

Tonya LaFreniere
Albert LaFreniere

me- When and where were you born?

Mr. L.- "O' I what

me- When and where?

Mr. L.- I was born in Junktion ^{location} "Ah" March the 8, 1911

me- Where did you go to school?

Mr. L.- I went to school in Northgreen Wood, and I "ah" left that school at "Ah" the 7th grade and I moved ~~to~~ ^{from} North Green wood to North Lake and "Ah" I finished my 8th grade school there

me- "um" Was school pretty much the same as it is now?

Mr. L.- school was "Ah" pause pretty good, they had good schools but, the ^{teachers} were more strikers in dem days, they were aloud to hit you if you didn't behave, but now I understand they don't do that.

me- No!

Mr. L. - But in our days - pause - they were pretty tough & they'd straighten you out, & you didn't dare tell your parents, because when you come home and tell them that you'd get the same thing home. - Laughs -

Me - How many kids were in your family?

Mr. L. - there 4 boys and one girl

Me - How many kids did you have?

Mr. L. - I had 4 boys

Me - How long have you been married?

Mr. L. - Been married 57 years - pause - It'll be 57 years in January the 31st

Me - "Well" what kind of things like after school did you do?

Mr. L. - Well after school we - we used to go play hockey or baseball, in the summer we'd play baseball, in the winter

we'd go ski riding or play hockey +

me-were you on any teams?

Mr. L.- No, just a team made up of our own
me-"on" Did you have to walk to school?

Mr. L.- At North Greenwood for the first seven years
I walked a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile everyday back and forth
and we didn't eat dinner there, we used to
come home and have our dinner and walk
back to school again - laughing -

me-a lot of walking

Mr. L.- We would have our lunch I mean you call
it lunch

me-"ya"

Mr. L.- but we'd come home for lunch and we'd
walk back and then we had school in
the afternoon, & then when we were here
we lived right next to the school

Me - How long was a regular school day?

Mr. L. - Well, school was, every school I went to started at nine o'clock til' twelve and from one to four

Me - That's about the same as it is now.
What were some of the subjects?

Mr. L. - Well we had - ~~to~~ reading, writing, arithmetic and history, and agriculture, (agriculture, and) spelling (to himself)

Me - What were some of your favorite?

Mr. L. - agriculture, was my favorite one

Me - What kind of jobs were for you as a teenager?

Mr. L. - as a teenage - I worked at J.B. Casper store, I worked there every night from 5:00 to 9:30, 10:00, & when a dance at the clubhouse I used to work until 11:30 and I worked 1 month for \$10.00

me-How much was that a day?

Mr. L.-Well, I don't know what it figures, 30 or no not even 30, it would be about, no I wouldn't be, I don't know

me-Was it hard work or pretty easy?

Mr. L.-Well it was stacking the shelves, waiting on people, acting like a Butcher (phone rings) when they needed meat we had to slice it in them days we didn't have no slicing machine, we used to slice it with a knife and that, we did everything. that, in the store, haul ice, in them days there was no refrigerator, we hauled all the ice.

me-did you live during the Depression?

Mr. L.-~~no~~ Did I what?

me-Live during the Depression

Mr. L. - O' yes

Me - What was it like?

Mr. L. - Well in the Depression it was pretty nice it was, I wouldn't say it was pretty nice but we all made out good - It wasn't like it is today, we get state aid and that but we didn't, the only thing we get was maybe a few pieces of clothing from the county, & we raised all our own chickens and beef and pig and then in the fall we'd kill and we'd store all that for the winter & then we got a job on CWA a government project, I guess it was \$12.00 a week

me - That wasn't bad

Mr. L. - we, food was cheap - we could get a dozen eggs for 25¢ I guess it was

me-How old were you during the Depression?

Mr. L.- During the depression I was 21, well the Depression started in 31 I believe, I was 21 because I got married in 1930-1 and I was 21

me-How did your family handle it?

Mr. L.- They all handled it all right, the only thing like we didn't eat to many not the mother and father because we saved our oranges and squeeze the juice for the babies and in them days there was no such thing as go to town and buy a bottle of oranges they never had it.

me-Where were your parents from?

Mr. L.- my parents come, my mother was born in this country and my dad come from Canada

Me - What were some of your goals in life when you were growing up?

Mr. L. - well, - pause - I believe the best job I had - I worked for the company all my life, from 18 years old and "Ah" up to - I work 42 years for them, 42 1/2 years and, then I decided to go to school

Me - when did you start going to school? what grade?

Mr. L. - I started going to collage, I went to collage at Northern then I went to Michigan state for two weeks. it was just to take chemist, for, to run them waste water treatment plants, so after I got my licence, from the state to operate them, then I took my retirement from the mine and I went to superentendent of Public work.

Me - Have you held any Public Offices?

Mr. L. - yes

me - which ones?

Mr. L. - I was Treasure of Ishpeming Township schools and I was - pause - and I was on the Township board - a trusty -

me - You know how you play Santa?

Mr. L. ya - The way I started playing Santa was when I got in the fire department, & then the fire department figured on going around and treating the kids, & because I was the biggest one they chose me - laughing to be Santa so I was Santa Clause then.

me - Is it fun?

Mr. L. - O' yes - It was lots of fun - with the little kids and the ones that they hold in their arms especially

me - How long did you do it?

Mr. L. - I done it for 2 years

Me - Did you do it this year?

Mr. L. - No, I didn't do it this year, on account of
I had went away and they had to get a
new one so they, so they got the same
one again

Me - What are some of your hobbies ^{now}?

Mr. L. - Some of my hobbies now are, well, gardening,
& hunting, or going out to camp, I'll say,
& I like to go around shopping,

Me - What is in your garden?

Mr. L. - all vegetables, lettuce & tomatoes, carrots,
& ~~beets~~ & cabbage and peppers & onions

Me - Do you use any of the things in your garden
for making things?

Mr. L. - O' yes, we eat it

me-Do you do canning?

Mr. L.- Yes we can lots-but I don't get enough from my garden to can I buy it.

me-what kind of things do you can?

Mr. L.- well we make-chow chow, pickalilly, d tomatoes, canned tomatoes, & aurtipast, and beets, pickled beans

me-Is it fun, do you like it?

Mr. L.- O I could do it everyday-Laughing-I could everyday-I Love it

me-What were some of the first things when you started?

Mr. L.- we did all of it since we first started, all that kind of stuff, chow-chow was the first thing ever but then the rest

me-Back to school, is there any funny thing you remember abt

Mr. L.- funny thing

me-one thing that was funny.

Mr. L. - the funniest thing me and grandma did was, we were taking a walk around the location one night and the boys were tobogon riding down behind, well coming up your grandpa's alley, ~~and~~ they were ~~up~~ up on that hill were the water tower is, & they come down and when we come there, one of the boys said "come on I'll give you a ride the both of you" so we went up there for a ride and when we come down we hit that bump where the snow plow makes and when I. we went up in the air, well she stayed on the tobogon but when I landed there was no tobogon there, I started rolling down, thats one funny thing -Laughing- what else Josie do you remember?

Me - The skating rink with the kids - (telling him what his wife said)

Mr. L. - We did alot of skating & crack the whip

me - Did you have alot of fun then?

Mr. L. - O'yes we had alot of fun then because, you know

we'd always be out to a house party or we'd go skating or we were doing something all the time, but there was no T.V. in those days, if you wanted to enjoy yourself, we had lots of parties & then we'd go to school parties, the school would open up so we could have a party

me- Were there dances at school?

Mr. L.- Oyes. But then, we got bigger & we'd go to the clubhouse was there for the people, there was a dance up here every week

me- Where was your wedding?

Mr. L.- our wedding was right here at the clubhouse we got ~~married~~ married at St. Johns church and we celebrated up here at the clubhouse

me-? That must of been fun

Mr. L.- Banky's orchestra played for us from Gwinn the place was full, they played here all Saturday night & half of Sunday

me- for your wedding?

Mr. L. - Ya - They didn't go home, they played over to her mothers & they come over to our houses & the played all Sunday morning & it was a good time then

Me - Where was your honeymoon?

Mr. L. - Our honeymoon, well I'll tell ya, - we had they were, 3 months after, then my dad went to Hibbing because everybody didn't have a good car then, my father said, he took the other car for their trip so he said now its your turn if you want to come, so I said OK and we went.

Me - For your jobs - did you get more as you worked
Did you get raises?

Mr. L. - Well, when I started at the mine, we were working 9 hours a day, & we were working for \$3.80 a day, we'd start 7:00 in the morning & work till 12:00 we had dinner from 12:00 to 1:00 & then we worked at 1:00 and quit at 5:00

In the winter time you'd go to work in the dark
and come home in the dark

Me- Where else did you work besides the mines
and what you already mentioned?

Mr. L- Where else did I work- when I was 18 I
worked on the railroad- on a section- by the South
Shore and an Northwestern railroad then I started
with the Cleveland Cliffs there I worked 40 1/2
years and I was a truck driver and "th"
laboring on surface and then after I went
underground and I was a moter man
underground hauling oil- had a shot and then I
decided I wanted more money so I went
mining and I've been mining ever since
then I took my retirement, ~~well~~ well then
after I took my retirement ~~from~~ from the mine
I had my state licence for the waste water
plants and I went super intendent of Public
work

Me- That's all I had ready to say and do!