

Cory Heliste's interview with Florence Randall

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Intro: My name is Cory Heliste, February the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1993. My interviewee is Florence Randall, my great grandmother. The subject of the interview is her occupation and the location of the interview is at her apartment in Negaunee.

Me: OK. When and where were you born?

Great G: I was born in Ishpeming, Michigan in 1901.

Me: What were your parents names?

Great G: Alfred, ~~or~~ or you have to have my mothers name different, it was Anna Peterson, my fathers name was Alfred Lindberg.

Me: Do you have brothers & sisters?

Great G: Yes, a whole bunch of them, eight. (Laugh)

me: Really?

Great G: \_\_\_\_\_ things on here. Do I have to write them  
Down?

me: Sure

Great Gram: Ya, Walter, Florence, Stanley, Alfred, ~~Flossy~~, Edna, Clara,  
Wilfred, ~~Alfreda~~, Elsie. (Laugh)

me: That's alot

Great Gram: (Laugh)

me: Were you married, well....

Great Gram: I hope so (Laugh)

me: What was your spouse's name?

Great Gram: John Edward Randall

Me: When were you married?, Like what year?

Great G: April the 23<sup>rd</sup>, April the 27 1923. In Negaunee.

Me: What did your parents do for a Living?

Great G.: What?

Me: What did they do for a Living, what did they do for work?

Great G: my dad worked in the mine, underground, and my mother was a house wife.

Me: Where did you go to school?

Great G: National, West Ishpeming first, then the High Street School in Ishpeming, then the National Mine School <sup>in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</sup> <sub>until</sub> from the third grade I went to the eighth grade

Me: Do you have any special memories of growing up in this area?

Great G: Well, I got alot of nice memories, I liked the students, I liked the teachers

Me: OK. Do any special features stand out in your mind from The city of Ishpeming to Negaunee from when you were younger?

Great Gram: Well, I think it was a little more prosperous then.

Me: Really?

Great G: People had more work then they have now

Me: Have the cities changed alot?

Great G: That's how I said it's changed

Me: What kinds of things did you & your friends do for entertainment when you were teenagers?

Great G: We had to work after school, In big families we had to work after school.

Me: Really?

Great G: ~~Ya~~ Ya, then we had to do some school work before we went to bed.

me: Every day?

Great G: We didn't have any cars or anything, we always had work when we got home.

Me: Where did the kids & you like to hang out in town when you were younger?

Great G: We didn't do that those days.

me: You didn't?

Great G: We use to go down town Saturday nights & the Salvation Army use to play & sing on the corner of Main Street & Cleaveland Avn. We go down & listen for them. (laugh)

me: (Laugh)

Great G: I guess they wanted to know what we did.

me: Do you have any ~~first~~ <sup>interesting</sup> or humorous stories of the early days in Ishpeming?

Great G: Well, I don't know. I remember playing ~~hook~~ <sup>hooky</sup> from school one time

me: Really?

Great G: It was winter time, there was a storm & we were slow getting there & we were late so we

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Great G: & we were late so we didn't dare go in so we stayed out till it was time to go back home & when we got home the truant officer already been there, wanted to know why we weren't at school. So my mother said she sent us to school. Officer said we didn't get there. But when we explained to my mother what had happened we didn't get scolded because she didn't think we did anything wrong, just that we were afraid to go in cause we were late.

Me: how old were you when you found your first job?

Great G: 17

Me: where was it?

Great G: The Plato Potter Co. in National Mine.

Me: What did you do there?

Great G: wrapped jellitan gelatin.

Me: Really

Great G: Umhm

Me: What stands out in your mind from when you did your first job? From when you went there?

Great G: Well, what I liked, it was only three of us working in that shop & we had good bosses there, meet new friends

Me: how many total years have you worked in your life time?

Great G: that's a good many got to stop & think, The only time I think I was home was for a while was

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Great G: when Marshall was little to ~~the~~ until about 5 years old, then I went back to the Gauzzerd to work. \_\_\_\_\_

Gram: more than she can remember

me: During your lifetime where where you employed the longest?

Gram: You have to speak up, she can't here that well.

me: Where have you worked the longest?

Great Gram: How long did I work the longest? 26 years on one

me: Really, <sup>job,</sup> what was it.

Great G: Down at the Gauzzerd, Gauzzerd Co. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gauzzerd Co.

me: Could you describe the main duties of that job?

Great G: well, I was in seaming & sewing garments, then finally on inspection.

me: did your job require any special training?

Great G: well, someone else would cut the garments & the instructors would show us how to do them & we went on from there to sew them. Inspection, we had to look them over to see if they were done right.

me: Did you have to use any special equipment or wear any special clothing for the job?

Great G: No we could wear anything.

me: Did your job have any regulations you had to follow?

Great G: No

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

Gram: Pay check (laugh) What was the most rewarding part of your career? I told her the paycheck

Great G: I don't know if there was any difference in any of them

Me: What was the most difficult part in your job?

Great G: I don't know. Much of the same thing. House work, work, Housework

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

Great G: ~~Did~~ Yes two sisters, Edna + Elsie.

Me: For that job, what were your co-workers like?

Great G: We all got along really nice

Me: You did?

Great G: Ya

Me: Do you have any interesting stories from when you were working.

Great G: I could tell you one that's different. It was so many years ago its when we didn't have any cars + went to work on the buses to Morgan Heights, and when anybody died they'd take em off after 8:00 at night + somebody had died + they came from funeral home in Negaunee to pick em up + they used to bring them up in a basket + the roads were real'

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Great Gram: narrow, they put the body in the basket & took it to Negaunee, They didn't get very far, they went up a hill, the boys had had something to drink, & they didn't put the tail-gate on & the basket slid off, They got all the way to Negaunee, the funeral home & there was no body there, so they came back & found the body on the slope of the hill. (laugh) That's one experience I'll never forget (laugh).

Me: Did you ever feel Like changing your career?

Great Gram: Yea, one time I thought I'd like to be a registered nurse.

Me: Really? How come?

Great G: I just thought I'd like to do that, I like to work w/ people & take care of them when they're sick, I only went through the eight grade, you had to go through the twelfth.

Me: What were your biggest responsibilities on the job?

Great G: Well, it's hard to explain, when we worked in Detroit we worked for an automobile Company, & at that time they did different work than they do today

Gram: I suppose at the Gauzzerd with your expectation you had to make sure that the garments were sewn right & looked good or the garments wouldn't sell

Great G: Ya

Gram: When you're on the inspection line.

Great G: Ya

me: Have you received any special awards from your employer.

Great G: Never got any awards but they always seemed satisfied w/my work.

me: that's good

Great G: I was praised for what I done, never got any awards (laugh)

Gram: They didn't give awards in those days. Aye

Great G: They didn't have any awards to give you in those days.

me: During your days of employment, what have been your favorite hobbies or leisure activities? What did you like to do in your spare time?

Great G: Well, there wasn't a days pass when there wasn't much we did do to get around. In my lifetime I took 2 nights trips I went down to Mexico.

me: You did.

Great G: Two winters, spent  $2\frac{3}{4}$  months down there each time

Gram: Spent a lot of time at the camp when the kids were growing up aye. The grandchildren were growing up

Great G: At the camp too, we cooked the men out there I worked at the Northwoods club.



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Great G: That was a nice place to work

me: Were you involved in any clubs or organizations?

Great G: \_\_\_\_\_

Gram: Her mother was sick.

Great G: The Gauzzerd Golden Agers Club.

me: What did you do in that Club?

Great G: The Golden Agers Club, it was just a group that, after retired, got together.

Gram: It was more of a social Club.

Great G: Have a Christmas party + a picnic in the summer. Got together + visit.

Gram: And you took care of your mother while you were working + your mother was sick after she broke her hip so you didn't get time to socialize.

Great G: Ya, the last 17 years she was handicapped + took care of her.

me: Over all, what were your fondest memories of your working days?

Great G: I had alot of nice people I worked with through the years. Those that are still living I just don't talk to that much. It would be nice to meet them again. I had good bosses, were ever I worked

me: Really?

Me: If you had to do it all over again would you choose your same career?

Great G: I don't think so.

Me: How come?

Gram: Go to school to be a nurse, aye? If you could do it all over again now, wouldn't you?

Great G: Ya

Gram: If you were young now wouldn't you? (if you could do it all over again now)

Great G: At that time we didn't have the opportunity to go to, The 12 miles to go to school in Ishpeming

Me: You had to go 12 miles?

Great G: And no buses, ya, six miles each way, travelling back it would be 12.

me: In the closing of the interview, do you have anything else you would like to add about you working days or anything.

Great G: no

Gram: How old were ya when your dad started Lindberg Construction Co.?

Great G: I don't remember when it was \_\_\_\_\_

Gram: Around that same year?

Great G: When Walter worked under ground, ya, my dad didn't want the boys to have to work under

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Great G: -ground so he started a Construction Co,  
My dad worked in Canada, that's ~~where~~ <sup>where</sup> he learned

Gram: Road building?

Great G: He lived there for 5 years, Doing Construction  
work that's when he started a business  
of our own.

Gram: They built roads all over didn't they?

Great G: Ya

Gram: You can tell a little about that if you know any-  
thing about that about the construction business  
or working, did you work for them.

Great G: No, I never worked for them.

Me: Was it all family members who worked there?

Great G: Ya, my father & 4 brothers, worked for the

Construction Co.  
Me: Well, I think that just about covers it, Thank  
you for the interview.

Great G: (Laugh)

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me: Would you like to add anything else to your  
interview?

G.G: Well, we joined the union the \_\_\_\_\_ Laurzard  
Co. & the miners come down to help us picket &  
we help them picket. And I was arrested <sup>down</sup>  
to City Hall. Then they didn't want to feed us  
so they let us go (laugh).

me: You got arrested?!

G.B: Got arrested, 10 of us.

Gram: Did they keep you all day, or how long did they keep you there?

G.B: No, Couple hours, We weren't doing anything, just standing along side the garage door at the Gauzzerd.

me: What were you picketing for?

G.B: They were on strike, The 2<sup>nd</sup> time we didn't win the strike. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time it got in

Gram: Why did they arrest you?

G.B: Standing on the picket line, cause we were standing on the picket line.

Gram: Was it against the law or something? At that time?

G.B: I think it must of been.

me: Well do you have anything else you would like to add?

G.B: Can't think of anything.

me: Thank again