

Benjamin's Kari's Interview with Grampa Gravedoni (1)

me: This is Benjamin Kari and I am doing my interview with Grampa Jim Gravedoni, The date is the 21th, and I am doing this interview on Jobs and Occupations and I am at my grampa's house right now in North Lake.

me: OK...um.... 1st question I am going to ask is when and where were you born?

Grampa: When and where was I born....well.... I was born in my mothers bedroom at home in Ishpeming it use to be upstairs of a store a little grocerie store on a 320 East North street.

me: What were your parents Names?

Grampa: My parent Names, My fathers Name was Charles, Charles Paul Gravedoni, and My Mothers Name was Ernestine.

me: OK, what are the Names of your brothers and sisters? What are the Names of your brothers and sisters?

Grampa: Well, lets see I had 6 other brothers besides me and three sisters, Now going in line that would be my sister Elezibeth, my sister Mildred, my brother Clark which is Charles, My brother Joseph, my brother Paul, brother William, and brother Jerald, brother Dan, and my sister Judy.

me: OK, when and where were you married.

Grampa: Let's see I was married in July 26, 1975 and...I got married in my own home in my Living Room.

me: Ok, What is your spouses Name?
What is your spouses Name?

Grampa: Oh, my spouses Name was Bonnie, Bonnie Lee.

me: Ok, What did your parents do for a living.

Grampa: Oh, my dad worked for CCI in the underground mines he worked there for 45 years, and my mother stayed home with the kids

me: Ok, where did you go to school?

grampa: I went to grade school in North ~~lake~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ where I was living two blocks away from the school, and I made it to the 5th grade.

me: Ok, what special memories do you have of growing up in the area.

grampa: special memories, growing up in the area, well we did alot of ski riding, sled riding, and we use to slag cars in the winter time, we use to make snow huts, ski hills, in the summer kids mostly were ~~the~~ always down rock lake swimming, or we would go out in the woods and play cowboys and Indians..... Playing cowboys and Indians and ah going out in the woods we use to build Indian teepees out of pine brush, pine branches. and then later on we even got better at that we use to cut trees down and make log camps.

me: cool, um What special factories stand out in your mind of the cities of Ishopening and Naperney when you were younger.

gramp: The changes

me: yup

grampa: Well, that pretty tough. Its alot different in town now than it use to be, town use to be...everything was in town at on time, but alot of buildings I use to be in town their not their No more most of them are condemned or tore down and parking lots ah In fact one of the buildings I worked at when I was a kid was the Iron ore print shop they had to tear it down because the only think that was holding it up was the o.k. auto building, it was leaning against the O.K. auto building,

me: hu, OK, hum what kinds of thing did you do did you do with your friends for entertainment when you were teenagers?

grampa: Things we did when we were teenagers. Well is about the same things I mencherd earlier about the ski riding and sleding, swimming, cause it was the same thing when we were kids their up to teenagers, and then after that I never had much because I got married pretty young.

me: OK, um... Where did the kids like to hang out in your town when you were a teenagers.

grampa: The only place we usely hang out was the sport land bowling alley, and the reason hanging out their was the kids, most of the kids worked their spotting pins, and th.... the Ishpeming Ice rink their was always hundreds of kids their ~~enly~~ night ~~only~~ winter long, We never had No A1 Qual or any thing like that,

me: Do you have any Interesting or Humorous storys to tell, to share about these early days in Ishpeming or Negaunee?

grampa: Memories of the older days between Ishpeming and Negaunee is that what you were saying.

me: or Interesting or Humorous story or humorous.

grampa: Well, Nothing about Negaunee, but ah.... Ishpeming... other than places I worked ah..... The only time kids years ago would go to Ishpeming, is when they got a little older teenagers and then we use to walk to town, go down their chasing girls, but other than that most of my memories are down in North Lake.

me: Do you have stories to tell about when you were younger?

grampa: Do you want me to tell you about my favorite about the Rustie sword.

me: Yeh

grampa: Ha..... No..... I don't know you think that would be interesting enough.

me: yeh, It would be interesting.

grampa: Well lets see, The story about the rustie sword, was we use to get a bunch of kids together and we use to play in the alleys, that use to be our place of hang out, years ago everyone had animals and in the back of all the beans is wear they pilled all the cow manure, and ah... we would always get a kid that never played the game before and we would invite him in to the alley and see if he wanted to play the game with us and we would explain the game by telling its a you got to be a knight and order to be the knight you would have to take the sword and you would chase us kids around and when you get a hold of us you can catch and beat us with the sword, and the kid thought that was pretty humorous and he thought he would really like to give it a try so in the mean

(cont) grampa: time well he was being discust about the game somebody would take the sword and stick it a fue times in the menewer pile and get it all nice and guckie and then we would hand it to the kid which was kind of in the dark and we would hand it to the kid and when the kid would reach out for it he would grab it up close to the handel and all you do is pull the sword out of his hand, and he would have all the menewer in his hand, and we would take a look at it and we say 'yuck! were did you get all the clay from ... other than that we use to play alot of games we use to play can over... in the streets and we use to play ball in the streets, we didn't have a base-ball dimand tell later on when they put one up behind the school, and play baseball well not base-ball we used a rubber ball at the time, and we had abt of windows broke around the location, and when we broke a window either we would have to pay for it or work it off.

me: OK, um... how old were you when you found your first job and where did you work?

grampa: how I was I when I had my first job, I was 11 years old, I started spotting pins at the sportland bowling alley, and then later on I got a job at the Mather Inn and I was a bell-top, I use to run the elevator up and down, and at that time I was getting 25 bucks a month,

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(cont) grampa: and from their I went to the Iron Ore print shop I was getting 30 cen. an hour, and from the print shop I went to Cronkel's bakke, and I was getting 25 dollars a week, and that was in 49, and shortly after that then in 49 is when I got a job at the mine and I worked their ever since.

me: Were you ever in the military?

grampa: Not in the regular service, but I was in the Nation Guard I put in six years in their.

me: could you describe your experience their.

grampa: Describe what?

me: your experiences their

grampa: my experience in the Guard.

me: yeh

grampa: Well, when I joined the Guards at their they wanted to where I worked, and when I worked at the bakke, so they just stuck me in as a cook, so I ended up cooking for six years.

me: during your life time when were you employed the longest?

grampa: during my life time where was I employed the longest.

me: yeh

grampa: for Cleveland Cliff Iron Company, I worked 33 years their 22 years of it was super vision.

me: In as much detail as possible please describe the main duties of that job.

grampa: My main duties of that job, well lets see, 23 of them years I was a miner, and my job their was drilling and blasting and th, the other 22 years was super vision

me: OK, describe this job requirement or did this job require any special training,

grampa: No, on the job training it was you learned as you worked

me: OK, What was the most chalarging or difficult part of your job.

grampa: The most challenging or difficult part of my job....I don't know I can't think of any thing chalarging or difficult which I was working their..... may be I didn't think any of them were challenging or difficult, what's the Next one,

me: Did any other family members work for the same company

grampa: any other family members work for the company, well lets see, yes I had my brother Paul work their and he ended up he was a welder, my brother dan he was a welder, and my brother Jerry and he ended up beeing a wdder also, my brother bill he was a miner and he was on supervision, and I think thats about it des far as the brothers.

me: Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

grampa: put me in any dangerous situations, the only dangerous situations are the ones that I created myself

me: could you decribe it.

grampa: Well, the things were like things I created myself I was always a hard worker and a hustler I always did thing dangerously a lot of thing you want sopostra do like setting bombs in mills where you would have to just get by standing along side the mills and I use to climb up the

(cont)
 grampa: mills to set the bomb and climb back down again, or when it comes blast time you would use an eight foot fuse I didn't want to wait till the eight foot fuse burnt I use to cut them starter, cut them off short and run like heck, other than that we use to do crazy things when we had long walks like from the matter B shafts from inside all the way out the shaft we use to stack the trains, which is dangerous their are other people that triped that and they got killed, there are so many dangerous things in the mine, it is not dangerous if you follow the rules, but their was always a few people that never followed the rules, and I was just lucky to live through them all.

me: Ok, can you describe what you co-workers were like.
 grampa: my what?

me: your co-workers
 grampa: what they were like
 me: yeh

grampa: years, age most of them were pretty good they were all hard working people, put through out the years when everything started getting more moderized, moderization made people more lazy, and it was harder to get them to work

me: Ok, what was your biggest responsibilities on the job?
 grampa: my biggest responsibilities..... try to get people to work
 me: Ok, during your days of employment and beyond what have been your favorite hobbies and leasore activities?

grampa: My favorite hobbies and activities

me: Do you have any stories about them

grampa: During working in ah.....During... Working in my life.

me: yeh.. employment days and beyond

grampa: Well I had hobbies like stock car racing ah... carpentry which I still do today hum....I would have to think on that,

me: do you have any stories about them?

grampa: stories about my hobbies.. the only thing I can think of all my life I worked, worked, work, work all ~~of~~ the time and I don't know if you consider that a hobby, I can't think of any off hand Ben.

me: ok; have you been involved in any clubs, organizations, or sport leagues

grampa: Years ago when I was a young kid my dad had me join a club called Lombard veradee it was a club for just Italian people years ago all Nationalities had their own clubs, and ah later when they disbanded that club that was when all clubs were being disbanded, their might be one or two around yet but, then ah they had a club just in North lake similar to the one they have in West Ishpeming this club in North Lake was called the Tri-F club and what the Tri-F's meant I still don't know today, but the Tri-F club was located in this building that I own right now in North Lake in fact it use in the office in Troy's room and our Initiation room was right here we use to take people back here and this is where the initiation was.

me: over all what was the fondest memories of your working day and your career?

grampa: fondest memories of my working days.....I don't know I can't think of any thing... meaning like what for instance

me: ah, I don't know any thing that happend in you working days

grampa: The only thing I can think of is some of the situations I got into ah being so ah working so dangerously I remember a

(cont)
 grandpa: couple of times in the mines when I got buried up with dirt and managed to get out... once was up in a raise and I was drilling in a raise in a dangerous situation rather baring down in the loose I thought I was going to drill it how it was and the back came down and bared me down to the waist and ah.... and lets see now another time when I put a bomb up in the mill and lit the fuses I was climbing down out of the mill and the bomb fell down and followed me down the mill and I had the fuses cut short and I had to run like heck to get away from being blasted and the other than that lets see situation I remember situations in the mine where other people ^{have} gotten bared and I was their to dig them out, as other thing the only thing I could really think of and it wasent during the period of the mine but ah it was when I was working on my garage roof and I fell off the garage roof and broke my neck other than that I cant think of any thing else.

me: Where you a member of a Union.

grandpa: yeh, I was ~~be~~ member of a union untill I became a supervisor and that takes you out of the Union and that was the local 49-50.

me: please describe any interisting moments that occurred as a member of the Union.

grandpa: something that accoued as a member of the Union... the only thing I can think of is when ever they were arguing about pay raises they ended up with the stricks and then you would never have a job until the strick was settled the only thing

(cont)

grampa: I could think of a Union was concerned they were good in a way but they got out of hand later on.

me: If you would have to do it all over again would you choose the same career.

grampa: Mining definitely I loved it I was probably born a underground miner because ever since I was a little kid my dad worked at the old mine that was about a mile I say a 'mife' a mife and a quarter from where we lived in the location here and when I was small I use to come out of school and the first thing I would do is walk all the way over to the mine and I would have to wait at the gate because this was during the war they had a gate their and wouldn't let anyone in, and I would wait their for my dad to come and I would always walk home with my dad holding my hand he would always save me some lunch a little cake or a half a sandwich or something

me: In closing do you have anything else you would like to add?

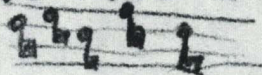
grampa: Anything else I would like to add, well another thing I thought of to was some of the memories of North Lake when I was a kid like I said years ago everybody had animals in North Lake, and we had about six cows and I had a favorite cow and it was named Blacky and years ago people use to let the cows out of the barn and roam around the location and if they went around the location we would have to go looking for them sometimes they would be a couple miles away out in the woods and ah another friend of mine he was an older friend oh he was probably ten years older than me and he was kind of an idle of mine he was like a Big brother and when ever we want to go get the cows we would go together and I was a little tot then and when ever we found the cows he would always take me and

(cont)

grampa: put me on the cows back so I could ride the cow back home and then ah when we lived in North Lake we had animals we had more animal then anyone in north lake we had, ducks, cows, chickens, pigs and goats and ah another memorie I had is Ah when I was a kid too my dad had bought some pigs and ah two of the pigs got out of the pen and they sneaked into the old out house where he kepted the cement, and they got in their and ate all the cement, and the next day my dad went to go feed the pigs and their they were in the barn and he was wondering why they were laying down on the floor he found out they were dead and they were as hard as a rocks and he found out they ate the cement so we had to take them out behide the mine and dig holes and burie them, and another time too I remember my dad went and bought goats for everyone of us kids their was ten kids in the family and their was 10 goats and ah one was called grampa and one was called billy and their was another one called sally they all had names but I can't remember the Names of all of them but I remember that first day when my dad came home with that big truck and he backed it up into the barn their and lowered the gate and we were trying to herd the goats into the barn and the one called grampa rather deciding on going into the barn he decided he was going to take off and he dashed right through the people and got away so we ended up we lost one goat but ah every morning that goat would come back from the woods and he would try to get into the pen and people would always see himne down crossing the road and the would say they saw a silly looking deer but it was a

(cont)
 grampa: not a deer it was a goat, seen it cross the road so one morning my mother woke me up early and she said Jim Dick get out side she said grampas out side trying to get into the ~~barn~~ barn or get into the fence their so I quickly put my overalls on and ran out side and I sneaked out behind the barn and opened up the gate and I hid back into the barn again pretty soon grampa was going around checking the fence and then he found a way to get in and then he went in and I shut the fence and we got the goat back but that goat grampa and Billy they were the two males and the rest were all females so they were fighting all the time they would back up and charge each other and ram each other heads together they would keep fighting untill their horns or their skull would bleed by the horns they would battle each other all day like that and I remember one incident later on when they were use to living around here we didnt have to keep them in the pen no more we use to just leave them roam around the yard and they would go all over the location and chew all the bark off the trees people would be taken because it would be killing their trees and I remember this one incident when my mom was out hanging clothes on day and I dont know if you herd about ah Billy goats if you ever bend over they like to butt you

me: yeh

grampa: they like to do that, anyway my mom was hanging cloths and Billy ~~son~~ was watching her, chew some grass and watch a little bit and she would bend over a little bit and pick up some cloths out of the basket and she would move down a little bit and this time when she bent over Billy goes  and he hugged my mom and he skidded her about 15 feet down the yard

(cont)
grampa:

and she was all scratched up and she started crying and all that and my dad would come home and she would say what you crying about she said you have to do something about that goat that billy you have to do something about him he just butt me in the rear end and look what he did to me (skatled all over) he said yeh yeh yeh, I'll take care of that so he went across the street to my uncles house and his name was Joe Sepetie, and he use to love to kill animals well ~~advaly~~ he was the guy most people in North Lake if they had animals to kill they would go to him, so he came over their and he had I forget what he called his knife but it was like a felly knife and he would go up to the goat and go come here Nice Billy, and he was petting him so nice and he would grab him by the horns and he would butt him up and go ~~mm~~ and cut his throat and he would let him go and left him on the ground and he was kicking but not for too long and when I think of it another incident now when I was a kid we had this big pig his name was Henry and he weight about 500lbs, so usoly in North Lake when someone was going to kill an animal their was people all over the place everyone was willing to give a hand everyone helped everyone these days so quit a few guys came over to the house one day and they were going to kill Henry it was time to kill him to feed the kids so what my uncle Joe Sepetie they called him pee and the put some food in front of the door of the pig pen and my uncle pee would say come on Henry come on I got some food for you Henry comes out oink, oink, ect.) and he starts eating that food and my uncle pee went their with a big sledge hammer BOunk and he

(cont)
grampa: hit him right in the skull pig floops over Well he says he ~~dead~~ dead so they all decided they were going into the house and have some coffee - Royals do you know what a coffee - Royal is

me: Alt-Nah (NO)

grampa: moonshiny and coffee home-made moonshine and coffee and they were going to have a coffee - Royal so they were sitting around chewing the fat and I was small and I went at their looking at the pig poor henery I use to like henery I use to go in the barn and feed him all the time but he had a pen of his own that was in the barn but he was in the chickens and alot of times the chickens use to crawl in between the boards to eat the pig food and the pig would eat the chickens, you would find Nothing but feathers after the pig ate them, so anyway I felt bad for henery and I was down there petting poor henery and pretty soon I was petting him and he started moving I pet him some more and he moved some more pretty soon he started shaking his head wiggling his nose and oink, oink, and then he got up and he ate the rest of the food, I ran in the house and I hollered dad, dad Quick henery's out their eating the food ah keep Quiet henery's dead were going to finish our coffee and the we are going to go out there, and in them days they use to put a big barel and they had that barel boiling all morning long with a fire under it to get boiling hot water see and they had a tri-pod over it with a big pully and they would tie it on the the pig and raise it up into the air and put him in the boiling hot water and the reason they would lower them into the hot water was

grampa: to soften ~~the~~ hair up and you would scrap all the hair off the meat you see so I ran into the house to tell them about that pig Ah No, No one would believe me so finally when they finished their coffee theirs ~~done~~ out and theirs the pig walking around the pen and he was still alive well he's alive but he must have an awful head-ack, so they figured if they couldn't kill him with the sledge hammer they went and got the gun and shot him in the head and then when they ah raised it up put it into the band pulled all the hair off the pig and then my ~~uncle~~ uncle pre sliced it up the belly take out all the guts and every thing and the first thing he did was cut out the bladder he cut the Bladder out and shuck out all the pee but the first he he did is he cut his ~~throat~~ throat and they use to put a pan under their and catch all the blood and made blood sausage and my uncle pre would take a cup and catch some of the warm blood and drink that warm blood, I don't know how he did it but he did it, then he would cut it all out and he would take that Bladder and he would blow that Bladder and it was Big and that's why they call a football a pig skin so that's what they used was pig skin he would blow it up and he gived it to me and you could kick that thing I kicked it all summer long I think and it was still a pig skin full of air that was our football they got about that Big that was alot of fun I was the only kid that I knew of that had a pig bladder pig skin.

me: OK, is that about it then
 grampa! thats about it I cant think of anything else except 9:00 my movie st
 me: ^{Hittler} OK, Thanks alot Grampa