

Bill Langson  
interview in  
Connie Sestito

me - How old are you?

C - 62

me - Where were you born?

C - in Ishpeming.

me - Were you always in Mich., did you ever move?

C - NO. I never left Mich.

me - Can you recall some of your younger years?  
Tell me about them, like what were your  
schools like? when you were small?

C - what do you mean, what were the schools like?

me - Well, what did they teach, did you only have  
a 1 room school, did you have a variety of  
teachers

C - no we only had 1 room, 1 room, 1 teacher.  
and they taught all the basic skills.

me - for punishment and all that, what did they do?

C - I don't remember getting any punishments.

me - (chuckling) did you live in Ishpeming  
all your life

C - yes

me - did anything happen drastically in your  
family - death, or anything like that or a  
breakup (mom, dad)

C - in my family;

me - yes

C - well my husband died

me - how many brothers & sisters did you have

C - 5 brothers and 8 of us girls.

me - going back to your school years what was  
high school like

C - I never had a chance to go to high school  
I had to quit school and stay home to take care  
of my mother cause she was ill. (Pd)

me - what grade did you quite school in?

C - well, I was going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

ya. I had just passed into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

me - so you missed high school?

C - yes.

me - do you think there is a big difference in modern day schools and the schools you went to?

C - Oh! definitely, definitely

me - how did you meet your late husband?  
Seeing that you didn't meet him in high school?

C - he lived not far from me, you mean  
grampa. ~~grampa.~~

me - yes

C - yes, he lived not too far from my house

me - and he also lived in Istpeming all his life?

C - yes he did.

me - when did you marry him?

C - Dec. 3 - 1942.

me - after you were out of school and old enough to go out on your own, what did you do with your self?

C - I was home, and I was married at 17

me - when did really start to get into making foods.

C - when I was little, I use to help my mom

me - did you get a job at making foods?

C - not until my husband passed away.

me - where was it at?

C - Johns

me - when you make your pastys what do you put in them that make them so good?

C - Well just your meat, potatoes & onions

me - Oh so its not no different recipe its just - grandmas good cookin.

C - laughing - yes I gess so!

me - what was your favorix food to make?

C - I like making anything & everything.

I don't know about anything to be my favorit.

me- when you had your job in bakery did you make 1 special food?

C- no I had a variety of foods.

me- in what year did your small bakery job began to rise or did it fall?

C- well it was real stable for a long time

me- did you work for yourself or someone else.

C- someone else.

me- do you know the name of the person you worked for?

C- I don't remember, just Jonny I guess.

me- what do you think was harder baking back then all the basic foods or baking in these days?

C- Oh back then was the hardest cause of all the modern equipment now you don't have any problems.

me- Today do you like to stick with the way you use to cook or are you using modern new foods?

C- yes I stick with old baking methods I just start things from scratch; yes.

me - So you will always stick to the  
way you use to cook when you were younger  
and now?

c - yes I will, cause I like that a lot better  
the mites you get today

me - what utensils do you use, is there a big difference  
in them, I mean in the modern day utensils?

c - no not really just your basic utensils.

me - if you could do it all over again from when  
you were out of school what would you do.

c - NO I wouldn't I do it the same as I did, it  
befor I guess?

me - How impressed with yourself when you  
started cooking, did you think ~~that~~ that  
you were good or just like a normal cooker?

c - well I don't know if I thought I  
was good, but I certainly tried my  
best, to be good

me - If you thought that anything  
could be better what would it  
be? I mean like if you could of worked  
some where eats or did something eats?

c - no cause I really liked my job

me - who were you working for again?

C - I worked for Johnny Young, Johnny's down town, for the Venice super club & for the matherin.

me - which one of ~~the~~ those jobs was more suitable for you do you think?

C - they were all good to me but I think Johnny's because he had done some work with me, and I had worked for Gordon's town house in Negannee

me - and that's how you meet my present grandpa?

C - NO, I met him when I was hanging around with the girls, after my husband died of Louie.

me - how many years ago?

C - I think 13 ya in 74

me - and has made you happy?

me - laughing

C - laughing with my grandpa in the back,  
(cuckling), do I have to answer that?

Sometimes he has (laughing)

me - oh ya!

C - hes a pretty good egg!

me - going back to your younger years  
when you were taking care of your  
mother what was she like, her nation-  
ality?

C - She was Italian and she came down  
from Italy years ago.

me - did she ever explain her journey  
to you or talk about it.

C - No, all she told me is when she came  
over on the boat and that's all  
I remember but she was a young  
girl when she came.

me - how was your life back then?  
how did you entertain yourself

C - Read! Work, we never had much  
entertainment in those days, we just (P8)  
Read & Played hid-n-seek.

C - with my brothers and sisters that as  
for as the entertainment went  
then we went along to go and do  
things like you ~~and~~ kids do

me - like galavant (chuckling)

C - yes, we weren't allowed to go swimming  
we went along to put a bathing suit on  
cause my dad was so strict, and they pas-  
sed away in 1960 my mom and 1969 my dad.

me - did you like go on vacation or go any-  
where?

C - no we weren't allowed to go anywhere, we  
just did the same thing day after day.

me - the same thing now a big change?

C - well after I could baby sit when I  
was home and after that I baby sat for  
nothing. good thing I always loved  
kids

me - back then how far did money go  
like for stamps a pound of  
\$ four back then to now?

C - Oh I don't remember really but everything  
was a lot cheaper.

my grandpa in the back - I know it was  
10¢ a pound for butter.

C - yes, everything was a lot cheaper  
than, but of course you never  
got paid as much back then  
either as you do now

me - after you had a life of your  
own did you enjoy and go on  
vacations?

C - no not really but the 1 vacation  
I went on was to Illinois  
where I went to see my family  
cause I have 2 sisters and 2  
brothers there,

me - now these days do you like  
to go on vacations? have  
you done that recently?

C - well sure, but I haven't done  
it recently, we haven't gone  
anywhere have we Gordon?

grandpa - well we went to Podcaster

C - well that was more of a journey  
than a vacation! (HA HA!)

me - what was that like

C - well it was a nice town

me - how many kids did you have

C - 2. a son and a daughter  
That was enough!

me - were they good kids or brats

C - No they were good & well behaved  
children!

me - well what did they do for fun?

C - Everything & everything they always had  
fun. you name it they did.

me - anything ever happen to them?

C - Well, my daughter had Protonia when  
she was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and was in the hospital  
my son broke his leg sticking  
upon a hill behind our house, right  
over there. I don't think anything  
else happened.

me - were they good in school?

C - yes but they could of been better  
but they were afraid of pure pressure  
they didn't want to be too good  
an account of the other kids which  
was a mistake cause for both could  
of been A students.

me - when you went out did you like to go out as a family?

C - Oh sure, we always took the kids when we went out, always we use to take them riding when my husband would get off of work, stop out out, go bowling.

me - were your kids fussy eaters?

C - my son was kind of a fussy eater, but my daughter was pretty good she ate for a while anyway.

me - did you always have enough?

C - Always, there was always enough food that anyone could just come in and sit down & eat.

me - did you eat good when you were small?

C - yes but we had 13 kids we didn't have a variety like you do now.

me - how many brothers & sisters are still alive?

C - well, I think

me - going back to you children when they were young did they get the chance to watch TV.

C - Well when the TV's came out yes we got on.

me - how old were they, did they like to sit & watch TV on Saturday mornings?

C - Oh yes they loved that, but I can't remember what year they came out, but my daughter use to like to watch Jerry Pickets, so her & uncle would sit up & watch from & she would stand up on the rocker & scream (laughing) & uncle would laugh at her.

me - was my mom & my uncle always picking at each other or were they good to each other?

C - no, but she use to tease him.

me - how many years were they apart?

C - 4

me - when you were living with your parents what kind of transportation did you have?

C - We had to walk to school & we had no car, my dad would walk to the store when we needed something.

me. when you were young what were the holidays like? x-mas did you ever go trick-or-treating or anything like that?

C - I can't remember if we went Trick-or-treating we must have but x-mas wasn't like you kids have now we never there was no santa claus cause we couldn't afford a lot cause there was too many in the family to get all kinds of things like you kids get ~~now~~ now.

me - was it a present per child?

C - that's about it

me - what was it, toys, clothes?

C - As toys it was always clothes or something to wear.

me - how was x-mas when your two children were young?

C - I say had a very good x-mas they always got plenty of things well they got almost everything they asked for.

me - what was your favorite holiday when you children were home

C - x-mas cause I always enjoyed watching the kids seeing how excited they were when they got up.

C - that for me was the greatest happiness  
to see my 2 children screaming with joy  
cause they got what they wanted.

me - when did color TV come in your house

C - I don't remember, I would of had to been  
back in 72 cause grandpa bought it and they  
loved it.

me - this house is it the same one you lived  
in all your life?

C - yes grandpa built it this was supose to  
of been a garage, the living room & the dining  
room was built on to it later cause we couldn't  
afford it some built on to it after.

me - anything added on to it?

C - yes the living room & dining room  
and my husband had got done with the  
house he landed in the hospital and  
soon after he died.

me - well thank you for the time it took  
for the interview, its been educational.

C - well your welcome.