

Harry Kaczmarek's Interview with additions from his wife **Alvena Kaczmarek** –
Kay Krans, Janelle Kohl, Interviewers:
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HARRY: I remember thinking there was no future in the grocery business. With my Dad, you worked, after school, weekends, so when I was seventeen, I joined the service for four years and it was extended six months due to Korean War. I got out at age 21 and went home from the years, 1952-1957. It was 1957 when I came up to Boulder Junction/Manitowish Waters to run the store. I started alone and my dad came up probably five years later.

KAY: Your parents didn't get involved in the store right away, you did.

HARRY: My parents were involved in the store but didn't come up right away. My mother came up a few years later and worked in the summer. The building was there, but we kept adding on. It was a Red Owl store. The bait shop today was the side of the original store and the grocery was next to it. I was born January 13, 1931 and I was born in Milwaukee, on the South Side. My mom and dad were both from Milwaukee. My dad was in groceries, he was a meat manager for A&P. When they had a new store opening, he would go and promote the new store. His first name was Harry and my mom was Alice. Alice would help in the stores.

JANELLE: Where you an only child? What nationality is Kaczmarek?

HARRY: I had a sister, Roseanne, who died a couple of years ago up here. Kaczmarek is Polish. I only remember one grandpa when I was young. He died when I was young. That is the only grandfather I knew. Alvena remembered meeting the grandmother in a nursing home. My mother's mother was a Grabowski. One of the cousins is up in Mercer. I had another sister, Betty, from Milwaukee, who died this year in Boulder City, Nevada. Betty was one year older, next came Harry, then Roseanne.

KAY: How did you come up here in 1957? How did you know this was the place you wanted to be?

HARRY: My dad and uncle were fishing in Eagle River and found this little store over here. A couple ran the store and the man died and she moved up to Watersmeet. So Theilacker owned the building but didn't want to run the store. So I came up to run the store.

KAY: Was the store ready to run?

HARRY: No, it needed a lot of work but I didn't have any money so I did what I could and my dad came up 5 years later. I stayed in Theilacker's cabin by his home on the end and then there was a fire... I bought a trailer but the fuel line would freeze up in the winter. Then I put gas in and that would coagulate because it was 30-40 degrees below zero back then. The LP gas would freeze up. That was a nice trailer and I walked to the

store. It took four Blankets on my truck so that I could start it. The trailer is still there. I liked that I would walk to the store. We then had a pink trailer and we were there four years.

When Trina was born we lived in our house. It was Thanksgiving Day when Trina was born; I was supposed to meet Ricky Bakken and Bobby McCellan at 6 o'clock to make drives for deer hunting. She (Alvena) wakes me up and says we've got to go to the hospital. I say you've got to be kidding. I've got to go by Bakken and tell him. So I tell him to let me know where they will be. Alvena and I were going down the highway and Larry Nerby and bunch were all waving and hollering. This was November 26, 1970.

ALVENA: I called Bev Trapp and asked, "Do you think I should go?" She had so many kids, she was an authority. The pains had started at 11:00 p.m. and I called her at 7:30 in the morning and Bev Trapp said I should go.

HARRY: The hospital was in Rhinelander. They didn't have breakfast and I wanted breakfast so looked for a restaurant. I had never been in Rhinelander and I am walking and walking and snow was way over my boots. So I went back to the hospital and had turkey and I don't know what kind of turkey it was because I couldn't recognize it. It was Thanksgiving Day.

JANELLE: Did you miss a lot of deer that day?

KAY: Did the guys share some venison with you?

HARRY: Hunting has sure changed a lot, the people and all that. At the end of the season, the last day was called Freezer Day. Anything that moved you shot on the cranberry bogs. All the cranberry growers and the guys in town, we would all go hunting out on the Cranberry Marshes. We had deer then.

KAY: You came up in 1957 and started the store and lived here. How long was it until you met Alvena?

HARRY:

Von Drake came down here to give dance lessons. The whole town took lessons. Dancing lessons came to town and all the guys took lessons, big Jake Skrobot, step, step, step together step, he was like a bulldozer, going through everybody. It was called Social Dance, Emil Wanatka, Jerry Wonderling took lesson and it was fun at the Community Center.

JANELLE: Was the Social Dance class once a week?

HARRY: For a while it was regular, once a week.

JANELLE: How were you as a student?

HARRY: Oh, I was good. Von Drake had shows. Beverly Trap and Doreen Wanatka were in some of the shows. There were shows and Trapp's kids were in shows at Lakeland Union High School. Jerry Wonderling, Doreen Wanatka, and I were in the show, *The Graduation Ball Ballet*. Von Drake was from the Mercer area and he was a professional dance instructor

JANELLE: So, you met at the lessons.

HARRY: Joe Von Drake had Alvena and Pat Wonderling come from Ballet to the Social Dance Class to dance with two single guys and we both ended up marrying them.

ALVENA: Jerry Wonderling and Harry were our partners. Jerry and Pat were tall and Harry and I were short so that is how we got put together. This was 1962. We were married Feb. 4, 1967. Harry said I thought it was January and Alvena sighed. We went to Florida for our honeymoon.

KAY: Alvena, where were you from?

ALVENA: I was from near Prairie du Chien, Patch Grove in Grant County. I came up here in the fall of 1962 right out of college to teach at Mercer School... Mercer came looking for a teacher and checked in Madison. I didn't know where Mercer was, but Von Drake was a professional teacher and I wanted to continue to dance and I could take lessons from him. I was born November 27, 1940. I just turned 76. My parents were Charles and Priscilla Finn. My family is Irish/English and the other side of the family was Pennsylvania Dutch meaning German and their name was Spangler. I taught at Mercer for three years, and then went down to Milwaukee and taught one year. I moved back here and worked for Fisher Furniture in Minocqua for two seasons. About that time we were married. I did a little work in the grocery store but not much. I said you can hire a check out girl for 5 dollars an hour and I am going to stay at home with the children. I still did work for the store. For example, I would pick up meat for the store in Ironwood along that 2nd street.

HARRY: Swift and Armour had warehouses up in Ironwood, Michigan. You could get a side of beef up there and wouldn't have to wait for supplies coming out of Milwaukee. The meat was trucked or railed up to Hurley.

KAY: One of the things I remember about your business is that you were known for your quality meats and homemade sausages.

HARRY: I'll tell you what, you go into a store today, I wouldn't put some of that stuff in the counters, the way it is cut, I never saw anything, it isn't uniform, just gobs of stuff with fat and grizzle in it and I can't believe the cuts. I learned to cut meat from my dad on his meat block when I was ten to twelve years old. My uncle taught me as well. He had a cooler and we would get fifteen cattle in at a time, hanging in there. It was in Bayview, Wisconsin. You always wore white shirts and etiquette was important. Everything that wasn't good parts of the cut went in the grinder for hamburger, Thunder.

My favorite things about being a butcher were cutting steaks to put in the counter, and making minute steaks. I would grind eight minute steaks to the pound and they would sell eight for a dollar. I look at the prices today and how can people afford to eat today? Hamburger was 79 cents a pound, fryers were 49 cents a pound and whole pork loin was \$1.25 a pound.

KAY: From 1957 to 1963 was without your lovely wife? What was life like up here as a bachelor?

HARRY: A lot of cribbage. The fire department was at the Little Star Garage and we had meetings and one group would play poker, one group would play blackjack and the other group would play cribbage. Our ambulance was a hearse and we had one truck that you stood behind, a white one. Bartling bought it and he gave it back to the fire Department. Then you had a siren in the new building and you could hear it on this side of town. If I heard the siren, I got on the phone and started a phone chain. I joined the fire department in 1960 with Emil Wanatka and Charlie Rayala. Jake Skrobot came on a little later. Our meetings were one big card game. I don't know of any rescue group before we started the department. We had a lot of fires, everyone burned with wood, and sometimes fires started from wires in the basement. There were lots of Chimney fires. The farthest we had to help was in Michigan and we helped fight many forest fires. We got a lot of calls to Springstead and the DNR called us when they needed us and they helped us when we needed them. Ron King is the fire chief in Springstead now.

ALVENA: What kind of drinking and carousing did you do?

HARRY: I never did much of that Ha-Ha. Harry and Jerry Wonderling would drive down to the Pink Pig down below Tomahawk. We would go down there to eat and that thing is still there. I would go to Emil's and play cards. We played mostly when it was closed. I went to Marty Cain's a little. Emil Wanatka would come to the store and we would play lots of cards in the winter. It was always cribbage. The people would have to wait to check out until we got done with the hand we were playing. No one was in a hurry anyway. We kept the scores on a calendar and everyone would come in to see who was winning. When Maynard was around he would bet \$20 and \$50 on Ship, Captain, and Crew Dice Game in the back of the store. Ricky Bakken, Lyle Tirpe, Jake Skrobot, and Jake Nelson, Sigrid's brother would come and drink coffee and there was sometimes a bottle of booze. Jake Nelson was a guide and caretaker at LaFaves. He was a real sober straight guy. The inspector came in one time and says what is going on. I blamed Tirpe for bringing the bottle, of course he didn't. I told the inspector that he comes in from trapping and brings the bottle.

On a Sunday afternoon, Nelson, Bakken, Me, would go up by Kassein and for a buck or two we would rent a horse from him. We had to go out and catch the horses in the snow and we would ride down to the Broken Knuckle.

KAY: "It's Just a Joint" Do you remember that? That was a restaurant and bar. It was owned by Swede and June Christiansen.

HARRY: Jake was so short we would have to stop where there was a table because he was so short. Those were big horses and he was so short. We rode down Highway 51 in the middle of winter on a Sunday afternoon and there was nobody around.

HARRY: We always seemed to have fun around here. We were always joking or playing jokes on each other. I used to give Emil Wanatka's kids ice cream bars just as they were leaving the store and then they would get ice cream all over his car which always made Emil mad. One time in return, he made up coupons to hand out to people for free bratwurst at Harry's Super Market.

The kids used to have beer parties at the gravel pit on LaFave Road. I remember Henry Voss was one of the kids involved. I had a car and put on Adolph Massetti's old siren and lights on it. Adolph used to be the police officer in town. I rolled the car right to the edge of the gravel pit and coasted down the hill and let the siren and lights go. You should have seen the kids scatter. They were climbing out of the pit on all sides trying to get into the woods. Then I got out of the car and they saw it was me and resumed the party. It was really fun and everyone got a good laugh.

JANELLE: Who were your hunting buddies?

HARRY: I used to hunt with the Cranberry guys and make drives out there. I would hunt with Dick Indermuehle, Fred Bartling, and Ricky Bakken. We would hunt the Powell Marsh with Ricky Bakken. His father was Len Bakken and he didn't pass away too long ago. He wasn't a hunter.

Jerry Trapp and Frankie Koller, Sr. and I went to Canada and Frankie is driving and Jerry Trapp was always chewing and spitting. The whole truck was always full of spit. We were coming into Canada and there is this long bridge. There was a sign that said, "Danger, Trucks do not stop" and it is a single bridge. I say, hey there is a truck coming and Jerry said, "Oh we will be on the bridge before him. The next we know the truck is on the bridge with us. Jerry Trapp says the truck never stops so we have to back off the bridge. We would stop for gas and Frankie checked everything carefully. Jerry is in a restaurant eating while we did all the work.

I started hunting with a group from Ironwood, Gary Silk, Henry Gilbertson, etc. Gary says come on we will go to New Foundland hunting. We shot moose and caribou. On our way back from that trip a carpenter's metal t-square got picked up by one of our tires and here we have a flat tire and all these animals loaded on the truck. We had to unload everything to get to the spare tire. From there we hunted every province in Canada. From there we went to Alaska. We hunted the Dakotas. You see so much wildlife in those trips and then we stopped. After that I started going hunting with Skip Skrobot.

KAY: What made you such an avid hunter when you were a city boy?

HARRY: I used to go squirrel hunting when I lived in the city. I used to get 20 cents a piece (25 cents skinned) for them squirrels from my neighbors. My dad was not a hunter, but he was a fisherman. That is how we first came up here was for fishing. Dad came up with my uncle and stopped at Theilacker's Bar and he told him about the store.

Theilacker would go for muskies this time of the year here on Island Lake. I would row

and he would be jerking the bait and I would put my foot on another one. He called my dad, Hadie. I had a bunch of ducks from hunting and Minnie Theilacker said she would cook them for us “Oh Yeah? Good”, so I give them to her dinner. That day, I am fishing with Jake. The Dingles let us go through their yard to get on the ice fishing for walleye. Jake Skrobot went through the ice. Boom! I gave Minnie the ducks. Those ducks you couldn't even chew them! I don't think she ever cooked wild duck. The Dingle property was on the Deer Park Road. When you go to Deer Park at the end of the road on the channel. Their house was there and we were fishing for walleyes. We used to trap and duck hunt in there. Old Tirpe and I. I would say I will pick you up at five and I never had to go in the house for him. He would be like a soldier with his chisel and backpack waiting for me by his mailbox outside. (Alvena interjected that that was 5 in the morning and they would do this trapping before Harry opened the store). We liked to trap beaver and otter.

We were up by Mad Man Joes near Mercer going to Hurley. He had the motor homes up there on the hill on the left and the grocery store was on the right. It was near Kaminski Road. We would trap up there and there was a lot of beaver up there. Emil Wanatka went through the grocery store window with his car. He missed the curve.

JANELLE: Do you remember what you sold the pelts for?

HARRY: Beaver went for 30 or 40 bucks. Mink we would get 15, 20, 30 dollars.

KAY: Who taught you to trap?

HARRY: Ricky Bakken and I kind of taught ourselves. Every morning , every morning no matter what it was like out there, we went out to trap. You couldn't wait to get out there to see what you had.

KAY: One thing I remember about your store was all the beautiful mounts that you had displayed:

HARRY: Cabela's Outfitters bought many of the mounts. They wouldn't tell of which store they were going to put our mounts. Do you know anyone who wants a totem pole? We won it, Cheri won it. The guy who was making it wanted to know what animals we wanted on it. We have a monkey on it, frog, loon, and deer on it. They didn't dry the wood out real well and it is cracked.

KAY: Tell us about the summer at the store and the summer people:

HARRY: You worked from morning to night. You went to work when it was dark and you went home when it was dark. When opening fishing started is when the people started to come. You had resorts then. They were all kinds of resorts. Look at LaFaves. You had all kind of kids. Opening of fishing, we would be open 24 hours. From opening fishing to deer season was our busy time.

KAY: What summer families do you remember?

HARRY: I can't remember names. Don Musil, Dr. Chalos, Luerkes' from Minneapolis, Dingles, Nerbys', Daubenspecks' and Christensens'.

ALVENA: Everybody's his cousin, or what's his name.

KAY: I don't ever remember going to town to go shopping. If you lived on this side of town you were a Harry's customer.

HARRY: They got mad at me when I put on the bait shop sign, **Manitowish Junction**. I thought they were going to hang me on the other side of town, because I put Manitowish Junction. Oh were they wild! Jim LaPorte and I got along good, like if he was out of something in meat at the store we would share back and forth. We used to get stuff from Beller in Woodruff. I used to like Beller, and sometimes he would be short of stuff and we would help each other. He was quite a guy. Jim LaPorte and I worked together and with all these other stores. And then the store in Mercer, Brandt's we would all work together.

ALVENA: Tell them about the summer LaPorte's burned.

HARRY: That was the summer of 1971. I heard Cal LaPorte's burned; it was near a weekend in the middle of summer. Anyway my buddy, the milkman, that delivered Cleary's milk. A good one about Cleary's. Someone needed milk for a holiday weekend. I called my buddy Danny Blamberg, he was the driver for Cleary's. He gave me Mrs. Cleary's phone number and I called her at 4:30 in the morning and I thought she was going to chew my head off. I still remember that. Anyway, Danny, when I heard LaPorte's burned, he was coming through going from Mercer with the truck. I said I just called Armour and they are going to give me all the meat they got in their cooler up there. Frankie Koller gave me a dump truck and Danny drove up and got the meat, anything. It was the summer and we needed it. Everyone was going to be coming to me from that side of town. I got to the store at five in the morning and I got home at one in the morning and slept in the chair. If I didn't, I wouldn't wake up. I had some good kids like Shubuski, Anyway one was the son and the other was the son's friend. Well anyway, I told them that you guys can work all the hours you want. I won't give you overtime, but I will send you a check every week while you are at school. They thought it was the greatest idea, that they would still be getting money at school. They would come in the store say at four in the afternoon about one in the morning I would say I was heading home and you boys finish up. They would work until three in the morning and these were good kids. They were workers and Forest Johnson's son Mike worked for us too. He would be sitting on his bicycle waiting for 8 o'clock to come so he could start working...

JANELLE: A lot of kids worked for you in town.

HARRY: I can't remember.

JANELLE: Well, they remember you!

HARRY: They don't look the same anymore they are all grown up.

KAY: I remember that I would ride my bicycle up to the store and buy my favorite ice cream bar. I think they were a quarter.

ALVENA: Tell them about the store being robbed.

HARRY: I went to the store in the morning to plow. I went in the store and I saw Jim Osborne who worked for me. I asked him if he put the coffee on and he said yah! I went in to get some coffee and I asked where the hell did all the booze come from? He said, "Where?" I said, "In the back, here". I had booze way in the back and then kept some in my office. I go in my office and my safe is gone. They took all the booze out of my office and stacked it all. I got a big safe and tear gas bomb in it. I wish they would have tried to smash it in the store. One of the people was from town here, an Easley boy. What the Hell? How did they get the safe out? Well, it snowed after they left so there were no tracks. The sheriff comes and I had bought my daughters and Alvena each a gold necklace and they had been in the safe. After a few months, the sheriff called and said you can come and get your necklaces. They are taking pictures for the insurance company that I am getting the necklaces. I think I am getting prosecuted. The sheriff calls me from Ashland next. Why don't you come and pick your money up here. They caught them. I go in there and he says is this yours? (Harry had a whole bunch of silver quarters). The money is so heavy I had to ask somebody to open the door for me. The seat goes way down when I put the money on it.

ALVENA: We got the three necklaces the next Christmas, one year later. No, we didn't get everything back.

HARRY: We had the tear gas in the safe and when the boys tried to open it and bust the dial. The tear gas went off. They were lying in the snow and the tear gas got them. Too bad they didn't do that in the store.

Another time I got a call that said I think someone broke into the store. So I come down to the store, and I looked, and what the hell. They dove out the window. They went right through the window in the back and the dummy walks through the snow and woods right back to his house.

ALVENA: Another time we were coming back from a basketball game and Harry was irritated because I hadn't gotten gas. So, we stopped at the store.

HARRY: I went in the store and heard someone break the window. I heard the rollers moving that brings the stuff into the store. I pretended I had a gun. He was coming up the ramp and he dove out the window. And then I am outside and I have the pistol and a car is coming down. He stopped and said did you see anybody coming down? And I say, "No I didn't see anybody." I said where are you going? He says, to use the phone. It's

his buddy and he was going to pick him up, I suppose. It was the getaway car. They were living next to Marie Mehl right across from Island Lake Boat Landing. One time a bullet went through a window in their house during deer hunting.

Another time people broke in the front, groceries and booze and they were from Lac du Flambeau. My Dad shot across the road and calls me that there is someone in the store. They were two adults and two children. I go like heck to get to the store. There is a hole in the rock in the side of the building from the shot. It is a good thing he didn't hit anyone. The adults are putting the beer by the door and the younger ones are running the beer across the drive to the car. I called Eagle River and they got them somewhere on H, but they never had to pay for the busted door or anything.

The gypsies came one time. They stole from the little shop my mom had that became McClellans after. Some of the gypsies occupied her in the front and others went around the back. They stole the deposit. You see these cars pull in and the women were in long dresses. We had all the help following them through the store. They got money from the safe in Bellers store. They would distract you and go everywiche way and they were something. You don't see them anymore. They were something. Where is this where is that. You had to make sure you didn't leave the register.

KAY: You spent your bachelorhood up here, hunting, trapping, fishing, playing cards, with the fire department, and then you get married:

HARRY: Then I couldn't do anything,

ALVENA: Liar! He took ballet for a couple of years and was in that show he talked about. He played a soldier from the boy's school that met the girls from the girl's school. He said that after ballet he could run the trap line so much better because his balance had improved from ballet. They wouldn't wear tights until they split the pants and then they got the black tights. As soon as he got married he wouldn't do ballet anymore.

HARRY: Well, I had work to do.

ALVENA: He wouldn't do ballet anymore after they got married because he got what he wanted.

HARRY: We were in Wakefield and other places doing different shows. We made lots of the costumes we wore when the firemen had all their costume parties for fundraisers every spring. All the businesses in Manitowish Waters would try to outdo each other with their costumes. It seemed everybody in town competed in this fundraiser for the fire department. Hansen's came in one time as the "Seven Dwarfs". Emil Wanatka dressed as an African warrior using the shield and spears and stuff that you saw hanging in Little Bohemia. We did many different things. I went once, dressed as a ballerina and some guy asked me to dance.

ALVENA: He was small and slim with the pink tutu and everything and this guy asked him to dance. Twin Pines Resort made beautiful elephant costumes. One year we went in knit fabric and walked inside the knitted fabric and Twin Pines was mad because we got first place and those beautiful elephant costumes didn't win. One time, Cherie dressed as a monkey and David Frandy came as the organ grinder. We also dressed as the Michelin Man in white underwear and stuffed white balloons everywhere.

We did floats every year from 1976 on. On Fourth of July we would have floats and one year we did Treasure Island. The theme for that year was famous books. We covered the whole truck with ferns and Jean Frandy was Ben Gunn on the island on the truck with the chest. All the rest of them were on the trailer. Jim Zavodny helped with the wood on the side of one of Jerry Trapp's long trailers that he used for carrying big equipment on. I painted the gunwales and we got one of those big round things from the electric department and stuck that on the top and added the mast on top and then pretended Harry had a peg leg and a cut off arm, you know. All the kids were dressed up on the float and I dressed as Pew with a black spot. I think we got first prize on that one. The parades started in 1976 with the Bicentennial. We did a Birthday Cake and one year we did Harry's Las Vegas Special with the dice, cards, and the party girls. Another year, Ice Skating was our concept because the theme was Recreation in the North Woods. Another Theme was "Things that Fly" and we did hot air balloons.

HARRY: We never had a problem getting kids for the floats. The parents were glad to have them doing something in the parade. One of the Bauer girls always says she has such fond memories of the floats, throwing candy to the kids on the path of the parade.

ALVENA: One of the last parades we did was Seasons of the Year. So Jim Frandy said, "Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, Hunting Season is best of all." So we fixed up a little trailer into the float with a hunting shack with deer heads, grasses and a fire and we all dressed up in orange hunting outfits. We had to come up with a new idea every year. Another float theme was "Games Children Play" and we did a Strawberry Shortcake Theme. I just got rid of many of those old costumes and gave them to St. Mathias, you can't keep everything.

The fund raiser for the Fire Department was done in April, so it was not a tourist thing it was a community fundraiser. The community center was always packed. Then there was also a dance and a costume party. One year we made paper mache mushroom tops and burlap around our middle for the stem. At the store, we were making the costumes and competing and you don't let anyone know what you are making. We had flour all over the floor of the store while we were doing the paper mache. We were always working at the store making stuff.

HARRY: Our butcher was Jim Osborne and he was so loyal all those years. His wife died and he had to go to Marshfield and we told him to go. I think Jim ran a bread route out West before he came back to Manitowish Waters. He was old school too, you didn't work four hours, and you worked until the work was done.

ALVENA: They worked well together and were like brothers all those years.

JANELLE: When you ran the store was it hard to find help? Did you have a lot of kids helping you?

HARRY: As the years went by was it harder to get help. We never did seem to have much trouble with help. One Labor Day Weekend, Judy Zavodny called in sick for example and then you had to do it yourself. You can imagine how busy we were on that weekend. My mom and dad worked at the store. My mother would work with the big produce carts and all the women would be talking in the corner with my mother. My girls worked and they helped a lot. They would work after school and I would have all this stuff lined up in the aisles to put on the shelf. I always told them to wipe the cans and remember to rotate everything. I used to drill them about rotating. Trina would not work in the meat or produce, she was checkout. The other areas were too messy, so Cheri would work in meat and produce and wrapping meat, etc. If she wanted to go someplace, she would tell me and ask if she could come in early and get her work done. I would put out all that had to be done. She would work at five in the morning and zing, zing, zing and get it all done and then off she would go for her fun stuff. They were good workers and got their stuff done.

HARRY: Trina was born November 26, 1970 and Cheri was born in January 6, 1975. They were about four years apart. Grandma said Cheri would grow up wise because she was born on the Three Wise Men's Day (January 6). When Trina was skating, I would tell her not to drive to Eagle River on highway N. There were too many deer. An hour later, Trina calls and says. "Dad I hit a deer in St. Germain". Trina was an ice skater and Cheri skated too, but didn't have the passion for it that Trina had. Trina skated with Disney for one and a half years. Skating for Disney was a goal and she skated in South America, Peru, Jakarta, and Japan with them. She could write a book about her experiences on the tour with Disney. Some of the accommodations weren't great. She told of the guys spearing rats with the curtain rods that had knives taped on top in one place. She passed her international dances and that is all they had at that time and you work up to your gold dance and then you have five more and then she worked up to her 6th figure and went to her junior level in free style. She passed two pair tests. She loved it. If you didn't you wouldn't do it. It is too hard and too cold. The drive to Eagle River was hard and all winter. I would take her to Eagle River and take her back to school by 8:00 a.m. She would be cold coming from the rink and Ms Coles would yell at her for coming to class in her coat. She was just chilled from skating. Ms. Cole was a talented lady, but she was a grouch. I would get in the back of the rink with a wire and open and shut the door and get the lights on and she would skate for an hour or hour and a half and then go back to school.

ALVENA: Trina and Cheri did ballet in Ironwood on Monday nights. I would pick them up at school and go and sometimes I had a class as well and then we would come home. They both skated to the point where Cheri at about 8 years old, just rebelled because she felt she just had too much going on. She said it was Thursday night before she had time to myself. I let her quit piano then. She took from Mrs. Helen Townsend. She was overloaded for a kid that age and doing everything Trina did who was four years older. She skated until 7th or 8th grade and ballet has always been her passion.

She was more into dance than skating. She continued ballet through the years in places where she has lived. Joe Von Drake was kind of disgusted that the girls got involved in other things in high school. She did Pom Squad and that was fine with us. Trina went to Stout in Retail Merchandizing and Management. She was so interested in Fashion. Cheri went to Madison and has a degree from the UW in Communications. She went into the Navy. Harry said she never told us she joined the Navy, we got a letter from the Navy thanking us for letting our daughter join the Navy. She wanted an adventure and ended up on an aircraft carrier. She trained in Pensacola, Florida, on jet electronics and was stationed out of El Centro, California and Whidbey Island. When the jets went on to the carrier *Abraham Lincoln* those people that worked on the jets, picked up their stuff and went on the boat. She was working on the inside of the planes. She lived on the boat in the Persian Gulf when the Cole Incident happened. They wouldn't let them off the boat and only got one stop in the four month period. She did her four years and didn't want to go on in the service. She went to live out West and went back to school and majored in Dietetics and now has a job at the University of California, San Diego and works in the transplant heart and lung unit. She sits in with the doctors and they discuss why one patient does well and why another does not.

She was just married in August in Utah at age forty-one. She married a man who she knew thirty years ago in Sunday school at Mercer. His mother and I taught in the Sunday school. They met in Milwaukee speed dating for young professionals. His name is Matt Williams and was working in Sheboygan as an engineer at Kohler and then he got a job in San Diego with someone he had already worked with. They both like the outdoors and doing lots of sports. We didn't go to the wedding, they went away for a week and went to Utah and we sent them money. We said go enjoy the week.

Trina is raising two little girls. They are twenty-one months apart and full of energy. She lives in Macomb, Michigan and he is an engineer for GM.

HARRY: When I had the four forties and Cheri and I would take the wheelies and load them full of apples and corn and we would go over a beaver dam to get to the land and I would tip my wheelie and Cheri would ride her vehicle right over. She used to like to go to bait with me. We used to see twenty to thirty deer out there and now you don't see hardly any.

ALVENA: The Sport shop was run with Harry's Dad until they got too busy with the grocery store.

HARRY: Bob McClellan, one guy in between, and Dan Connaughty ran the shop. His dad was a vice president for Pleezing foods and he told Harry his son would love to run the bait shop. Bob McClellan was running it at the time, but decided to move across the highway and start his own sport shop. Then I had Dan takeover the Sport shop. Bob found out you can't have a sport shop and living quarters with one furnace so he let up on the sport shop and went more into fish guiding. Dan is a great worker and runs a good shop.

KAY: I remember the convenience of the tab you let people keep.

HARRY: You let people have credit and only let certain people use that. When I sent people notice that I was selling I didn't lose more than forty to fifty dollars from those who owed me money.

KAY: I remember when my Dad died and we went back to Milwaukee and how worried my mom was about paying Harry for the summer bill.

HARRY: Marie Mehl was a telephone operator and I would call her to find out who was going to Ironwood. I could then ask them to pick up something I needed at the store. This was the days of the party line. She would tell me from what she had heard from phone calls. I would ask them to pick stuff up from Armour.. She said make sure you don't tell where you found out they were going to Ironwood. This was the Marie that worked at Little Bohemia. My mother would call me up and the operator and she would talk for fifteen to twenty minutes instead of talking to me.

JANELLE: What are the major changes to the area throughout the years?

HARRY: The resort decline was the biggest change. That really did it. Boy, opening day of fishing we would be open 24 hours. We never closed, now Dan closes at 5pm. We would all be down by the culvert (tube) by 8 o'clock at night waiting for midnight and opening fishing to start. The culvert was on Alder Lake Road. So many more people came up north during the season, because the resorts were changing over every week. We had to stock up every week and people had to buy groceries and souvenirs. It was party time every week because they were all on vacation. These people were mostly regular working people. Now you have people paying thousands of dollars a week. You don't have the constant turnover and so many more people have summer homes that come here.

Umbach was a great worker, we taught him to cut meat really well in a couple of weeks. He was always doing something and to find him dropped dead and then to find Bobby McClellan dead in the yard and then pretty soon Ricky Bakken.

ALVENA: Those were the guys that always had coffee every morning with Harry. Good friends. Dave Umbach was really good, he would have made it.

KAY: You were a leader in the community, the fire department, and the Lions Club. Tell us about your work with the Eye Bank

HARRY: Jerry Trapp and his brothers down in Minocqua and me. We got Eye transporting going in the north woods. I got to transporting eyes. We'd get a call at two in the morning to tell they had a set of eyes for us to transport. We would take eyes to Madison in the beginning and then we took them to Wausau and then they changed it again to Westfield. Think of it, two in the morning on old 51. I went in one night at the old restaurant on the hill near Tomahawk and met some truckers and asked them where they were going. I asked if anybody was going to Madison. They asked "What for?" I told them that I need to get some eyes there. They said, "Ice?" "What for it is 20 below zero?" "I said no, eyes!" They didn't want any part of it they couldn't get out of the

restaurant fast enough. Another time I met a Mexican Trucker and asked him if he would drive the eyes to Madison. He was eating liver and dumplings and he ate so fast he could hardly get it in fast enough. He said wait until I tell my brother that now I am hauling eyes. I said it was not a problem you just have to call the state patrol and they will pick the eyes up. He was so proud of himself. Another time Freddy Bartling offered to fly me down to Madison. I said I will get the eyes at the hospital and meet you at the airport. We land in Madison and were told that any cab will take the eyes. The cabby calls his boss and we can get the cab. We get in the airport and couldn't get out the door to get back to the plane to get the eyes. We couldn't remember the gate code!

Another time I go to pick eyes up at the hospital. I meet a heavy set nurse and she says there are no eyes here. I said I was told to pick up some eyes. She goes to get the head nurse. No one knows where they are and so we go down to the morgue and they unzip all these bags and search for eyes. I had never been in the morgue before. She told me she was sorry but there were no eyes. I am on the other end of the counter and I said they are always under the counter and they were right where they are supposed to be.

Another time, we go to an eye bank seminar and we would take kids to the Eye Bank. Jim Frandy and I would take the high school kids and one of the girls passed out in the hall because they were showing them slices of eyes.

ALVENA: One time Harry was present when they signed a new law about eyes for transplant. We don't see them push the eye stuff anymore. Harry spent lots of hours running around the north woods transporting eyes for people to see again.

HARRY: I retired in January 28, 1998 when the store was sold. I owned the store from 1957-1998. My parents moved up to their Island Lake home. My dad lived to be 91.

ALVENA: Harry had one name for everybody. He called the men and boys, Mickey, and the girls and women, Judy. He had a gal named Judy who worked for him and that is where that name came from. Karen Stofford worked for us the longest.

Harry's words of wisdom: If you buy your own business don't expect to work 40 hours and love what you do. He had fun working and he sure made his customers have fun through the years.