

Me: I'm interviewing my grandma Evelyn Perelli. It's February 13.

Grandma, when and where were you born?

D: I was born in Mellon, Wisconsin July 25, 1922.

Me: Ok. What were your parent's names?

D: _____ and _____ N

Me: What are the names of your brothers and sisters? How many were there?

D: I have 8 sisters and 2 brothers.

Josuphine, Francis, Jean, Billy, Iris, Dolly, Tom, and Petrecia,

Me: Were you married?

D: I got married July 23, 1947.

Me: Where?

D: Mellon, Wisconsin

Me: What is your spouses name?

D: Jim Perelli

Me : What did your parents do for a living? ②

M : Grandpa worked in a lumber factory.

Me : Where did you go to school?

M : Mellon, Wisconsin

Me : What special memories do you have of growing up in Mellon?

M : Going to school there and working from the seventh grade til' I graduated, in a hotel as a dishwasher for a dollar a week, And room and board.

Me : And so you were in seventh grade when you started your job. And you went to school.

M : Worked and went to school for my room and board and a dollar a week.

Me : Where was your first job?

M : At the Mellon Hotel.

Me : What did you do?

M : Wash dishes

Me : What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

M : Washing dishes for 2 hours. Which I didn't like but at least I got some money

Me : How many total years did you work?

Q : About 30 years

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Me : During your lifetime, where were you employed the longest?

Q : At a defence factory in Chicago, Ill, Engeneering Co.

Me : What did they make there?

Q : Bazookas and antannas and I saudered.

Me : Saudered what?

Q : The bazookas and antannas

Me : What exactly are antannas?

Q : They use them for war, That's all I know

Me : OK, Why did you chose that career?

Q : Because I had to get a job and that's the place I thought I'd be good at. I wanted to help out during wartime.

Me : What was the most rewarding part of your career?

Q : I just liked that kind of work they seen I was helping everyone else doing peacework & I was helping everyone else and he said since you been doing that I'll try you on that, so they liked my saudering so I had to do most of the saudering

Me : What was the most challenging or difficult part that you had to do there? (4)

D : Well, when you had to put a peice in the hot liquid soldering and it bubbled up in acid and that.

Me : Did any other family members work for the same company?

D : My sister Jean did.

Me : What did she do?

D : She cleaned the antannas before we did the soldering.

Me : Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

D : No

Me : Please describe what your co-workers were like.

D : Friendly. Got along with everybody. As a mater of fact the boss even asked us if there were more workers from Northern Wisconsin because he couldn't get over how we caught on to everything.

Me : At any time did you feel like changing careers?

D : No

Me : Why?

D : Because I was satisfied with any job I had (boss).

Me: What were the biggest responsibilities of the job? (5)

D: The packing.

Me: Of what?

D: The bazookas and antannas

Me: Into crates?

D: Boxes so they wouldn't hit eachother.

Me: During your days of employment and beyond, what have been your favorite hobbies and leisure activities.

D: WELL we worked nine hours a day and so after we got done with work, we took a five ~~mile~~ mile walk and got to our apartment and sewed.

Me: What did you sew?

D: Clothes.

Me: Where did you live when you worked down in Chicago?

D: Chicago Avenue near Oak Park, Illinois

Me: Was it an apartment or a house?

D: An apartment right next to the factory we worked in.

Me: Did you live with somebody else?

D: My sister and I

Me: OK, What was it like during wartime?

D: Wartime seems like everyone is busy. Putting in a lot of overtime because they had to get those antannas and bazookas out. We were tired so we always took a walk and then on

M: weekends, we went to Hamon, Indiana to visit ⁽⁶⁾
my sister there. And once we tried to get a
job at the steel mill but we ^{were not} didn't, weigh enough,
or not tall enough so they didn't take us there.
They took us in Chicago and we liked the job a
lot.

Me: How was it different in Chicago than in a
small town?

M: They were more buisier and faster there and
in a small town you just take your time.
You seem to dress up more in the city than in
a small town too.

Me: Did you like it better in big city?

M: NO, I think I like. I'm satisfied with anyplace
I go.

Me: OK. In closing, do you have any stories about
working in down in Chicago?

M: Well, it was really just busy there and there
is more stuff up home like fishing, up in Mellon,
picken berrys, we thought was a lot of fun we
used to pick berries and sell them 3quarts for a
quarter. And worked in the garden, pickted hazelnuts
and, always a lot of outside work to do there (Mellon)
Always tring to beat the other one at catching the
fish and picking the berries but we enjoyed it too.

Me: What about at the hotel? Do you have any special
memories about working there?

M: Oh yes, We got up, had to be at work at six in the
morning worked til' nine at night.

D: But, we didn't mind the work.

Me: Did you work your way up from being a dishwasher?

D: When I left there I was a waitress and then from there when I graduated I went to a resort, _____ at Manitowish Waters and I wanted to be chambermaid because I was small but they wanted me as a waitress but I enjoyed it, people were good to me there offered me a lot of jobs I just decided to go to Chicago with my sister instead.

Me: What made you want to go to Chicago after working at the hotel?

D: I thought I could help out during wartime.

Me: And you wanted to help your country?

D: Help my country, course, my husband was in the service then and I ended up marrying him when he came back.

Me: So, were you like boyfriends + girlfriends when he was overseas.

D: Yup, When he was overseas he kept on writing then when he came back we got married.

Me: What was it like after you got married?

D: Well then, my husband ~~said~~ didn't let me go out and work, he said you have enough work to do at the house. So then I did a lot of sewing and garden work and I did the painting. Did a lot of canning then after we had two sons we went out fishing with them took them on camping

M: trips, went up into Yellowstone, how many times. We always did a lot of fishing with them and camping with them, And after they got old enough to go hunting then they went alone with their father out west hunting, but I stayed home then.

Me: Did you go on a lot of trips together?

B: We went on a lot of trips together all the time with the two boys. Then we were always trying to beat each other fishing you know. One got a bigger fish then the other and we would tease them

Me: Did you always do a lot of fishing and hunting?

B: Always went fishing and hunting, But we went with them all these years until they got married. Then, in the fall they always went with their father on a hunting trip out west.

Me: Where did you live after you got married?

B: We lived in Montreal (Wis). In an apartment and then later on we got a company house.

Me: A company house?

B: Mining Company. Montreal Mining Company.

Me: They built houses for workers?

B: They had them here. And then, they decided that they weren't going to repair out house so we built one ourselves and we built a ranch style.

Me: What was it like living in a mining town?

B: In a mining town. Well when you lived in a

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M: company house you didn't really have to worry about painting they always did that. But you had to keep up your lawn or they'd get after you. And they always came to check the furnace and the painting and all that, you didn't have to worry about that.

Me: Was it kind of weird to have a mine in your back yard?

M: In a way. A lot of people would never build on the mine like we did they were afraid some day it might cave in.

Me: Did grampa ever work in the mine?

M: Yes. He worked in there 27 years.

Me: Was it an underground mine?

M: Underground ore mine.

Me: So it was a difficult job.

M: Right. When they went to work you never knew when they were comen back.

Me: Were there any incedents that you remember when there was a cave in.

M: One of his partners. It caved in but grampa got out in time. But he had to help him out. He had a broken leg. And they called me that night not to worry in case you hear about it that it wasn't him, it was the other fellow that got hurt. There was a lot killed ~~out~~ ^{down} there too. Then, after the mine closed, he never wanted

M: underground anymore.

Me: He didn't like it?

M: No. But he made a living. Then he went from American Motors he went when the mine closed to Ashland Highbobworth there that place closed so then he went down, or up to Bessmer and got a job there but he was in an accident there so when he had to get his leg amputated so that was the last job he had. And although he had his one leg amputated he still got around and went fishing and hunting went on trips.

Me: What was it like when you go into town?

M: ~~Well~~ Well years ago when I got married it was a little bit wild but not as wild as it was before that. And it kind of tapered down but I don't think Hurley will ever live its name. People that come up here still think there are all those wild taverns and that.

Me: So, in other words, you like it here, kind of.

M: I like it the only bad part of it is that I don't drive now and I hate shoveling snow.

Me: Alright, thanks grandma.