

Tara Byykkonen's interview with my Great Grandma, Viola Langson

Name: Viola Langson, maiden name Olgren

Born on Pear Street at home on Sep.23, 1913

Me: where did you live when you were younger? When I was 6 moved to Champion went to school in Champion till 7th grade then went to Ish. School. Went all through 8th grade in Champion, back to Ish. For the 9th .then I went to Lanse all through the 10th grade stayed with my sister Eunice that year she was ill at the time and traveled back and forth on the train. Then I went back to Champion for the 11th grade. I've had a mixed up life. That fall I probably would have went into the 12th, but I met my husband and got married, we got married in August on the 23, in 1930.

Me: Where did you get married?

*- I got married I Neganne at the Apistogal(?) Church. And all my family was raised at the Apistogal. I got married and had ten children.

Me: What were their names?

*- Well, I'll begin with the oldest, it was Unis, then Billy, then Carol, then Viola, And Florence, and Arlene, then Corky Corine, Sally, then Louis.

Me: Where did you work, did you have any jobs?

*-Oh, yes I worked 3 months at the gauzit factory in Ishpeming and then I worked at the glove factory in Neganne. Then in 1966 I went to the restaurant in Neganne Orvil Kennys restaurant The Main Drift I worked their for 14 years.

Me: What did you do at the restaurant?

*-Oh, I did just about everything, I used to bake all their bread. I made between 40 45 loafs of bread every other day. I started out washing dishes, but I ended up doing everything else. We used to sell our bread for 50 cents a loaf.

Then afterward my lady friend and I joined the Finn class We were their from 1980 to 1997 17 years at the Neganee High School we were going from one school to the other that's were we started and then we went to the Middle school then from the Middle School we went to the High School the New high school, also my lady friend and I took up cake decorating witch was intresting.

Me: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

*- I had 5 brothers and 2 sisters their was 8 in our family. Of course my mother had one in Finland that passed away, a little boy. Her first child. My brother Nelson and my sister Nellie were born in Finland. Boys names. My brother Nels he was the oldest, we didn't call him Nels His name was Nelo, but he went by Nels. Then my sister Nellie, she went by Nellie, but her name was Nea. And then my sister Eunice and then brother Bill. The my brother Ben, Benjamin. Then Nickanor then Jacob. My mothers maiden name was Alanen Wilhelmenia . My das name was August John Olgren.

Me: Where were your parents from?

*-My dad was from Finland, Muustasaari. My mother was from Vasa, Finland. My mother was also working in Denmark for a while, she was a little Danish to, she worked for a Royal Family their.

Me: what did you do for fun when you were younger?

*-Oh, we went ice skating we went toboggan riding, and we went roller skating, and swimming just about all sports, all kinds of sports.

Me: What kinds of games did you play?

*- play anti anti I over. We used to play hopscotch truth or consequences. Run Sheep Run. All children play hide and go seek. We used t listen to the radio a lot.

Me: How many Grandchildren do you have?

I'd say about 45, anyway,

Me: How many great grandchildren do you have?

*- All in all anyway it comes to 100, and 1 no two great great grandchildren

Me: what was your parents jobs

- My dad was a Blacksmith, What would you call him a jack of all trades, because he was a coppersmith, a blacksmith he did carpentry work. He did his own electrical work too he wired his own house. We used to call him a jack of all trades. He had a blacksmith shop in Champion and he worked in Ishpeming at the blacksmith shop I on Pearl Street. Right across from where I was born. My mother worked at home, come to think of it she worked in Republic at a Nursing Home when she was older.

Me: what do you like to do now?

*I live here at the Lakeview Apartment Building, 3 times a week we play bingo downstairs. I'm also in the Home League, it's a branch of the Salvation Army we have our meeting every Wed.

Me: Do you still go to that Finn club?

*Well we will be going back again, we stopped going because it's too hard for the people from Palmer, and Chatham in the winter time. So we put it off for a few months. More than likely I'll be going back again.

Me: How did you dress when you were a kid.

- Well we dressed up in dresses, we didn't dress like they do now. We wore leggings on our legs, and we wore boots clamp boots. My sister did made a lot of my cloths, my older sister I don't think there was a lot bought for us it was either given to us or made over from old cloths. They used to rip open the old cloths and wash them and make new cloths out of them. My mother used to knit and make carpets, they were really good seamstresses they made a lot of clothing. My sister Eunice she used to make hats she was a millenary they used to call her She made a lot of hats for different. Out of plush, everything in those days were made out of plush or velvet.

Me: Does anything stand out in your memory ?

Well my brother Benjamin drowned and my nephew and another their was 3 drownings?

Me: Why do you go by Vilola instead of Nemia

I did go to the court house and had it changed.

- I went by Vilola because it seemes like it was eaiser for everyone, was Nemia not heard of to often,

Me: Where did that name come from do you know?

*-Dr. Barnett, give me that name, gave my mother, He was my doctor when I was born

ME: Did you have any pets?

- I had a canary, I had a cat and a dog, we had a beautiful Angora, cat. Somebody stole it. Someone off the train.

Me: What do you remember about your childhood?

*- Every Wednesday and Saturday we'd go to Beacon Hill and go to Sauna, their were 3 4 different partys that we new for. Everyone of them had a sauna. We didn't have one.

Me: Did you have any family traditions or Holiday traditions?

*-My mother used to make **lutfisk**. She used to make her own.

Me: What is lutfisk?

*-It' something like ^{Cod Fish} cottfish.

Me: In this book it says on New Years Eve we used to melt lead and drip it into cold water.

*- Ya, it would make forms. And they would tell your fortune or future.

Me: