

Interview with: Mary Anderson

This is Joy Misun interviewing Mary Anderson on the Great Depression.

Me: Where were you born?

Ma: In Ishpeming

Me: what year?

Ma: 1906

Me: How old were you when the stock market crashed?

Ma: 1928. How old, aa.

Me: Did you go to school?

Ma: Yeah.

Me: Was the school big?

Ma: No.

Me: Did you get a pretty good education?

Ma: Yes. Fair.

Me: Did you work when you went to school?

MA: House work. Home.

Me: What did you do?

MA: Farm

Me: Did you get a class ring?

Ma: Nope.

Me: Was there a hot lunch program?

MA: No.

Me: How did the school keep running?

MA: Taxes. Money.

ME: Were the teachers salaries cut?



MA: No.

ME: Did the teachers go on strike?

MA: Nope.

ME: Did you have a basketball team?

MA: Nope.

ME: Did you have a band or chorus?

MA: No.

ME: What kind of school activities did you do?

MA: Study. No. Study.

ME: Were there kids who dropped out of school?

MA: No.

ME: WERE THERE CONCERTS PUT ON?

MA: Concerts. School Plays. Yes.

ME: Did you have games to play?

MA: Baseball, Tag, Jump rope

ME: WERE THERE ANY BANKS THAT CLOSED?

MA: Yes.

ME: Did they stay closed?

MA: No.

ME: Were the funerals different than they are

MA: today? Cheap. Less expensive. No.

ME: Were the weddings different?

MA: Nope.

ME: Were there any clubs or lodges?

MA: Yes. One club.

ME: What were they like?



MA: The same as they are today.

ME: Did the mines, the mines close during the Great Depression?

MA: No.

ME: How did people, how did people treat each other during the Great Depression?

MA: Friendly.

ME: What railroad lines came through Ishpeming or National Mine?

MA: Northwestern, The Soo Lines, and Eli's line.

ME: Were the Railroads used for travel?

MA: Yes.

ME: Was there any co-operatives?

MA: Yes.

ME: What did, what did your parents do for a living?

MA: Farming and logging.

ME: How did you get around to places?

MA: Horses, Horses.

ME: How many clothes did you have?

MA: Not many.

ME: How many pair of shoes did you

MA: One pair.

ME: What were your clothes made out of?



MA: Leather and cotton and wool.

ME: How much welfare did you get?

MA: None.

ME: Were you religious?

MA: Yes.

ME: What kind of religion were you?

MA: Catholic

ME: Did you have a church to go to?

MA: Yes.

ME: Did you go to church?

MA: Yes.

ME: Where was your church?

MA: In Ishpeming.

ME: How many of you lived in one house?

MA: Fourteen.

ME: Do you, did you have any sisters or brothers?

MA: Yes.

ME: How many brothers?

MA: Seven.

ME: How many sisters?

MA: Five.



ME: How big was your house?

MA: EIGHT rooms.

ME: were you the oldest?

MA: NOPE.

ME: How many of you of you shared one bed?

MA: Two.

ME: what was the bed made of?

MA: wood, and steel, and mattresses. OF course. (she starts to laugh alot)

ME: was your floor made of dirt?

MA: No.

ME: Did you have a well to get water?

MA: yes.

ME: How did you get water?

MA: They hauled it.

ME: Did you go swimming?

MA: No.

ME: Did you wash up alot?

MA: yes.

ME: were you poor?

MA: No.



ME: Was it tough for you to get through the Great Depression?

MA: It wasn't easy.

ME: Did you ever starve?

MA: No.

ME: How long did you have to wait and get food?

MA: We always had food.

ME: Did you have to wait in line for food?

MA: Nope.