

Stacy Seagle
with
John H. Williams

Stacy: when and where were you born?

John: Ishpeming, february the 21st, 1907.

Stacy: okay, Did you have any brothers or sistets?

John: 1 Brothet and three sisters.

Stacy: And what were their names?

John: kenneth williams, Gladys williams, Gertrude williams, and
Grace williams.

Stacy: what were your parents names?

John: Jack williams, and Louise williams.

Stacy: oh, when and where were your parents born? do you know?

John: My dad was Born England, and mother was Born Norway.

Stacy: what did they do to make a living?

John: well my dad, he had a business of his own and we
all worked there.

Stacy: what was the name of the business, and what was
it?

John: The name of the business was Williams feed and fuel, and it was an animal feed and heating fuel business.

Stacy: How did it get started?

John: Well my dad opened a little store that sold feed, and then started to sell fuel. It was on Cleveland Avenue.

Stacy: Why was it started?

John: Don't know.

Stacy: What country did your parents come from?

John: My father came from England, and my mother from Norway.

Stacy: Are you married?

John: Yep

Stacy: Did you have any children?

John: Yeh, I had three

Stacy: What were their names?

John: John, No, Jack, Jerry, and Marilyn.

Stacy: Oh, what were schools like when you were young?

John: Like, school like?

Stacy: Yeh

John: One big room, Deer Lake school, one teacher, and first grade through eighth.

Stacy: what were the teachers like?

John: Teachers were good.

Stacy: They weren't strict?

John: No.

Stacy: um, How much schooling did you have?

John: tenth grade.

Stacy: up to tenth grade!

John: through tenth.

Stacy: oh, oh. How did you get to school?

John: well the first time we walked three miles everyday to school, and when we got up into ninth grade we lived in Ishpeming.

Stacy: did you have any snow days?

John: oh, didn't have no snow days then.

Stacy: were class sizes large?

John: oh, I don't remember. The school is as big as this house, all one room.

Stacy: oh, okay. How were kids expected to act and behave?

John: Same as all schools if you didn't behave you stayed back, you were kept after school.

Stacy: I heard back when you were young that if you misbehaved you had to wear a dunce hat.

John: Teachers were strict.

Stacy: Did you have a nice teacher?

John: she was fair.

Stacy: Do you remember her name?

John: huh

Stacy: Do you remember her name?

John: oh, I can't remember the teachers name.

Stacy: okay, do you remember any humorous or interesting events in school?

John: No, I don't remember.

Stacy: what did you do in your spare time?

John: In my spare time, I played out in the snow in the winter time.

Stacy: Did you go hunting, or fishing or trapping anything like that?

John: well, I used to trap, and hunt and fish.

stacy: what did you get when you hunted, trapped, and fished?

John: when I trapped, I used to trap muskrat and beaver.

stacy: muskrat and beaver!

John: uh huh.

stacy: what did you when you fished?

John: trout

stacy: where did you go to fish, down in deer lake?

John: Nope, we went to fish out in the rivers,
- Big dead and little dead, mostly the big dead.

stacy: That was before the big dead was a basin right,
it was just a river?

John: Yep Just a river.

stacy: Did you have a well where you got your water
or was it city water?

John: well, when we lived on the farm it was well water,
and in town it was city water.

stacy: where was the farm?

John: The farm was located on county road 573 across from where John Volker lives now, close to the Cooper Lake road.

Stacy: what was it like and how big was it?

John: It was a simple farm, and it was 80 to 100 acres.

Stacy: Describe life on the farm?

John: life on the farm was very rough for everyone, you had to get up about 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning in order to do your chores, like feeding the animals before we went to school.

Stacy: Did you have electricity when you lived on the farm?

John: No, No electricity

Stacy: How about parents were they hard on children?

John: Parents, they had to have me and Gladys.

stacy: Yeh, were they hard on children though?

John: NO

stacy: what kind of chores did you have when you were young?

John: Do our chores, chop wood, saw wood, keep the Barn clean and the chicken coop clean.

stacy: Did you have cows when you were on the farm?

John: Yep, we had cows.

stacy: what kind of cows, Beef cows or dairy cows?

John: Dairy cows.

stacy: Did you go to church?

John: Yes

stacy: what church did you go to?

John: Methodist church.

stacy: what did you do on sundays?

John: well, when I was older I had sled dogs
I used to go sleigh riding.

Stacy: sleigh riding!

John: Yes

stacy: that sounds like fun.

John: It is.

stacy: Did you hunt right outside your farm?

John: what,

stacy: Did you hunt right outside your farm?

John: Yes.

stacy: what did you get?

John: well, we got beaver and we got muskrat.

stacy: Partridge anything else like that and deer
and rabbits maybe?

John: we got deer and I got rabbits.

stacy: what did you hunt with a shotgun?

John: well trapping we used traps, and hunting
I used a rifle.

stacy: oh, that's interesting.

stacy: when you bought your food what were the prices like?

John: in town.

stacy: Yeh.

John: same as they are now, Prices

stacy: Yeh

John: cheaper, a lot cheaper than they are now.

stacy: How did you store your meat, in ice Boxes?

John: ice Boxes, Yep

stacy: In the winter did you keep your cows in the winter or did you kill them all at once?

John: cows.

stacy: Yeh.

John: didn't kill cows, they were milk cows.

stacy: oh yeah.

stacy: when people got sick did you have any home remedies?

John: well, we had doctors But the doctors used to come to house. My mothers remedy was goose grease.

Stacy: goose grease!

John: Yep

Stacy: did you have a car back then?

John: No

Stacy: when did you get your first car?

John: when the first model T was put out, and I don't know when that was, I can't remember.

Stacy: what has made the area special to you?

John: I don't know what made it special.

THE

END