CK. By the bean factory.

CG. Oh, yeah, over in that area. Yeah.

CC. Remember that's where the railroad came through, too, to serve Alpena. We – that that, the railroad was quite, uh, you know – we needed one, because of all this activity that was goin' on at all these different plants, that's how they moved what, what, what they were selling.

CK. That would have been the Detroit and Mackinaw?

CC. Yep.

C. Mm hm.

CC. Yup. You know, not so much the cement plant, because they used boats to do – do what their product was, but Besser Company was definitely using the railroad, and all these other – that's why I suspect maybe that's what happened with a lot of these garments.

CK. Garments.

CC. We can only guesstimate that, but-

CG. Well, there was Fletcher Paper, too.

CC. And there was Fletcher Paper.

CG. Fletcher Paper, on the river there. Cause I remember I had one ride on that – one of them big boats, with, with my hefty brother in-law-

CC. Ok.

CG. With Uncle Cash. We got on the ship at the cement plant and he took us all the way around and down across the Second Avenue bridge and – oh, was that a big deal!

CC. I'm sure.

C. Ten – twelve years old, you know?

CK. It'd be a big deal now to do that.

C. You got that right! Right on, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

CK. Yeah.

C. I just thought about Fletcher Paper, yeah, they were there. Yep.

CK. Well, all I can say is thank you. It was a pleasure to hear about those times.

C. I wish I could've remembered more stuff, but . . .

CK. And it just sounds like you've . . .

C. It's a good thing you were here, to kind of (laugh)

CK. Had a good life.

C. . . . to jerk me on there a little bit.

CC. I just learned a lot, too, Cindy. There was things I had never heard about.

CK. All right. Thank you, Clarisse.

C. You're welcome.



CK. Ok, this is a little addendum to the earlier discussion we were having with Clarisse about the Garment Factory, and she's recalling what she wore to work on her feet, and how that affected the work that she did at the sewing machine. So, Clarise, what kind of shoes did you wear when you went to work?

C. Oh, we wore those, uh, three inch spikes. Spike heel, two, three inchers.

CK. And you wore them all day long.

C. All day – I wore them *all* the time. It didn't seem like we had any flat shoes in them days. Everything was high heels. And you just got used to wearing 'em, you know? Course when you're home, you go barefoot, but . . .

CK. When you're out and about, you wore your high heels.

C. Yeah, right.

CK. So, how did they – how did they accommodate those high heels with the . . . well, first of all, describe the pedal.

C. Oh, the pedal was probably . . . I'm thinking probably uh, a foot and a half wide, and maybe . . . probably, maybe two foot wide and about a foot deep, I'd say. In width, cause your whole foot would fit on there. Right up to your heel and everything was on there.

CK. And did you just used one foot, or both feet?

C. Well, most generally one. Most generally one.

CK. Ok, and so what did you do so that he heel, the spike wouldn't go through?

C. We put cardboard on there and eventually you'd go through the cardboard and then you'd have to put another piece on there. I don't know how we come up with cardboard. (laughs) 'To keep it goin'. Yeah, had lots of high heels in my day, I don't have any anymore. I couldn't even walk with them now, so.

CK. And now I'm thinking about imagining you going to work there, the six of you bundled up in the car in the wintertime, 'cause it was cold – did they have, what was the kind of facility did they have for your coats and . . .

C. Oh, I guess they had coat racks for you to hang your coats up. I'm sure they did. Yeah.

CK. Well, that's an interesting aside. Thank you for sharing that.