

Interview With Rose Rosa  
November 19, 1998  
Interviewed by Katie Nuorala

Me: Where were you born?

Rose: I was born in Clarksburg Michigan, March 1916

Me: what were your parents names?

Rose: (father) John (mother) Jesse DeCaire

Me: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Rose: yes, there were eight children

Me: What their names?

Rose: Margret, Leo, Paulene, Rose, Mark, Jean, Clifard, Marcella.  
We were all of a French decent.

Me: where did you live while you were growing up?

Rose: 320 acer Farm, In Clarksburg, The farm house was built in 1867, It has been In the family all these years until it was sold in 19 uh. The farm was remembered by the sheep roming the hills back of the farm. The main (stutters) produce was Green Moutain surtified seed patatios, that were very (short pause) uh delisious.

Me: Do you know anything about your birth?

Rose: Yes, our father helped deliver us into this world

Me: Tell about you name. Does it have a history? Why were you given it?

Rose: Ok, My name was given to me by a school teacher who rented a room at our home when she taught in Clarksburg. I was named after Rose LaForge and she lived in Marquette in later in years and when I came up from lower Michigan to the farm if it was on Saturday at 3 o'clock I would stop at the French church in Marquette and I would find her praying there.

Me: Where did you go to school?

Rose: I went to school in Clarksburg and, until the eighth grade and then I went to Chapion High until I graduated.

Me: How did you get to school?

Rose: My father had bought a Cheverlay car the year before I started and we would drive our self's to school. When I graduated they gave me a little tiny car and they said that was because my car always started and I was always helping other ones to get their car started and I was ever helping other ones to get their car started (laughing) that was because my brother Leo took such good care of it.

Me: what kind of work did you do at school? What was your equipment like?

Rose: the equipment, well uh we had a desk that the top would, was on hinges and we could raised it and we could but our books and our papers inside the desk and then up the top down and it had a ink well in the corner and then when we went to high school we had a seat with a panel on the side that we did our writing on.

Me: What did you do for entertainment when you were younger?

Rose: When I was younger I remember we used to have a bond fire up on the hill and we would roast patatoes. In winter time we would slide down the hill with a home ade wood sled. When we got older we would walk two miles to Diorite to slide on the lake, the ice on the lake. During the depression we would slide down the hill in Champion and we all had a good time doing it and ( laughing) it didn't cost any money, and it was during the depression and we didn't feel deprived because we were all in the same situation. Ok.

Me: what were your daily chores?

Rose: our daily chores at certain time we would have to pile wood, uh the separator that had to be turned every day after the cows were milked, we had to um separate that milk witch we turned the handle and uh we had to wash out that equipment each time we used it and that all took time. On Saturday we had to clean all the carasine lamps and the glass chimney on them and um fill them with carasine. Later on we got carbide lights and then eventually we got uh electricity in 1933 was when we got electricity into the farm house. There was always house work to do.

Me: what was special about your home?

Rose: what was special about my home was that I thank God every day for my mother and dad. They really taught us a lot of patients and right from wrong. We came form a large family and all the cousins would take turns coming to the farm for their summer vacation and there would be so many in the house that and we'd sleep across the living room floor, and the over flow would sleep up in the hay barn. Our home was always like Grand Central Station, with people always coming and going and we had so much fun with our cousins and our relatives that would stop and at night the missionaries, travelers would be going through and they would nock on the door and my father would say lay your head there on

the cot in the kitchen and in the morning we never knew who was gonna be sleeping there on the cot.

Me: Tell me about your family trips.

Rose: we used to go on picnics on Sunday, with relatives and, this one uncle he was a black smith, and he had got a new Chevorlay car and his son took it out one evening and he didn't get back until 4-5 o'clock in the morning and then my uncle had to leave my dad know that he couldn't go on the picnic the next day because the car had to have a rest.

Me: What was you visits to the doctor like?

Rose: We, as I remember we didn't go to the doctor very much but there was one doctor, when you have surgery done he didn't charge he would charge he would stop on the way to camp and pick up a couple of chicken.

Me: Tell me about your first job. How old were you?

Rose: The summer when I was 16 years old my acwantence asked me to go to Chicago to be a companion to 3 little girls and I ended up doing all the work. Plus washing, ironing house keeping and everything, for four dollars and my salary was four dollars a week.

Me: What was a typical day like for your mother?

Rose: My mother was a hard working women on the farm. And she would sit down and have a game of cards and be so refreshed to get up and continue working. Her days were long and being on a farm there was a awful lot of work to do.

Me: What was a typical day like for your father?

Rose: my father, besides working on the farm, um witch was a long day and sometimes bringing in loads of hay the last loads would be brought in when the moon was shining. He worked at the mine driving a team of horses.

Me: what was a typical holiday meal like?

Rose: we always had a big meal, every day, but the specialties on holidays, if my mother had a milk pig the pig was fed with drinking milk. It seemed to make the meet more tender and she would roast this pig and put it on a platter and put a apple in it's mouth. And that was some really good eating.

Me: what was the best gift you ever received?

Rose: Flowers, I always loved flowers. But I loved wild flowers better than and roses they were my favorite.

Me: Was there any body very special to you, out side the family, while you were growing up?

Rose: when I was born my father was in the hospital and my mother had the farm to run and she didn't have much time to take care of me so the school teachers that rented a room upstairs they would baby sit me and the women, the lady next door, she sold tickets at the station, so she would take me to the station put me on the ledge entertain me while she sold tickets. Kathren Herbert who's husband was a railroad in Humbolt, they had no children and she would take me to her home and sit me and she wanted to adopt me and my mother said no. when I was 21 she wanted me to change my name, but I always was friends with her and we used to go on the train to Ishpeming and different places and she was very dear to me. I had so many people who were so good to me through life. I thank God for every one of them.

Me: What invention, would you say, changed you life? Why?

Rose: the sewing machine I think. Because I always did a lot of sewing belonging to 4H club. And at one time I made all my cloths.

Me: What was you reaction when you found out about the television?

Rose: My reaction to the television was that, I thought It was gonna be a good babysitter for children. Uh not a good one (laughing), it would turn out to be a babysitter for children. But as a rule I don't watch to much television. I believe with television children would think that everything was so easy, but in real life it's much harder.

Me: what teacher do you think you owe a lot to?

Rose: I deserve a lot to my teacher Margret DeCaire, she was my sister and she was the nicest person I ever met, and she tot us so much and she had so many new ideas and she was my God mother and she was a good example to everything in my life.

Me: Describe your favorite childhood store. Why was it so special?

Rose: I would say that the craft store was my favorite, because I enjoyed doing craft and I would get a lot of ideas form there.

Me: What kind of projects did you do when you were younger?

Rose: One thing that I did when I was 16 years old I washed to wool from the sheep, and carted it with carters by pulling the wool back and forth and getting rid of all the dirt and making it nice and fluffy, then I would pile it about a foot high and it was the size of a comforter and it would be layed out on the living room floor and after I got it the hight of 12 inches I would cover it with cheese cloth and that would be bring the depths down about 6 inches, then a material called satien, it was very colorful and strong I covered it with the stein and after this was all assembled then It was tied about 6 inches apart with colored yard witch kept the wool in place. That was my favorite project at the time. This quit I made out of sheeps wool is now at the Powsin House at Avries at atrain lake and the history of the quilt is connected to it.

Me: what was the most important lesson you learned when you were a child?

Rose: the most important lesson I learned as a child was to be prompt. We were on our way home, from the field and we stopped at our neighbors who made the best buck wheat pancakes. So we were eating and having pancakes at her home and we were late getting home. My mother not liking that we stopped at the neighbors home having pancakes, she tied a string to us and the leg of the table, and we didn't dare break that string and after that we were never late and we were punctual the rest of our life.

Me: what was you reaction when the radio came out?

Rose: My reaction to the radio was that it expanded the knolege of the world and that was a good thing for all of us, because when you need communication we didn't go

Me: What was your reaction when the telephone came out?

Rose: my reaction when the telephone came out was that it was good, because the communication with people was much more and it saved time because years ago they didn't have that communication to get the answers right away.

Me: Did you ever attend a circus, carnavil or something exciting as you were younger.

Rose: we never did expirence going to a carnival when we were younger and when drive in movies came out we seen very few.

Me: What did you want to be when you got older? Did you have any goals did you fofil them?

Rose: I had a lot of talents but most of my life I was care giver.

Me: what was once of your Incodents when you were a care giver?

Rose: one time I was taking care of my cousin's husband, who was dying of cancer and he asked me to make a cap for him and he had a lot of beautiful expensive hats, but I looked in the linnen closet and I made him a beanie with some material I found. He took it off his head and said I don't want that. So I went back in to the linnen closet again and here was a turkish tall that was bright pink and I made a cap for him with a round circle about inch and a half rim. I took it back to him and he says put 3 holes in it, and they told me don't put anymore or any less, so I put 3 holes in it and when anyone came to visit they looked at him and would say (laughing) Poke John doesn't have anything over on you. He wore his cap till he passed away.

Me: what would you consider your most valuable posesion?

Rose: The talents that I had. All those that took care of me when I was a baby. I often said that I would like to give them back the love that they gave me and I was able to do that at the ends of their lives.

Me: what do you remember with real pleasure about your childhood? Tell about the good times growing up.

Rose: One of the pleasures of childhood was the rides that I had on the train, between Marquette and Champion and sometime Baraga. I loved to dance and square dance and the parties we had on Saturday night with our parents being our shaparone. The year that my cousins took me to the worlds fair in Chicago, and one of them took me a different place every evening.

Me: as you were growing up what were the most common diseases? What ones did you fear the most?

Rose: I don't ever remember being aware of diseases most of my life.