

Paul Racines
interview with
Elvia Dreis

Me: When and where were you born?

Gram: I was born on January 3, 1932 In the community of
Elo in Michigan

Me: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Gram: I have one sister from Escanaba, and I had one brother
who died three years ago.

Me: What were your parents names?

Gram: My mothers maiden name was Juliana Palouara, and my
fathers name was Yhalmer Whanathelo.

Me: When and where were your parents born?

Gram: Both of my parents were born in the northern part of
Sweeden in 1896

Me: what did they do to make a living?

Gram: My father worked in the mines in his early times
in the United States, My mother, I think worked in the
nursing home, and they also worked on a farm for a number of years.

Me: What country did your family come from?

Gram: Sweeden

Me: When did they come to America

Gram: 1912

Me: Why did they come to America?

Gram: A lot of their relatives had come and they heard what a wonderful opportunity it was to come to the United States

Me: Are you married?

Gram: Yes

Me: Did you have any children?

Gram: I had five children, the oldest one is Julie Dreis Racine, Kathleen Dreis Manty, Susan Dreis Joki, Carol Dreis Maki, and I also have one son Peter Dreis.

Me: What school did you attend

Gram: I attended the John Dole School in Tapiola

Me: What subjects did you like the best?

Gram: Ah, I liked Geometry, Algebra, and history.

Me: How much schooling did you have?

Gram: I graduated from High School then I went into nurses training which was for three years at St. Joseph's Hospital

Me: How did you get to school?

Gram: When I first started school for maybe about the first 3 or 4 years I had to take the horse bus for maybe about 2 miles then I would take the motor bus (2) the rest of the way to school about 3 miles.

Me: How were kids expected to act and behave at school?

Gram: All the girls were only allowed to wear dresses and weren't allowed to wear slacks and the boys were not allowed to wear jeans, and they had to dress up neat

Me: What responsibilities did you have as a child?

Gram: We lived on a farm and we had a lot of chores that I had to help out with and I did a lot of house work so that my mother and dad could go into the house and the chores would be done.

Me: What did you do for fun and recreation?

Gram: I would visit with the neighbors children we would go sleigh riding in the winter and a lot of times we would go and visit our neighbors on skis. And we would go to Basketball games, and baseball games in the summer.

Me: Did you have any family gatherings or reunions?

Gram: Yes, especially at holiday time we would all get together.

Me: Did you have a job before you were an adult?

Gram: No. I didn't have any outside jobs at the time, I just helped with chores on the farm.

Me: What was your first job after getting out of school?

Gram: I went to Detroit and found a job there at the Piesky office down town Detroit.

Me: Did you go to college and what did you major?

Gram: I went to a school of nursing.

Me: Did you graduate why or why not?

Gram: Yes, I graduated.

Me: How did the great depression affect your family?

Gram: It was at that time of the depression that my parents moved to the farm in Elo because they just couldn't make it because a lot of the mines were closing at that time. So in order to have enough food to eat they moved to the farm.

Me: How did your family make ends meet?

Gram: They had a chicken farm and also they had several cows and sold the milk and the chickens they always had a big vegetable garden and also ~~that~~ my dad hunted a lot and that's the way we got a lot of our meat

Me: What was your opinion on Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Gram: I think he was an excellent president, and I think he got this country out of the great depression.

Me: What is the most memorable event in your life?

Gram: I have had several memorable events and one is the marriage to my husband and the birth of all my children and grand children.

Me: What is the most important thing in your life?

Gram: I believe that the Lord and my family are the most important things in my life.

Me: What has been the most rewarding part of your career?

Gram: As a nurse I think the most rewarding
part of my career is ~~to~~ to know that
with the help of the lord I am able to
contribute to the healing ^{and well being} of others.

Me: Thank you very much for your time.

Gram: Your welcome.