

## Alf Nelson

Interviewed by: (not given) undated (1990's?)  
Transcribed by: Jennie Hakes 11/20/2002  
Cassette tape label: *Alf Nelson*

### Side 1

I'm going over and talk to Alf Nelson this afternoon and try to get some information on Jevne<sup>1</sup> Township and the unorganized township just south of Jevne.

*(The quality of this cassette tape is poor, especially so towards the end. It is hard to hear Mr. Nelson's responses to the interviewer. The interviewer is not identified (I am sure someone at the ACHS knows his voice), so in this document, I only identify the him as "I." for "Interviewer." Also, the date and place of the interview are not given. – Jennie Hakes)*

A: (unintelligible) and later I look at it and I don't know what I said! Or why I said it. (Laughs) Here's what I got from (someone's name, I can't make it out). There's quite a bit of information and it's really interesting reading through it. It's more the people in her family and the people that lived in the area. We were up there (unintelligible) and for a while they were down on 62 closer to 210, I guess, and they later moved up by Rat (?) Lake.

(Another person is talking, sounds like an older man, but I can't make out what he is saying.)

I: Her brother?

A: I think it's her brother. Maybe not, maybe.

I: She named a lot of people in there that I'd never heard of before, that'd be interesting to hear about it.

A: (intelligible)

I: Yeah, she did. Yeah, it was really kind of interesting. I just read through it a little bit ago, and you know, even though I didn't know a lot of the people, it was fun reading about it, you know, and hearing about the things. Are you aware of any historical sites around the area that people might be interested in seeing or knowing about?

A: Davis Township?

I: Well, I'm particularly interested in Jevne, and then south of... the unorganized where you are here now.

A: Well, I really don't know of any. All the historical sites are gone.

I: Yeah. Were you born in this area?

A: Yup.

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<sup>1</sup> Pronounced "Jev' – nee"

I: You've lived here all your life, then?

A: Off and on, yeah.

I: Yeah. Ok. Do you know of any old logging campsites? I heard once that on the south bay of Rock Lake, on that little south end where all the rice<sup>2</sup> is, that there was a lumber camp there at one time. Do you recall that?

A: I don't remember much about that.

I: You know, I haven't found anybody that remembers it. And I don't recall... I think Dave Millard told me years ago that he was aware that had been a lumber camp there.

A: There was one up by – oh, East Lake. (Unintelligible) used to go through there. And he had a sawmill and logging up there. The St. Croix Sawmill they called it, I guess.

I: Yeah.

A: That's all gone. The wreckers got all that.

### ***How Lansford got its name***

I: Yeah. Yeah. They've pretty well taken over that area. There was a little town; it was called Une<sup>3</sup> Station, and Lansford (?) Post Office. I think Duane's dad was a postmaster there.

A: Yes, he was. He had a store there, too.

I: Oh, he had a store there, too.

A: That's the (unintelligible) from Une to Lansford, I guess.

I: And I haven't been able to find out where the name Lansford came from.

A: Oh, this (unintelligible) Williams (unintelligible). That's who he bought the land from, you know. Sold it to him (unintelligible). And they came from Lansford, North Dakota<sup>4</sup>.

I: Oh, I see.

A: They settled back there.

I: Oh, so it was Lansford, North Dakota. It wasn't a family name, then. It was the town that they came from.

A: (unintelligible – sounds sort of like “Fishlip”) was their name.

I: Ok. Yeah, wasn't she a sister to Mrs. Greer?

A: Yeah.

I: Ok. Yeah. Well, all right. And they came from Lansford, North Dakota.

A: Yeah.

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<sup>2</sup> Wild rice

<sup>3</sup> Spelled phonetically. Pronounced “U’ – Nee.”

<sup>4</sup> This town still exists. It is about 40 miles north of Minot, ND and had a population of a little over 225 in 2001.

I: Ok, that did it. I hadn't found anybody that knew where the name Lansford came from!

A: And I know there's a town Lansford out there. I've heard of that. In North Dakota.

I: Oh yeah. Because there's that school up on Rock Lake Road was named the Lansford School, and the cemetery is the Lansford Cemetery, and it was the Lansford Post Office that was down, you know, where the little town of Une was.

### ***How Une got its name***

A: Une, yeah.

I: And I understand that Une – there was a man named Une<sup>5</sup> that was a trapper that had a log cabin on the north end of Portage Lake someplace back in there?

A: It was right along the road coming in by that (unintelligible – sounds like “Peavey”) Lake there.

I: Coming in on the Portage Lake Road?

A: Yeah.

I: Oh, where that home is in there now? In that area?

A: No. A little farther down. It's where the lake... pretty close to the road there. You can see it down on the creek (unintelligible) a little knoll there. He was a trapper.

I: Yeah.

A: But according to Dwight, he disappeared and never showed up again.

I: Well, that's what I heard, too, yeah. He went out trapping, checkin' his line one day, and disappeared, never came back.

A: I wonder if he just kept goin'?

I: Yeah.

A: Down to the lake or somethin'.

I: Yeah. Anything could happen, I guess. I don't know. Do you know about when that was?

A: I know the shack was still there when they built this road in the WPA<sup>6</sup> days.

I: Back in the '30s sometime.

A: But then somebody tore it down.

I: Somebody said that there was some – I don't' remember the name now – that they had used it for firewood.

A: Yeah.

I: Burned it up.

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<sup>5</sup> Une is a common Swedish name.

<sup>6</sup> “Works Progress Administration” (1936 – 1943) was a federal program instituted as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's “New Deal” to keep people working during the Great Depression.

A: (Chuckles)

I: Well these (unintelligible – it's a family name – sounds like "Dicelands") now, they... when were they around here. Do you know about when?

A: Well, it was before my time, I think. Well, the girls were here – Clara and...

I: You know, the cemetery deed, I think, well they had deeded the cemetery, I think it was dated back in 1934 or 1936. That must have been when the cemetery started then.

A: There was a cemetery before that.

I: Ok. Well, maybe they just needed the land at that time, and they had ownership of the land prior to that, probably.

A: I suppose (unintelligible) probably owned that. But I don't know how many acres it is. I think the (family name – sounds like "Blass") is about 10 acres.

I: Yeah, I read that someplace, too. Maybe we'll talk to Blass, too, and maybe she's the one that said it was about 10 acres.

A: It don't really look that much, but then...

### ***How the township got its name***

I: No, it doesn't, but this other one that hasn't been cleared, you know, it goes back in there aways. Over where we live, on the north side of Rock Lake, down the lake aways there's a depression in the ground and somebody told us at one time that Ole Jevne had lived there – had a cabin in there. Do you recall any...? Did you know Ole Jevne?

A: Yeah. We used to... He had a church sitting over there.

I: Right south of 210, on the Rock Lake Road.

A: Yeah. Across the (unintelligible).

I: Yeah. Methodist Church.

A: Ole lived up by (unintelligible).

I: Yeah, on the property that Bud now has, I think.

A: Bud bought it, yeah.

I: He had a log cabin up there. Do you know who that was that may have lived over on the north side of Rock Lake there? There's... you can see a depression where there was a cellar or a little path on the ground.

A: (unintelligible)

I: Yeah. Ok. Somebody said that, one of the Jevne's, they thought there was an Ole O. and an Ole T. I guess Ole T. was the son? And Ole O. was the father? Does that sound right?

A: Yeah, they could be.

I: That's what Dorothy Kingstrom told me.

A: She would know! But I remember Ole (unintelligible).

I: And that's who the township was named after, apparently.

A: I imagine Jevne's.

I: Yeah. They say there's a young couple now that just moved back in someplace in Jevne Township. Their name is Jevne. I wonder if they are any descendents or relatives? Or if it's just a coincidence? I haven't met 'em. I'm not even sure where they live, but I heard the name.

A: Oh, I hadn't heard that.

I: Yeah. It's a young couple that moved in someplace around there.

A: It could have been.

I: Maybe they're some...

A: ...shirt-tail relation.

I: Yeah. I guess Greer's had a store, too. I think you mentioned it. Right on the corner of their property on Rock Lake Road at one time?

A: Yeah. That was Milton.

I: Milton? Yeah. And then they sold it to some people named Pauly?

A: I don't remember that.

I: I guess they weren't in it very long.

A: No, no. Then they kinda started a little muskrat farm there, too.

I: Where the Greer's place is?

A: Where the store was.

I: Oh. Ok.

A: (unintelligible) and put up a pen. Tried to raise 'em. I don't know how it turned out. They'll try anything! (Chuckles)

### ***Wire-grass business***

I: Yeah. Do you remember that wire-grass company that was over across of 210 where Gene Berg lived back in there? It was on the south side of the tracks, I guess.

A: Yeah. Across the tracks (unintelligible).

I: Do you remember about when that was in operation?

A: Well, I had two brothers work there. One was (unintelligible) he must have been about 20 years old anyhow when he worked there.

I: Late '20s, early '30s? Along in there then, that's when it was in operation?

A: Yeah. Mrs. Greer cooks there.

I: Oh.

A: Dwight's (?) brother.

I: The people lived right there, then, that worked there?

A: Stayed in camp. They had a great big horse barn. Everything was horses to start with. And then they finally bought some old Ford tractors. They were so wet out there. Finally went out of business.

I: I think it was (spelled phonetically – sounds like Blatch) that said at one time there was like 200 people working there?

A: I don't know how many, but it wasn't that many.

I: It seems like an awful lot for the area.

A: Then to start, the Mexicans come up there. Then they could have had quite a few working. In (unintelligible) I know my brothers worked there. There was just (unintelligible) – a dozen or so?

I: Uh huh. Do you remember when that was closed down about?

A: No. I really don't. It just sort of faded out of the picture.

I: Yeah. It just kind of dwindled away.

A: Yeah. They had a... the railroad had a siding there, where they loaded the hay on and hauled it away someplace to make rugs in the Cities,<sup>7</sup> I guess. Made rugs out of it. Then that one camp up by (unintelligible)...

I: Same company, eh?

A: Yeah.

I: They got the wire-grass out of the Kimberly marsh there, and used that to make rugs and mats.

A: I guess it was big business once upon a time.

### ***Township roads***

I: Yeah, it must have been, the way it sounds, they had a pretty big business goin' there. I suppose back in those days, too, though, all of these township roads weren't in existence than. I guess the Rock Lake road – it went all the way around here at 62, in there probably. And 62 went on up and that went over to 65 and then on up to Rat (?) Lake. Those have been there for some time.

A: This one here from our driveway to the next driveway, there was no road to the highway. Just a trail – a buggy trail.

I: Up to 210 from here?

A: Yeah.

I: When did they put a road in?

A: WPA put it in.

I: Back in the '30s again. Yeah.

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<sup>7</sup> Minneapolis/St. Paul MN

A: You could get through with a horse and buggy.

I: And Williamson's lived at Lansford - Williamson, too? And they lived, well, there's a little lake right...

A: Mud Lake, they called it.

I: It was Mud Lake? Ok.

A: He sold it to somebody, and I wonder who it was.

I: Yeah. He just sold here about a year or so ago, I bet.

A: He had an auction sale here.

### **Schools**

I: Then there was the Lansford School was just up the Rock Lake road - on the east side of Rock Lake road - up there about a half a mile or so.

A: Right in there, yeah.

I: There's a big open field in there. I remember, when we first started coming up here to (unintelligible) there was a big pole with a martin<sup>8</sup> house on it, and I think that may have been about where the school was. Right in there?

A: Could have been.

I: An open field just off the road, maybe two, three hundred yards?

A: It could have been that. It was probably in there someplace.

I: Yeah. And that's by Jerry Brown's farm. You can still see footings.

A: Yeah, there was a school up there.

I: That was the Adams School, I believe. And that... I don't know if that burned or what happened...

A: I don't know if they quit using it, I guess, maybe.

I: There was a school over on 62, I guess, too, wasn't there? Or the Bass Lake road. Seems like there was a lot of schools. Every mile or so there was a school!

A: (Chuckles) Then there was one up there by (unintelligible) up there in that area.

I: Oh, there was?

A: I think they called it Morgan's School.

I: Morgan School. That was up on the - what we call the Reedy (? - Rainy?) Road now.

A: I was in Jevne Township.

I: There must have been about 5 or 6 schools right in Jevne then.

A: Yeah (laughing). Must have been!

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<sup>8</sup> A kind of bird

I: A lot of smart people, if you ask me, with all the schools they had! They had a lot of 'em. It's interesting, though, when you think about it.

Axtel (spelled phonetically). I guess that was just a loading spur, wasn't it? Up there on the Sioux Line?

A: Timber, I guess.

I: For paper?

A: Timber. Logs, I guess.

I: That's all. There wasn't any stores or anything there, was there?

A: I don't think so. I don't know why they...

I: That's where the Jevne Town Hall is now. Yeah. And that's where the loading...

A: Yeah, they had that spur there, a siding or something.

I: I've heard the name Axtel a lot. Oh, there's another interesting story. I think it was in that book that Cliff Greer wrote about, the (unintelligible) west?

A: I remember that.

I: Yeah. It was interesting. And he told about, over on Davis Lake – they called it Steamboat Lake – one side of the bridge, I guess, is Davis Lake, and the other side is Steamboat Lake?

A: Yeah,

I: Apparently, at one time, the steamboats could come down that far, and then they would blow their whistle, and the train at Une would blow their whistle, and they'd exchange goods some way.

A: I know the steamboats used to come here to Sandy Lake, I guess.

I: Yeah.

A: Did they come up Sandy River?

I: Apparently they come, get into the lake and then come into the river clear down to that bridge, where the bridge is over there.

A: I remember that, or I heard about it.

I: Do you remember any kind of a trail between there and Une? The town, little village where the Une store and post office was? How, what route they would take to go between the two? Do you remember any such trail?

A: Between Une and...

I: And Steamboat Lake. Davis Lake, over there.

A: Nope.

I: I don't know if they crossed (unintelligible) or they went around the east side of it. It'd be pretty wet in there.

A: I don't remember anything about that. (unintelligible) said there was an old military trail called Military Trail. And that's supposed to take 'em down this way back... there's parts you could see... it was quite a few years ago. It's all grown in now. But (unintelligible) come through and went into... well, it come out in the Meyer (?) pasture. It kept goin' up by... it finally ended up in McGregor, I guess.

I: Followed a ridge, the high ground.

A: It would have to cross a pretty big swamp out here.

I: I've heard, too, that over there, on the south side of Rock Lake, and going west there's a kind of a ridge that goes through there. And that was supposed to have been an Indian trail at one time, where Indians moved through there. Do you recall hearing anything about that?

A: Oh, yeah. They came all the way through that chain of lakes I guess. Turner's Lake, and then it became the Portage – they named it Portage. And then to the Rice River, and to the Mississippi.

I: Oh, yeah. But they crossed then from the east, over by McGregor, and come over to Turner Lake and then down and through...

A: Sandy Lake, I suppose, Sandy... come all the way down in canoes, I imagine. I remember one time, Dwight and I we'd go up there - there's an Indian landing, Dwight called it. And I think somebody lives there. On the north end. He had his tractor and scoop...

I: On the north end of Turner, you mean?

A: The north end of Portage.

I: Oh, Portage, Ok.

A: He thought he'd find some bones or artifacts in there. (Laughs)

I: He couldn't find anything. Well, we keep these quiet, I guess, so people won't go in there and dig.

A: And then there was a kind of a – well, Hoppe (?) owns that now – between the railroad track and Portage. At one time it looked like there'd been a foundation. It looked like there was a door on one side. He dug in there with his scoop.

I: Couldn't find anything. That isn't where that Une guy had lived?

A: No. Une died on the other side of the railroad track.

I: Oh, this was south of the railroad, then? There's a little pine grove in there?

A: Yeah. Back in that field.

I: Oh, yeah. Well, it sure must have been interesting times, though. And there weren't many people in the area, I guess. Although Dorothy Mattson's quite a few people in there, but that's maybe 10 or 12 families, and that was about it in the area, I guess, at that time.

A: There wasn't too many, I don't think. There used to be a few that did live here for a little while and then they disappear. I know that back here somebody had an old shack. I don't know what they done for a livin'. Name was Charles. Last name was Charles.

I: Oh.

A: The shack (unintelligible) he took off and moved to another place, and disappeared. No forwarding address, like they do. (Chuckles) Course he didn't no mail, probably. I think he was an old convict.

I: Yeah, you never know. Or maybe some of these people just lived off the land. Get whatever they could and build a little log shack.

A: And fish.

I: Pick berries and raise a couple of potatoes, maybe.

A: Survive till they died.

I: Did you ever hear a story about a locomotive jumpin' the track on the north side of...

A: Cross the lake. Yeah. That's what they claim.

I: Do you suppose it could still be down there? I'll be darned. Do you know about when that was?

A: No, it was before my day, I guess. Well, it might not have been before my day, but I don't remember much. I know they worked on the railroad there quite awhile ago there. This curve around the spot where it was, but now I think they're working over there now to straighten out... (unintelligible)

I: I think I'm going to call Burlington Northern – see if they've got a historical society, see if they have a record of that...

A: Yeah, it wouldn't hurt.

I: ... to know for sure, you know, that's really happened or if it's a story that somebody came up with or...

A: You know Gordie Manchester – you know him, don't ya?

I: Yeah.

A: He worked with the Burlington Northern. He used to tell stories about that.

I: Oh, it that... I just saw him this morning, too! I wish I would have thought, I would have asked him.

A: I think he knows something about that, if there's anything to it.

I: Yeah, it could be. How old is Gordie, about?

A: In his 70s.

I: 70s? Well, it's interesting, though. Is there anything else you can think of in the area that... maybe down in this area, on the north side of the refuge, or in that area, that would be of particular interest for a book like that?

A: What was the guy that lived way up there along the river? Came in from (unintelligible). He made a trip through the river in his old Model T Ford when it was a dry year. He tried to farm over there. He had 80 acres up there. But he didn't stay long (unintelligible) with farming.

I: Oh, yeah.

A: He was a brother, he was Helen's brother. He's a brother to Helen.

I: Oh. Oh, yeah.

A: We used to hack over there on Sunday afternoon and visit him. He lived all by himself. Had a house (unintelligible) used to sit and watch the deer. Suppose he had medicine in his freezer, too!

I: I suppose, yeah. Yeah, I remember Elmer, when he still had that place over up around Rock Lake road, I don't know – between Rock and Round Lake, in there. And then Burt Peterson had it, it was his stepson, I believe. Now I think Hamilton and Winfield Minge's (?) daughter – married Ed Hamilton and they live there now.

Do you know when Walt and Minge (?) about when they came here?

A: I should remember. It was during the Depression.

I: Back in the '30s, probably?

A: Bought an axe and a saw and began cuttin' timbers. He lived up there your way.

I: Winfield is still there, yeah. And Walt was up at the sawmill there.

A: But Bob's got it now.

I: Bob's got it now, yeah. I think Walt was his grandfather.

A: Yeah, must have been.

I: There's several boys – Winfield, and Richard, and (unintelligible) I think was one, and David and quite a few boys there, I guess.

A: Winchester. I forget there was one by Tamarack that died. She was married to Steve Bergen (?).

I: Yeah. That was Burt. He wasn't a brother of Winfield, though, was he? Wasn't he a nephew?

A: Yeah, he was a brother to Stewart.

I: Oh, Ok. And Jerry is the son of Richard, right?

A: Jerry and Brad.

I: Yeah. They came here about in the '30s probably.

A: I think so, yeah. It was pretty tough times. They made it cuttin' a little timber.

I: Must have worked hard.

A: Oh, yeah. They really did.

I: And there was come people by the name of Warner, I think it was, that lived across from where Winfield is now? Her name was Belle?

A: Belle and Walt.

I: Belle and Walt.

A: They're buried up there in the cemetery.

I: Oh, are they?

A: That's what Blanche (?) said. I don't remember goin' to their funeral, but they must be in there someplace. And then her father was Power (?) – he was a Civil War veteran. He's buried in the cemetery.

I: I'll have to go up there and go see there before the snow comes and get down those names and dates. You know, it would be interesting to get names and dates down, just going through there.

A: And then there's some – according to Dwight – I never knew that before – years ago, the railroad track (unintelligible) we never went across the river. So I had Dwight (unintelligible) this side. We put a fence around that lake out there, you know. Some guy was comin' through the country and the kids got sick or something and died. And they're supposed to have been buried along the fence on the south corner... no, south side, the west corner.

I: South side kinda out by the hill there.

A: Yeah, right at the corner of the cemetery. But there's no markers or anything. But Dwight said there's some that's buried along the fence. I think it's either 2 or 3 kids that died and they just buried them.

I: They don't even have the names or anything.

A: I don't think so.

I: Well, I am sure a lot of that happened back in those days. You know, people movin' around, lookin' for work or a place to live, and you'd get sick.

A: Otherwise, I think most of 'em got a marker by 'em or something.

I: Yeah, there's a lot of 'em that do. I'm gonna have to go up there and spend some time and get some of those dates and names to try to pin some of the times down. It's hard to... there's so much of that old history that when the elderly people are gone, that's lost!

A: It's gone, yeah!

I: Like I said, I wish I had taped or wrote down a lot of the stuff that Dwight...

A: Yeah – he knew a lot!

I: He had some interesting stories! I'm sure Edward probably did, too.

A: Yeah. They've been there a long time.

I: I think they came here in the early 1900s, didn't they?

A: They were here about the time that Dad came.

I: They came about the same time.

A: 1905, I guess.

I: 1905. Where did your dad come from?

A: Well, first from Sweden. And then he worked in Chicago, cement work, making sidewalks. But then, before he moved up here he worked in the coal mines in Niley (that's what it sounds like, but I don't think that's it). He met a guy down there that owned land up here. He bought it without even lookin' at it.

I: Is that right.

A: Him and his brother bought 80 acres. They came up here, they didn't know where it was. (Laughs) I don't know – they mighta got ahold of a surveyor, I guess, and ended up out here.

I: And this is the home place here?

A: Yeah. My brother had, er, my uncle, he had an old (unintelligible) over the lake there.

I: Oh, yeah.

A: I don't know if it was 40 acres with the lake, I don't know.

I: There was some hardy people back in those days.

A: Must have been! I stop and think – cut logs with an old cross-cut saw, skid the logs out in the wintertime, haul the timbers to the swamp.

I: Yeah, they had to be hardy, healthy strong people.

A: I suppose they didn't have no money to go back on, so they had to stay!

I: Yeah. And they'd scratch out some logs and build a shack of some sort and raise their family. That had to be tough goin'.

A: It wasn't fun, I don't think.

I: No, but they come here and enjoyed and now they look back on it and they remember the good times. And like Dorothy said here, her last sentence in the deal that she wrote here, I thought it was kinda interesting. She says, "I am reminded of the good times when our family was all together." And she says, "The bad times don't count anymore."

A: Oh, that's right.

I: Forget about the bad things and remember the good ones. Which is good, you know, that they do.

A: I bet they got together more them days, too.

I: Well, yeah. They didn't have the transportation now, you know, to jump in the car and drive a couple hundred miles, and don't think anything of it!

A: And they sit and watch TV! Yeah, they don't get together like they used to.

I: I remember when I was a kid, you know, we came from Anoka. And all the kids ended up at our house a lot. And every night, there'd be a bunch of kids runnin' around,

playin' games or doin' something. Nobody had any money to go anyplace or do anything. You know, and we'd figure out something to do. And entertain ourselves some way. And it doesn't work that way anymore.

A: Meet 'em on the road.

I: Yeah. Pass by. You know, Dorothy was tellin' in here, too, how they'd have parties at different homes. She named the different people, and they'd shove back the furniture in the living room, and throw some cornmeal on the floor and they had a little band, you know – somebody played the guitar or maybe the accordion or the piano, and...

A: I suppose Dwight told you about the Bart (? sounds like 'bart – tar-sus') that lived up in (sounds like "Trigger")?

I: I don't remember it.

A: He had hoedowns and that. We walked up there one winter, they had I suppose it was a Saturday night- he had quite a few there, you know. Jumpin' around there. (unintelligible) it must have worked.

I: Yeah.

A: They lived over there on (unintelligible), the north end of Turner's.

I: Oh, yeah.

A: I figured the road to Winfield may go back in there now.

I: Yeah, there is.

A: There never used to be a road there. She could run across by boat.

I: It really goes all the way through to the Reedy (not sure of spelling, but that's what it sounds like) Road.

A: Yeah.

I: Then there's a road that goes off of that down to the north end of Turner's.

A: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I did go up there with Dwight one time, he shot a deer, and he wanted us to go there and help him pack it out. (unintelligible) we'd go in part ways (unintelligible).

I: And then it got real wet and after awhile the west end of it towards the Reedy Road – you'd have to walk through mud up to your hips to get through there. But now it's kind of dried up. They're using it now. Somebody was in there and cut some pulp out of there, and now there's somebody livin' back there, I guess.

A: Yeah, oh yes. And then there's that Townline Lake, that ain't (unintelligible)?

I: Part of it is, yeah, I think the Jevne line goes right through Townline Lake, I believe. (sound of map being unfolded) There's a map here...

A: Yeah. The line goes right through the middle of Townline. There's a name of Johnson that lived there, named it Townline Lake Johnson, they called it.

I: Oh. On the south side of the lake there?

A: Well, they come (unintelligible) from Bud Reedy's (?) at some place. (unintelligible) a sinkhole over there.

I: That road used to go all the way through to the Townline Lake Road, then go north to Townline, I know. And now, it's not... you can't go through there anymore.

A: I think they come in from the Long Lake Conservation Camp<sup>9</sup>.

I: Yeah, they do now, yeah. Yeah, that road washed out, the Townline, it isn't used anymore at all, I don't think. I don't think it's passable.

A: There was a farmer on Townline Lake Johnson – well, he was related to Williamson's.

I: Oh. Well, I remember several years ago, there was a big barn and a house there on the south side of it, and they eventually burned it down.

A: Yeah. They started a tree farm there, I guess.

I: Oh, did they?

A: Yeah, Curt Johnson – I don't know if you ever...

I: Yeah, I know Curt.

A: That's where he lived.

I: Oh! Oh, ok.

A: That's his old place.

I: Now it was his folks that had that. Ok. Yeah. I'll be darned. Well, that's interesting.

A: But he's been there quite awhile. Bud Reedy, he's still there, I guess.

I: Yeah. I talked to Bud not too long ago.

A: He should remember a few things.

I: Yeah. I'm going to have to get over and talk to him some more, and pick his brain a little bit.

A: Yeah (laughs).

I: Get some of that...

A: He'd have a lot of that stored up.

I: Yeah, well sometimes when you get talkin', one thing will remind you of another, and you get a lot of information that way. Now Sandy Dominge (?), Stuart's wife, was over talking to Blanche, and she went over and talked to Harold Wicklund (?) and I guess Bud and Curt Johnson both happened to stop in there while she was there.

A: Oh, yeah.

I: She got a little bit of information from them.

A: 'Course, Harold Wicklund, it was later years when they moved here.

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<sup>9</sup> The Long Lake Conservation Center is south of the town of Palisade, just off County Road 5.

I: Oh, is it?

A: He told us where they come from. Out west someplace. Got (unintelligible) and then they come to where they live now.

I: Oh, yeah. Well, can you think of anything else that might be of interest here?

A: Well, we had a moonshiner across the lake, Portage Lake.

I: The west side of Portage?

A: Yeah.

I: Is that right?

A: Yeah. I don't know if that makes history!

I: He had a pretty good business, did he?

A: (Laughs) He made enough money to have a Model T Ford.

I: Really? He must have done pretty well, then.

A: I don't know what happened to him. Drank some of his own booze and died, maybe.

I: Probably. (Laughs) Maybe he started (unintelligible) too much.

### ***More on the Lansford Cemetery***

A: Otherwise, I don't know. Have you got a map of the cemetery?

I: I don't have it with me.

A: No, but you do have one. Can you read it pretty good?

I: Pretty good, I think.

A: We had some (unintelligible). If you look real close, you can tell all the names on there. Can you (unintelligible).

I: I think we can get most of 'em at least. I haven't looked at it for quite awhile. But as I remember it, we could read most of the names there, yeah.

A: (unintelligible) I don't know where you got that... Read the little one first... something to blow it up and make it bigger.

I: Yeah. Yeah. Well, the township has the cemetery now, you know. They... I guess that...

A: (unintelligible) I don't know if you ever met her.

I: No, I don't believe so.

A: I don't think they were ever (unintelligible).

(faint voice of a woman, can't make it out)

A: Jack. (unintelligible) when you come by (unintelligible). I just study 'em out, and I only got half an eye. (Laughs) I can look real close. (unintelligible)

I: Let me look. I'm not sure if I have the same one, maybe. Might be.

A: I think (unintelligible) Peterson or something.

I: Oh, yeah. (Long pause) Well, we better do some checking on the ownership now that we've found a deed where Nysland, is it?

A: Nistland, we call him. (not sure of spelling)

I: Nistland. Ok. Where they had the deed to it back in, I think it was, 1934 or 1936, but then I think there was some legislation passed a few years ago, where all of these cemeteries were to be taken over by the townships. So there were a lot of 'em, you know, different places, that weren't being cared for... maintained, you know, and they were afraid they'd just be lost sometime. So they had the townships take 'em over, and that's when the township acquired Lansford Cemetery.

A: Yeah. That's right back when Dwight died.

I: Yeah, I think it was.

A: Because he, ah... through the Nistland's, that'd be his cousins. I think he kinda took charge of it when they went out west. He'd do all the (unintelligible) He couldn't stick it out.

I: Yeah.

A: The graves.

(lady's voice, I think she is bringing refreshments)

I: Sounds good. Thank you. I don't want to impose on you here.

A: Course now, when Dwight died, he got a boy by the name of Tom...

I: Yeah, I know Tom.

A: And he brought all his papers and stuff over here and wanted to talk to Kate (?) about it. Said he was in the dark, he was gone most of the time and all that. So we went up to the town board meeting for Jevne. I think Wayne Heglund and Burton was there, and (unintelligible). So Wayne and Burton I think remembered Pearson. They was in the courthouse when they found out that really it belonged to the county. So they (unintelligible) I suppose all the material was in there, probably, I don't know.

I: Well, I think we got 'em back now. Bob Lewis, I think, has them right now. All the old records. There was an old ledger where I used to keep... yeah, and then I think you or Tom had it for awhile, and then it was turned over to the township. We've still got it, the township has still got it now.

A: I read part of it when Tom had it here. Showed what they died from. Natural death or if they didn't know.

I: Yeah, if they didn't know what it was, they'd call it natural death, I guess. Consumption!

A: (Laughs) TB.

I: Yeah. Everything was consumption back then.

A: Now there's one lot up there used to belong to – well, I suppose the lot still belongs – Sheeks (spelled phonetically). They used to live down the road here. Sheeks. Her mother died in the flu, 1918<sup>10</sup> and they buried here there. Then when the rest of 'em died, they all got buried in McGregor. Somebody said, I think Dwight told me, that they moved her grave to McGregor. (unintelligible) It's kind of a high stone. I think the marker's still there.

I: I'm gonna have to get up there and look and make some notes up there. Those things should be kept in order, you know.

A: Like a lot like that – I don't know if it goes back to the cemetery if nobody uses it, or?

I: Yeah, it goes back to the township. The owners of it have to... the way it is now, I think, after 10 years, if there isn't any known relative living, after 10 years it reverts to the township. Because there's no point in having it in someone's name forever, if they're not around. That's the plan, I guess, is it goes back to the township.

A: Well, it should, you know. 'Course up there they got a lot of room in the brush there.

I: Yeah, it could be brushed out and have a lot more room. Yeah, that could go for a long time, but...

A: They moved her to McGregor. Because I think there's one relative living yet. In Cloquet someplace.

I: Oh. Did you know the Mettner's (spelled the way it sounds)? Mettner was their name? They had a little cabin on the north side of Rock Lake. On a kind of a point there. It was metal-covered. They were from over Duluth, Cloquet way. And that had been passed down through several generations, I guess. And that was just sold here a couple of years ago now. Out of the family now, and some other people have it. They apparently had been coming up there for years.

A: Where was that, down on Rock Lake?

I: Yeah.

A: No, I don't know too many up in that area.

I: There were several places on the south side of Rock Lake. Well, Dave Millard (?), you know him – I think they came there in about the '30s. A lot of 'em came up in this area during that time, I suppose.

A: Whereabouts you live on Rock Lake?

I: On the north side.

A: Oh. Go straight ahead there when you come by the Wheatfield and then down...

I: Yeah. Go around the west end of the lake and then back and then the access road that comes in? And then I'm at the end of that road.

A: Yeah, we used to drive down that way when Dick Rice, (or Price?) wasn't it?

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<sup>10</sup> The world suffered a great influenza pandemic in 1918 – 19. It killed over 25 million people in one year. The United States lost of over 800,000 people, which was 28% of the population at that time.

I: Yeah.

A: Bud Gray lived down there, on that road.

I: Bud Gray, yeah. (Long pause) Yeah, it's... times change, though, and people leave and others come in, and all the history is lost. It's kind of a shame.

A: Like Une, it was quite a booming town, you know.

I: They loaded logs there, was that the purpose of it?

A: Well, I suppose they had a sawmill there, and a shingle mill, and last mill.

I: And a little store, too?

A: ... and little store and a Post Office and a depot. The depot wasn't much, it was just a place to come in and warm up, you know, and wait for the train.

I: I remember Dwight saying that his dad was Postmaster there for a couple of years, he ran the Post Office.

A: Lambert's run that for awhile.

I: Is that the same Lambert that lives... where am I? Farther down...

A: Yeah. (unintelligible) the nursing home.

I: Oh, they are?

A: Robert and (unintelligible).

I: Yeah. It was their relatives, the Lambert's that had that?

A: It was his granddad.

I: His granddad.

A; (unintelligible)

I: Yeah, somebody said there was a blacksmith's shop there, too.

A: Yeah, that may be. Ask (unintelligible) about this. She used to tell us that (unintelligible) metal detector. Come through with a (unintelligible) and he was over to (unintelligible) they had a ...

I: Yeah.

A: ...so they got talkin' about it. Asked (unintelligible – someone's name) if he knew place where there was an old building. Because they wanted to snoop around a little bit. (unintelligible) \$400 worth of silver coins?

I: Oh, really?

A: Yes.

I: At Une?

A: Yeah. I don't know who had that much money and buried it out in the woods. Lots of trash at the depot. There coulda been, you know.

I: Yeah, yeah.

A: (unintelligible –someone’s name) and I and some (unintelligible – another name)

I: Over at Bass Lake?

A: This one lived on Forty’s (?). This was a brother to him. He come from the city, I think. He had a metal detector, he went up there right there (unintelligible). He found an old gun barrel and some lead and some other junk that wasn’t worth anything.

I: Yeah.

A: Kind of fun.

I: Yeah, it would be. Well, you can... well, I haven’t been back there for several years, but I know when I was back there a few, several years ago, you could see depressions in the ground where the buildings were. Cellars and that. I suppose you can still see that.

A: Some guy got a shack down there.

I: Now?

A: Yeah. He bought 80... not 80. 1 acre.

I: Really.

A: He stopped in here one day and visited. Him and his kid. (unintelligible) on stilts, that place, so he could sit and watch for deer in deer season.

I: He doesn’t live there, then.

A: Huh?

I: He doesn’t live there?

A: No. He’d stay over the weekend (unintelligible). But he used to park his car there by the railroad tracks, but I haven’t seen him lately. But he used to go over to Dwight’s. He used to tell him all the history around here. And where he went to, I don’t know.

(break in tape)

A: ...went up there with some dynamite. Put it in the middle of the highway. Blew a great big hole in the road. And old Paul (?), he got mad, and he come over to the place and he said, “The Greer (?) boys tried to blow me up last night!” (Laughs) (unintelligible) And then pretty soon – they went to court, I guess. They called Dwight in, or whoever – one of the boys – and old (pronounced like “Reely”), Doug’s dad, he was with him. They had him in for a witness. And they said, “What did you see when you come down the road this morning?”

“Oh,” he said, “It looked like an old tomcat had dig a hole in the road.” (Laughs) It must have been funny! So they didn’t (unintelligible).

He was an ornery old critter. He used to live down here. Always in trouble with somebody! (Laughs)

I: Bailey’s, now, they lived on the west side of Rock Lake up north of Turner, in there.

A: Yeah.

I: Did they farm in there?

A: Bailey?

I: Um hm.

A: Well, like everybody else, they had a few cows, I guess.

I: Yeah.

A: And Gorsick's up there, too.

I: On the same road?

A: Yup.

I: There was two places. One on the hill and then one farther back in there. Bailey's was the one farther back in?

A: Yeah.

I: And Gorsick's was the one right on the hill there.

A: Yeah. There was a guy that lived there later, in later years. He used to sharpen lawnmowers. Reese? Reese, or somethin' like that. He lived in there. But I think some dingaling lives in there now there probably. He chased the deer (unintelligible) and shoot at 'em.

*(end of Side 1)*

*(End of tape)*