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Torch Lake Oral History Project MS-956

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical
Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

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URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Torch Lake Oral History Project
ID:	MS-956
Date [inclusive]:	2013-2015
Date [bulk]:	2013-2014
Physical Description:	0.01 Cubic Feet 1 folder
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [sc_box]:	6
[folder]:	6
Abstract:	Oral history project, 2013-2015, capturing the memories of ten individuals who lived or worked in the industrial communities lining Torch Lake in Houghton County, Michigan in the middle 1900s.

Preferred Citation

MS-956, Torch Lake Oral History Project, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Historical Note

The Torch Lake Oral History Project was led by Carol MacLennan, Professor of Anthropology at Michigan Technological University, and sought to capture the memories of residents of and workers in the towns lining Houghton County's Torch Lake. The western shores of this lake were once home to extensive industrial facilities constructed by Calumet & Hecla (C&H) and Quincy Mining companies, including a cumulative eight mills, a total of three reclamation plants, a power house, and a smelter; these divisions acquired greater significance as the companies curtailed their work at several other mine sites. Torch Lake

remained a hub of industrial activity through the closure of C&H in 1968. Since the 1980s, the lake has been an intense area of focus for a different reason: the accumulation of industrial waste and the consequent deterioration of water quality. Funded by the Keweenaw National Historical Park in 2013-2014, the project dispatched two graduate student interviewers to meet with ten individuals who lived or worked in these communities during their industrial heyday or who possessed knowledge of the environmental changes along the lake. MacLennan's team transcribed the interviews in 2015.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

Oral history project, 2013-2015, capturing the memories of ten individuals who lived or worked in the industrial communities lining Torch Lake in Houghton County, Michigan in the middle 1900s. The collection consists of transcriptions of interviews conducted by two Michigan Technological University graduate student research assistants, brief biographical sketches of the interviewees, keyword indices to the histories, and a contextualization and explanation of the interviews' purposes within the project.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Water -- Pollution
- Mason (Houghton County, Mich.)
- Hubbell (Mich.)
- Oral histories
- Lake Linden (Mich.)
- Torch Lake Township (Houghton County, Mich. : Township)
- Superfund Program (U.S.)
- Conservation projects (Natural resources)
- Mineral industries -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Industrial sites -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Tamarack City (Mich.)
- Calumet & Hecla, Inc.
- Labor unions -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Deindustrialization
- Schneider, Dan