

Wendi Annala interview
with
Roberta Annala

me. What is your family name?

~~me.~~
Aunty: ANNALA

me. What was your maiden name?

Aunty: Aho

me. Who were your parents?

Aunty: William and Jane Aho

me. What year were you born?

Aunty: 1957

me. Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Aunty: TONS

me. What are their names?

Aunty: Um, I have a brother Bill and a sister Susie, brother
Dennis, Rita, Jerry, Debe then theirs me, then Kendall, and
Candi.

me. Where did your family come from originally?

Aunty: Ishpeming

me. Where did your father's side come from?

Aunty: My grandfather originally came from Finland

me. And your grandmother?

Aunty: My mother's mother came from England.

me. When did your grandfather come to America?

Aunty: My fraternal grandfather came over when he was
two years old so that would have been 1902.

me. When did he come to the U.S.

Aunty: 1902

me. Are you married?

Aunty. Yes I am.

me. What is your husband's name?

Aunty. Terry

me. Terry who?

Aunty. Terry Annala

me. How many kids do you have?

Aunty. None

me. Your a lucky one.

~~me.~~ Aunty. I have you. GM I allowed to say that?

me. Yea

Aunty. O.K

me. Where did you go to school?

Aunty. National mine

me. For how many years?

Aunty. Till I graduated

me. From what year did you start?

Aunty. You mean what year did I start?

me. Yea

Aunty. Well, I don't know when I was five or six. I graduated in 1945.

me. Was it like Kindergarten or first?

Aunty. Yea, I went to Kindergarten first, It hasn't changed that much.

me. What was school like when you were young?

Aunty. Probably about the same it is now.

me. How would you explain how it is now?

Aunty. Well, I don't know! I see the kids doing the same thing we did in school. They participate in sports. They wear raggy jeans.

They dress the same.

me. Well, I guess that's like now a days.

me. What subjects did you take? Like what were your favorite ones?

Aunty. I liked History, English and when I got up to high school I liked the business courses.

me. How did you get to school each day and about how far was it?

Aunty. I went by bus for about five miles.

me. Did many kids finish High School?

Aunty. A few dropped out before we graduated.

me. What were the teachers like?

Aunty. Well, you probably have some of the teachers I had back then so I won't comment. (laughing)

me. Well, which one of your teachers was your favorite?

Aunty. My favorite teacher, I had a lot of teachers. My favorite teacher when I got to Westwood was Mrs. Payne. ~~When~~ She was a real nice lady; she was the

Home Ec. teacher. When I was in grade school my fifth grade teacher was Mr. Johnson, Mr. Peter Johnson, and the sixth grade teacher was Mr. Searing, and they were my favorites.

me. How were kids expected to dress and behave.

Aunty. We had a dresscode up until about my sophomore year. Girls had to wear skirts and boys weren't aloud to wear jeans. We had to dress nice. They had dress pants and no boots. They had ~~shoes~~ shoes instead. And then after that we could wear jeans and anything like they do now.

me. Do you have any humorous or interesting memories about school?

~~Aunty~~

me. NO?

Aunty. Well I suppose if I thought that far back, but I can't say

any of them.

me. Could you at least tell us one?

Aunty. I can't think of any.

me. What responsibilities did you have around your house?

Aunty. Well, there was lots of us and we all had to chip in. I did dishes and swept floors, and I helped my mom with the laundry and take the clothes off the line, and stuff like that.

me. I helped her cook. I liked to cook!

me. Did you have any animals that you had to help with or anything?
Aunty. Well we had a farm when I was little, but I never had to, I was pretty young. I was like in kindergarten we had cows, horses, and chickens. I didn't have to do that.

me. Do you have any humorous stories about any of your brothers when they were working with the animals?

Aunty. No. We had a dog we called Milker, because he used to sit and watch my dad milk cows.

me. What kind of hobbies or interests did you have as a child?

Aunty. Well my mom taught me how sew when I was really young.

Probably about ten or eleven and she taught me how to knit and knit I used to do that kind of stuff a lot.

me. Are them the things you did for fun or recreation?

Aunty. Well, we lived way out in the country so you couldn't really go to a friend's house or anything so, but I had lots of brothers and sisters. So we all we played golf around our fields, with bats and sticks or whatever and whatever kind of ball we could find, and we made up a golf course, we had 40 acres and about four or five fields we use to play in. It was fun! You made ~~your~~ your own fun. We used to have snowball battles, apple battles like you do now.

me. How would you compare times today to the times when you were growing up?

Aunty. Well when I was really young, I guess they've changed a lot since then, but when I was in high school I think they were about the same as they are now. Kids listened to rock and roll back then. There was a drug problem back then like there is now.

me. What was this area like when you were growing up?

Aunty. Well, out where I lived when I was in high school, out on 581 wasn't built up as it is now. National mine, up around the school I don't think it has changed anything. I think in forty years. past

me. could you describe any hunting or fishing stories about your family?

Aunty. Um! Lots of people like to fish and hunt. I have a lot of little nephews that like to fish and my youngest nephew pulls out a lot more fish than the other boys. Um, I catch the biggest and the most all the time. ~~Um~~

me. anything about hunting?

me. No
Aunty. No I don't hunt.

me. Did you get to travel much as a child?

Aunty. No that was kind of hard because you can't take ten kids in a car and take them on a trip. But I do now. I went to California when I was seventeen with my mom. We went by train, just her and I.

me. What was Christmas like when you were young?

Aunty. We had a big family so of course so there was a lot of lots of people to help decorate trees and the house and stuff. Lots of presents. It was lots of fun. I was more old fashioned than it is now. We didn't ~~we~~ get lots back then. We had ten kids to buy

for you don't get as much, but those are my best memories of Christmas when I was a kid.

me. Did you think someone got a better gift than you ever or someone was spoiled and your mother hated you or something?

Aunty. no I never thought that. mm, when I was really young we wouldn't get too much but after a while we got more and more after the kids started moving out. You have to remember we came from a lot of we had a lot more kids in the family and had to spread it out more and back then you didn't make as much money.

me. Were all holidays alike?
aunty. Yeah, just about we always had a big dinner for all the holidays. A matter of fact we still do, as you know.
me. Did you have a job while you were in High school?
aunty. Not until after I graduated.

me. What was your first real job?
aunty. Right after I graduated I worked at the _____ Company in Ishpeming as a seamstress.

me. Did you have any fun jobs after that?
aunty. My favorite job I had was when I worked at the airport. I worked as a secretary for a charter company. Met a lot of people you know. It's at the old terminal where the smaller private planes come in and I got to meet a lot of famous people like um, rock stars and presidential candidates. All that come some before last come up. It's an interesting job.

me. Did you go to college?
aunty. Yes I did!

me. What year?

aunty. 1985, when I was twenty-eight.

me. And what did you major in there?

aunty. I went for an associate degree in medical secretary.

me. What do you do for a living?

aunty. I'm a secretary. A claims service assistant for State Farm Insurance.

me. What does your job entitle?

aunty. ~~where~~ the claims office for all State Farm Insurance in the U.P. We settle all claims there for people who have car accidents and their houses burn down and such. And I help the claim representatives do the files. I do the typing and I do a lot of um, um, working with the files and the people, me giving them their checks. Page 6

aunty. I work on a computer daily. Several different computers which I learned to do in college which helped me get this job! I'm a file secretary more than the auto, so I work a lot with the people that their homes have burn down. I put their inventories into things they have lost into the computer. To get the total on how much they lost. I put in how much it would take to replace their home things like that are called certain things and each thing has is done up on a different computer, so I work on several different computers during the day. It's really interesting.

me. Have you had to do any of your relatives files or anything?

aunty. Well, we're not allowed to ~~to~~ work with any family records or anything like that but I have a few of my family members that have State Farm Insurance and my sister has had a car accident and her claim was processed to our office, but I didn't have anything to do with it. It was really interesting to see how it works and how it's from the time you have a car accident to the time you get your check to see what happens.

me. Does your husband work anywhere?

aunty. Yes he does! He's a parts manager at the River Side Auto in Marquette.

me. Do you get to see him much since he works and you work?

aunty. Well, we ride together because we both work in Marquette. So that's kind of nice you save on gas and wear and tear on our car that way. We go to spend time in the morning and then in the afternoon and evenings. But we ended up to Page 4

aunty. make the best of it when you only have such a short time.

me. Well, what's your oldest living relative?

aunty. Well, I have an aunty Clara that is 96 years old and she is in the Frank _____ medical center in Ishpeming.

me. any other relatives?

aunty. I have lots of relatives.

me. I mean that are the same age as her?

aunty. NO! she is the oldest. she's my grandma's sister. she's 96 and my grandma is 83.

me. anything else you would like to share about her?

aunty. I don't know her that well she's been in a nursing home since I was really young. Well since I was in my teens anyway.

me. Is there any other relative you would like to share a story or anything about?

aunty. Well, I have lots of relatives that live right here in Tilden Township. I have alot of great uncles and great aunts. My mom and dad are both 65 and they live in Tilden Township. My dad used to be supervisor ~~in~~ in Tilden Township for many years. I have an uncle a great uncle Elmer who has been on the school board for the NILE community schools for many years. I have a niece in the eighth grade who's really cute. Her dad and my husband are brothers and her mother is my sister. which makes you my niece on both sides of my family.

me. So no matter what I would have been stuck with you.

aunty. That's right.

me. ~~who~~ OOO!

me. Well you shouldn't if married my dad's brother because that way I would of had one more aunt or one more uncle and well one more aunt.

Aunty. You think that means one more present for Christmas time.

me. Yup!

me. Well, what about for one of your other nieces or nephews are any of them special?

Aunty. These all special.

me. Is there any

Aunty. That's a tricky question right? I have a lot of nieces and nephews that go to National mine. School.

me. Is there any stories about any of them that you think were humorous or tragic or any-thing?

Aunty. Tragic! NO! There's a lot of funny things about them. I can't remember any right now at the top of my head.

me. Well what about for your grandma? Do you have any stories about her?

Aunty. Well she's eighty-three years old and she's

me. living alright?

Aunty. Yeah. She lives alone. My grandpa died last year in November. Um. I don't know. She's um. She was born and raised around here. In Ishfarming. I think, I don't think she came from anywhere else. She was from a large family too. She had he was the youngest of fourteen kids.

me. Fourteen kids!

me. Fourteen kids and they all died family young, except for her and my aunt who is ninety-six. My mom is from a large family too. She is one of nine.

me. nine!

aunty. So you have a lot of relatives!

me. Well when I have kids I'm having three.
aunty. Three. (laughing) How do you know three?

me. Well it depends on if I have twins or whatever. You know

aunty. I hope you do

me. If nothing like that happens I'm having three.

me. Do you wish to have any kids in the future or anything?

aunty. I would always of liked to have kids I've would always like to have as many as my mom did.

me. Your nuts.

aunty. But I don't know now I'm getting a little old now to have kids.

aunty. ~~me~~ No comment?

me. I didn't think you were that old?

aunty. Thank you!

me. Ever though it could be an old age.

aunty. You brat.

aunty. What do you like about school?

me. well

aunty. Do you like doing these kind of projects.

me. No

aunty. No

me. Hate History

aunty. What class do you have to do this for?

me. History, I hate History because I don't really know much about history cause it all happened before my time so why should we have to know about it?

aunty. That's one way of looking at it, but then shouldn't you be interested in knowing how you came to being here?

aunty. The oldest history book is the bible.

me. Math is the only subject I'm good at.

aunty. That was my worst subject.

me. What was your best subject?

aunty. English

me. I'm not good in English because I'm a "yooper" and I can't help the way I talk.

aunty. That's no excuse. If more people learned

me. well, still. how to talk we wouldn't be called yoopers.

me. Is there anything you would like to share about all this?

aunty. It's really been fun. It's been interesting.

me. If there isn't anything you would like to tell

aunty. I would like to thank you for your time.
me. Welcome
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