

INTERVIEW WITH GLENDA HILTUNEN
INTERVIEW DONE BY KATHRYN JOHNSON
LOCATION: AURA, MICHIGAN
MAY 1ST, 2010

Kathryn Johnson (KJ): Okay, today is May 1st, 2010. We are in Aura, Michigan and I am interviewing Glenda Hiltunen. Glenda, will you please tell me your full name including your maiden name, where you were born and what your date of birth is.

Glenda Hiltunen (GH): My full name is Glenda Ann, Warner is my maiden name, Hiltunen. I was born in Detroit, Michigan and on October 24th, 1936. And I partially lived in Pennsylvania too as my parents were from there. We kind of jetted back and forth for a while till they got situated in Detroit, right the way they wanted to be.

KJ: Yeah, that's great. How did you end up in Aura?

GH: That's a long story.

KJ: That's alright.

GH: I was married. I didn't tell that name, Peavey. I was married and my first husband and I lived in Garden City, Michigan and Alden (sp?) and his first wife, Kit lived in Garden City, Michigan and both of the men belonged to the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Kit passed away and Dwayne went greener pastures. And in a few years Al and I got together and from there we came to Aura. He was a truck driver and the industry, I don't pronounce it right but they deregularized, you know. And the company he worked for went out of business and we had this place paid for so we said, "we're going." We didn't have anything, we didn't know what else to do because if we would've stayed down there—there was just no work. There wasn't any work up here either but... He froze his retirement and we had some other properties that we used the rentals to live on until we both got work up here.

KJ: Wow and you moved up here in 1980?

GH: Yes.

KJ: And you said that this place was paid for but I just want to clarify. This was his family and he grew up here, is that correct?

GH: Yes and we bought it from his mother.

KJ: Do you remember when his parents came to Aura? I mean not that you remember but do you recall what the story was?

GH: If you hang on a minute I can get a newspaper clipping that I was just looking at. Okay, his grandpa Hiltunen came in 1913 and I don't quite understand because I think that he must've come by himself or brought Al's dad and stayed here for awhile and then he came from Mohawk because they came from Finland to Mohawk to work in the mines. There was this big strike and everybody knows about that. Anyways, then on June 20th, 1914, Tobias came back to Aura with his wife and four children. It says here that he was the first person to Aura. Hibbard's was a lumber camp here and this place was called Camp

3. I just realized Al kept telling me, maybe to want this on tape (?), he kept telling me, “everybody says Aura was founded in 1914 but my dad was born in 1900 and he said he was 13 when he came to Aura so he said that makes it 1913.” But everybody in Aura says it was founded in ’14. But this—one of these are _____ that I have acquired from a lady in Lower Michigan. She said that Tobias came here in 1913 and then he stayed on the _____ road that was a rundown shack now. It probably only has one wall now. He stayed there and he’d come back with his wife and kids. They settled here and that was 1914. So I suppose that’s how people got the 1914 but this paper says June 20th, 1914. So, this is kind of interesting. I would like to get this so that I can have it laminated or preserved or something and put it in the hall. I mean you know, this is the store.

KJ: Is that the Co-op Store?

GH: Yes, you just said you spoke to Carlo Heikkinen?

KJ: I did.

GH: That’s him.

KJ: That’s Carlo?

GH: Yes and then this one’s got to be his wife who was Isabel and then this is Mrs. Stain, _____ Stain. And this is Ms. _____, I don’t know which _____ it is but there’s one of the granddaughter’s that just moved back here a year ago and I’m going to show her this and see which one it is.

KJ: Maybe she’ll be able to tell you.

GH: Yeah, and there’s the post office and _____. And I didn’t look who that was.

KJ: Henry Casper, it looks like. George Casper.

GH: He’s deceased now but he was alive when we moved here. They live out that way. These are—this is Al’s dad, Yelmer. These people are—I can read it upside down. There’s a Waisanen there, Lewis Waisanen which is this man I’m sure because Yelmer is the next name. So, can you see it or should I put the light on it?

KJ: No, I see it.

GH: So, I think this came in an envelope and I just _____ and I just hope we can—I just hope we can-- even if the paper would have a newer one I guess would be alright. This is the Aura school here that was down Carsey (?) Road and there’s the church.

KJ: Wow, how old are these newspapers?

GH: Well, this is pencil written up here, this says 11-6-1954 was this one. This says November 6th, 1954. This is the Gazette. This is the Houghton paper, there goes my voice now and this is _____ Sentinel and this has the date on it too. 9-16-1959, it says.

KJ: Okay.

GH: Yeah, pretty cool hey?

KJ: Very cool.

GH: Yeah, you know his son looks just like him.

KJ: He does! Just like Carlo!

GH: Bobby? That's not Bobby, that's his dad! That was really nice. So, I'm glad to get these and that she thought enough to send them. I hope I can go to the _____. I can look through this and see if I can get something.

KJ: There should be a pretty easy way to do that.

GH: Maybe on microfilm or something?

KJ: Yeah, they should.

GH: And the same way with the Mining Gazette. They probably have something too, you know?

KJ: Yeah they should. I'd be happy to look into that for you, if you'd like me to do that.

GH: You can if you like.

KJ: Sure.

GH: But this is—this talks about Aura. See, it says Aura's thriving _____, agricultural area and this says it existed in 1913. That's when the strike was.

KJ: Right.

GH: So, when they say Aura was in 1914 but I think it was a year off. I guess whose going to argue what year it is. It's a long time ago anyways.

KJ: Right, sure.

GH: I think he left me. I better go give him this, its 3:00.

KJ: Alright, can we talk about the Aura Jamboree for a few minutes?

GH: Sure.

KJ: Will you tell me what you know about how the Aura Jamboree was first organized?

GH: I just know what I've heard, that John Waisanen and Bob and Flecks (?) was their name, I can't remember her first name right now. They kind of got together and Fred Waisanen, they were the ones

that were the initial planners as far as I know. And they came to the Aura Hall, no chairs, people sat on the floor and I don't think there was a foundation under that hall then. I think it was posts or pillars, whatever because after we moved here, we sold block, cinder blocks, cement blocks and I was one them that went around knocking on doors asking how many blocks would you like to buy.

KJ: Was that as a fundraiser for the hall?

GH: Yeah. We had to put a foundation under it.

KJ: Did you put people's names on them?

GH: No, they're just regular cement blocks but somewhere, I don't know if it's on a plaque but there is a record of everyone who donated for that base, well it's not a basement, it's a crawlspace but it's a foundation because if it wasn't for that foundation that hall—it was a very important thing to get.

KJ: Absolutely. How much were you selling the blocks for?

GH: \$25.

KJ: Do you remember approximately what year that was?

GH: Well, we came in '80 and it was right after that and I bet it wasn't too long after that. I bet it was '81 or '82.

KJ: Were people receptive?

GH: Yeah.

KJ: Did anybody say no way?

GH: Nobody told me no way. There were other folks doing it besides myself, you know. We had areas of town where we went in and areas of Aura where we went. Fred and Helen did it, I did it, and your grandpa might've done it. I don't know if he was here then, if he was back here then or not.

KJ: I'm not sure.

GH: Koski's probably did.

KJ: What were Koski's first names?

GH: Buddy or Roy and Ayla (?). I would assume that they did it because they were heavily involved too. And Ed _____ of course was very heavily involved, yeah. We did that.

KJ: That's a great fundraiser. So, can you tell me a little bit about how the jamboree is organized and what does it take to put on a jamboree every year?

GH: Well you know, it's getting pretty simple now. This is going to be our 35th one or 34th or something. Everybody has a job and everybody knows what to do. In the beginning, it wasn't quite that, I'm sure. It

was a little chaotic. I started working on it as soon as, as a volunteer, as soon as we moved here. So, that would've been in '81. It would've been my first jamboree in '81. And I guess I was on the hot dog duty because I did work in the kitchen which was not—we didn't have a kitchen we had a tarp outside on the wall facing the ball field and that was our roof. And we had hot dogs and stuff under there and I can't remember what else we served then, coffee for sure and hot dogs and probably cookies or whatever.

KJ: Was all the food donated or purchased?

GH: No, it was purchased. In the very beginning, they made sandwiches and those were donated and then we went to hot dogs and sloppy joes from that. And the tarp, it was hard working there because the ground is uneven, you know, its hard standing on the cement all day but on uneven ground, walking back and forth, that is not the easiest thing to do and the tarp would protect you from some of the sun. We always had really good weather. This one year we had some early rain and the tarp was you know-- it was holding some rain in it. I don't know how this all happened but there were people standing to get a hot dog or coffee or whatever they wanted and my husband Alvin walked up there with a stick and he was going to be a real nice guy and get some of that water out of there before the tarp caved in on the ladies working there. And he went with a stick like this and the water gushed out on a lady that was waiting for a hot dog.

KJ: Oh no, did she get drenched?

GH: Yes, I think she made a smart remark to him. He'd have to tell you what it was. I think he said, "oh my gosh, I'm sorry!" And she said, "oh, I bet." But I don't know who it was but we all giggled and she didn't.

KJ: And he was trying to help?

GH: Yeah, he was trying to be helpful. He wasn't. That was kind of cool. And when we finished, I mean we worked under those tarps for many years, we had the jamboree under those tarps. I mean, the kitchen under those tarps. Then we had enough money to add the concession stand part. I don't think that, that's the right order of the way things come. We had our furnaces first, then we got a metal roof-- a new roof and then... and we did get work in the kitchen because the kitchen was really bad with moisture and stuff down there that you couldn't work in it. I mean, I'm sure the health department put a padlock on the door if we would've tried to do that but every year with the profits, we put some aside for the buildings so that we could fix it when we got that nice concession there. It has seven windows there now. That was, well that's what we do with the profits. Besides, scholarships and maybe Helen already told you that.

KJ: No she didn't.

GH: We give four scholarships.

KJ: For Aura High School students to go to college?

GH: Not Aura, anybody from Baraga County but the stipulation is that they have to go into the Arts, not major, it can be their minor but either music or you know, art. We've done that for a long time.

KJ: That's great.

GH: To organize a jamboree, we have of course, Helen at first was the general chairman, Helen Waisanen and when she retired I became the general chairman and like, you just didn't jump in and do that. I worked in the kitchen for a long time and I also worked scheduling people. And you got your feet wet everywhere, you know. But now it's all—I hate to say it's a piece of cake because it really isn't. In one respect it isn't but yet it is. We have Helen Foster who does all the calling of all of the volunteers. That's a big job and we had like Eileen Mills who is deceased now and Linda Mills and _____ Sweeny (?) who were in charge of the kitchen. _____ kind of come in after. Linda and Eileen did it for years. Now, last year we had two people who are—they're just young people here in Aura. One was Nancy Majeski (?) who was my daughter and Andy Lehto (?). They took charge of the kitchen, I mean here there's two young women in they're early—well, Nancy's in her early forties and I don't think Andy's turned 40 yet but maybe she is. They're young, good strong legs. I mean, they were in charge and they just did a fantastic job and I hope they do it this year.

KJ: Please come back!

GH: We have many people working 2 hour shifts at the hot dogs and the popcorn. We have young kids now that make the popcorn which is good because you have to have them involved or they're not going to come and even younger kids filling pop glasses from the you know, machine, like a soda fountain machine. They just fill them and we give them to the—when you come and say I need a Pepsi, they hand it to you and they say _____ customer. And there's the—the kitchen really is a big thing because well, we get over 2,000 hot dogs and let's see if I can tell you.

KJ: Do you have the folder of records there?

GH: This is the 2009 jamboree. Let's see if the kitchen help is in here. Usually the bills are in here, I always put them in here so we can go by it for next year. We have to have—this is sales tax, we pay sales tax on what we sell. We have to have our water tested. The health department comes and checks everything the day that we start. We start at 5:00 on Friday. The health department is there probably by 3:30 or 4:00 and they check everything and I'll tell you, we are very, very fortunate that we keep everything up to par because it would be terrible if they told us you can't do it.

KJ: Right and to shut down at the last minute.

GH: This is alcohol. This is the same thing as this. There was a—I guess I would say there was 141 cases of beer, water and lemonade mix. There would be like a _____ rum. I don't know, I don't drink it. Anyway

KJ: Do you remember approximately what year the jamboree starting selling alcohol?

GH: I don't know but I could probably go back as long as I've kept files. I've kept files since 2000 or 1999. This is the toilet bill.

KJ: How much do you pay for a toilet?

GH: \$1,020.

KJ: Wow, are they port-o-potties, is that what they are?

GH: Yes and a hand wash unit which you have to have and the handicap toilet is ours. We bought that outright when we, this gets away from the jamboree a little bit but... your probably going to have to listen and put everything I say in it's own category because I'm like a rabbit, I just jump around. I just tell you what I'm thinking about when it's comes to my head. When we made the edition, the handicap part, we come up with a problem that you get people in that are handicap and how are they going to use the restroom because then they got the stairs next to the stage to go up. So, my husband is the toilet man, he keeps contact with his A-1 Toilets in Calumet, it's his job. And so, he called them and said you know, can we buy one of those and they said absolutely. Well, we bought it, I think we paid \$2,300 for that handicap toilet but it's—I mean we have to have it. Most people have to be able to use the restroom and we want those people to be able to come and they deserve to see things too when we have fun. So, that unit just get's serviced but we get 10 port-o-potties, a hand wash unit and _____. We have three that are wooden, old fashioned outhouses all _____.

KJ: Are those still functioned?

GH: Yeah, we clean them up every year, _____ still uses them. We also have ice, this is our prices.

KJ: The number of tickets for each item that you want for the concessions.

GH: Okay, last year was the 33rd, so this year is the 34th. This is the Pepsi. This is Jilbert. This is ice cream and milk and the Pepsi—this was the original order. These are all the people who were volunteers. There was 130. Right there, there they are.

KJ: And all of that 130, would you say most of them are from Aura? Did they live here or are they from all over?

GH: Well, the good portion of them are from Aura. The Butler's are from Calumet, Jerry Bird (?) is from Howell, Michigan which is close to Ann Arbor. The King's are from Lower Michigan, _____ are from Wisconsin. They're from all over. We have people from Wisconsin. Also, they park their camper over there and they just walk over and help. He's had health issues, so he wouldn't say yes I'll help you from 2-4 but when he was feeling okay he would walk over and do something. And then we probably have—this is schedules, the hand written schedules.

KJ: Of when the musicians are playing? Who figures all that out?

GH: Me.

KJ: You?

GH: Bob Foster sometimes helps but he hasn't for the last couple years because he's a school teacher and he's been busy. And this is the _____ report; we would get a food license. These are just bills like we pick stuff up at the grocery stores and this is the pin backs. My husband makes the pins.

KJ: Oh those little wooden buttons?

GH: He makes them. He cuts and sands them; we take them to Homestead Graphics. Bob Foster makes the design and then Homestead Graphics makes the silk screen and they print them and we get them back and we have a lady that puts the pins on the back. That's another thing, that's another volunteer.

KJ: Who's responsible for all of that?

GH: Alvin. This here is all the stuff you have to fill out for the Health Department on where the—like how you're cooking the hot dogs, okay? I think that we would be—since we grill them on the grill outside, I think it's the best thing because you have to have things the right temperature. Here we have to wear gloves and tongs from the grilling of the hot dogs and the brats. The pasties come from IGA, they used to come from _____. And we can't make those because—we could but holy smokes, we get 300 pasties, so. We stay with the same poster. We changed this ones paper, it was like a handout. We changed this color to match the color on the button.

KJ: Okay and that's the color of the word that say "Aura Jamboree" on the poster?

GH: Yes and then this year this will be red because the button is re.

KJ: Oh, it changes every year?

GH: Every year it's different. We always use this as our logo.

KJ: The three musicians.

GH: I think Fred, I really won't blame him but I think he's the one that—I think he got this design. I don't know where he got it from but I'm sure Fred Waisanen had something to do with it.

KJ: Probably.

GH: So, that's our poster and that you know, they wanted to change them every year, a different poster. Well you know what? People get used to seeing this and the only thing that changes on it is the dates and sometimes we have added these workshops because now we have Betty _____ workshops and that's the only thing I think that's been added lately. Oh, we did add no pets, we've had—not trouble but a couple of incidents that maybe shouldn't have been. Number one, dog's mess in the yard and there was a napkin on it and our dentist, Dr. Mark Summers, he's a good volunteer, he always does

ground detail and garbage detail. He saw that napkin and he bent over to pick up the napkin and guess what?

KJ: Surprise! Not a nice surprise.

GH: And then another incident was somebody came with a huge dog and when you walk into the hall and there's that small platform and the stairs go up and the people all congregate trying to get a seat, you know? Here's this young man standing with this big dog laying there. Now, how do you get around that? That isn't even considerate. It really isn't and we—I mean we haven't had no dog biting anybody or anything like that but you know what? It could happen and we tried to keep it at a kind of like a family thing. We're getting more young people who have little kids, they're coming and pushing kids in strollers and we cannot take a chance of anybody getting hurt like that. We want the kids to come. They have a great time on the head start playground. They do, they really do and they're folks are a little bit relaxed that they can be on grounds under a tent listening to music and see their child's playing right there on the playground. It's a great set up, it really is. Of course, I'm prejudice because I like Aura. These are somebody else's bills, not mine. The big job is getting a license to sell the beer. Anytime you go to a government for anything, you beat your head against the wall. Every year you think you got it perfect.

KJ: What do they expect you to do?

GH: Well, first of all, things have been going pretty smooth for a couple of years and we have to—first you have to get a bond. That's 50 bucks and Roland Sweeny, who's an insurance man; I usually just call him, "would you get the bond please?" And it kind of comes easy because he has a copy of everything that has to go on it and he just does it and faxes it and get's it. Well then, this gets filled out and sent to the liquor department and the sheriff. You have to go to the sheriff's office and get him to sign it on the back and there's not one with this but we have a map of the grounds and— (too far away to understand). But the alcohol is sold and it's only beer and wine. There's nothing else and where it would be consumed has to be fenced in. Well, they never told us fenced before and we put up those colorful little flags that mark off the whole grounds and this last year, they called and they said, "you can't have beer." We said, "It's already ordered. It's going to be here." And they don't call you a week before, they call you a day or two before and they don't send the license until the day of or the day before. I mean your walking on pins and needles to know if you have it. I said, "What's wrong now?" She said, "You can't have a roped area." our diagram said "roped." It has to be fenced. I said, "When did you change that?" She said, "Well, we just had a meeting a few days ago." I said, "Did you ever think about letting people know?" I was not happy, I wasn't rude. I said, "Can't you let people know when you change things?" The sheriff didn't even know. So I called him and I said, "Joe, this isn't going to pass because it says roped and I need it fenced in." And yeah, I'm not going to say what the sheriff said because I don't want other people to know. It's not swear words but we made a few changes.

KJ: Oh, that's funny.

GH: So then we got that taken care of and I don't see that plan in here. I'm going to have to—I talk too much.

KJ: Get a glass of water.

GH: This is the liquor license and this is—here is the liquor license. Before, you had to send this back. _____ was over Saturday at midnight by Monday it had to be in the mail but now you don't have to send it back. It's dated so good that you can't use it.

KJ: So if you had to add up all the expenses of what it takes to put on the jamboree, what do you think the total is?

GH: I don't even know _____ the jamboree.

KJ: Are these all the volunteer positions?

GH: These are all the things that have to be done and the person that's named is by that—say “Nurses Station- Mary” Mary Williams takes charge of getting the nurses and the station. Helen was doing the kitchen, Carol does the pop, and Bob does the beer. Port-o-potties is Al. MC job was Bob and we all clean. Lori (?)Koski is in charge of getting the tents and volunteers to do the tents. The name next to the person is who takes charge of that. Okay?

KJ: While you're looking for that cost, I'm going to read off a couple more of these.

GH: Okay.

KJ: Somebody has to do the sound system. There are 50/50 tickets, t-shirts, letters to the musicians, food tickets, cash and candy till, the works schedules, gas for the grills, parking lot, wow. What does the 50/50 tickets—does the 50 go back to the Aura hall?

GH: Yes.

KJ: So, what time of year do you usually have this done by? To figure out who's going to be in charge of what?

GH: Oh, we already have it done. We will do that in May. We start it in May and this one just didn't get changed when it came June and these are the people who made the sloppy Joes last year. There are six people, they make a 15 pound recipe and we run out so we're going to have 7 people do it this year, so. Let's see, 6 people is 90 pounds right? So, 90 and 15 so that's going to be 105 pounds next year.

KJ: That's a lot of sloppy Joes.

GH: I know I have that someplace. I just have to think where it is because...

KJ: The total cost of the jamboree?

GH: Yeah. These are the reports and I have that in another folder. I will find them though. I thought I had it. Homestead Graphics, Homestead Graphics isn't on there... The jamboree expense it would be \$12,000 but it actually is \$12,800. It's there I just don't know how to save it. It took in about \$23,000 but then you have to take the 12 off of it. No, that's not right because \$8,000, I know the profit was— actually the profit last year was \$9,000 because it was \$1,000 more than the year before. It was 8 before when the gas was high in price and when the people first got their gas, we had a lower attendance and our profit was \$8,000. And last year it was 9.

KJ: And all of the income is generated from entrance?

GH: Entrance and of course, the sale of the hotdogs and brats and sloppy joe's and the pasties because like you know, you actually add it on to what you bought so that you can make something.

KJ: Do you think that having alcohol sold there has been a big money maker?

GH: I would say yeah, to a point I guess. We had one of the board members when she kind of new, she went marching up to the sheriff's office to get a deputy and she didn't tell anybody she was doing this, she did it on her own. And she told me, "I was kind of embarrassed." And we said, "Why? What did you do?" "Well, I went to the sheriff to get a deputy" We said, "A deputy for what?" She says, "A deputy for the jamboree because you sell beer." And we said, "And? Were not paying for a deputy. We don't need a deputy." And she said, "That's exactly what the sheriff told me." She said, "_____ jamboree is the least of my worries."

KJ: Oh, that's funny.

GH: We've never had any trouble so. It's, you know, it may be a different age of people or whatever, I don't know but we've just never had any trouble. Anyway, what else do you need to know?

KJ: How does the word get out about the jamboree? Where do you put the posters and how does the word spread?

GH: Karl Pellonpaa on Suomi Kuutso (sp?) is one way of spreading the word and of course, we have an ad in the paper and in the Houghton paper and also the radio stations advertise. We have you know, paid advertising. The girl that is in charge of the advertising, she'll take say some buttons and she—I don't know if she did it last year or not but she has in the past, taken a couple of tee shirts to a radio station and they have some kind of a thing for the 10th caller gets a button or admission to the Aura Jamboree. So, it's through advertisement and word of mouth gets around too. If people have you know, people enjoy themselves and have a good time they sure can talk about it and they're not going to miss another one. And we've been very, very fortunate and very blessed that the jamboree has progressed the way it has. And you know in the beginning when we sold those cement blocks then the next thing we did was bought chairs. We didn't buy them all at once but we bought what we could afford, you know? For a few years, every year or every other year we were buying chairs. We had tables _____ and we used to rent tents. We rented the tents from, like a circus tent, from the Baraga County Fair and we rented the rent from Francis _____. They were big tents. We didn't have the money to buy

tents but then eventually we had enough money to buy a tent, you know and now we have many tents and now were going to build a pavilion.

KJ: Oh really? Oh, how exciting!

GH: Well, we hope we're going to build it. We had sand brought in a year ago, a year and a half ago and it was all staked off and we had plans for it. And we thought we were going to build it after the Jamboree, well we got bids and we didn't have enough money. So, we had to put it on hold and then we went the next year and we got the sand and the base and we were going to let that sit so that we could you know, put cement flooring down and that's where we are now. Hopefully, this year we will be able to put the pavilion up. And that won't be just for the jamboree, I mean it will be for the community to use. And then one end of it will also store the picnic tables because right now they're just under the overhang by the back door and that's not real good weather protection, you know, for wintertime. _____ Aura has two ball teams and they will also be able to use it because it will be built in that little wooded area over there and they'll be able to use it for picnics and stuff and they have tournaments sometimes. They get a lot of people, we even have campers pull in the yard over there, so. Hopefully, that will come this year.

KJ: You mention that Art _____ Scholarship. IS that what you said it was? A scholarship?

GH: An Art _____ fund. When he died, his friend, which was going to be his wife but he didn't live long enough, it was just going to be the next day according to her but anyway, they gave "x" amount of dollars, I think it was \$2500 for an Art _____ Fund and of that, they wanted like—this women wanted like a board to oversee this money. Well, she named the people she wanted, none of them were here but Helen Waisanen would've been the closest because she's here at _____ in the summer but it ended up that from that fund, what we do with that money, there is a committee that works on that. The hall did not want to be involved because we did not want—it's bad enough we have to watch our own money, let alone someone else's. There's a separate account and everything. So these workshops at the jamboree, that is paid for out of our _____ fund. Last year, when we had the scholarship applications, we had four people and there was five and we wanted to give to five and we didn't know what to do. So, Ellen Varney (?) has been kind to take this Art _____ Fund over, so we ask her. "Ellen, do you think you want to give a scholarship out of Art's money?" "Absolutely!" she said. So, we were able to give another one then but that money is kept separate, in a separate account and our treasurer does have that money or access to it I should say but she got the money for—we got Ellen's permission to do that and we were all glad because we wanted to give. I mean, we don't always have kids that are in the Art's, you know and then when you get one, you get more then what you had planned on.

KJ: That's a good problem to have though.

GH: Yeah, it is and the interesting thing was one of those people last year, recipient's—I don't remember their names but anyways that doesn't make any difference, that one young man applied and he said, "well, why not?" I mean we can't go giving them thousands of dollars but we can give them something so that they can pay for their books or whatever. Everything helps.

KJ: Do any of them come to the jamboree?

GH: Oh yes, we have one that performs. _____. She's studying in Ireland right now for her, I'm not sure what it is. I think she already has her master's, so whatever comes next and she's an Aura girl. She has a beautiful voice, absolutely beautiful voice and Joe Augustine, he's an Aura kid and he plays the bass. He applied last year and he was one of the five when we only had four. He's a student at Michigan Tech. Marta (?) was also a student at Michigan Tech. This other young man that was in his second year, he was at Northern. I can't remember they all have gone but we sure get nice letters coming back from these kids. And now when Marta comes back from Ireland, she will sing again. She also sings at our Lights of Love at the Aura church. Joe Augustine has also played at Lights of Love at the Aura church.

KJ: That's wonderful. Okay, one more question for you. Two more questions. One is about the musicians: how do you recruit them and are they paid?

GH: I'll answer the second part first, no they aren't paid. Everybody is a volunteer. No one gets paid, nobody working on the ground. I don't get paid. Nobody gets paid. Alvin gets paid for making the buttons because we used to get them from Grand Rapids and their price went up, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Their prices went up so high, they couldn't do it. We'd have to raise the price of the jamboree, the admission price. So, Al said, "Let me try it." Guess what? He got it. He still does it and it is—that part, he's one person that is paid for that job. And how do we get them? Well, I guess first of all when you come as a musician and you have a good time and you have a friend who plays an instrument, your going to say to him or her, "How about coming to Aura with me next year?" And so, it just snowballs and we hear everywhere somebody calls and says, "Hey, I got a named of a musician that's never been to Aura." So, we send them an invite and they send it back. Did you see the invite?

KJ: No, I did not.

GH: Okay, let's see. It's in here. I think there are some papers missing out of here. I don't seem to think that—I thought these folders were full. Okay, they get a letter similar to this. It's just telling them what were doing and then this, they return to us filled out and then when it comes back, it comes back here and I put a date on this. This is folded in three's and then we put a stamp on it and our label and a label for their return address and we put a date on it for when it comes back because we kind of have to go—well, if you send yours back early, okay. If you send yours back last minute, I can't wait till last minute to do things. We have a deadline. This goes out the first week in May and by next weekend it'll be out and they're returned by the 15th and I'm going to ask the board if I can change it to the first of June because we have a webpage, a website and I would like to get it so that at least a month before the jamboree, I could have the schedule on the website. So, if you have a friend who was playing and you were afraid you were going to miss it you could go on there and look and see. So, I have to have a little more time to make the schedule and I think that it's going to be okay because Al and I saw one of the musicians that plays with Greenstone in pennies up in the Copper Country Mall. And he says, "Am I going to get invited?" And I says, "Of course you are." He says, "Well I'll tell you, my calendars getting full." I said, "Smarty pants, you know when it is." He says, "I know, I'm teasing you." But then I started thinking, well

why I can't send it so that they can send it back earlier. So, that's my reasoning. He put a little spark in me. So, that's how we do that.

KJ: Do you think that there's something special about the Aura Jamboree that doesn't happen at other community music festivals?

GH: I guess there is because everybody says that but it's like a big family reunion or a big friends reunion or something. We've had two of them—something else we've had interesting. Oh I don't know, the first one must've been ten or fifteen years ago. A girl called up and she said, "We're going to have a family reunion, our family reunion isn't really big but us that live here want to go to the jamboree. Would you mind if we had our family reunion at the jamboree." I said, "No, but first of all what do you want?" She says, "I just want a table reserved or a couple tables reserved where we can eat together and then would you hold so many pasties while I find out?" So, we had a family reunion. Okay, after that we've had three maybe or four 50th class reunions held there.

KJ: How about that!

GH: And the same thing, it isn't a large amount of people but they want—could they have a couple tables under a tent or whatever and pasties for our dinner. Sure, why not because they all want to come to the jamboree and some people, when they live away, they can't make two trips here in the summer, you know? So, we've had several of those 50th class reunions at the jamboree. And if you ask Karl Pellonpaa about the Aura Jamboree, he says, which he just told us a couple weeks ago, "When I think about the Aura Jamboree, I get chills, goose bumps." He said, "It is an awesome event."

Man: He does a great job for us for advertising.

GH: Yeah, okay.

KJ: I'm going to stop it right now. Thank you so much for your time.

GH: You're welcome. I don't know...

