Mary Anderson: ...about 2 hours or more. And my Dad said after he got... I couldn't understand every word because, you know, it seemed like the words were close together. But he went on and he never took a pause or a drink of water. He was a smart "Anishinabe." And my dad said if he was educated in our schools, he would have made a brilliant lawyer, whoever he was and uh, after that of course we had a feast. They had, they had duck, they cooked wild rice that they put blueberries in there. Dried blueberries. And that was good. So, I don't know how long we stayed up there. We stayed up there a few days and came back home. That was a nice trip.

Interviewer: Do any other traveling? Like up to Nett Lake, or...

M: No, we never went up to Nett Lake. Never went up to Nett Lake.

I: How about to Fond du Lac? Any connections to the Fond du Lac Indians?
M: Fond du Lac? I knew some of the kids who went to school at Tower. Mostly from Cloquet. They were from Cloquet. We had a, we had a teacher at Tower. I don't know what grade he taught, if it was the 5th or the 6th grade. But he had one young fellow in there that was, was uh, would mouth off to him. And he, one day he did it too much and our teacher - he was Irish - McMullan was his name. Mr. McMullan. He could just take so much and then he'd have his... put his Irish temper up. He grabbed that guy one day. He had him on the floor. Boy! He gave it to that guy. And uh, he never did that again, that fellow! And Mr. McMullan got after me one day. I was fooling around with, I couldn't get my fractions. He says "Mary, get up on the board there. Do your fractions." or something. And he told me "You get up there, I'll (stregler dumb ya)." I says uh, "Mr. McMullan" I says, "I'm sorry, I can't do it." "Okay, I'm gonna keep you after school." Kept me after school... and he drilled me and drilled me. I got my fractions after that. I didn't want him to beat me up. (Laughs) Ya! He was a good teacher, though.

I: Are there any legends you would like to have recorded?

M: What?

I: Any legends? Or, like the future generations should know about?

M: Well, I don't know.

I: 'Cause the main reason why I'm doing this is 'cause I'd like my daughter to know.

M: Uh huh. How many children do you have?
I: I have one.

M: Just one, huh?

I: She's five.

M: You're not related to Cholette, are you?

I: No.

M: Not Jack Boujee?

I: No.

M: Uh huh. Let's see...

I: Yeah. My grandpa went out to that school. You know Albert Strong?

M: Oh yeah, Albert. I know Albert. He's still living!

I: Yeah.

M: Albert's a nice fellow. We went up to see them uh, two, I think two years ago. Norma and I went up there. And Ruthie was out baking rice. She had a, she had a handkerchief, you know that stuff made her itchy. She says "Oh, I'm so dirty, Mary." she says "I feel itchy." Then she grabbed me and... But Albert uh, Albert couldn't talk to me.
Said he couldn't hear. So he says "Write down what you want." So that's the way we conversed, you know. I'd write down and he'd tell me. Ask a question and I'd answer it that way on the paper. Yeah. Nice couple, Ruthie and Albert. Well, it's nice for the younger generation to know about, you know, what went on in the early days. And it was hard, you know. It was hard to make a living, you know.

I: Yeah, they can't really believe... Kids now can't believe that school was even there now. It was so big.

M: That's right. It was a beautiful school. They had a laundry. And, uh, one year I saw Halley's Comet while I was there! We were up in that dorm and they said "I think the end of the world is coming." You know how kids would... we were... we each had our own bed and we were looking out that window and we saw. Then I saw it again this last time. So I've seen it twice now. And, uh, what else did we have there...

I: How about the animals? Horses?

M: The what?

I: Did you have horses?

M: Oh, yes, we had horses at the school. They had, they had kind of a ... they would go and meet anyone that came on the train, and we'd go to town via horse. You know, sled. They had four horses hitched together and uh, in the summer we'd go to town and shop. We'd have a dollar or two and we thought we were rich. I bought an umbrella one year. I was coming home. School was out - and I went up to, there was a lady that had a store by the name of Mrs. Murphy - in Tower. And she sold me an umbrella. I had two dollars
and I brought the umbrella and it was started to rain and then the wind came and my umbrella went inside out! That was funny! Yeah. And we'd stay uptown all day. We'd go to that Ice Cream place - Martilla's. And that Martha was a good friend of mine. That Martha. She's retired now. I think she taught school and I knew her. I tried to call her one day. She must be in her 80's and I think she lives upstairs of the store. But I know the lady that has, that bought that drugstore. She's from Ely. Yeah. She comes up to a meeting here for the business women and I, I see her once in awhile.

_Tape is silent for the rest of Side 1._

**Side 2**

_Volume is too soft to understand for the first 4 minutes..._

_M_: ...we should've gone to school all day. We felt like we were cheated, in a way. I didn't think so at the time. I enjoyed it the way it was. But now, after I grew up, I thought to myself. "Why didn't we go to school all day?" You know. But then, you learned how to sew and to bake and do laundry work and different things.

_I_: What'd the guys do - boys do?

_M_: What is that?

_I_: What did the boys do?

_M_: The boys were the same. You know they had...
I: Helped with gardens?

M: Yeah, they had various things. They worked... we had a, the school had their own farm. Toward Everett Point - quite a ways over. But they had nice farming. They raised all the vegetables for all winter. You know, we had enough carrots or rutabagas and potatoes. They fed good. And they had a, they used to have a wood fire in the kitchen and they cooked the meat in ... a thing called a caldron. And the fire was underneath that and it was just like uh, it was made of heavy material like... what do you call it. They make fry pans out of that now. A real thick...

I: Cast iron?

M: And that, uh, that meat was so good. I think they had steer beef or something. That beef... The beef today doesn't like it did when I went to school. So that was good. And we had to march into the dining room, you know, where we had a... the boys came in on their side and the girls on this side. And there was about 10 at each table. And we had to say "grace" before we ate and uh, and then after we ate then we'd go to our classes you know. To wherever we were assigned to. In the morning we went to school. And we had a Superintendent by the name of Dr. Benson. He was our superintendent and our doctor. And on Sundays we'd have, uh, either a minister would come on Sunday, one Sunday, and then some Sundays a priest would come. And the Sundays that we didn't have a preacher...

I: Where would the preacher come from? Tower?
M: Well, yeah they were from... um, Father (Boo?) was the priest and that's an old, old priest. He was the one baptized us. And, uh, the prie... I don't know where the minister came from, probably Tower from either the Presbyterian Church or, or the Methodist. I don't know. Or the Lutheran. I don't know what. And I didn't know his name. But that's the way they... and then we had two. So then when Dr. Benson would lead the singing, we sang all those hymns, Protestant hymns so when - I go to the Catholic Church; when we got to the Catholic Church they were singing all those Protestant hymns. I thought "Well, I know all those, cause I learned them at the Indian School." And uh, let's see. What else would you want?

I: How long did you go to the school?

M: Uh, it only went to the sixth grade.

I: Oh.

M: Yeah. And then for the seventh grade, I came to Ely. But I felt like I was way behind the times because it was hard for me here. It was easy for me in Tower at the school, but when I came to the Public School here, it was so much more advanced. I thought it was a little hard. And so, um, the eighth... when I was gonna be in the eighth grade I went to Pipestone - the southern part of the state; and then went to the 8th grade. So I graduated from there. Then I came back to school in Ely for one year, the high school. Then I quit. I didn't have the clothes, you know. You know the ways the kids were dressing then, I just had 2 dresses. We were poor as church mice. So, that's...

I: And did Frank... did he go to the school?
M: What?

I: Did Frank go to the school?

M: Frank ah... Frank and Andrew, my dad - my dad favored boys, I think. (Laughs) And he, he sent the boys here to Ely. And my sister went to Ely. She went to the Tower School for a little while, but she started in Ely. And we never had any trouble like... now, some of them say they're ostracized. But we never were. We never ran into any of that in Ely. There was only one fellow called me "Indian, Indian, Indian." But, now, as a girl - I went uptown to get groceries and I was carrying them home 'cause we didn't have a car. And the road down to where I lived at Lakeside in Ely, there was a guy raking. He was working for the city. And then, when I went by, he says "Indian, Indian, Indian." All I did was stick out my tongue at him. And you know, his brother married my sister! Rolando. Yeah. I thought that was kind of a coincidence, you know. So, and you can ask me questions. I might forget whether...

I: Yeah. What about your parents? Anything about them?

M: My mother was, my mother was uh, born in Tower. And...

I: What was her name?

M: Her name was Dow mash goy sey. They only had one name so it was hard to keep track of a family 'cause they didn't have surnames. You know, one might be Gimak we Dow mash goy sey. That was uh, she had 3 names, but one... I can't remember what the other one was. And my aunt's name was Ses saga lo ik. But they called her Mo nab i
shish and she used to say "He neek touk a bara dis." (Laughs) She was a widow and, uh, my dad was French and Irish. And his mother came over from Ireland when she was a young girl. That must have hard for them to leave their parents over there. I don't know why she left. 'Course, they were, they were abused over there. Their taxes were high and if you had one egg in your chicken coop, those guys that were collecting taxes would take that one egg for taxes. So she came over and then she met my grandfather on the boat. He was going to Detroit, Michigan. No, she was going to Detroit and he was going to Canada right across the way. I don't know what the name of the little town.... He had relatives in Canada. And they kept dating, and they finally got married and they lived in Michigan. So that was kind of interesting story 'cause they met on the boat.

I: That was your, your mother?

M: No that was my dad's mother. So, my dad was French and Irish. So I'm a little kinda "Heinz's mixture." Yeah.

I: Did you do all the ricing and gathering, like, sugar bush and all that stuff? Maple? Mapleing?

M: I, uh, we used to go and see my aunt when she was making maple sugar. Over near Aurora they had good maple trees there. But after awhile they were not allowed to do that any more.

I: About how old were you when you went to watch?

M: When? Oh, when I had... I was married then. 'Cause John, my son John, oh - he's uh, my daughter Norma is retired, and my son John is retired. But John had a retire because
he had... He worked, he was assistant Postmaster here in Ely. But he couldn't stand the stress, you know, in the Post... And he had kind of a strict boss. And, but he was good to John, but just the same John had a bad heart attack and he had... I don't know how many years ago - quite a few years ago now he's had that. So he's doing good, though, 'cause his wife cook the right stuff, you know. No fat. No salt. And vegetables and mostly chicken and fish. So, and, now if you said anything else you want to know?

I: Well, um, What else did you do during... you went to school the whole school year, or did you go year around at the school?

M: Oh no. We started school in September and we were allowed to come home for Christmas on the train. It only cost us about - it was either 25 cents to come from Tower or 50 cents. And then it was, and then Easter too. And then school wasn't out until around the 20th of June. So we had a long school... you know, it was a long year. But I liked it down there. We used to have dances and...

I: And how old were you about when you went to school?

M: Oh my. That's one thing we had to ask my dad. I don't know what he was keeping me home for. I didn't start school 'til I was 9 years old, so they put me right in the first grade and I always felt like I was always so... I was bigger than the other kids, you know. I always felt that way. So, it was all right, though. I, I learned fast. I could learn fast. I had to so I catch up! You know. So then, uh...

I: So, what'd you do during the summer?
M: In the summer we'd pick berries. We'd go out... my dad us out on a lot of... 'cause he was a guide, and he took us on a lot of canoe trips. His work was seasonal, and he took us on canoe trips. I'm glad he took us. I used to hate them.

I: About where would you go?

M: Oh, we went to Basswood Lake, Crooked Lake, all those - saw all those Indian paintings, and Low Lake, Slim Lake, Vermilion, and - oh, we went to a lot of places and uh, the first time we went to Basswood we saw, we saw these fishermen. And they was the Chosa's. They had long hair down to their - way down to here. And they had braids, and I never saw men with braids before. I just marveled at them. We passed them in the canoe and my dad stopped and talked to them. There was the 3 brothers. Leo, Leo and Henry... I can't remember the other one's name. There was 3 of them, anyway. They were fishermen. They were commercial fishermen. And they would sell their fish to a company in Duluth. So they did well up there. They lived year around on Basswood.

I: How would you get up there?

M: By canoe. We had... my dad had a seventeen foot canoe. It was heavy. Was a man killer to... so there was four of us in the middle of the canoe and my mother kept us busy. I don't know what these leaves are called, but there's a lot of them around in the woods. Great big leaves about this big. So she'd pick a bunch of those and then we'd put 'em in our mouth and make different designs. Keep us busy. Otherwise we'd fight! Yeah. So. It was uh...

I: After picking berries you went ricing?
M: Oh, then we'd pick berries and we'd get a bushel. My mother, and we'd go home and my mother would can them. She never used sugar because she saved her sugar for, for the coffee and tea. She just canned them real. She just boiled them and put them in the jars hot. And they kept fine. And we'd put a little sugar on them when we ate 'em. And then she used to bake bannock out in the woods. She made four that big! And we'd grab that first bannock and she'd say "Don't eat it all up, because" she says "I'm not through yet!" And then, so we'd always have... She, she'd cook some berries and then we'd have bacon, you know, and my dad always bought a slab of bacon. We'd eat a lot of bacon. I must be full of cholesterol or something. So anyway, I'm glad he took us on those trips. Why I didn't like the canoe trips is on a rainy day we'd have to sit in the tent, and with four kids and my mother trying to cook in the rain... and then we'd... and then sometimes we got caught on a portage with... it was raining hard. Then our, we had cheap shoes, you know. Probably paper. And my feet would get so wet, and you could hear the water squishing so... I used to just hate rainy days. So then my dad would say "Well, Mary" he'd say to my mother "We've got to take the kids on a canoe trip." I used just hate, just hate that! But I'm glad he took us. I can't go now! Yeah. He meant well. It's the only way he could entertain us.

I: So what did, uh...

M: So my mother would can those berries, and then in about 10 days he'd say, "Well, let's go pick some more berries, Mary. We need another bushel. So we go and pick. It was good picking. Berries were so thick. We went over on Bass Lake which is near our resort. And uh, and uh, so she canned about 3 bushel. And then she used to buy cranberries from some Indians that lived on White Iron.
I: Do you know who they were?

M: Oh, yeah. Their name was Mr. & Mrs. Sam. They were nice people. Oh, they were a lovely couple. Mr. & Mrs. Sam, the old... the old... Then there's some young Sams now, I know, but those are the younger generation, probably. These would be their grandparents or great-grandparents. But the old couple, they were such a nice couple. They didn't drink or anything. They were lovely. And they made me a little rabbit blanket one time. You know, a little crib size. And I used to, they used to tease me about my rabbit blanket. I was always wrapped up in my little rabbit blanket. And, I wish I'd a kept... I don't know whatever happened to it. And, uh, so then uh, then they'd go ricing. After the blueberries, you know, they'd go ricing.

I: Where would they do that?

M: Well, they would do that on, um, we have some lakes called Little Rice, Big Rice and Laponna. Up on the Echo Trail, you go up.

I: Yeah, I've been to Laponna.

M: Yeah, Laponna. And then there's Vermilion River. We never went up there, but...

I: That'd be a ways to go.

M: Yeah, that's uh... And so we, uh... My sister was born on Laponna. Mrs. Rolando, you know, my sister. But she told me "Don't ever tell anybody I was born in the woods."
What's the difference? You can't help where you're born! She's uh... "Don't tell anybody... so I've never said anything.

I: So, where's the rest born?

M: Andrew was born in Tower, on the Reservation. 'Cause my mother had a sister there.

I: Who?

M: Mo... that uh, Sese galw wik. And then she thought, well, she could help her, but when the time... She was gonna help my mother. When the time came, and she saw, she says "Shaaaa! I can't do that!" My, my mother had to cut the cord herself.

I: Wow!

M: Yeah, that was... You know they went through, and you know they, they were just lucky they didn't have any infection or anything like that. And Frank, he, where was Frankie born? I can't remember where Frank was born. I was older then, too, when he was born. I was about ten or eleven, I think. Now I can't remember where Frank was born. I'll probably... I can't remember. See...

I: Did you know, go around... You said you went up to White Iron? Did you go travel around?

M: Oh, yeah. We spent... No, we spent two winters up on uh... we spent two winters up on uh, a place called Bald Eagle Lake. Bald Eagle. That's east of Ely. Toward the Kiwishawa. And the other... Bald Eagle, and there was another lake there. And there was
a colony of Indians there, and that's where Mr. & Mrs. Sam were. And I can't remember who the others were.

I: How old were you then?

M: Oh, well I was the only one in the family. My sister wasn't born yet. See, I had a little brother that died after me, so I was six years older than my sister Ellen. So, she wasn't up there with us. And my half brother George Marsh was, was with us. My mother was married before. She had five children, but they all died except this George. He was a half brother and he was a real nice fellow. He lived on the Reservation at Tower. He was married to...

I: Rose?

M: That was Rose Marsh's father. They only had that one child. Rosie just died about a year ago. I couldn't get to her funeral. I just wasn't able to go. I had an appointment in Duluth and her son-in-law wanted to come and get me. He says "I'll come and get you, Aunt Mary." I says "I can't go. I have this appointment." He says "Can't you make it..." but you can't change those appointments. I have to wait four months 'cause I've got asthma, you know, very bad. They had to fly me to Duluth once. Well, anyway, um...

I: About George Marsh?

M: Yeah, then George drowned on Pike Bay on Vermilion. That must've been in... My daughter Norma was six months old and he wanted to come and see my little girl. And he never got up here. He drowned on the 27th of April and she was six months old. But he was, he painted his boat and he painted his canoe and he told his wife "I wanna go up and
see my sister's baby." And he never... That was sad. And they didn't find his body until
almost a month afterward. It, it just came up then after. He was a real nice fellow. I used
to tease the life out of him and he'd hide from me. I guess I was kind of a meanie! He hid
from me one time. My dad and mother were gone and they left me alone. We didn't live
down in Ely then. We lived across the lake from there. And uh, I must have been teasing
him or something and he hid away... he hid... he got on the roof of our cabin. And he'd
hide on this one. And I was around the building, crying "George, George!" No answer.
And I was... He wanted to see me cry, I guess. Punishing me. Which I needed. Yeah.
So then my mother and dad didn't make maple sugar, but she always got some from her
sister. We used to go down there...

I: Where was her sister at?

M: They were in Aurora there. That's where they made their...

I: How many children did you have?

M: I had uh, Norma. Norma, and she worked at Channel 8. She was the secretary for
the president. She went to Haskel one year too. She took a business course. And then
she went to the University. And then John. John went to the University and then he
became Postmaster. My son Bill worked for the schools, the one that died. He was only
61. He would've been 67 now. He just... He died in 1990. And then Jimmy, my
youngest boy, Jim was born in 1939 and he teaches school in Hermantown. He's a science
and math teacher. He likes the woods. He comes up here every chance he gets. Goes
fishing. His wife couldn't come last week. She goes skiing with him. He's got a nice wife
and he's got two boys. One is a lawyer, the youngest boy is a lawyer; and the other one
works for the city of Duluth. So, they only had the two boys and they're both married.
I: So you had four children?

M: I had four, uh huh.

I: Where were they raised? Up in Ely here?

M: Oh yes, uh huh. All in Ely here.

I: All graduated here?

M: And they all went to school here.

I: Okay, we'll step back to your grandfather. How much time did you spend with them? Your grandparents?

M: Uh, I never knew my mother's mother - on that side of the family at all. Her mother died quite young. She didn't know what she died of, but she always complained of a backache. My mother said she'd always say "My back hurts." She probably had kidney failure or something. So I never knew my Indian grandmother. And the grandfather either. They were both gone.

I: Okay. You don't know where they were from or?

M: No. My mother's, my mother's mother came from Canada. And, uh, she came from a place called Wabe go na sag ay. And that must be Rose Lake up there. And uh, what
was her name?... I think her name was Waiesh, Waiesh... I don't know how you spell those names.

I: Do you remember the Charles Eagle incident at the school?

M: The what?

I: Charles Eagle. Do you remember that name?

M: Charles Eagle. No I don't. What is the story on that?

I: I'm not really sure. I haven't read up on that, but they say he got shot. He was disciplined and they shot him.

M: He was a what?

I: He was a student out there.

M: Oh, he was a student? You know, I never... I heard there was lots of... Gaw boy always said - Robert - that's old Robert Gaw boy, that's Carl's father. Carl teaches in the University now... but he always said that he lost a brother and I think he died in an institution, his brother. He was on the slow side, you know, and I think... He used to come over. He'd run across from... You know the Indian School was right here and across the bay over here there was a bunch of cabins where the Indians lived there. And that kid used to run over barefooted. In the snow! And he'd make the kids laugh. I remember when he'd come... he'd put his finger in his mouth and he'd made that noise, you know? And, oh! The kids would laugh at him. They liked him.
I: So, where the school was - there was - more across the lake?

M: Yeah. It's kind of in, there's a bay, you know. The school was located here and Tower's right straight across. Well, there's uh... now there's cabins there, I guess. Some of my grandsons have taken lots there and built a cabin. Roger Tutiloff is there, and he loves it there. He sold his home in Chisholm after he retired. He taught school there.

I: Yeah, Roger's my neighbor.

M: Is that? Oh he is? He's a nice fellow.

I: Yeah. He's the closest neighbor I got.

M: Yeah. He's uh... And his wife is nice, you know. So they're in uh, Arizona. I think he'll be coming home in... sometime in April. So he's anxious to get back.

I: Why do you think they put the school on Vermilion?

M: I don't know. I suppose because the Reservation was there. I don't know, they...

I: But why not Nett Lake?

M: Well, it was a bigger Reservation up in Nett Lake and this one was smaller. I don't know why they put it there.

I: Maybe because of the waterways, or...?
M: It might be. Might be. Yeah. Because their water up there is kind of... they all have wells, don't they, up there - do they?

I: I think so. But they seem so isolated up there where Vermilion...

M: Yeah, right. Easier to get to town. You can go by car, now. And they used to go by canoe, you know.

I: Yeah.

M: Yeah.

I: Yeah, I heard of some kids going to school in canoes across the lake and they'd have to walk across the lake in the winter.

M: That was a nice school there. It was uh, I liked it there. Something to do all the time, you know. ...Short space in tape... When I was about 13 years old we all went up and we went with a

I: You went up to La Croix.

M: La Croix. We went with the Boshey family. And you could make it in one day, but we slept on the way, 'cause my brother Frank was real young and he was crying and crying one time and, and uh, they had a fox there. I think Mr. Boshey shot that fox. I don't know why. My brother Andrew says to Frank "Don't cry" he says. "If you stop crying you can have some of that fox to eat. (Laughs) They didn't even eat them. But we went
up there and they were having a ceremony. That must have been... It was in the fall. Like September. Do you know how many moose we saw? 25 moose on our way! 25 moose! And uh, they were beautiful. And... excuse me. *(Coughs and takes a drink of water)* One stood on the river and he wouldn't let us go by. The river wasn't very wide. And the... I think it was their mating season. And that bull wouldn't move. He just stood there and he was big. I never liked to tell that part. That Mr. Boshey had to shoot him. What could you do with a... he must have been way over a thousand pounds. He had to put eleven shots into him. Then we could go by. Which... that was kind of scary, cause the river wasn't very wide. He could've just crushed those canoes. Yeah. And we got up there the next day and they were very nice to us. We had a place to stay and, uh, they had a ceremony the next day. It was, it wasn't a gift dance. It was a religious one. And that's more, you know. It isn't like a gift dance, you know where you have fun. But then...

*End of tape.*