

Interview with Joseph Markantony
Date and Location Unknown

Subject: Early life in Marquette and Employment at Dow Chemical Plant

START OF INTERVIEW

Bill Condroisky (BC): I'm talking today with Mr. Joseph Markantony about his early life in Marquette and specifically his job at the Dow chemical plant as a gardener. I'm Bill Condroisky.

Joseph Markantony (JM): I started there and it was CCI before Dow came in 1933 – Cleveland Cliff Iron Company then. I started 1933 and worked right up until '36 and then Dow came in. Dow took over the plant and they had controlled interest of it. CCI owned about one-third of it I think it was and Dow owned the rest of it. So Dow went ahead and took out the front – they used to make pig iron there.

(BC): Pig iron?

(JM): That was iron that had very little chemicals and they took the furnaces out and then they made it all a chemical plant – Dow chemical plant.

(BC): Mhm. What did they make there, mainly?

(JM): Charcoal, acetic acids, pitch I guess, I don't know what they used that for. Mostly it was wood charcoal. We'd get all the chemicals from the wood.

(BC): You said your father worked there first. Where did your father come from?

(JM): Italy.

(BC): Whereabouts in Italy did he come from?

(JM): They called it, well it was a town in the northern part of Italy, _____, Italy.

(BC): How do you spell that?

(JM): I don't know how you spell it. [laughs] _____, Italy, and I don't know what year they came over here but there was nine of us in our family.

(BC): Nine children?

(JM): Nine children.

(BC): And just your father came over? Did he come over...?

(JM): My father came over then he sent for my mother later on, I don't know what year they came over, or he came over. Then there was a regular settlement in that furnace location, there was a lot of Italians in there.

(BC): Where did your father, when he came over, why did he come over and where did he first live and work?

(JM): I think they lived on Lake St. there somewhere. They had a little house on Lake St. before they started at the plant and then when they built the houses then he got one of the houses, in the first location, and we've lived there ever since then.

(BC): The first location was the one that I circled and you pointed out to me?

(JM): Yeah, that's right, there was fourteen houses in there, fifteen with a duplex, but there was thirty ____, one on each side.

(BC): You said there were a small group of Italians living there?

(JM): Italians living in that furnace location – the Patilonis, the Cipios, and Martin. [all spelled phonetically]

(BC): You said the DePetros?

(JM): The DePetros, yeah, but they didn't live in a company house they lived out on Presque Isle Avenue.

(BC): Nicer place?

(JM): Yeah, their own house. They built a house there and they lived in there, the DePetros. That's a big family – generations and generations of them now, DePetros.

(BC): Did they come to Marquette for the same reason?

(JM): Yeah, I think they came out together just about.

(BC): When you first got here, you said you were born in...?

(JM): I was born in that furnace location, right in that #4.

(BC): #4 house.

(JM): #4 house.

(BC): As a child that's where you lived up until you worked...?

(JM): Yeah, I lived there all the time except I spent, when the war broke out, World War II, I spent three years in the service. That's the only time I've been out of Marquette. Well we used to visit Detroit, I had an uncle in Detroit. My sister was living in Detroit then, but never lived out of the state at all, anyplace, except for the service in the United States Army.

(BC): Mhm. Did you speak Italian when you were young?

(JM): Very little. My mother – very little English she could talk, you know, my mother. She'd talk in Italian and we'd answer in English. [laughs]

(BC): That's kind of the reverse case with...

(JM): Yeah, but my oldest sister she knew how to talk in Italian good, in fact she made a lot of trips to Italy where my folks were born and that. She's living in California, my oldest sister.

(BC): Was there much Italian culture as far as maybe cooking and any kind of social groups?

(JM): Yeah they had the social groups, and they cook Italian food mostly, all of them did.

(BC): Did they make their own sausages? And wine?

(JM): Yes, made sausages. Yeah, wine, that's right, made wine. All that ___ making spaghetti, all that stuff. Used to can and bottle tomatoes when we got tomatoes in the garden and can them for the sauce, you know.

(BC): How did they go about making the wine?

(JM): They had... We had one, my dad used to make dandelion wine, we used to pick the dandelions, you know. Dandelions and made dandelion wine, and then they used to make choke cherry too, they used to go pick choke cherries in the Morgan Heights area, there was a lot of choke cherries trees in there, and they used to make wine out of that. I don't know too much about the making of wine. I watched them make the wine. I tried some when they passed away and they turned sour on me. [laughs] Must have been something wrong somewhere there.

(BC): My dad was a wine maker, I grew up testing wine as a child, much to mother's _____. Did you travel out to Presque Isle much? What was it like?

(JM): Oh yeah, yeah we used to that a lot. We had bicycles and we'd go there and when they had the boats we used to go fishing. You know they used to rent boats over there, that's all torn down now but they used to rent boats, I think it was fifty cents an hour, you could go out there and catch lake trout.

(BC): Whereabouts would that have been?

(JM): You know where they took down that pavilion?

(BC): Yep.

(JM): Right in that area there was a bunch of, they had a boat house in there, yeah.

(BC): That's right here.

(JM): Yeah, and they had oh, a bunch of boats there. They didn't have no motors, they just had the oars, that's all.

(BC): That's kind of a nice quiet bank there though.

(JM): Yeah, we used to go as far as the rocks at Seagull Rock and then through there, you know. We used to get a lot of big lake trout in through there.

(BC): You catch the lake trout in this area?

(JM): Yeah, uh huh.

(BC): Oh there haven't been any fish in there in quite a while, not that specific area.

(JM): Mhm. We used to around, I think there's gull rock in through there. I think maybe that's... I don't know if that's gull rock. Over this way, hey?

(BC): Gull rock is... It's right in here.

(JM): Yeah, well we used to be right around in there, in fact we used to stop at the rock there and go on the rocks and look at the young seagulls in the nest yet, young ones in there.

(BC): Didn't the mothers drive you away?

(JM): Yeah they would, sure they would drive us away. [laughs] Just come swooping down, you know.

(BC): Reminds me of the Alfred Hitchcock movie the time I went out there, boy, I didn't know if I'd leave alive.

(JM): Uh huh. But anyway I worked 35 years at the Cliffs-Dow, well CCI and Cliffs Dow, until they went out of business. That's where Royal Oak Charcoal came in, they sold it to Royal Oak Charcoal, and I think they kept me for two years. That was 1969 I was laid off there then, see.

(BC): What were your duties there? What were your early duties?

(JM): My duties were maintenance around the main office and all the garden there. Clean up early in the morning, I'd start at 4:30 in the morning to do the janitor work and then by 7:30 the crew started coming and I'd go out and do my garden work. I worked until about 12:30, 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock, get 8 hours in and go home then.

(BC): Just walk down the way home.

(JM): Just walked down the way, it's only a little ways from there, I used to go home for lunch. I'd just cross over the lawn there and it was the second house over and a half hour for lunch and then back to work.

(BC): Can we see the buildings in this picture that you worked in?

(JM): It would be... See this right here, that isn't the, that's a shack or garage or one of them, but the houses are right in here. This is the main office and this was all lawn in here, see, and I'd cut across, there's an alley here that would go as far as Norwood Street then I'd cut across here, and it'd be right in there. That might be one of them, right there. [looking at satellite photos]

(BC): That looks like the corner of a house.

(JM): A corner of a house. Too bad I didn't...

(BC): I just want to get this clear because there's nothing there now, there's just the one building standing and that's the one that we can see in the background here, right? Part of that?

(JM): That's the refinery. The building is... The gate is over here and I think this is a lab, the only building that's standing here, that small... I think somebody is renting it now or something, I don't know, is somebody working out of it or...? Because some of the buildings they're renting, see? This company from Ishpeming rented... oh I think they still own that though. What did they call that? Ishpeming Steel I think it is, out of Ishpeming. They bought it from Royal Oak.

(BC): That was the name of the company?

(JM): Yeah because it came in, ____ or Royal Oak, they run it for two years and they had meetings there and they said, "Oh, don't worry we're going to be a good company," and all of a sudden...

(BC): Down the tubes.

(JM): Down the tubes is right. And from there I went to the, well I had one, I worked one year at the U.S. Forest Service, it was right across from Northern but they're not in there now, somebody else is in there, you know that building on Wright Street just north of Northern? There's Michigan something now in there, isn't there?

(BC): Is it the Michigan State?

(JM): I think it's Michigan State something in there.

(BC): That would be down at the end of Wright Street, where it meets Presque Isle?

(JM): No, you know the road you go to Big Bay there, 550, you just go down the road going west a little bit there's a few, I think there's Larson and some confection there or warehouse or something like that, and then there's some piping, some industrial piping?

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): And then I think the next one over, that used to be run by the federal government, used to be a.... I worked there one year doing the groundwork, you know cutting grass and all that, shrubbery. So after that they said you have to bid on the job each year, you have to bid on it, the lowest bidder would get it, see? So, in the meantime Mr. Reynolds from St. Luke's then, it's Marquette General now, he called me one day and said, "We understand you're a good gardener," he said, "would you like to come and work for us?" Well I said, "Sure, but it all depends on what you're going to offer me." So he says, "Come on,

come on, we'll talk to..." Mr. Kerris [spelled phonetically] was an administrator there then, so I went over there one day and we talked it over and it didn't sound very good. It wasn't going to pay me as much as the work at the Dow, see? I said no, I wouldn't take it. So he said, "Let me talk to Mr. Kerris then and I'll let you know in a couple days." So, a couple days went by and he called me, "Come on, I think we got a better offer." And I took the job. That was 1970 then. So, at that time I was 56 years old I guess then, and I told Mr. Reynolds, "When I get 62 I figure on retiring," I said, "you want to hire me or not?" He said, "Sure, we'll hire you." So when I got 62 I retired from the hospital then, that was 1975 then, I retired from the hospital, but then they kept, each summer they'd keep calling me to come back to put the flower beds in. The guy that took my job, I was breaking him in and he didn't even know it, they just took him off the street and he didn't know nothing about gardening or anything, see? So I taught him as much as I could while I was there. So when it was time for putting the flowers in he didn't know so I worked there for three years after, this was the summertime, putting flower beds in. And about that time my wife wasn't feeling too good so I used to take her to... in fact, in 1975 when I retired, my wife said, "Well let's make an appointment down at Mayo's and we'll both go down for a physical, _____. " I said, "Sure." So she called up, that was in 1974 she called up, and it took us a year to get into Mayo's for that appointment. April of '75 we went down there and I come through good with my physical but they found cancer in hers, so they operated on her two days after, they removed one of her breasts. She come out of it pretty good for six years now, only we used to go down for checkups all the time and for six years we had been doing that and then all of a sudden it popped up again.

(BC): That's tough to ____... I'm sorry to hear that.

(JM): So that's when I told them at the hospital I couldn't be, I said I had to make trips once every five weeks we'd go down there for chemotherapy they were giving her, and I told them I couldn't come back to work at the hospital so, I think that was in '81 or '82 and she died in '83.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): Here's a [wanders away from microphone and cannot be heard], there's my wife, that's my daughter, she stood up for us, the other one was Wally Fassbender.

(BC): He was your best man.

(JM): Yeah, best man. That's Wally Fassbender and that's my wife and that's me, and that's my daughter.

(BC): That's your daughter from a previous marriage?

(JM): Yeah, she was married before, see? I didn't have any children with her. She was married before and they separated. I met her when I got out of the service in 1946 I got out of the service and I met her and two years after we got married; I went with her for two years. There's the two of us.

(BC): Good looking couple.

(JM): So we bought this house in '56 and we moved out in '57 because we had a camp at Sand River here and we saw this house going up and about that time we had to move out of the company house, see? They were telling us to try and find a place, they wouldn't push you out but as soon as you found a place they wanted you to move, see?

(BC): So this is in the late '50s?

(JM): This is in '56 when this house was going up, and I had a camp at Sand River and we stopped here one day and they were working on it and I talked to the guy that owned it, he had some builders build a house for him. Ostenberg [spelled phonetically] was his name, he owned all this property around here then, and he said, "Yeah, it's up for sale. It'll be ready in November." So then we bought it in November, \$13,000 something we paid for this. We bought it in November and then we got a lot and a half and so we moved in '57, in the spring of '57, we moved in here. I had a nice... you know all this shrubbery in here?

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): I moved some out of the first location when I was living there. We call that the "booby hedge" over there, you see that?

(BC): Yeah! [laughs]

(JM): Well I had a friend here visiting us, you know, and we were sitting in the front room here and he said, "Why don't you call that the booby hedge?" he says. So from then on, but now, two years ago now, I added a nipple, see? This summer it'll be two years, I added that on both sides there. I moved all those, even those spruce trees in there, I moved those out from the furnace location.

(BC): [laughs] How large are you going to let those nipples get?

{JM}: I want to get them a little, they're high enough but I want to get them a little rounder, see? Filled in a little bit.

(BC): Filled in [laughs], well the rest of the hedge is filled in nicely.

(JM): It is [laughs], in fact when I was digging, well that hedge grew quite a bit now, it wasn't that big when I moved it, I had a pickup truck and I moved it in three sections, see? And when I was trying to dig them out it was May and there was frost in the ground at the furnace location, I had to use a pick _____. That was a good time, the dirt would all stick, you know, wouldn't lose much dirt, and it was a good time to move them, but there was frost in the ground I had to use a pick to get them out and move them in here.

(BC): It sure looks nice.

(JM): In fact, _____ Mr. Pierson, it used to be Union National now it's First of America Bank, you know, used to be Union National Bank, Mr. Pierce, the president, used to go to Munising every day, they had a bank there I guess, they couldn't figure out how that stuff was in there and I used to move it, and all of a sudden there's shrubbery out there and he wrote a letter to me, he said, "Boy, you did a good job out there," _____ . In fact, I got a letter two years ago from a woman in Munising, she used to go to Marquette quite often, she used to drive by here quite often she'd _____. One day I went to the mailbox and here there was a letter in there, she didn't know my name or nothing she said, "People with the beautiful shrubbery," but she had my mailbox number she must have stopped and look at my mailbox number, she had my mailbox number right 1606, _____, but she didn't know my name, she had a

nice letter. So I answered, I wrote the letter and answered and told her thank you for the compliments on my yard. [laughs]

(BC): It is like an oasis when you're driving down the road there.

(JM): [laughs] Yeah, a lot of them now will stop here and take pictures.

(BC): Sure.

(JM): They come and ask if they can take one. Sure, you can take pictures.

(BC): Thank you. It's flattering.

(JM): These blue spruces in here mixed with the birch tree there, they were just seedlings in our time, my wife ordered them from some company. Took out of a Milwaukee Journal I guess, sent for them, I think they were in Milwaukee someplace. They were just seedlings now look at how big they are. I trimmed them every year, see? When the new growth comes out that's when I trim them all.

(BC): Yeah. I worked at a tree farm for three years when I was in high school, learned all about trimming trees, the do's and the don'ts. In fact, the trees that I started on that were about so high were harvested for Christmas trees this year, it was kind of neat to watch them grow and now they're all gone.

(JM): See this scotch pine, I really notice these scotch pine in here, see? I bought those from Sager Nursery in Escanaba, I used to go down there and get them, they were just seedlings too. That was in 1969 or '70, those trees. I put them there and then I got a bunch way back in there. See I didn't tell you the rest of the story, but when they sold us the house, you know, they, he and ten other built two more houses over here, had the basements dug and everything. When that happened, I don't know what happened, he got short of money or something, he came to my wife and I and said, "You want to buy those four lots? I'll give you first chance at them." So we bought them then for \$200, \$250 or \$240 a piece, a lot.

(BC): Wow, yeah that's a deal.

(JM): Yeah, and we bought those then. So a year after, two years after, he owned all this property too, he says, "I'll give you first chance at this too, I'm going to sell this." He said. So we bought four more lots over there. So I got eight lots altogether now through here.

(BC): That's a lot of property, wow.

(JM): I could always dry wood out of it, I got wood still in the basement, all year if nothing else when my carving is all done, I go out there and cut all the old stuff out there. But those, see how nice they cut those trees?

(BC): Yeah, they're beautiful. Nice, beautiful shaped trees. Look like Christmas trees.

(JM): Well you could use them for Christmas trees, in fact my grandkids, I cut four or five of them every year back there for them, for Christmas trees.

(BC): How did you ever get started in gardening, because you said you started young?

(JM): My dad, he was a big gardener too, you know. So, in fact, when I got that job at Dow there, I rode into Michigan State and they gave short courses on landscaping and all that, see? So I rode in there, my dad was still living there, and I going to go down in Lansing and take a short course on gardening and landscaping, and ____ and then I got ____ job and I never did get down there. But then I knew of a night course, an agricultural ____ in Marquette and I used to get a lot of information from him. I used to study, get the articles on it, study and then I picked it up by myself. I really started from my dad at first. I liked it, I love it, my wife you know, when she was living, she had a hard time getting me in for supper! I'd be out there and she'd tell me, "Come on in to eat now!" I just love it. Then I'd go out and work 'till dark.

(BC): It's nice to have something to keep you busy.

(JM): Yeah, in fact I'll tell you, when went into, when I was drafted in the army, that was in 1943, I took my basic in Camparte, and then we went to, they sent us to a hospital center, I think it was Purie, Illinois. I got in with the 55th general hospital and went to medical school at Fort Sam Houston, graduated from there, and then they sent me to Arkansas to join the 55th general hospital, and we left during February I think of 1944 overseas, and I got into overseas there, our hospital wasn't ready. We landed in Vasco, Scotland and then went into England, and then went to Great Malburne the town, our hospital wasn't ready the English were building our hospital. So we laid around there until it was ready, and then after it was ready Colonel Gill said, "Jeez we got to get this place landscaped." He said. So he went through a list of the people in the army, you know the personnel there, found my name he wanted to know what I did in civilian life, see? So he saw that I did landscaping and gardening and he called me in his office and said, "Would you like to landscape?" I said, "Sure, I'd like to do that better than work in a hospital." I said. So he gave me the job landscaping at our hospital there. And a public relation man wrote an article in The Mining Journal here in Marquette, that I was doing landscaping for the 55th general hospital in England. [laughs]

(BC): I bet the people at Dow were glad to hear that.

(JM): Yeah, sure they were glad to hear that. But then when I was discharged from the army, I went back to the, well I laid around for about a month. They wanted me to work right away and I said, "No, I want to take some time off, see?" So I went back to work at Cliffs Dow then, and I stayed there until they went out of business.

(BC): What were the other Italians doing around that same time?

(JM): They would work in the plant.

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): Yeah, charcoal or the refinery, all that.

(BC): What do you think drew them to that type of job as opposed to a lot of the mining and the other labor?

(JM): Jeez I don't know how they landed in Marquette even, I don't know. I guess one came here and then they told the other ones and they finally all ended up in the same place.

(BC): Your dad came right to Marquette from Italy?

(JM): I think he did, as far as I know he did.

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): Yeah.

(BC): I know there were a group of Italians who worked up in the Soo for a while at first on the railroads up there.

(JM): Yeah, yeah. But I think they came right to Marquette as far as I know.

(BC): And his name was Markantony also?

(JM): Yeah, yeah.

(BC): What was his first name?

(JM): Joseph. I'm the junior.

(BC): You're the junior, the second.

(JM): Yeah, yeah. He was the senior.

(BC): And the DePetros, did they work in the plant also?

(JM): Yeah, they worked in the plant too. All of them worked in the plant, most of them there. Some worked, I guess some worked on the railroad too, the LS&I, you know, the LS&I railroad, the Lake Superior and Ishpeming railroad, some worked there too. But most of them that lived right in this area worked at the plant there, see? Close to get to work, didn't need no car or anything, just walking distance.

(BC): Did you communicate much with other Italian families like maybe in Negaunee or Ishpeming?

(JM): Yeah. We had to. We had some people in Negaunee, some relatives of ours lived in Negaunee. And then in Iron Mountain there was a family, it was in Marquette then they moved to Iron Mountain, and we used to visit them maybe once or twice a year or something.

(BC): Mhm. What were their names?

(JM): His first name was Romeo... Agnes. Romeo Agnes. In fact, he was a janitor at St. Peter's Cathedral at one time.

(BC): What about the other relatives in Ishpeming? What were their names?

(JM): One was I think Pacino, one was Pacino. And the Foscors, there was a Fosco family there. Most of the Italian stores were in Ishpeming that's why we used to go there and buy a lot of the stuff. In fact, they used to deliver to us too, bring a big order, you know?

(BC): They'd bring it to Marquette?

(JM): Bring it to Marquette. Andreachs [spelled phonetically], I think they're still operating in Ishpeming, Andreachs, on Main Street, I think it's the daughter I think, the old folks I think they're dead now, I think it's the daughter's because my brother goes up there once in a while and buys some stuff, Italian stuff.

(BC): Does your brother live here in town?

(JM): Yeah he lives, well he moved here three years ago, he was in Menominee Falls, he worked there. He was in the service, he went in the Navy, and when he got out of the Navy he went to Wisconsin and got a job there; electrical work.

(BC): So he, you grew up with him though in Marquette?

(JM): Yeah, yeah.

(BC): And he left before or after you did?

(JM): He left before me. In fact, in the service he left before me too. I think he enlisted in the Navy, he wasn't drafted. But I had to keep my mother, somebody had to stay home, you know? I waited until they drafted me. I had another brother in the Army, he signed up too because he figured they were going to draft him so he signed up. In fact, I met him overseas when I was in England. See when the invasion started he got wounded, he was with the 79th division infantryman, and he got wounded and they sent him back to England, so the Red Cross got ahold of me because he told them he had a brother in England. The Red Cross got ahold of me and talked to my commander and said that your brother's in Bristol, a hospital in Bristol. I think he, I can't remember what hospital, the 84th general I think he was in, and they said we'll give you a pass and we got a truck going that way, take a ride with the truck he said so they gave me a pass, a 48-hour pass, and I went to visit him in Bristol, England.

(BC): That must have been neat.

(JM): Yeah.

(BC): Did he ever work at Dow Chemical?

(JM): Nope. No my brother, he went to Detroit after he got out of the service. He worked at the pick wall, that's where he worked in Marquette, you remember, where the high school is now, pick wall handle, Munising pick, a handle company or something like that. They used to... you don't remember that hey? Never heard of it?

(BC): No... [laughs] I think I've heard of it but I'm not even sure where it was.

(JM): Yeah, yeah that's where the high school is there used to be a plant there, we used to make a lot of handles, different kind of handles, see? And that's where he was working.

(BC): Before he left.

(JM): Yeah He went in the Army there and he came back and he didn't go back to that job, he went to Detroit and worked for Chrysler. He's still in Detroit, he's retired from Chrysler now. He was two years older than me. Tony, the one that in the Navy, he was the baby of the family.

(BC): What was your mother's maiden name?

(JM): Marie... Oh, ah, DePetro, but she was cousin to these DePetros here.

(BC): She was?

(JM): Yeah, but it was spelled different.

(BC): Oh it was changed on the way over maybe?

(JM): Could have been. It was spelled capital D-I-P-T-R-O but these DePetros spell it D-P-T-R-O isn't it? The ones in Marquette here. My mother had a brother in Detroit, his name was Angelo, and he'd come and visit us once each year. That name was spelled differently than the other DePetros.

(BC): How did your mother spell it?

(JM): D-I-E-P-T-R-O.

(BC): Okay, I think you left out the 'P' the first time. Dieptro.

(JM): Yeah, uh huh.

(BC): Did your mother know, did they know that they were relatives? The same DePetro that was in Marquette?

(JM): Yeah, yeah they used to visit, yeah they used to visit here, you know, every once in a while.

(BC): On the weekends especially, did the Italian families that were living in that area, did you do some things together?

(JM): Yeah, they'd get together. They used to visit and drink wine and, you know, get together, talk about I guess their trip from Italy to over here and hash it all over again I suppose. [laughs]

(BC): Do you remember hearing any interesting stories about trips over?

(JM): No, no, uh uh.

(BC): I know some friends who, the one gentleman has passed away, but he had a couple of neat stories about coming over with, I think they needed \$50 a piece to get into the country, and all he had was \$77 and he tells the story about trying to count in English, trying to count up to \$100 by one dollar, he made sure he had one dollar bills, and he kept getting stuck right around 65 and all he had was 77 dollars, and

so finally the guy just grabbed his money and said, "Go ahead." And him and his wife came to the United States \$23 short. He thought that was a great accomplishment, he thought he had big things lying ahead for him.

(JM): Yeah well I think we started working at, well CCI then, when they started working it was only 50 cents an hour or something, or 25 cents an hour, that's all they were making I guess then in those days.

(BC): Do you remember what you were making?

(JM): At the Dow? Yeah, I started at a dollar something and then I was up to, I think I ended up at 3 dollars or something an hour.

(BC): You started at a dollar something an hour, and what year was that?

(JM): That was in the garden work.

(BC): What year would that have been?

(JM): That was in 1933 when I first started there.

(BC): That's pretty good wages then.

(JM): Yeah that wasn't bad, eh?

(BC): Maybe they paid you for the quality of work that was done. Then it would make sense.

(JM): Well yeah, then you get some vacation the longer you were there you get more vacation, you know. I ended up with three weeks a year or something like that, three or four weeks a year.

(BC): That's not bad at all. They treated their employees well.

(JM): Yeah, and then when Dow came in then they started selling us Dow stock, I still got Dow stock at the Dow chemical company.

(BC): You've had it for all these years?

(JM): Oh, yes.

(BC): That's worse than money.

(JM): I didn't need it, so. It's going up now pretty good. In fact, my wife worked for Michigan Bell, you know. She worked there for 35 years at Michigan Bell.

(BC): Hm, what did she do there?

(JM): She was a chief operator on the night shift, and Michigan Bell was good to their employees. In fact, she bought stock and she left me a lot of stock when she died, you know, the AT&T, now it's... it was split and now it's America Tech and AT&T, I got the two kind of stock now.

(BC): That's worth a lot of money.

(JM): Sure it is.

(BC): At least you know that.

(JM): _____, uh huh.

(BC): Do you know remember anything at all about, I know it's a big issue and a concern now but, that's the chemical waste that's still on the property there. Do you remember hearing anything about that at the time or...?

(JM): Nope. Never talked about it, never mentioned it. In fact, they brought it up the Big Bay road, you know, after you pass the Dead River bridge, I don't know who owned that property, somebody owned it, must have bought it from them and they used to go with a tar truck every morning and dump it in there, and in _____ part, you know before you got to Holly Street. That was a big dump too, in fact, that property was good.

(BC): This area here?

(JM): Yeah, in that area there. Right in through here, yeah, right in through there. That used to be gardens for us, you know, big families then, with the nine of us, they would give us a big piece of property to plant potatoes, anything you wanted to plant there. That was before they were dumping that stuff in there, see?

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): Then they discontinued the gardens then when they started dumping all that refuse in there; tar and everything, all the different stuff. Nobody was saying, in fact they had that, they called it the tar ditch, a ditch used to run in there along Holly Street.

(BC): There still is a ditch in there.

(JM): Yeah, and a lot of that stuff would go in there through the ditch, you know?

(BC): Yeah, right down to the lake.

(JM): Yeah, right down to the lake, and nothing was said about that.

(BC): It probably wasn't a real concern back then, was it?

(JM): No, they weren't concerned about that.

(BC): It's those environmentalists now.

(JM): Now, I think they have to clean it up now, you've heard about that didn't you?

(BC): Yeah, well they're waiting, some of the deposits or the waste will break down, it needed thirty years or something like that, and now they're not even sure if the thirty years was accurate, now they're saying it might possibly have to be all cleaned up. Quite a large expense.

(JM): Mhm. In fact, back in there when they were dumping tar in there, some dogs used to get in there and they'd get right in that tar and I don't know, they'd have to get rid of them, they couldn't... they'd have to shoot them after. They were just full of tar, the dogs. They were stuck right in that tar.

(BC): The tar was a byproduct of what, do you know?

(JM): Of, I think it was from that wood and all that. When they get the chemical out of the wood there was tar coming out of there and that they couldn't use I guess and they had to do something with it, see? That's what I think.

(BC): That makes sense, yeah. The cabins, your houses, I marked this earlier, that's not right, that's on the other side of the railroad track.

(JM): Yeah well, see we're on the west side of the railroad track, this is the railroad track, eh?

(BC): Right.

(JM): Alright, we're in here then.

(BC): Right around here.

(JM): Yeah, right in there on that side of the railroad track.

(BC): Oh, over here?

(JM): Yeah, because this could be Presque Isle Avenue here, isn't it?

(BC): This is it right here.

(JM): Yeah, well we're between Presque Isle Avenue and the railroad tracks right in there, that's where the houses were.

(BC): Are any of those houses still standing?

(JM): Nope, there's nothing, none of them, they're all gone.

(BC): They've been replaced with other homes and businesses?

(JM): No, nothing's there. The only, I think that store... what do they call that store there?

(BC): Blue Link?

(JM): Nope, Blue Link is up this way, farther north.

(BC): Okay the North Spot.

(JM): North Spot, that used to be a big lawn there, I used to cut grass right in there.

(BC): Really?

(JM): Yeah.

(BC): Yeah that's way down, that's right down here on the corner. Oh, no not quite that far.

(JM): Yeah it wouldn't be that far. It would be, let's see, somewhere in there.

(BC): It would be right here.

(JM): Somewhere in there. Right by, is this Wright Street?

(BC): Yup.

(JM): Then that's right, right in there, yeah.

(BC): And the homes were down from that, down closer to Holly Street.

(JM): No no, the homes were this way from Wright Street. Going south from Wright Street.

(BC): Oh, really? Okay.

(JM): All those apartments now, that was of course all property too, that was all woods in there and then they sold it and then they started putting all those big apartments in there.

(BC): Basically all this property here, what you've said so far, this is Lakeview Arena and possibly even this right here was owned by Dow, that whole area there.

(JM): Uh huh, that whole area at one time.

(BC): Any of this here?

(JM): Nope, not anything across, what's that Fair Avenue? Nothing south of Fair Avenue. They used to own where the Pestra [spelled phonetically] even when the... you don't remember the Pestra?

(BC): No.

(JM): Before they built the arena, it's Northern that's got that property now. It's where that, is that the, the hamburger joint there, right in that area there, is where the Pestra used to be. You know where that hamburger...is it uh...

(BC): Wendy's?

(JM): No not Wendy's, next to that gas station there.

(BC): Oh the pizza joint?

(JM): Pizza joint, and then there's the hamburger joint there, what's that, A&W? No, not A&W.

(BC): Hamburger place, I don't...

(JM): Hardee's, is it Hardee's?

(BC): Nope, not... well Hardee's is down quite a bit.

(JM): Well there's pizza there, isn't there? There was a pizza, it's still there.

(BC): Okay, are you talking by like Lakeview Arena?

(JM): No, no, no. On Presque Isle Avenue.

(BC): Okay, by like the Hyper building?

(JM): Where that gas station is...

(BC): Hmm, there's a couple gas stations. There's the northwest corner station on the corner of Wright Street...

(JM): No, not that, that's coming up south more. You know where the drive-in bank is there?

(BC): Yep.

(JM): First National.

(BC): Right.

(JM): Right across the street from there would be the Pestra.

(BC): Okay. That was a restaurant?

(JM): North of Fair Avenue.

(BC): Okay, I know where you're talking about then.

(JM): Yeah, the Pestra was right in there, in that area there.

(BC): What was the Pestra, exactly?

(JM): It was an ice rink there, you know where they used to play hockey and all that?

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): Then they built this Lakeview Arena with artificial lights and all that.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): I can't remember the year though.

(BC): The other rink was open, or was it a domed kind of rink?

(JM): It was domed like that, it was open but they had to make their own ice, it wasn't artificial, they had to flood it, you know.

(BC): They, well they still have to flood Lakeview but they didn't have the...

(JM): They got that zambino, or whatever they call it to flood it with that, but this was regular water, they didn't have no machine like that zambino in there.

(BC): Yeah, Zamboni machine.

(JM): Yeah. [laughs] So that was a pester in there and oh, they used to get nice hockey games in there, we used to go watch the hockey games.

(BC): That'd be right about here.

(JM): Yeah, right across from the bank, where the bank is there.

(BC): Yeah, that is Hardee's right there that you're talking about.

(JM): Yeah there was a Hardee's in there, in fact there was some houses and I think there's one house yet next to the gas station, I don't know what it is there but... the company used to have one house there, too. That's torn down now, I don't know.

(BC): Yeah, there's just one house standing there, it's a beauty salon.

(JM): One house, yeah well right next to that other house there was, Cliff's Dow used to own a house right there. We tried to get that house but we couldn't get it, I don't know, for some reason somebody else had it all that time.

(BC): Well they had a lot of property.

(JM): Oh yes, they had a lot of property through there.

(BC): How much of this, do you know, is contaminated? You know, they have this whole area...

(JM): Yeah, I don't think, not much around this end, this would be it mostly because over at this end they used to dump their... You know the hot pond, we used to get the logs and they used to wash the logs before going to the mill, well they call hot pond there. They used to clean that out once a month and dump it over there but that was no chemicals or nothing, it was just... In fact, a lot of that was good

dirt. I put most of my lawn, I used to haul that dirt from over there but there was a lot of bark in it, you got to rake it out, see?

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): Lots of that, that was good dirt. They dumped that in the south end of the property over there where, I don't think there was no chemicals, it's all in that end there. That's where they want, I think they want to put an apartment in there and their squabbling about who's going to pay for last year, I think. That Waschowski [spelled phonetically] wants to put an apartment in there, I guess, and they were talking about the chemicals and as far as I know there's no chemicals dumped in that end of the property.

(BC): Mhm, and you were there until it closed, right?

(JM): Yes, I was there until 1969.

(BC): I would think the gardener would know where things are being dumped.

(JM): Yeah, sure. The north end where they were dumping all the chemicals up there.

(BC): Would they actually dig holes and bury that, most of it?

(JM): Yeah, well I think... see, they got filled up in the north end there and that's when they started hauling it up on the Big Bay road, up that way, you know, past the Dead River, and they bought property up there I guess and they started dumping over there. But they filled up there and couldn't dump anymore, on the north end.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): Started over and they used to have a, called it a car tank, once every morning I used to go out there and pull it by tractor, see? We'd use rubber-wheeled tractors and dump it over there. I don't know, they didn't worry about that, I don't know why, at that time.

(BC): That's because... they knew what they were doing but they didn't, they had no other real alternative probably.

(JM): Now, if Cliff's Dow was working now, I think they'd have to shut down. They wouldn't be... good thing they went out of business, maybe.

(BC): They couldn't dispose of their waste that cheaply and therefore probably wouldn't be in business.

(JM): That's right, yeah.

(BC): And we're paying for it now.

(JM): In fact, they made a settling pond there right off of where the main office used to be on Wright Street, you know, where you're going through the gate there. They made a settling pond in there. They

were trying to filter a lot of that stuff, you know, before going into the tar ditch, because I think they were starting making complaints then, I think.

(BC): Probably.

(JM): Because people would go swimming out there by the Picnic Rock and they would get some tar, and patches of tar would stick on the, you know, tar would be floating way back in there and that's when they started cracking down a little bit I guess.

(BC): What year would that have been, roughly?

(JM): I think that would have been in, what was it, '50 I guess, something, 1950, somewhere in there, that was before I moved out here.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): Yeah. Must have been in the '40s or '50s, in there somewhere, sure.

(BC): What were your duties actually, what were you responsible for doing as far as...

(JM): My job?

(BC): Yeah, you gave me kind of an overview of it but...

(JM): Yeah, cleaning the office, and after I do all the janitor work I go out and do the garden work.

(BC): Just in like a small area around the office?

(JM): We had a big area there, there was a big lawn around, all in through that, that you know where that Spot is there, that store The Spot? That was all lawn in through there. You know, there's a big row of cedar trees in there now, you know?

(BC): Yeah.

(JM): Well I put those in.

(BC): Really?

(JM): Yeah I put those in there. In fact, the reason I put those in there from the streets and Presque Isle Avenue, the company houses were getting to be a shamble like, you know? And I guess somebody made complaints or something so that's why we put those cedars there to hide the company houses, you know?

(BC): And you planted those yourself?

(JM): I planted those myself.

(BC): Still appreciate them.

(JM): Yeah. [laughs] Well they're really tall now.

(BC): They make a nice wind-blind, too.

(JM): Yeah, sure, it's a nice wind-break in there.

(BC): What's behind those?

(JM): Nothing, just vacant...

(BC): Vacant field?

(JM): Yeah, that's where the old company houses used to be in there, that's just vacant. I think there's a road going through there yet, I don't know, I haven't been through there, but I think there's a road in there yet where you can drive through.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): Now that little office for, I think Agricultural Department had that originally ____ the Waschowski's.

[END OF SIDE A]

[START SIDE B]

(JM): [begins abruptly] ...torn down, I can't remember the year now. That building is there now, that was the main office, the building is there now I think it's the Agricultural Department ____ ____.

(BC): I think it's a Michigan State lumbering something extension building...

(JM): Yeah that's the extension building, that's right, Michigan State... well anyway, that was replaced with, when they tore this down, they had it on bids I guess, one of the workers got a bid on it for like \$100 or something to tear it down and haul it out.

(BC): Okay.

(JM): So, after, well... in the mean time when they tore this down they were renting, you know right across from, it used to be the old Medical Center, right across from Marquette General, what their building now. I tell who's in there now it's Marquette School Area or something like that.

(BC): Marquette Area School District?

(JM): District, is in there now, but that used to be our Medical Center first, before they built the new Medical Center. So when they built the new Medical Center that was vacant then, see? So Cliff's Dow rented that until they put that new office in, out there that building that's there now. So when that new office was put up then they moved back in there, see? But that was, it was getting shaky there, the company was getting shaky and they had to ____ for I don't know how many years, three or four years,

and then they went out of business and then the Royal Oak Charcoal came in then, see? _____. And then they were _____, they were no help getting out of this, _____ Marquette Extension House, you said.

(BC): Yeah.

(JM): _____ Michigan Extension...

(BC): Michigan State something...

(JM): Yeah, that's the name now, I think the Waschowski from Ishpeming owns that I think and they're renting it to them.

(BC): Could be.

(JM): Yeah. But this is an old picture. I know all these guys, just about now. This is me, that's Russel Trip, that's Bob Rucker, Phil Mason, Gene Wilson, Gene Wilson's dead, and he's still living and he's still living, Noah's still living, and I can't think of the name _____, I can't think of the name of... This is our boss, Cooker, Larry Cooker, he's in California now I guess, last I heard. Sloan, he's dead, he moved to Arizona and he died there.

(BC): Short guy.

(JM): Yeah. This is _____ me. Bernie Price, he went to Northern to work then, that's when they went out of business there _____ to Northern. Dean Harricuse [spelled phonetically], he went to work but he's dead now too. _____ he went to work someplace, I don't know. Bill Pruce [spelled phonetically], he moved to Dow then, he went down to Dow, then Bill Pruce, was the boss of the office crew, and he's in Milwaukee in one of these nurse's centers or these old age centers. I write to him every year, see? He was good to me. And this is Lowell Lindquist [spelled phonetically], he goes to California and I think they got a home up here in Sault Ste. Marie for the summertime, so quite a few of these.

(BC): What was this gentleman's name?

(JM): Bill Pruce.

(BC): You said he was good to you, what was his job?

(JM): My boss, he was in charge of the office crew. I was under the office crew too, I was working around the office _____, but I would come under his command, his orders, and all this.

(BC): Mhm.

(JM): He was here first, and when he moved, he wanted to go down to Dow and work, so they moved him to Dow and then he took over, Bill Pruce. He was our boss, though, right 'till the end.

(BC): I'm a little surprised. When would these buildings have been built?

(JM): Oh, 19-, I tell you, when I was cleaning the attic, when we were moving all that stuff out, I had all that junk to move that out and burned a lot of it, but I saved... Our house was built in 1901, so the office was built before that, see? Eighteen hundred something, I don't know.

(BC): Why were these homes built? Were they built for Dow Chemical?

(JM): For the employees.

(BC): But they were built by the Dow Chemical Company?

(JM): No they weren't built by the... some contractor came in there, I think he was... I don't know where he come from but I know went across these reports in the attic up there, I was reading _____. Where he came from I don't know now.

(BC): Who were the buildings built for, I guess that's what I'm wondering?

(JM): Well these houses were built for employees.

(BC): Employees, then.

(JM): Yeah, the ones that were working in the plant. They wanted them close by in case they wanted them right away for something, breakdowns or something like that. Well they were cheap rentals, first, at first it was \$5.50 a month when they first started renting and then it started going, and it went up as far as, the most we paid was \$11.00 a month, right toward the end.

(BC): Wow.

(JM): But there was no basements in those houses and they were cold in the winter time too.

(BC): Were they?

(JM): Yeah. [laughs]

(BC): How were they heated?

(JM): Well, with woodstoves, you know, or coal stoves or something like that. But upstairs were cold, cold because we didn't have a register, you know. Say the stove was in here and you cut a hole in the ceiling there, _____ and let the heat go up there, the upstairs. That's the only way you could get heat up there. [laughs] Didn't have no big furnace like you have now, you know?

(BC): Didn't have electric blankets back then either.

(JM): _____. [speaks over interviewer here, and cannot be understood]

(BC): I don't know what somebody would do without electric blankets...

(JM): Back, you know, when we used to raise – we used to raise about 25 bushel a year – potatoes for our family, see? Where the hell could you put them? Didn't have no basement, so we had a shed

outside, you know, and we'd keep a woodstove in there, going all night. We had little ____ in there, and dump all the potatoes in there, and they'd stay there all winter, but we'd keep that stove going so they wouldn't freeze. Then our preserves, we used to do a lot of canning in those days.

(BC): You'd have to.

(JM): My dad used to make wine in there, he had water, electric lights, in that shack. We used to call it the shack. Electric lights in there, used to make wine in there, and all our preserves would go in there, all that, for the winter.

(BC): The employees would use that or was it just...

(JM): Our family. Each house would have something like that, would have a shed where they could store their stuff in. We had a big family, there was 9, 10, 11 of us our mother and father. So you'd have to get some of that stuff ahead, you know, for the winter.

(BC): Uh huh.

(JM): You couldn't go to the store and buy all that stuff.

(BC): And you guys had a big shed for 9 children.

(JM): We used to buy the apples by the bushel and all this and that, you know. [laughs] Spaghetti, we'd buy our spaghetti in Milwaukee, a macaroni company, we ordered by a letter, you know? Then they'd come through on freights, we'd go to the freight office and pick up 25 cases of spaghetti or something like that, for the whole year or something. We'd buy the green peppers, we were heavy on green peppers, buy a bushel, a bushel at a time of green peppers.

(BC): People think they stock up their shelves these days. Crates of spaghetti...

(JM): Yeah. We'd have spaghetti once every Sunday, I remember that, every Sunday. We'd go to church and come home from church, and my mother would start, the sauce you have to start in the morning, takes almost half a day to make the sauce, you know, for spaghetti. So she started it early in the morning with that sauce and then, every Sunday around noon time, 1 or 2 o'clock, we'd eat and have spaghetti every Sunday. Meatballs and all kinds of meat and so...

(BC): Did your family have a special recipe or do you have one or did your mom have one that she passed on?

(JM): My mom had a recipe but it was in her head, she didn't have it written down. But I got a sister-in-law living in Marquette here, married to my brother but he died. I go for spaghetti there and she got it from my mother and she's got it in her head too, she makes good sauce.

(BC): Lots of green peppers?

(JM): Yeah, green peppers, oh she's good. So I go, I eat there quite often.

(BC): That's one of my favorite meals. I like all Italian food.

(JM): Yeah, they're good for you. But when that job I had, you know, after I worked at the hospital, you're in the wet all the time, you know, gardening, watering, this and that. I wore rubbers early in the morning that I had to do or something like that, then you'd take them off, but anyway, I got pain in my hip here, oh I don't know what year it was. From the late '70s, early '80s, mid '70s. I couldn't sleep at night, I get this pain, you know. So I went to Mayos and I told them to check me over, you know, and they checked me over and he said, "You got arthritis in there." He said, "One of these days you're going to have to put in a new hip." So I went along about once a year and had a checkup there and it was getting worse and worse and the doctor said, "I think it's about time you get a new hip." He said. So I said, "What's that going to cost?" oh around \$7,000 - everything, hospital. So I had Medicare then and all that so, anyway, "We're going to check you over, your heart and everything to see if you can go through that operation." So it was, I think it was '80... '79 I went there for a checkup and '80, that was the last year, September, he said, "I think you have got to go through that operation." So '79, '80, they checked me over good, I was 69 years old then, he said, "So your health is good, this is the time to do it." So I said, "When we go home I'll talk it over, my wife and I will talk it over, and we'll let you know." Well we talked it over here and she said, "Well you might as well have it done." So in November we made an appointment, called in to Mayo and made an appointment, and he said, "November 2nd you'll be down here, 1981, and we'll go through that operation." I went down there and I had that operation and I got a socket in here and a metal pipe in my leg here and I was in the hospital for 14 days, and I had to have crutches, I got home and I couldn't drive, I drove the car up there but my grandson come over and drove the car back, he flew up there and drove the car back. I come home and I was six weeks on crutches.

(BC): Jeez. Bet you didn't like that too much.

(JM): No, I couldn't do nothing. He said I couldn't drive the car or nothing, he said you couldn't do that, weren't supposed to do none of that. So, now I go there every year for a checkup, ever since I had that operation. Now I got an appointment for, well first Dr. Anderson gave me an appointment for May 21st of this year, then two or three weeks ago I got another letter that said Dr. Anderson wouldn't be there at that time, and said we'll give you another appointment for June 4th now, I got to be down there June 4th for a checkup.

(BC): Down at Mayo?

(JM): Yeah Mayo Clinic. I've been going there every year for that.

(BC): Has it given you any trouble at all?

(JM): Nope, it's good.

(BC): Successful.

(JM): And boy, I'm not even supposed to climb ladders but I've been climbing and everything. Don't jump, he said not to jump, but they check it over and take an x-ray or whatever and they... I go through a complete physical when I'm down there, my heart and everything. But everything's ____, x-ray's been good he said. But, you know, I do a lot of walking here first thing in the morning, from here to the highway and back and forth, and I walk about maybe 10 or 15 minutes and it starts getting tired, you know? I have to stop and once I stop a little, I stop for maybe 5 minutes and it's good again then.

(BC): That's amazing, to replace something like that.

(JM): Yeah, I'll show you a picture of this, wait a minute. If I flow now, I got a metal in here and I got a card and I got to show them, see?

[tape cuts out briefly and back in]

(JM): See now, this is my dog but I had to put him away last year. He was diabetic, I had to give him insulin shots every morning, 60 ccs.

(BC): Oh my gosh, that's a lot of care.

(JM): Yeah, and he was my friend, I really missed him after, so. It went two years like that and finally he started getting away and stuff, I brought him to the vets up here, my brother and I brought him up there. And they got him in, we couldn't hardly get him in the office, and he flopped down and we had to drag him into the room. The doctor over there, Dr. Swanson said, "I don't think he'll last a couple days it's up to you, we can take tests on him but it's going to cost you a lot of money. If I were you I'd have him put away." So I put him away and I _____, but he was a good dog, nice, committed, loyal. He was part St. Bernard and part malamute.

(BC): He was a big dog.

(JM): He was a big dog, we couldn't hardly lift him, you know, I bet he weight over 120 lbs.

(BC): Easily.

(JM): Yeah, yeah. Put him in a wheelbarrow and got him into my station wagon and got him out of there. That was in August, last August, when he passed away, or put him away. Good watchdog, if you drive up, pull up here and he's somewhere he'd start barking. He wasn't a mean dog, he wouldn't bite you or nothing, but he'd let you know somebody's around, see? Spots, his name was Spots.

(BC): Spots? [laughs]

(JM): Yeah, that's how I called him, he had those black spots on his nose there. [laughs] _____ in the winter time there. I used to have a motor home too, but I sold it last year, last August I sold that because I wasn't using it anymore; a Winnebago, nice one too.

(BC): That is a beautiful yard.

(JM): Yeah. I was stopping for motorcycles and snowmobilers and that, that's why I put those over there.

(BC): That's a good idea.

(JM): _____ squawk box, the time of _____. Highway department, I checked with the highway department, said, "No, you can protect your property." So they _____ snowmobilers, they got the State Police over here and everything. I said you can talk to Mr. Maki, Crystal Falls, he's the head of the highway department, I got permission to do that. So, they never bothered me anymore since.

(BC): That's good, at least you put something up that they can see.

(JM): They can see, yeah. ____ and that's that flowering crab over there, ____ last year. Maybe this year it will be better that it's flowering.

(BC): Yeah, that's beautiful; a lot of flowers there. Different years different flowers?

(JM): Yeah, these are called Marigolds in here, and then these are pinks along in there. But these come up every year these pinks, the Marigolds I got to put in each year. And there's ____ in there.

(BC): What is this dwarf tree, there?

(JM): That's a, you know what that is? That's a Jack Pine.

(BC): Oh my gosh, you're kidding.

(JM): That was found when I first moved out here, and I just kept trimming it, and one day, well when they fixed this road here, they ____ it a little bit, they were going to take that down, see I used to put Christmas tree lights on there every year, and I come home with the Christmas tree lights, now what in the hell year was that, I can't remember. They were questioning how long and they were going to take that tree down, and I said, "No I got permission ____." Well we didn't hear nothing, I said, "Okay, let's go see," These guys are so ignorant at the Highway Department, so he said, "No, we haven't touched that tree." You know, the Highway Department said, "We paid thousands and thousands for the shrubbery along the woods, you know, make those beautified, and we see people like this and we encourage them to do that." Sure.

(BC): Yeah, that's one thing nice about your yard, something for people in the summertime to enjoy, because this isn't the prettiest section of road along here. This particular spot is really good.

(JM): Yeah. Oh yeah, I get a lot of compliments, holy boy. But, see this wire, I put that stuff up for wintertime, you know? I said, I'm waiting, I said... this was all raked and everything before the last snowstorm we got, see? I said, I'm going to wait, I think we're still going to get some yet, so. Now, after now I guess when all this melts I think I'll take them down now, sometime. I think sometime this month I will.

(BC): I don't know, I still...

(JM): Well, we'll probably get snow alright. When I was working at Marquette General that was in 1973 I think it was, I was cutting grass, that was in May then, cutting grass one day there and the next day I was shoveling snow. [laughs] ____ the next day. We'll get some more yet but I don't know how much but this was a surprise though.

(BC): It was quite a storm! Not just the snow but the storm.

(JM): Yeah, see we had an easy winter so, I don't know, something happened, cropped up, eh?

(BC): Surprise, yeah.

(JM): And those nurses that used to take care of my wife there, you know, when I was in the hospital, they sent me a box of candy and everything, you know, cards and everything. They were good. Now, remember this last, this ____ they had, just recently this spring? Or this, toward the end of the winter in February, I took pictures, I was watching them when they come by here and I took some pictures, you know, those trucks when they were loading the ____, I was waiting for them every morning around 8:00 o'clock, between 8:00 and 9:00 o'clock they'd go by here, so I took some pictures. Anyway, I didn't get up there I thought, I had a lot of write-ups in the paper, in the Milwaukee paper, I cut those out and then sent them to the nurses over there in the Mayo Clinic, you know, to see if they were interested in these. I got a letter back, they said they really appreciate that, they said. So now, also I got some pictures, I have to think what I did with them. Somebody took some pictures, what did I do with those.

[tape cuts out for a moment and begins again]

(JM): You'll see them. Did you see any of those pictures?

(BC): No, no. Well I saw some of the ones they had on TV.

(JM): On TV, yeah, okay.

(BC): This is of Algonquin National Park.

(JM): That's right.

(BC): This is ____.

(JM): That's where they're dropping them now, see?

(BC): They don't _____ and everything.

(JM): So, I got a letter from the girls at the nurse's home there and they said, "Keep us posted on that." So I got those pictures now that I'm going to bring them when I get down there.

(BC): Mayo Clinic, that's in... Minnesota?

(JM): Rochester, Minnesota. That's the biggest ____ Clinic in the United States I guess I would say. I think they got one in _____ or California or somewhere....

(BC): Someone did a nice job of taking these pictures.

(JM): Yeah, I think Smith took those pictures, Richard Smith.

(BC): Oh the DNR, he covers the U.P. and Michigan and takes pictures?

(JM): Yeah covers Michigan and takes pictures I guess. And Buck LeVasseur too I guess. I watch that on Monday night, you know, that Discovery? I watch that too quite a bit. Those are nice pictures aren't they?

(BC): Yeah, shows the ____.

(JM): I sent them clippings from The Mining Journal and the Milwaukee paper down there, but they're not as clear as that, _____ the Milwaukee Sentinel, one time they had. Do you know anything about the Christmas cactuses?

(BC): No, I don't.

(JM): You know, this bloomed Christmas time and look at it now, I'll show you, it's starting to bloom again!

(BC): Oh my gosh, yeah.

(JM): Look up on top, here. That one's nice, you ought to see it at Christmas time, ooh, pretty!

(BC): I've seen those before, they're beautiful.

(JM): Yeah. A lot of ____ stars down the basement. I got some tomato plants that are this high already.

(BC): Mhm, oh, you got a jump on them.

(JM): Everybody says, "Oh you're starting them too early." They said. Last year I started way earlier but then...

[recording cuts out abruptly]

END OF INTERVIEW