

Full Transcription:

This is an Interview Project with Anita Levesque for the Mill Workers Historical Oral History Project, 12th of May, 2005 in Lewiston, Maine. I am Thomas Burian Interviewing.

[00:00:05]

Could you please state your full name?

Anita Levesque

What's your maiden name?

Anita Garneau.

Could you please spell them?

G-a-r-n-e-a-u

Levesque?

L-e-v-e-s-q-u-e

What's your date of birth?

11/24/1924

[00:00:30]

Where were you born?

In Canada. Quebec.

[00.01:24]

When did you move to Lewiston?

In 1946. September 1946.

Why did you move to Lewiston?

Beg your pardon?

Why did you move to Lewiston?

To work in the mill.

Did you know a lot of other people who did this?

No, I didn't know too many people. Except I had uncles that worked over here as a carpenter and they talk about Lewiston. And living so close to the United States, I decided to come to Lewiston.

What were your parents' names?

Omar and Zelda Garneau.

[00:02:30]

Were both of your parents born in Quebec?

Yes, both.

And what did they do for work?

My father was working in the wood mill, cutting wood.

What about your mother?

My mother was just home, home mother. 7 kids.

Ah, had your father ever been to Lewiston?

Well he came and visit me, but he'd never come before. He work in Berlin, New Hampshire, which was not too far.

[00:03:18]

Did any of your brothers or sisters come to Lewiston?

Yes, I had a sister and a brother that came.

What were their names?

Olive and Gerard.

What type of work in the mill did they do?

All three of us were working in the card room.

[00:04:10]

In Canada, what kind of school did you go to?

Through the 6th grade.

And did you attend a public school?

No, it was a Catholic school we went.

Was this normal for most people in Quebec to go to a Catholic school?

Well they had public school too but mostly Catholic school.

Mainly other French, or were there Irish?

There were mostly French, yep.

[00:05:24]

When you came here, what kind of work in the mill did you do?

It was in the card room. It's about, about all I can tell you. There were cards and worked on it.

Can you describe what you . . . the process of carding?

I mean there were big cans and the carton was about like a cable when they bring it to us. We put it through the machine and it was like refined. I don't know. I was not in the spinning room though. I mean they were carding like I said like a cable and we put through the machine and they become better quality for the next step.

[00:06:11]

And how hours a day did you work?

8.

How many days a week?

5, sometimes we work on Saturday morning 4 hours, sometimes.

Was this mandatory? Did you have to work those four hours?

Well, if I remember well, yes we had to. It was a pleasure to do it because it was half time, so make more money.

How often did you work on Saturdays?

It was almost like a stretch. I mean, when they were more busy, well, it's kinda hard to say. I didn't work every Saturday but worked many, many times.

Did they give you a reason why you were going to work on Saturday like they needed a shipment to do or something like that?

Well, we know we had a lot of work. We always said yes. The money was good, compared to Canada.

So there wasn't much mill work for people in Canada?

No, not that kind.

Would you have been able to work in the same mill where your father worked?

No, that was for men. That was men work. Where I worked at Cherbrook I was sewing . . . they call it pantyhose today, but that time it was just stocking for the ladies. I was sewing. That was in Sherbrooke.

And so in the card room were most of the workers women?

It was pretty divided. There was men. Like my work was coming from a man. And I don't know, I'm not too sure where it went. It was pretty divided. I think the man was, I don't remember the name. That was 60 years ago. It will be 60 years next year that I am in Lewiston.

[00:07:45]

And was there any work that was specifically for men or for women?

Well, what happened it was . . . I came in after the war. There were women that took the place of some men.

[00:09:50]

And, so, did you . . . was it easy to get a job in the mill?

No problem.

Really? They were hiring?

Yeah, they were hiring if you were coming from up north or from Canada. I was here on Tuesday night, Wednesday morning I went to see for my job. They asked me if I could come the next day, that's how much trouble I have.

What kind of insurance did you have?

I was insured but the kind . . . I don't remember.

Did you get a pension working there?

If I had stayed long enough, I guess.

So did you . . . how often did you get breaks?

Oh boy, I think we had one break. It must have been at lunch time, yet I remember very well eating while we were working. So, there was not much of a break.

[00:11:17]

Were you allowed to talk to each other when you worked?

Oh, yeah. We were so busy we didn't have time to talk. Of course we do.

Just here and there?

Going by, very. . . Before if we get there earlier a little bit well we talk with the one who we're taking the place, things like that. When it was time to work we were working, it was hard.

Was it like that in the other rooms?

Oh, yeah. That was very much the general speed everywhere. We might be able to take it easy, but a few machines stop, you're not making money at that time, so that the idea. We keep feeding the machines.

[00:12:16]

How many supervisors were there in the card room?

Oh, we had two supervisors. We had the boss too. But then the supervisor, there was just one. And the boss, we had just one too but they were change shifts just like we do.

Do you remember their names?

Yes, I worked for John Martin and Roger Landry was the supervisor, a very nice man.

What was his name?

Roger Landry.

Did you know him outside of work?

No.

Was he well-liked by a lot of the employees?

Oh, yes, very well-liked.

Were the . . . so did people get along in the mill working?

Yes.

[00:13:20]

Were most of the mill workers from Canada, originally?

Yeah, there were some. There were a lot of people from Canada over here. So, but really it was mostly French at that time.

Were there a few Irish or Poles or . . . ?

Yeah, I remember meeting some. But I think the one I knew was a Greek one.

Did you talk to them a lot?

Not much because I wasn't speaking English a lot at the time.

Did a lot of the people from Canada talk to them a lot? Or did you mainly . . . ?

It was really general.

People didn't really care?

Well, if you had trouble, they'd be there to help you somehow.

[00:14:25]

So you worked 40-44 hours a week, what did you do, were there company social events? Like a picnic or something like that?

Yeah, well, not that I recall at that time. Maybe they did have them years back. I saw something at the museum that we're getting ready to have that. There was some picnic but when I came in it was right after the war. Things were . . . just tried to settle down a little bit. If there was anything I really forgot, I don't think there was anything of that nature going at that time.

Would you consider where you worked pretty safe?

Yeah.

[00:14:54]

So there weren't a lot of injuries there?

I had one.

What happened?

(Shows middle finger). There's a souvenir. I cut in the gear. That was my fault. I have to have to start the machine so the gear would turn. First thing I knew, I had my finger cut there.

Did you receive time off in the hospital for it?

Not much. They have to keep on another job that was so boring that I wish I could work on my other job. I was only able for light work.

And what did you do?

3, 4 weeks, I guess. I was pulling the thread out of the bobbin. I think it's something like three weeks.

Did they pay your doctor bill?

Yeah, that was taken care of. I went to see the nurse at the mill and she brought me to the hospital to get it fixed.

Did you know the nurse?

I know she got married. It was Dr. Crotiere. (Talks to her husband about her name).

After work, were most of your friends people you worked with in the card room?

Yes.

Is that how you meet all of your friends?

Yes, 'cause I didn't know so many people in Lewiston.

(Her husband asks about how much she made while on light work after her injury).

I think so, I don't remember. I don't think I was paid the same thing because it was pieces, maybe on average.

So different work received different pay in the mill?

Yeah, well that's when I had my accident because I wasn't working in the mill.

So people working in the mill, it doesn't matter what room you were in, received the same pay?

You mean when I was doing those bobbins?

No, I mean if one worked in other rooms aside from the card room.

I think it was very close, we all had the same salary.

[00:16:30]

Was it based on anything, your age? How long you've worked there?

Oh, well I mean if somebody would have only one job. I remember my sister working in the card room, she was really good at it. The salary was the same but she could handle more machine so they paid her more.

So it was only based on skill?

Yeah.

So men and women made the same amount of money per hour?

That I don't know.

[00:19:10]

Was there a lot of light in the mill?

There was light, very well-lighted.

Was it very well ventilated, or were the windows all closed?

It was. They opened the windows, in my room. In other rooms I know that can't open the windows because of steam, things like that, I guess. But where I work, if I remember well, they'd opened them.

So a lot of your friends were from the card room in mill?

Yes.

Were a lot of them in the same situation you were? The came from Canada or their parents had come from Canada and they were working there too?

Well, yeah. Some it was from one generation to the mill. The mother was working and the kids were working. I didn't experience that, I was on my own.

[00:20:12]

Did you speak French to each other, mainly?

Yes, oh yes. Do you speak French?

No, unfortunately.

[00:20:48]

So in your off hours did you read a lot of books in French? Sing songs in French? Or did you read in English?

You mean now?

Back then.

I learned a lot of my English with the TV. When the TV came out, that's how I learned my English.

So what did you and your friends do in your off time from work? Were did you go? Or did you just go home?

Most of the time, I was going home. Everybody was. We had family. I was lucky I had nice people. I came over here with a friend, a boyfriend, and he knew that family. He asked if they would mind to keep me. I lived with them for about a year, I guess.

Then where did you move into?

I moved in with a girl who was working in the mill, I lived with her.

How long did you live with her?

About six months because by that time my brother had arrived and my sister was coming too. So we rent an apartment, and we lived there; the three of us.

Where was the apartment?

Park street.

Did a lot of people you knew live with their siblings or their coworkers?

Yeah, most. I mean they had siblings. But I lost my brother right after we rent that apartment.

What happened?

He drowned in Sabattus Lake, 19-years-old.

How did he do that?

He had a heart attack. That's what we were told, which we didn't know about then.

So you were living with your sister? How long did you live with her?

Did we live together?

Yeah.

We were both working on the 2nd shift. We come in from the 2nd shift and we go to bed at like 1 o'clock in the morning and get up late morning and get things going. Then it was time to get back to work.

[00:22:40]

So when did you work? What hours?

It was 3-11 or 3:30-12. I think it was 3 o'clock.

So for how many years did you live with your sister?

Not more than two years because we both got married.

[00:23:16]

How did you meet you husband?

I was living with his cousin, that woman. And she introduced us at a dance and we started going together. Same thing as with my sister; they all were friends. Big friends, like brothers. Oh, yeah, we would always go off together.

Where did you go when you went out?

Theater most of the time. Dances.

At the theater were there just plays or movies?

There was vaudeville in Auburn. I can't remember the name of the theater (she asks her husband about it). Auburn theater. We went to see some vaudeville there once in a while.

You said you went to dances?

Yeah, at the City Hall.

Where were they?

At the City Hall.

Which city hall?

Lewiston City Hall.

Were there a lot of dances in other places too?

Oh, yes, in the clubs. Once in a while we would go to the clubs.

Were the clubs in downtown Lewiston?

French clubs. There was a lot of French there too. We would go dancing there. He belonged to those clubs.

Did you need to be French to go in the clubs?

No, anybody could go. My boyfriend belonged to those clubs.

[00:24:48]

Did you join any local organizations? Religious or . . . ?

At that time, no. We were pretty quiet with what we had.

Do you know a lot of people who did join organizations? That belonged to the church or the community?

Yes, there were some. There were things that the church belonged to. After I was married, there were things. Like I said, it was after the war and things were pretty quiet.

Were you part of union?

Yes.

Did you pay dues?

Yes.

Were there meetings?

I never went to the meetings.

Did a lot of people go to the people to the meetings?

I don't know; I never went. I wasn't there long, not quite three years.

Do you remember anyone talking about a strike or no?

Not at that time, no.

So did you brother and sister also work in the mill?

Yeah, all three of us were in the card room. 2nd shift.

How long did they work there?

My brother, it was just for 6 months. He came during the holidays and died during July.

How about your sister?

I think she worked until she was going to get married. I don't think she worked more that 2 years.

And did a lot of girls work until they got married?

I know some got married, but I wasn't invited, guess.

[00:26:36]

When did you get married?

September 4th, 1949.

Where?

We went to Canada to get married.

Were you married in a church or . . . ?

In a church, yes.

How long were you there in Canada?

About 3-4 days, at least.

Did your husband come from Canada?

No. I mean he was a Canadian. But he was 2 years old when he came to Lewiston. He was an American by that time.

Did you go back to Canada often?

Yeah, I didn't run away from home. I just leave. I had to do something. You want to earn money, you know where to go.

[00:27:08]

Did you always consider Canada home?

Yeah, I still have that blood.

Do you still you consider yourself a Canadian?

No, I say that I'm an American now. That's what I am.

When did you first start thinking of yourself as an American?

When I was naturalized. It was in 1950-51. '51, I think, the beginning of '51.

Before that did you have a workers permit or an alien permit?

No.

You mean you just crossed the border, worked, and stayed here?

I came on vacation for a while, but when I worked I stayed.

So you came here saying that you were on vacation?

Yeah. Do you want me deported before my time? No that was in New Hampshire, I worked in New Hampshire. At that time I was supposedly on vacation, but when I decided to come to Lewiston I had my papers. Not naturalized, but I could come to work and not worry about it.

Was it hard for you to get your papers to work here?

I didn't have any problem. I had a millionaire post bonding me. That's when I was working in New Hampshire. He was a millionaire so I thought I'd grab a hold of him.

Was he your employer?

He was my employer there when I was on vacation.

So a lot of people got their employer to sponsor them?

Yes, I had two other persons. They were relatives of mine.

Did you have any problems getting naturalized?

None, except for my English. The morning I was naturalized well my husband was leaving for the Korean War. When they find that out, they didn't question me too much. I was short thing, when I was naturalized.

[00:29:28]

So you never went back to the mill after . . . ?

No, I had four kids. I was kept busy.

What were their names?

Roger, Monique, Gerard, and (French name (?)).

Did any of them work in the mill?

No. I got two mason, carpenter. My daughter, she was a secretary for a physician.

Did she go to college?

None of them went to college. (Pause) My husband was sick and we paid more for hospital bills than the house.

How did he get sick?

Oh, something that he had gotten while he was not in the Korean war but World War 2. He was not (unknown verb) anywhere. So, all kinds of sickness.

[00:30:24]

Where did you go to church?

Most of our life we went to Holy Family Church, for over 30 years, there.

How often did you go?

At least once a week on Sunday. When there was something going on we'd try to participate.

Why did you go to that church?

Because it was closer to home. We didn't live far from there.

Did you ever go to any other churches aside from there?

Yeah, once in while.

Did you ever go to St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's?

St. Patrick's, St. Peter's.

It didn't matter which church you went to?

No, as long as it was a Catholic Church.

It didn't matter if it was French or Irish?

We like Holy Family. Not that we choose Holy Family more than any other church. It was just that we bought a house and we were close to Holy Family and so that was our parish.

[00:31:24]

Did you join any organizations with the church?

Yes, I was a Lady of St. Anne.

So what do you do for that?

Well, you go to meetings and try to help the parish by donations, things like that. We had a fair every year.

[00:31:44]

Did you send your children to Catholic school?

Yes, they all went to Catholic school. Until the 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, I'm sorry. And then they went to high school. Lewiston High.

Any went to St. Dominic's?

No, none went to St. Dominic's.

Why?

For public school we didn't have to pay.

Did a lot of people just have their kids go to public school?

Oh, yeah. A lot of people do that.

So it was a lot cheaper to send them before 8th grade?

We helped our school, our parish school. When the kids there. There was not a definitive price we have to pay like when they go to St. Dom's.

If you could have afforded it, would you have sent you kids to St. Dom's?

I'm pretty sure we would have tried it. Yeah. Like I said I have a sick husband so. Our kids got deprived somehow. We'd loved to send them to college but there was no question of it. They managed pretty good, though. I'm proud of them. They all manage I guess if you want the will power.

Are they all married?

Two are married but the other two are living together.

And just like you did when you came down to work in Lewiston? To save money?

Oh, yeah.

And do they have a lot of children?

I'm a grandmother. I have five grandsons and one granddaughter.

[00:33:30]

Are any of them in college right now?

Oh yeah, they're all going to college. There's 1-2-3 that are in college, 4. The fifth one . . . they're all in college. Some are married and having kids so.

So you might have great-grandchildren?

Oh, yeah, fourth generation. Three of them: three boys.

[00:34:12]

Did you teach your kids French?

Oh, you bet. You bet. It's a good thing they're not here, they'd have stories to tell you. I punished them when they wouldn't talk French like going to bed 15 minutes early, things like that. Didn't hurt but it wasn't pleasant.

Did they teach their kids French?

No. No, it's too bad in way. I feel I need my grandchildren, but the way I speak English, they don't get it.

Have any of your grandchildren tried to learn French on their own?

Oh, yes. The first one says he was going to learn French but didn't go far. He says 'You can talk about me if you want to and that's it.' He'd had it with French. And who else had tried that too? I think Tom, yeah, the youngest own of the boys. Tom, I got a grandson by the name of Tom. He was gonna learn French. I practiced quite a bit at the college; it was his 1st year at the college and he had a hard time. Away from home, I guess. It was rough.

None of the others have tried?

They thought it was better to speak English; one learned Russian. Tom's brother learned a little Russian in college. But the others; not to my knowledge.

So did you first need to learn to English to get around or did you know a little bit from living in Canada?

I didn't know much. 'Yes' and 'no,' that's about it. I read my papers and that. There's quite a few words I don't get but it's the same thing in French. Today, there are so many new words. I have a computer and I have a French program. Sometime (unintelligible) they change their words.

Did your supervisor talk to you in French, at the mill?

Yes.

Did he speak to you in French?

No, it was a very common thing, to talk French in the mill.

Did your supervisor talk to you in French or no?

Yeah, they were talking. Holton, Martin. I mean they speak French very good so I didn't have any problem. Everybody was talking French.

Did the person who hired you from the mill, did they speak French?

Yes. When my parents visited me for the first time, my father couldn't believe it, how much French was over here. It has changed a lot, but it was French everywhere.

So did your kids receive French classes in school?

Yes, everyone from that school, they were French.

How about in Lewiston High?

That's where they lost it. The minute they set foot there, it was English. That's what we're supposed to talk over here, so that's okay.

Don't you still wish they were able to speak French, so they could talk . . . ?

Yes. They understand me, sometimes. They might say 'could you say that in English, Mom?' To me, they should have understand what I said in French. My poor English.

You're doing fine.

So did all of your friends speak French?

Like the lady over there, she talks French. The one who was over here when you came. She can talk French, but she speaks English but we can understand her because we start in English and all of the sudden we talk in French.

Do you ever remember being made fun of for speaking French or no?

Not speaking French. Maybe when I'm speaking English. Well, I don't know why but people from up north must have talk differently. Many times they weren't laughing but they were saying 'Are you from northern Maine or Canada?' I don't know if it's the way I talked French or what. When I was in the mill there, they would ask me that, 'Are you from Maine or Canada?'

[00:40:20]

So when you came to Lewiston, did you consider the move to be permanent?

Yes, that was my idea.

So you came here to live here?

Yeah.

Eventually raise a family? You never thought about going back to Canada?

I wanted to come over here so bad for a long time.

Why did you want to come over here, because there was work?

Yeah, it was paying much better. When you have to pay room and board when I was working at Sherbrooke, sewing stocking, I didn't have anything left. I paid my room and board and there was nothing left. I was like that every weekend and so I could not see that. My parents understand that, why I wanted to come over here.

Do you know anybody who went back to Canada?

Not too many.

Really?

None that I know. The some people that I know came here for the same thing I did.

Were people still doing this for a while after you were coming here?
Yes.

When do you remember people stopping coming from Canada?
After I was married and with kids I was not much in touch with that stuff. So, I really don't know. The other time you'd meet people just about the time you came in. Just about 5-6 years.

Were they all from Quebec?
Yeah, most of them from Quebec.

And did a lot of them know people here?
Some knew, some didn't. Most people knew someone they could depend on. I was really on my own.

Did you want to come just to the United States or come to Lewiston?
Come to Lewiston.

Why Lewiston?
Like I said, I had heard about it. I have uncles that work over here. They were not here anymore by the time I came, but heard them building some houses in Lewiston.

Was Lewiston famous at all in Quebec as a place to go if you wanted work?
Maybe at that time. I wouldn't say that now because it has changed quite a bit. (unintelligible) . . . that's a good thing.

[00:44:48]

When you were living in the 50's and 60's, were a lot of mayors and city councils French?
Oh, yes.

Most of them?
Most of them in the 50s, yeah.

A lot of them, were their parents mill workers or were they mill workers?
Yeah.

Were they all Republicans or Democrats?
Probably Democrat, but I wouldn't say for sure.

Did Democrats try to recruit a lot of Canadians for their party?
That I don't know, but over here it's mostly Democrat.

[00:46:00]

So you never experienced any problem coming here?
No, I was just lucky.

You came here on a train?

Yeah, we were traveling by train.

Which train?

Most have been Canadian, Canadian Railway.

Did you come directly from Quebec to Lewiston?

Are you talking about Quebec City?

Yes.

We were five miles from Vermont. Not only that but my father. He'd lived in Berlin, New Hampshire. Just the 3 years before I got married. Everybody was coming. Not Lewiston, but I had uncles and aunts in New York, New Jersey. I mean at that time; they're not living anymore. You here so much about the United States; all things were great. It was not only Lewiston. That's why I started at New Hampshire, then come to Lewiston.

Was there a shortage of work in Canada as long as you can remember?

There was work. It was during the war so . . .

How about before that?

There was a lot.

[00:47:44]

So how old were you when you went to work?

I was 20, I guess, 21.

Did you do this after school? Were you at home?

I was helping my mother with 7 kids and a grandfather that lives with us. I want to leave, not to leave the house. But I wanted to go to work a long time before I left but there was always sickness and things like that. So I couldn't leave.

Were you the eldest?

Yes, I was the eldest. How did you guess that? Out of 7, yeah, I was the oldest. I'd already lost a brother and a sister.

So did the others go to work when they were younger than you, before they were 20?

Yeah, they started when they were 26. They would be going down a few miles from there. They were small, some was waitress, thinks like that.

(Pause)

You came from Canada and was somebody new to this country. There's obviously a new group coming into Lewiston now: the Somalis. What do you think about that?

Well, I wouldn't say nothing against them because I am an emigrate and so everybody tried. They seems to be pleased to be here. I think they're nice people. Some people that work with Somalis say they're nice people.

Do you know any personally?

No, I don't. I just try to be friendly when I meet them. I say 'hi, it's a beautiful day.' Because I am an emigrate so feel I got to be open to them.

[00:49:24]

When you were raising the kids were you the one who made sure they got to church?

Yes, but we were both Catholics so we didn't have any trouble with that.

So after they got out of the Catholic school, did they still go to religion classes?

No.

They were already confirmed?

They practiced but they didn't overdo it.

Were they confirmed?

Yes, always confirmed.

How old were they?

They're in there 50s today so they were around 8, 9, 10 years old.

Is that how old you were when you were confirmed?

Yeah, the thing is we had the bishop like every four years at a time, if I remember well. So some were 10 and some were 7. They wouldn't start before 7. They were all baptized, confirmed.

Were they all married in the church?

Yes. I have a granddaughter whose getting married in 3 weeks, a grandson in 3 months. All Catholic.

[00:50:20]

So do your kids still live in Lewiston?

There's none in Lewiston. I am one in Sabattus, one in New Gloucester, Green, my daughter is in Portland. They're all close.

How about your grandkids?

One is in Monmouth. One is in Bangor. Two others in New Gloucester. My daughter, she's in Portland, her son lives in Lewiston. I have a grandson in Lewiston right now.

Did he go to school?

Oh, yes, he went to school. He was living in Auburn at the time. He went to school in Auburn.

[00:51:00]

If there's one thing you wanted to tell others about your work in the mill, what would it be?

I was very pleased with my work. I always liked my work. I was working hard, but I enjoyed my work and I liked the pay.

Did you liked the product you made? The finished good?

Oh, yes. We were very specific with what has to be done.

Did you buy what you made?

I didn't buy much in the mill there. I'd buy a few pieces, but nothing big.

Bedspreads? Linens?

Eventually, it was going to be bedspreads. It was a long way to go.

Did the company encourage workers to buy them?

No.

There wasn't any employee discount or anything?

No, not that I know of.

Were you proud of how you made it?

Yes, we're all hard workers there.

[00:52:16]

Did you live in an apartment or did you buy a house?

We bought a house.

Right after you got married?

Not right after. 2, 3 years after we were married. We were expecting our 3rd child. It was high time that we came depend on the house.

So did you save up for it?

A little bit, very little.

[00:52:48]

So did you husband work in the mills all of his life?

My husband work at Philip-Helmet's where this one works. This is my 2nd husband, second marriage. We're both widowed. I lost 1st husband, my 1st husband was 50, died of cancer.

Was it related to work? What kind of cancer?

Lung cancer.

What room did he work at in the mill?

He never work at the mill. He work at Philip Helmet. (Points) He works there too, he just got retired.

Did you say Philip-Helmet?

Yeah.

What do they make?

They do filament for light. (Points to husband) He could help you more with this. When he was working there, my 1st husband, he work in the acid room. That didn't help with the cancer.

[00:53:24]

When your husband died was there a lot of friends and family around to help you?
Yeah, some of the relatives, they were right there to help me.

When he got sick, did your sister come and help you for a while?

By the time that he was that sick it was just the two of us. And he did pretty well. When they find out he had cancer for a month he was in the hospital. They didn't think he was going to survive but he did. Then, Raymond came back for 2 years after. We managed pretty good because he could take care of himself. We would buy things to help him out but we managed good after. We brought him in the hospital; he couldn't breathe anymore. The next morning he was died.

When you lost part of your finger did your friends help you out?

That was not bothering me too much. It was that I couldn't do my work. The work I was doing.

Do you remember having to help take care of someone who was hurt at the mill pretty badly?

No.

None of your friends?

We you bring a family of your own, you forget. You don't have much time for the rest.

I think that about wraps it up.

I said I didn't have much, but they insisted. I said 'Yes.'

I have a camera and need to take you picture.

Take my picture? It's better that camera. She said he was going to come with big camera. (Husband makes a joke in the background). Oh, come on. He was start to laugh when you said that because it was a big camera. Okay, I guess.

[00:54:54] Interview ends.