

MATT PALOMAKI

with
Grandma
LaFrinier

me: When were you born?

Grandma: She says recalling by April 10, 1909.

Me: Where were you born?

Grandma: I was born in Michigamee in a log house, that's
the truth. It was near the Empire Mine
It was a stormy day in April.

Me: What were your parents names?

G: My parents were Antone Bucha and My mothers
maiden name was Polina Stella. They were
from Italy.

Me: What were the names of your brothers and
sisters?

G: My brother Mike who was born in Italy.
My brother Olinto was born in North Lake
location. My sister Clairra was born in
North Lake location. My Sister Catherine was
born in Michigamee

ME: When were you married?

G: I was married in ~~1926~~
1927 August 15.

Me: Were you married?

G: St. Josephs Church in Ishpeming

Me: What was grandpas name?

G: His name was Leo Joseph LaFrazier

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

G: My father ~~worked~~ worked in the mines under ground.

Me: Which one?

G: He worked in many mines.

Me: What did your mother do?

G: She was a house wife.

Me: Where did you go to school?

G: I went to school in North Lake, Mich. gamee, ~~the~~
Salsberry School, Gramer ~~the~~ School in Ishpeming.

Me: When you're growing up what things do you remember about Ishpeming that's different today?

G: I know a lot of stores are closing on account of all the malls. The Parades are smaller now than they used to be. There ~~was~~ was lots of floats lots of new cars lots of horses, lots of bands and lots of clowns.

Me: Were there any military officers in the Parades.

G: There was a few that carried the flag and they were bigger than they are today.

Me: What did you and your friends do when you were kids to have fun.

G: We used to play kick the can, and baseball. My friends went skating alot but I never could because my parents couldn't afford skates. I've never been on skates in my life.

Me: Where did you play baseball?

G: In the yards. We never went to a baseball field to play or anything like that.

Me: Did you ever break any windows?

G: No not our group. The yards were big back then.

My sister Clairra had a team. We would go and watch them play.

Me: Did they just play in the yards?

G: No they played at the ball diamond by our house. They won quite a few games too.

Me: When you were a teenager were did you hang out.

G: We went to houses that had parties WITH OUR PARENTS, thats true.

Me: What did you do at the parties

G: We would dance, and my brother Mike used to play the accordion, and my brother Buch used to play the drums. We really had fun those days. We danced cotrills (square dance)

G: and waltzes (2 step), fox strat, oh and then ④
we learned to dance the chalon that's
something that they don't do any more.

Me: How old were you when you got your first
job?

G: I was sixteen my first job was in the
Bozard factory, then my second job was I worked
in a gift shop on Rena shop in Fall River for
5 years, then I bought them out and I took
the staff down to my husband's store then I worked
there for two years and then I stayed home.

Me: What did you do at the Bozard.

G: I did mostly single seaming, but I did binding,
overcasting, striping I did lots there. I worked
there for six years.

Me: Do you ~~remember~~ remember anything that
happened there.

G: Yes I remember when barns and Hecker
disaster that's when 52 men drown in that
mine.

Me: How did you manage to buy out the store
you were working at ~~I coaxed my husband
and son to get them out of the store.~~

G: I coaxed my son and husband in to it so
they did.

Me: What did you sell at the store?

G: Mostly hats and yarn.

Me: What type of hats did you sell?

G: Many kinds, they were beautiful hats.

Me: How much did a hat cost?

G: Oh about from a dollar up.

Me: How many total years did you work?

G: 2 years when I was single, then then I was home 4 years, then I went to the Co 2nd and worked 6 years, then I was working at the gift shop for 5 years, then when I bought them out I worked 2 years. Come to think of it I worked quite a few years.

Me: How did you chose to ~~at~~ the careers that you did.

G: ~~Well~~ Well after I was married it was a must ~~to go~~ it was depression. It was a must to go back to work.

Me: Tell me about the depression.

G: Oh gosh..... Well my husband was working 2 days a week. Another thing I remember was we had a Ford sedan, and we couldn't afford to buy gas any more so then we tied it up for 2 years. Then we started to run the car again after he went back to work 5 days a week.

Me: How did you get around for those 2 years? (6)

G: ~~It~~ Well he used to walk to work because we lived in North Lake location, and I used to get a ride from the other women. Some times if we got off early we'd walk home from Edpeming to North Lake.

Me: At the gozard did you have to get any training.

G: They just sat us at the machine and we caught on pretty soon.

Me: How many hours of work did you have a day.

G: We sewed in bundles. Once we finished we'd mark it down and then get paid for that. We didn't make much money and you could never live off of that today. If there was a lot to do then they would keep us after. If there wasn't much they'd let us go early. We would start sometimes at seven or eight and sometimes work till five.

Me: Did you have any challenges or anything during your jobs.

G: No we just sewed lots of brazers, corsets, parties, and night gowns.

Me: Did any other family members work in the Gozard?

G: My sister Claire worked there for 12 years.

Me: When you were working what did you do with your leisure time? ⑦

Gi: I was a house wife. We used to go to parties, weddings too.

Me: Have you ever been in any clubs?

Gi: I've been in card clubs were you play cards, and the Guild for St. Josephs church. I joined that as soon as I got married. We work there for wedding, parties, funerals and things.

Me: After you retired what did you do with all your time?

Gi: I house steamed, and we bought Pertalos house and made apartments out of it down on 5th street and that kept me busy.

Me: What did you do there?

Gi: Well when some body moved out I had to clean the apartment for somebod els to move in. I made alot of friends with the tenants there. I lived in that house for 26 years, me and my husband. So that was ~~some~~ some thing.

Me: Well I remember you tell in me about going to see the Yankees and Mickey Mantle Play so tell me about that.

6: Oh that when we went New York, when ⁸
my husband was selling Electralux we won
those trips, we went to New York 5 times.
Every body that we were with from
Milwaukee and Green Bay they wanted to
go to the baseball game in Yankee Stadium.
I was the only one who didn't want to
go, so we went. I wasn't interested, but
I sat down and 2 boys they were about
12 years old sat in front of me. I kept
saying what they doing now and they would
tell me. They were very ~~intrest~~ interesting
but then it started to rain so we had to
leave the stadium and go back to the
hotel to listen to the game on the
radio. We didn't have TVs back then.
That was ~~was~~ a long time ago.

M: Grampa used to sell Electralux?

G: Grampa sold Electralux for 21 years

M: What did he have to do?

G: He had to go to the houses and sell. He
was really good. He sold alot. Lots of
people would remember because he sold
electralux and he sold cars too for many
years.

G: He sold Pontiacs and Buicks for Hemgrens^⑨
down town.

M: Inclosing would you like to add any-
thing else?

G: I don't think so.

M: Well Thank You.