# a glimpse of Grandmaris

37 PORTRAITS & CONVERSATIONS W/ LOCALS

A SNAPSHOT, OF OCTOBER 24'

CONDUCTED BY STIRLING POLLOCK

# For My Mother

**The most supportive person in my life, I couldn’t have done this without you! Thank you for everying.**

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# About This Project

My initial goal for this project was to capture the spirit of Grand Marais. I soon realized I had no idea how to represent that in any tangible way. Yet still, I tried. Over the course of a week, I had the privilege of photographing and speaking with roughly 40 locals from Cook County, allowing me to take a large-scale photograph of this town—frozen at a shutter speed of 1/25. On Sunday, October 20th, I set out with an amateur digital camera and a passed-down audio recorder to capture Grand Marais in whatever form it presented itself.

I wanted to include everyone I could. If time had been on my side, I would have photographed every single person in town. I can't say this project is an accurate representation of every demographic in Grand Marais. The truth is, I started with the people I was closest to and branched out from there. Some encounters were planned, others were serendipitous. I believed the project would be more truthful with as many people as possible.

There were no prepared questions—every conversation happened spontaneously. I aimed for each interaction to be organic. I encouraged people to speak about their present lives, avoiding life stories and legacies. But if they chose to share them, it wasn't my place to intervene.

The page order follows the sequence in which I took the portraits. With a multitude of stories, portraits, and snapshots, I present: A Glimpse of Grand Marais.

# *A Snapshot of the Present, Now Past*

NOTICE
HARD HATS REQUIRED
WARNING
NOTICE
NO TRESPASSING IN CONSTRUCTION ZONE

WHISPER

OFFICE

Alisa B

"Okay, the reason this is such a good spot for growing things is that there is 80 inches of topsoil before you hit bedrock and that's really rare in Cook County because like this is like predominantly a maple forest and maple forests have really good soil. Cook County, it's kind of an anomaly. And so me being someone who is always been really into horticulture and plants, growing flowers is another basically phase of gardening that is really fun and exciting to learn about cultivation of cut flowers and just how you market and sell them is really a fun new adventure for me.

So it's been a really fun side project that I'm hoping to become a real project next to alongside with hoping to start a nursery someday in the very near future. Flower and plant sales as a way to springboard kind of out of sort of like the hard physical labor of landscaping. It's like phase two for my life. Horticultule life. Nursery and cut flowers. And I got a good team going. Kim and Ann and you know. Well, Kim is really on board. She's really, she's really excited about it.

I'm putting the gardens to bed, putting compost, spreading compost and planting bulbs. I planted

125 bulbs yesterday and a bunch of perennials, a few perennials that I had, peonies and some like other types of perennials. And pretty soon I'll dig up the dahlias and overwinter them, but I'm waiting for them to, you divide the tubers, I'm waiting for them to die back all the way and then you dig them up. So because I'm kind of starting a collection, that's why they're all labeled, because they're all really good varieties.

Dahlias are really having a moment, like everyone's really into them. They're a really pretty flower, they're very like photographable. They're all kinds of colors and they're all kinds of forms. Some are really big, some are really small"

# Micheal W

"I've got a second stovepipe that I'm trying to get through the chimney or rather through the roof. Well I've got this one wood stove in the basement which in theory will be the heater and then the little cook stove in the kitchen is just like for smaller fires. It's kind of like an antique. The stove was actually made in like 1919 and it was retrofitted so that's gonna be the only thing heating the house. Well the main wood stove I'm hoping to burn a lot of wood but I am gonna get a propane back up.

Right here, I'm gonna actually build a little bedroom addition right here so hopefully like next summer we'll get the septic system started and it'll come through the wall here at the same time I can pour a couple footings and start framing up this master bedroom here.

Yeah and then we stay on the weekends maybe one night but in some ways it's it's kind of nice to just treat it like a job site and come and go. It's tough because I really want to be up here and Creechville is so convenient to like this you know but it is nice not to be like cooking in sawdust and yeah all the drywall dust.

That's deer yard, that direaction but there's a cutout in the trees it's just kind of a nice view of the lake over here and then we would just get like an off-road vehicle coming in around. And in the winter put tracks on it so you can just blast up the snowmobile trail."

Marco G

“My chainsaw safety classes, twice a year, so people come out here, people come out here and they’ll be here at the beginning of next month. I come out here with a snow machine, and pick up all the wood that they cut. It’s just to learn how to run a chainsaw. All kinds of people, some older people. And one time I even had all women in my class. It was kinda cool. For some people who have had property and just wanna, you know, take the trees that fall down in the storms and that kind of thing...

...It’s ten acres here. But it’s long and skewed. I come out here in the winter and this machine, this has been kind of a project. So, to figure out how to first of all, ride a snow machine because when I had horses I never used one. Take it back across the trip and split it on. Split it with the wood splitter.”

Ann W

"I'm finishing up my work season, working outside, changing of the season, visiting all sorts of little hidden spots around the county, and I'm getting ready right now to go swimming in Lake Superior. It's finally feeling like a time to kind of sink into the experience of swimming with the busy summer being over and the winter on its way and the cold water. And I'm also in the process of settling into my housing for the winter.

I'm also doing pottery. This will be my first full winter in my new pottery studio, which I'm sharing with a fellow potter who was like a pottery matriarch of the community who just celebrated her 80th birthday, and she's still making pottery, selling pottery. And we share a studio that we just moved into in the spring, so this will be our first full winter settling into a new studio space.

It's right above Betsy Bowen's gallery, so it's in one of the original buildings. It's like a new endeavor, a new space, but it's like one of the oldest buildings in town with a kind of this new energy in it. I was at the art colony for 16 years since I moved here. Well, I've been doing pottery for like 26 years, over half my life.

I took my first pottery class in college. I was an art major, mostly doing abstract painting. And then I took a pottery class my senior year and loved it. And I liked doing something a little more functional and material. Kind of got me out of my head a little bit into sort of more functionality."

Joe F

"You know, and all the water's coming up over me and my legs are like going under the log and I'm going over the top too, so I'm like this, you know, and he keeps sweeping down and then he grabs a cedar tree like a ways down, and so he gets out of the river and now he's looking up the river and I'm like from here to the water or a little further probably, and he's just like staring at me, you know, we're just like looking at each other, but it's like white water, so he can't, it's not like he's going to make it back up there, even if he did, there's nothing he could do, so we're just staring at each other, and he was just like, and it was up to you, and he felt so helpless like in that moment, that's what traumatizes him is like that we were staring at each other, and he couldn't do anything.

I tapped into that thing, that there's like that superhuman strength, that some science supports it and some says that's not an actual thing, like an adrenaline rush where people like lift a couch off a grandma or whatever, you know. Superhuman strength, you know? There's like shit, like documented where people like do things that don't make any sense.

So like, seeing the impact on the boys, my own experience with it, and you know, family and stuff afterward, I was like, I don't want to live a PG life of like, Grand Marais is this quaint, perfect thing, because part of it is that, but there's also a whole other side of the experience of living here that I want to be authentic about, you know, like dudes freaking busting into someone's house in the middle of the day and clubbing them to death with a shovel and a moose antler, like that's some real stuff, it does happen, and it's like, what are we going to say about that in a real and honest way, about addiction and mental health and all these layers of complex society and life, so that was part of it, and just like, being more authentic about the experience of living in a community built around beauty."

Joan F

“So, I have these cups that I made and I’m painting them with what is called black metallica. Metallica is a white glaze that was invented years ago that doesn’t move. Whatever you paint on it works, you know? It doesn’t move.

What I’ve done, because I’m not a very good painter, is I put black metallica underneath it, which is a type of glaze that moves. I put the black underneath and then I put the white on top. When I paint it, it moves just a little bit. There’s movement on it.

The black comes through in creative ways. I really, I really like the effect, you see. So that’s what I do. And what I’m doing now is I’m painting this and then I’m going to fire it and it’ll be done.

So these rattle cups are my invention in a way, but it turns out they’re not totally my invention. I mean people put rattles in things all the time.

But in ancient times, in Guatemala, they used to put them in ceremonial bowls. Betsy Bowen found one for me and sent me a photograph of it.

And it’s this incredible, beautiful bowl with all these symbols on it. But the bottom part there is two layers, and there’s a space in the bottom. And what they did is they put one big marble thing in there. So you can hear it rolling around. So it’s like calling to the gods.”

Gwen &
Grace D

"Is that your cat?"

*No , it must be another neighbors.*

"Is your cat really big?"

*Shes pretty big yeah.*

"There's a tomcat that will walk around. Our cat will, like, bark like; meh, meh, meh, meh. cause, like, she's inside"

"The one we saw, its gray striped and it comes right up to the window and just like stares at her and she flips out. But I don't usually see your cat."

"We don't let ours out. We didn't decide on a name ever. We couldn't agree because Grace was like five and came up with a bunch of random names. I mean they were cute names, but then we had to tell the vet what her name was and so we made it up, we were kind of thinking towards Sophia. So we made up that name so the vet believes her name is Sofia. Then we changed it and now we have a story."

"Many houses are being made. I bet you don't miss that. Everyday at like six o' clock at night. I would be sitting in my closet filling it with squish mallows and suddenly the whole house would begin to shake. There would be a beep then they would do an alarm"

"They were doing like a highway project. So they were hauling ons of like gravel and stuff. That was a bad year and my friends were like: 'why don't you let your cat out?'.
I was like: well we live by the busiest highway in Grand Marais. So we're not exactly wanting that."

Dave P

"I got all my apples picked without having a bear get any of them, which is kind of nice because I knew it was a bad bear year. So there's been bears in town for quite a long time. I know there was even one next door, but he didn't scope me out, so I was able to get all my apples picked without having any taken. Getting that stuff out of the garden.

It's been a pretty good year. Started off pretty wet, but then it dried up quite a bit as the season went on. Had to do a lot of water in the second half of the season, but stuff is, all in all, it's been really good.

I got a ton of tomatoes this year. I'm gonna sauce those, and I already made salsa. I'm going to let my rutabagas go for acouple of frosts, and then they'll have enough flavor to pick. I got a smaller squash crop than last year because it was dry the last half, and I probably should have watered a little more. I got maybe 30, 40 squash. They grow on the hill really well because the sun hits its south-facing slope, so it gets warm.

I make compost, and then I've been going up to the recycling center and digging out of their big pile. You have to screen it. There's just so much garbage in it. People throw away their pots and electric wiring and plastic and whatever else, but once you get all that stuff out, it's really good stuff. I let other people dig around, and then I follow their path in. That's the way to do it because I wish they'd take a front-end loader and cut through that pile and just have people dumping on half and taking from half, but I don't know if they'll figure that out, I'm sure."

Linda P

"So, we changed gears. Otherwise, it's been pretty, pretty low-key. Enjoyable. Just doing our thing. Busy. It's good. With these gardens and the rental. The rental, kids and grandchildren. Nothing, nothing that most people would think was important.

We've been very busy with the rental. We could be booked solid if we wanted. So we kind of, since I do all the booking and all that, we don't go through Airbnb or VRBO. We're just linked with the North House in the Art Colony. And so if I want time off, I can block it off and, you know?

I've already got over 80 reservations for next year. So we're trying to decide how busy we want to be. Every day, we're not retired. But it's been good, and people are very respectful. So, we'll do it for as long as we want to do it, and either downsize or settle.

You know, move into that as we get older, or whatever. I do all the reservations and bookings and finances. It goes through the Vacation Rental Desk because you need a class form to transfer credit cards and all that. And we do all the cleaning and maintenance and everything. That keeps us out of trouble."

Kristin DW

"Well, this is the first day I've had off in a really long time that I haven't had been taking kids to sports events or having visitors. This is like my first time that I just had it kind of open. Which is really nice.

Seasonally it's been such a strange summer where it's been so warm and nice at the end here in fall. So, it feels like fall is often just racing to prepare for winter. But this year it feels like fall is, more gentle. We've been able to relax a bit more.

Just been really nice weather and, for warm temperatures anyways, no bugs. I kind of like all the seasons except for, I guess, the early summer is the one that I don't love. Like you want it to be something it's not. But I am looking forward to winter. I sure hope we get some snow this year.

That rooster, his name is Lonespur. He's been around for a while. See, he's got that spur on the back of his right there. Usually they have two of those, but he only has one.

Its the first time living full time at home since 2020. Because I've been working further south for the last four years. So, I guess I'm just starting to feel like each season that's come, like winter, spring, summer, and then this fall. I started working and living like full time again at home last January.

There's a lot more people living here now. It's funny because, the more people that we have down here, we're like, wow, we've put in all these hard years. It was so hard for so long. And now it's finally easy, and like, everybody wants to live here now. Because it's easy. They have no idea what it used to look like."

GRAND MARAIS
WELCOME TO
GUNFLINT TRAIL
Jay D

"Since getting done being the mayor and with all the covid madness that was going down like, you know, like change from being an entrepreneur in town here and having my own businesses to work for the county. Basically a different type of work doing all that stuff and also like in my volunteer-ship, you know, I pulled back from so much, so many of the committees, and so many of the boards and stuff that I was on largely because i just didn't want to put the time in I wouldn't call it burnout but it was it was one of those things like post-covid it just made you're think about.

I helped start the the youth mountain bike team, spent a lot of time, you know, hanging out with my kiddo and and doing, mountain biking with him and, you know, he's starting to get into exercise and weights and stuff. He's as tall as you, it's nuts, it's crazy to think. So that's been that's been what I've been doing a lot of. Um, and you know my work I do the radio stuff for the county.

I spend a lot of time thinking about like emergency management and about what the worst case scenario like for how things could shake out. So I have to spend, spend time you know brainstorming how to kind of cut off the negative things before they even happen, and so then when i'm done with work then I have to like find a way to shake that off because that feels weird to just carry that around with you all the time. So it's just a different kind of involvement in the community. I guess, you know, more of a behind the scenes sort of management of resources rather than being a being the mayor and being, like, in front of everybody"

Daryl B
SAWTOOTH
MTNS. MN
Daryl

"Moose Madness, Yes! I was participating every day right here. In the store, yep. I was here all weekend. And it was, uh... It was wonderful. All the children come back for this Madness Weekend. They might as well just leave their parents at home. They kind of take over the town. They're allowed to like, get out and explore. It's a lot of fun. Next year I gotta remember to wear a moose costume. Cause that'd be fun. Might give you an advantage, too."

Tim L

"I started in Istanbul at the beginning of May. And then I rode around Turkey for about a month. And then I ended up back through, I went through all the Balkans, which is, all former Yugoslavia. And through there, and then I went up into Central Europe, Hungary, and Slo- vakia, and Poland. And then I ended up in the Baltics, which is Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. And then I took the ferry to Helsinki and then flew home. I ended at the very end of August. Yeah, so it was four months.

Now I'm getting ready for ski season. Your mom probably told you it was pretty lousy last year, We didn't have a really good season. Snow here last year. Hoping it's gonna be different this year.

So, yeah, this fall hasn't, I haven't done anything too exciting though. More just settling rollerblading and stuff. A little roller skiing.You know, I do a lot of, I do a lot of hiking here and stuff. You know, just checking out the trails. I'm on the board for the Pincushion Ski & Run.

For probably like two years. We're just a small non profit. So we maintain all the trails in the summer and the winter. Just the actual older ski trails. The new bike trails, but that's a separate group. They're a cycling association. Like this year, we've just done cut and brush stuff coming in and then we mow these trails in the summer and then we groom them with a piston pulley in the snowmobiles in the winter."

Kent A

"I'm 50 now, so you never know how long you're going to be here. Well, I'm feeling pretty good, so hopefully I hang around a while.

This fall I'm going on a mule deer hunt in Montana here in a couple weeks. I've never done that before. I hunt a lot of elk. I go out there every year to Idaho. But this year I'm going to try some mule deers. I like to hunt and fish too. Big part of my life.

When I grew up here, uh, we had a pretty good herd of cattle, both dairy and beef. Yeah. And then we had horses, both work horses and riding. I grew up with horses. And my mom and dad are elderly now, but that's the last one. She's, I think, I want to say she's 31 or 32.. It's kind of retirement. Those are Norwegian Fjord horses. They're a draft horse of sorts, you know.

This all sort of happened a little bit by accident. So I work for Hedstrom Lumber. Yeah. I'm fourth generation of the Hedgdstrom family. So my brother and I are the last two family members that work at the mill and um, and then in the winter time I go and it's timber, uh, so I kind of got a full plate, but um, so, so I run a logging operation through the winter months.

So that starts in November and runs until about the end of March. And then I'm back at the sawmill. Uh, but, the long and short of it is, there's some, so Hedstrom's, the sawmill is designed for 16 foot logs, or lumber, so the mill isn't really designed to saw anything longer. We can squeeze up to 20 foot in the mill, but then, um, anything longer than that, I have to do it over here, so I modified this mill."

# Wayne A

"I course have mostly been in the lumber business all my life and in the mechanical end of it. I didn't have anything to do with sales or marketing. Mostly just producing hands-on stuff. And Kent does some, about the same, similar thing.

Yeah and, uh, that's expanded. We ship lumber to Canada, to California, probably overseas. They like this wood because our trees grow slow, and so the grain is really tight and it makes the wood strong. So, depending on the application, they like that tighter grained, stronger. The timber framing timbers that we produce. Well, we've also been producing just straight lumber, you know, for a hundred and ten years now.

We send a lot of 4x4s that get turned into spindles out to a furniture manufacturing company in California, and that's the main reason that they buy them from us, is the strong, The strength that they get. There isn't much fiber there to hold the wood together. It's mostly filler. And here, of course, the rings are close together and that's where the fiber is and that's the strength."

Matthew B

"I believe last year in the lower 48, no sled dog races happened because of the lack of snow. So, really hoping for snow this year to get back out there, and it's just so much fun to see all that energy with the dogs barking, and ready to go, and the mushes that have been training for months and months. So, hopefully they're going to get back out on the trail. It's going to be pretty exciting to see them go again. And then, of course, the big race, the John Beargrease Marathon, will hopefully happen again as well, so... Yeah, that's what I'm excited about for the coming winter. I'm involved in the administrative side of it, so I'm a race marshal.

I'm not a racer myself, but the race judges and marshals work with the veterinarians to make sure that the dogs are safe, because the number one thing about sled dog races is the safety of the dogs. So, we want to make sure of that. So, that's my key reason why I'm in it, is making sure that it's safe for the dogs out there.

Whether it could be making sure they're getting fed right, making sure they get proper veterinary care, and if they're not able to keep running, they pull them out. Because the dogs are the number one thing in all the races. So, I'm looking forward to that.

I'm hoping we have a good ice season this year again, although the weather isn't right for it, but I know there's that possibility, like we had last year, where it froze really early and there was no snow, so there was lots of ice skating last year, and there was good skating out in the boundary waters and things, and I'm so excited about that. And, yeah, just excited. I mean, the possibility of Lake Superior could freeze some this year, that would be great. Because it's like when it doesn't, at least the harbor, you know. The last couple of years, it just hasn't much there, so... Looking forward to all those things. I'm looking forward to winter, is the main thing."

Sam M

"…I'll close the door.

So today we're controlling pests for North Shore Superior Pest Management. Just mice. All October we just do  mice. And I had three services to do in Lutsen. I did those lickety-split between 9 and 10. Came back, changed some dates at odds and ends. And then I got some subway to go.

And I gotta change baits at four different... at four different locations. In the Five Mile Rock neighborhood and then after that it's go home and have a couple cigarettes. And maybe play Fortnite. Maybe hit the stew. Maybe try toget the boys over for movie night too. Back-to-back or fire night maybe.

A few months ago... Thursday, yeah. Thursday the 24th, I was gonna go to the Bladee show but my homie Stirling who's interviewing me couldn't go and I didn't want to go with just Mikey."

Barbra
Jean M

"So January, February, and March, Mike and I are going to play together every week, which is fun. And then my bandmate Molly is coming up for one of the songwriter nights, and we'll play a Dusty Heart set. So I feel like there's a lot more movement in that direction than there has been.

Well, I've been doing a lot of radio stuff. So I'm working with youth, like, in the highschool. Doing a radio project with them for Story Corps. It's like the Michael McHugh's media class. Or communications class. So it's working with that class, and then working with a group of students who came out of that class last year, primarily, and then one other student who wasn't in that class, who's been into radio.

So that's a lot of what I've been doing. But we just played the little radio waves recently. It was really fun. So when we set up here, we usually work in the basement, which I can show you. Might be a little dark down there. Sort of put together. It's a process of pulling it apart and trying to get a better flow, from the recording standpoint."

*You guys record down there?*

"Yeah well we have. It's a possibility, kind of a development over the pandemic, hopefully, you know.

And then Unnamed Stream with Eric Frost and Bill Hanson and Jessa and Bump. And then Bump and I played a bunch too. And then just like on the solo stuff too. And then Dusty Heart. The most recent is kind of Mike and I doing stuff together."

Mike L

"I'm trying to like basically like declutter and have it all be like where I can look at everything and it makes sense to me. Then I'm going to start figuring out like, yeah, re-plugging things in and trying to make sure that they work. This is the part that I'm the worst at."

*How many instruments do you play?*

"I don't know. A couple, confidently. A couple of them confidently and then not many other ones. Like I mean there are a lot of other ones, but yeah, but not confidently. Yeah, I don't know."

*Do you guys like to song-write together?*

"So far, well we definitely like, we've done a good amount of arranging together. And then I guess we've done a little bit of writing. We got one tune that we co-wrote. Sort of, it was mostly Barbara Jean."

*Which one?*

"Well,remember that one that I wrote, that like, the, um, um, the, the...No, we haven't written down anything yet. Nothing."

*Have you played a venue together?*

Yeah, we've played like four times now, most recently we played at Berlin in the Twin Cities, which is kind of a newer one, it's been around for less than a year, but yeah, yeah, we did that."

# Betsy B

"I like having a space where people come to, and this is the tail end of the busy summer visitor season, so it's quieted down a good bit. But I love the repeat visits, you know, somebody was here 10 years ago or 20 years, or when they were 9 years old and now they finished college and were in studio art and came back to say hi, it's the greatest. I like that so much.

I've enjoyed being deliberate about making a calendar, a series of 12 images about something that turned into a calendar. This year, for the upcoming years, the topic is birch trees."

Philis A

"This is the artist of the month who is somebody different. And then we have, um, Quick who was, an artist in Grand Marais who started the Art Colony, Grand Marais Art Colony, back in the 50s, late 40s, 50s. And I actually went to a summer session, 60, 61, was, after I graduated, I'm an old lady.

I'm a musician. I'm a retired symphony oboist. I played principal oboe in the Duluth Orchestra and then played up in Thunder Bay before that. Grew up in Minneapolis and freelanced down there. I have crooked hands, but I can still play.

…and so we started Sunday rehearsing and we'll rehearse for eight weeks and then we do our concert.Just at Bethlehem Lutheran across from the high school. Two nights in a row and it's usually a sellout both nights or full house. And, um, and we've been doing it for well, over 60 years. So it's quite a tradition here."

Colleen E

"Well, right now we are at the Big Lake. And we have over 40 boxes that just came in of inventory for the holidays, and new books, and new puzzles, and all sorts of good things. So we are unpacking and getting ready for the holiday season.

Right now we just entered shoulder season, so it will be quiet for a little bit, and then she'll gear up again. We've got the Harbor, Holiday; Holiday Harbor Village, that'll be in December, so that'll be a big thing up here, so, yeah, it's going to be. From Lutsen the way up. All sorts of little stores, all sorts of things are going to be involved. So, that's about it."

Chad B

Today, the highlight? Uh, I guess we had an AP chemistry test, so that was, that was the highlight for the students, but it was, it's, it's fun. I don't know if fun's the right word, but I, I like having those, having those measurements to see like, hey, how are you? And how are you?"

"And there's a bunch of staff and teachers who were leaving for the break. And so I was the site manager for the public. So that was an interesting experience to be the one who's supposed to be in charge, but just wandering around. So then, I just stuck around and then niece came from Canada, so we picked her up at the Thunder Bay Airport on Saturday.

We had a teacher day on Monday. We had a professional development and then kids came back yesterday after. So it had been one full week since they'd been in the class. Since we have like the A and the B days.

# Trevor H

"Alright, well I, I don't know if you want me to start with my name. My name is Trevor Huggins, and I bake wood-fired sourdough bread out of a wood-fired oven, and I do it in my hometown of Toftee where I grew up. We built an oven there 10 years ago, and maybe 8 years ago I think I started baking out of it using flour that I get in Canada, just across the border, it's like 80 kilometers away. So it's close, and that's kind of my niche, is to provide a local product that way.

Yeah! I do it once a week through the winter, and then in the summer time we do like a pizza night down there, we have people come. 5 to 7, have pizza, then I have my bread for sale. Kind of a farmer's market here, but then also at the pizza night.

Yeah, I don't know, I do it for reasons, like I like to eat sourdough bread, and I just got tired of buying stuff that was a day old, so I figured if I'm going to fire a wood-fired oven which can bake like 16 loaves per session, and I can usually do 3 loaves per day, then I can sell off some of that bread.

Well, today, I would say 25 customers is a good number, and I probably bake 60 loaves, some of themtake 2 or 3, some of them buy enough for the month, some of them just like a standing order every week.

Actually, I just finished like an hour ago with my last load. I start out in the morning mixing, well, I start to culture the day before, just before I go to bed, wake up and feed it again, and then mix the dough in the morning, just after I fire the oven. And so, as I'm firing the oven, then I'm benching and proofing and scaling and then putting them in baskets, so it's along fermentation sourdough, so the idea there is that it helps break down the wheat gluten, so it's more tolerable for digestion and then you get more nutrients from it, so there's a lot to learn in that bag of tricks."

Deb B

“

So yeah, the funnest thing in my life was running the radio station and working with people and community and helping grow and become a valuable asset to our remote little community up here.

Now, I retired six years ago. Yeah, six years and diagnosed with breast cancer at the same time, which was fine. Irrelevant, really, it was minor compared to what a lot of women go through. But it just timed with my retirement, so it was kind of a bittersweet retirement for me for all

the wonderful years I had at WTIP. And then just the last six years, pretty much been taking care of my mom who lives nextdoor to me here on the shores, beautiful shores of Lake Superior. And then in April, she had a stroke and became really incapacitated. So our care giving has stepped up quite a bit. And so it’s my brother and sister and I are working together as a team. Takes two of us here to manage her life and take care of her needs. And so that’s kind of where I am right now. Yeah, and the joy of my life is my little pooch here, Stella. Stella, come here. Oh, good girl, yes. So she’s the fun, she’s the fun thing.”

Rose A

"So, well, it is kind of fun that when people ask me what I'm doing, cause they mostly know me as like a storyteller or I used to have a bed and breakfast. And then with the pandemic, I changed everything. I worked at the dental office for a couple of years and everyone's like, 'where are you?'
I'm like, 'I'm working with JJ. I'm hanging sheet rock.'

So that's kind of a fun, um, shock, shock value. Last week we were laying cinderblocks to build a retaining wall for a garage. And, um, now we're just like painting everything in this huge, very North Shore kind of house. I like working around the county, like there's different areas.

And also been really fun to work outside. Yeah. I don't know if I could do a inside day job again. Oh, can't go back to the office. Actually I was thinking about asking your mom, like, if I'm not still doing this next summer, maybe I should see if she needs any help landscaping or gardening.

That's when I approached JJ. I was like, I can paint. That's, that's the thing I could get paid to do. Um, but I really have enjoyed getting to learn how basically how houses work and sometimes learning that from houses that don't work very well or somebody has put up their own sheetrock or maybe it's a prefab house that is getting totally redone. And you're like, I don't understand why this isn't working. And it turns out it's just, it was kind of built funny in the first place. So yeah, that feels, feels satisfying and good for my own projects. A little more capable."

Hunter F

“Well today the conditions from what the buoys were saying is about 3.2 feet. It’s on the small side today because it’s blowing from the opposite direction of the lake. There’s no wind in Grand Marais but there’s 20 knot winds on the other side of the lake so that’s why we have clean small waves happening and it’s not so crazy and waves happening in every single spot.

A couple pros and cons of surfing on Lake Superior that I have seen over the years of surfing is from, well, the pros let’s start off with that. There’s less people to surf out here so you have more spots to yourself you don’t have to have a aggressive lineup of people who all want to catch waves just as much as you so it’s like you really get to be kind of more close connected with your friends and with the waves versus constantly having to have your head on.

I guess the cons would be the inconsistency. Some weeks are incredible where it works just like an ocean and other weeks it’s just can be unpredictable. If it’s not the winter time it’s like a 50-50 shot of getting waves if there’s like a strong wind storm so the best season is fall right I would say from fall to spring is the best time of year. Summer is completely flat on Lake Superior. So yeah it’s pretty awesome that we have this resource in the midwest. I wouldn’t even call Grand Marais the midwest I would call it the Great Lakes region.

The first time wearing the brand new suit uh ridiculously warm yeah. It’s a lot more uh it’s easier to paddle and the suit that you were wearing today was a lot more challenging it’s a little bit more thick a little less um you know has a little more resistance to it, not as stretchy as the one that I’m wearing right now so it’s it’s really nice I’m really impressed and I can’t wait for the colder really big days where it’s really going to be put to the test.”

Ian K

"I usually walk around, and I stare at the people, make sure they don't drown. Sometimes I wave at people I know. If he looks, we might wave. So we don't wave, we just continue on. I walk around, make sure no one drowns."

*I thought the slide was supposed to be on today?*

"It is, but we don't have our other lifeguard. So we need two lifeguards for the slide. We don't have two lifeguards, so we can't turn it on."

*Is anybody disappointed?*

"There was one kid, but I turned it on for him for 15 minutes. Kind of broke the rules. But it was super slow, so it didn't matter."

*Do you often break the rules?*

"Yes. Okay, okay, okay. Now you know why I asked you. I mean, not to put anyone in danger."

*Yeah, so... What's your number one priority?*

"Safety."

# Karena R

"So there's a fall musical happening right now, it's called the Lady Pirates of Captain Bree and I'm the music director and they haven't done a big musical for a while just due to lack of participation but they got 38 kids and adults this year. So it's really fun. And we have a live band playing and that's just pulling together, we're going to have our first rehearsal tomorrow. It should be six."

*And you're playing in the band too?*

"I'm not, no, I'm going to be gone a couple of other days so I can't be in it. But I wanted to, I wanted to play accordion, it would have been fun. I know.

And then Borealis has started, so that's a big, big project for me, that's the big Christmas concert that we do every year, Pharrell and Orchestra. At the Lutheran Church. So, we had our first rehearsal last weekend, so there was that. Lots of music.

Yeah, and then I'm also in transition, I'm leaving the dental office in March or April, and we're starting an animal healing center with two other women. Mindy, she's an animal chiropractor, and Mari is a veterinarian who's certified in acupuncture, and we're going to offer those, chiropractic acupuncture, energy healing, animal communication, that's going to be me, and food therapy."

# Kathleen O

"With the transition to the new building, it's like four and a half weeks old, and they anticipated that it would have a lot more traffic. It's so close to the sidewalk and so pretty, and that was true. So they get a lot more traffic in here now, and then now that the season's about to end, they probably don't need extra staff, so I think my last day is November 7th.

But it's been cool to work for North House, because I always knew North House was a cool concept, and I've taken a few classes, but it's been fun to be on the inside, and it has made me even appreciate it more. It's a cool thing to have in our town."

*Do you get any deals on classes?*

"I do. All of our classes get 25% off. I'm not sure we're known enough. And being here and just being exposed to all the classes has made me feel there's so many classes it'd be fun to take. Just to learn it even if never even do anything with it. I always feel envious of the students when they're checking in, like, oh, three days just learning.

The Hjørdis always stops at the end of September, but they want an extra week because it's so warm here this fall. So, yeah, because it's so warm, a lot of visitors. People who are into fall colors."

# Kristofer B

"Just watching fallen leaves, tucking in the garden, getting ready to do trade shows in Europe this winter. Buying things for the store, so travel ahead, that's what we do now, this time of year. I'm always looking for new clothes, new, to see what's out there, what's new, mostly younger designers, that's the goal, yeah, and to experience it, I think, it inspires this, to see the things there, so. I've always seen this inspired by a lot of different places, people and, yeah…

I'm in love with this line of fleece, it's my friend Yumi, who's from Tokyo.So it's, I mean, it's like the dreamiest, softest quality. So probably a couple of brands, Nobu from Tokyo and Yumi from Tokyo right now. Just super great textiles. A good fit for us going into winter.

It's a collection, they call it a lifestyle store, so it's a bit of everything. Jewelry and home goods. Nearly everything's made by friends, which is exciting to me. Like, a lot of them I've known for a long time, so it's fun to sell your friends things. You know, I'm excited to talk about my friends, and I tend to use names instead of the brand, which is awesome.

I want people to know who's making making what."

# Dani M

“

I like how the weather is not too hot, but not too cold, and there’s no mosquitoes, kind of like the perfect time of year for that. And also it just looks really pretty. And I always re-watch Over the Garden Wall around this time of year, if you know what that is. It’s a great show for watching around this time, very fall.

The highlight of this day? I don’t know, I’ve had some pleasant conversations with some people. Getting to know newer co-workers is always nice. Getting to relate to people. Up front, it’s a little, it gets a little socially draining for me, personally. I’m definitely an introvert. Plus a lot of people, like customers, are weird, and make weird comments. But for the most part, I enjoy it a lot. It’s a good, like, monotonous job for me, which is kind of what I need right now. A repetitious, monotonous job.”

“ Infinite money Glitch ”

Dave M

"So I'm staining some trim um for a couple buildings I already put stain on the siding and um, I just wanted to finish this up while the weather holds and it's kind of late and been trying to do it for years and finally doing it.

Today is hopefully the end I think so final push hopefully. Just get some on there and it'll look fine and then I'll do more next year but yeah so like a longer process altogether. You kind of have to stick and move as time allows projects kind of fluctuating priority and you know compromises. The season's coming to an end."

Henry Died By drinking Chocolate milk
NORTH SHORE STORM
CROSS COUNTRY
Emma S

"I'm coaching cross-country that season is wrapping up. Otherwise personally, I'm running two marathons this fall, so that's like my personal activity.

I ran the Twin Cities Marathon and I'm running the Madison Marathon, which is where I'm from in Wisconsin. So those are my adventures right now nice and one of those so Twin Cities was three weeks ago and Madison is in two weeks. That's not like a normal turn around for a marathon. But I ran Twin Cities was my first

road marathon and the only reason I ran it this summer, I had the challenge that I personally made of trying to run the entire Superior Hiking Trail and so I did it in pieces.

It took like 30 different runs I didn't do in any particular order but in doing that I ran a lot I was like, well, I'm all this endurance I should race and do something and so Twin Cities still had spots open. So I signed up a few weeks before. I had friends who were doing it and like got to run St. Paul in Minneapolis, which was a really amazing place and then I didn't race it. I was like I just want to finish and so I had a lot of fun and then I was like no, I should do one more and like see if I can run faster. So five, it's two more weeks till Madison. So five weeks in between and so then I'll be going home staying with my parents and like running around the suburb or the city that I grew up. So that's been kind of like my personal endeavor trying to do long runs on the weekends and then running with the kids on the cross country team."

# Kim and Shem F

"Well, we're going to leave it in a couple weeks. We're just driving off. Yeah, we don't really even have a solid plan this time. We just knew we wanted to do something that was, like, kind of kicking off the boys being gone, not just sitting here doing the same thing that we've done for 20 years. You know, like, we both are, we're not, like, super stable. Like we don't like, just like to stay in one place as much as we have with the boys, but we wanted them to have that life, you know, to have a home and all that. But now we got a chance to go, so we are."

"I don't want to do winters anymore, so we're going some place warm, hopefully. We just don't know where."

"So we're just kind of back and forth on like, you know, we don't know. Yeah, we're going to send a couple of applications into a couple of like, kind of prime things. There's like a farm in Arizona that Shem was looking at, like a fruit farm, I think it is."

"It's a fruit farm, but they also like rent cabins and they have a little gift shop an d they have a little restaurant, but it's near a wilderness. It's in southern Arizona. And then there's a RV park on Big Pine Key that needs a couple. We're looking at like, you know, a lot of the jobs have like built in.. a lot of the RV parks will have like a maintenance person, which I could fulfill and a person who cleans or checks people in and does different."

"But I love this house. This is like my dream house. So. I don't really mind being here in the summers. So. You know. I could foresee us if this works out. Like being here in the summers and then just taking off in the winters would be ideal. Just be like snowbirds, but working ones."

# Micheal MH

"Trying to use and develop digital media skills for both myself and my kids. I've done a lot of partnership with WTIP, and so this is win, win, win. You know, it's good for the school, it's good for WTIP, it's good for the kids. It's exciting. We've been getting a lot of good accolades from it. We've had some changes. There's always a lot of, sort of, teachers coming and going at our district. I'm now the AP lit and comp teacher and I really like that. If you were an English teacher, you really feel like an English teacher. It's really good curriculum, it's streamlined, you're just developing skills and I've had a lot of fun with that. So that's been exciting for me.

I'm quite involved. So, still, this is my 19th year here. I'm kind of the old dinosaur now. I'm still announcing football games and I do a little, once in a while, when they let me do a little play-by-play of basketball. WTIP, that's kind of fun. So, still kind of doing my thing. Still being myself.

I like being a teacher. I think teachers are weirdos. I think they make life....They're so serious. They're always right. I think I have softened. I think I have gotten a little easier. I think I've gotten…Karen gives me a hard time. She'll be like, 'oh, you're Mr. Nice Mike now' or something. 'Not as hard as you used to be, huh?' Well, I'm still demanding. You think about yourself ?

You're a smart kid. Look at you doing this

creative work. You probably could have done all kinds of things in high school. But you just figure it out. It's exciting. This is the thing that I love. I love when you meet a student who has, like, interest. I think about you and your brother going down in the sewers and spelunking under the city. That's golden. As a teacher, I think that is the most exciting thing. It's so good to hear. To find kids that are sort of curious and inspired. School can be a drag for a lot of people. There's a lot of, like, fit in this box. You play the game and you say yes and no. But in the meantime, you're out doing what you really are inspired by. And look at what you do now. I think that's really... I couldn't be happier."

In 2003 I was born in a house in the middle of Grand Marais, in the middle of the day, in the middle of an ice storm. I was raised by two very supportive parents that embedded me and my brother into the community. So much of our childhood was in shared spaces. Where I grew an appreciation and a reliance on community. Going to festivals and common places I enjoyed seeing the same people time after time. One element of small town living that I cherish is being able to go anywhere and recognize faces, catch up with people at the most random, often serendipitous moments. I've now lived in three different small towns all roughly the same size and each place has had such unique characters in them. I developed a keen interest in that. Recognizing that I am one of those characters that weaves in and out of people's lives and you may not see me for years until we're both at the coop on a random Tuesday.

So I really loved doing this project, being able to talk to certain people that I haven't had a connection with in a long time, it has really meant the world.

Small town living has made me the person I am. I spent 18 years in Grand Marais, Minnesota, 6 months in Volda, Norway, and as a Senior at Luther this is my 4th year living in Decorah. Since being a part of these places it has cemented the idea that everybody has a story to tell, all equally as interesting as the next. So thanks for taking your time to open these pages.

# Stirling Pollock

SCIENCE
Died By drinking c milk
GRAND MARAIS
SAN TUOTH