

Me: My name is michelle St. Amour and I'm interviewing Mrs. Arlene Young who is my grandmother at my home in Ishpeming, today's date is February 19, 1997. Our interview will focus on Arlene's Memories as a Student at Champion.

Me: Can you tell me your full name and when and where you were born?

Mrs. A: Arlene Young, I was born in Detroit, Michigan... (laughing) do I have to tell you how old I am?

Me: yeah!

Mrs. A: Was born in Detroit Michigan, and I am born in 1927.

Me: OK, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

Mrs. A: I had one brother and one sister, my brothers name was Clyde and my sisters name is Audrey.

me: did you have any pets?

Mrs. A: we had a pig, a cat, pigs name was Suzy, cats name was Bozo, horses name was Bessy

Me: what were your parents names?

Mrs. A: my dad's name was James, my mother's name was Ester.

Me: what were your parents occupation?

Mrs. A: my mother's was a home-maker, and my father worked on the WPA.

Me: ok, what did you and your family do for fun?

Mrs. A: we sat by a wood stove in the living room and talked about the days happenings, and made popcorn, my sister and I played with paper dolls. my mother was usually baking something. we didn't have a newspaper, my dad most of the time slept in front of the fire, he was so tired all the time.

me: ok, what dolls were popular when you were little?

Mrs. A: the ^{Dionne} de one Quintuplet paper dolls, ~~the de one Quintuplet paper dolls~~

- Me: can you give me some more information about them?
- Mrs. A: they were the first quintuplets born in the U.S, at that time.
- Me: what was the price to go see the movie?
- Mrs. A: we didn't go to the movies in Champion at all.
- Me: how much would it cost if you did go?
- Mrs. A: it would cost 10¢ in Marquette.
- Me: OK, how much did you pay for a candy bar and pop?
- Mrs. A: never drank pop, candy bar was a nickle
- Me: a nickle? was it a pretty big size?
- Mrs. A: it was like this. that was Mr. Goodbar and the Hersheys bar. it was huge, 3 muskaters were three separate bars, there was two of one flavor, one was another kind we never knew what kind we would get in a package.
- Me: where did you grocery shop?
- Mrs. A: we shopped at Quinns Grocery Store. and ah Ryan's Market downtown, Dinnre and Mark Ryans, grocery store, they had everything not just groceries ya know? clothes and Caroline stuff like that.
- Me: did you ever go to the Ryne Store, or any other?
- Mrs. A: I used to go with my dad, walked down there we never had a car, we used to go up to the Quinn Store to buy penny candy. The post office was right next store to the Quinn Store we would go get ~~the~~ mail.
- Me: where did you buy your clothes from?
- Mrs. A: Spiegel Catalog.
- Me: is that it? any?
- Mrs. A: thats it!
- Me: and your mom made some too
- Mrs. A: my mother made

Mrs. A: most of my clothes and then my grandma lived in Pennsylvania and she would send my mother material, and she made clothes and Dresses out of the material, but most of the time she bought material and made our clothes, back then nobody wore blue jeans except the boys.

Me: what certain foods were popular when you were a child?

Mrs. A: I ate mostly deer meat, and rabbit and squirrel.

Me: Squirrel?

Mrs. A: Sometimes we had ham, because an Uncle from Marquette would bring us some, ham from his Grocery store, most of the time it was wild animals

Me: how old were you when you went on your first date?

Mrs. A: tenth grade

Me: tenth grade? so you were 16 or 17 or 15-16

Mrs. A: yeah about 15-16

Me: Did you go to any kinds of Parties?

Mrs. A: yep, mostly roller skating at the roller rink *where?*

Me: and were those Birthday Parties?

Mrs. A: Some of them were

Me: and some were just parties OK how old were you when you got your first car?

Mrs. A: never had a car, never learned to drive.

Me: OK, what kind of car was popular during your teen years?

Mrs. A: I always like chevrolt, so just say chevrolt, thats all we ever bought.

Me: did you have plans for the future when you were growing up?

me - what did you want to be?

Mrs. A - yes, I wanted to be a nurse until I didn't like blood, then I wanted to be a secretary, and do office work.

me - When when you were a child, didn't woman only have to job choices? a teacher or a secretary? they couldn't be what they can be now Right?

Mrs. A - oh definitely not! most of them just thought about getting married and farming cause there was no possibilities in champion unless you went to a bigger city and went to college like Marquette college they had a normal college and that was for teachers.

me - alright, what was your favorite place to hang out

Mrs. A - now was this in champion?

me: Oh it could be anywhere

Mrs. A - the corner drug store

me - where was that?

Mrs. A - in Detroit

me - ok

Mrs. A - I was a teenage that's when I went for a chewy coke, and there was a restaurant across the street where we had french fries, that's where my girlfriend found a cockroach under her french fries. (laughing)

me - eww! um what games or dolls did you play with when you were little?

Mrs. A - checkers, chinese checkers, um didn't play to many games except outside we played marbles a lot and ah's kick the can and hide and go seek, mostly outside games.

me: - ok, what was your favorite holiday and why?

Mrs. A - it was easter cause we got lots of candy
me - candy? what did you do on your freetime?

Mrs. A - just anytime or just strictly in champion?
me - probably in champion.

Mrs. A - we went not to far from our house, there was a rail road track
it's not there anymore but beyond that was what we called the
rock pile it was iron ore, big chunks of iron ore. we used to
go up there and play house, and then there was an some old
out buildings cause the mine wasn't working anymore, and the
Roofs were made out of slate, and at some time the wind had
blown some of the slate off so we used to go and pick it, we
weren't supposed to because there was a fence around it
for caving grounds, and wed sneek in there and get
peices of slate and write on them with chalk, then if we got
hungry, and we were to tired to walk home we made
Raspberry Sandwiches, take two raspberrie leaves put a
Raspberry in between and smuck them, and then we ate
them

Me - Really?

Mrs. A - Sure, people eat leaves, they eat geranium blossoms and everything.
me - eww, ok umm did you have any hobbies growing up?

Mrs. A - nope

me - did you collect anything or?

Mrs. A - pictures of movie stars.

me - like who?

Mrs. A - Frank Sinatra, John Wayne,

me - what was your first job?

Mrs. A - selling candy in the movies

me - where was the movies located?

Mrs. A - in Marquette

me - how old were you?

Mrs. A - 13

me - 13, how much money did you make

Mrs. A - not very much. Probably \$5 a week, Audrey would Remem

ber

Mrs. A - more because she worked there too.

Me - OK, how old were you when you moved out of your family home?

Mrs. A - I was 18

Me - OK can you tell me your teachers names 1-8?

Mrs. A - 1st Margerette Feely, 2nd Mrs. Carlson, 3rd Louesse Dormer, 4th Feely, 5th don't remember, 6th Mrs. Peeradel, now 6th was in Marquette I only went four grades in Champion, OK

Me - OK then stop there. OK you attended school at Champion 1st-4th grade? OK what teachers were you favorite?

Mrs. A - The Feely Sisters 1st + 4th grade in fact they were everyone's favorite

Me - Can you say anything they did or? Nellie taught Penmanship Margerette taught?

Mrs. A - Nellie taught Penmanship,

Me - what was that pen method?

Mrs. A - Palmer Pen, Palmer Pen method

Me - was it good? a teaching method

Mrs. A - Oh yeah! very good anybody that learned that back then has great hand writing ~~at~~ right now!

~~Me~~
Me - OK

Mrs. A - Margerette used to have a big box she gave everyone a pea and we planted the pea and every day we could watch it grow.

Me - Really

Mrs. A - yes it was fun! Did you ask if there's anything that we did in school ^{Did you ask if there's anything that we} we didn't ~~do~~ ^{do} anything?

Me - no

Mrs. A - are you going to ask something like that?

Me - no

Mrs. A - what about this when we got our teeth fixed?

Me - oh yeah tell us anything you know!

Mrs. A - we had the gals restrooms, there was a hallway and the dentist set up his seat, and we got to go to the dentist for free, never got any novocaino or nothing, if you had to have a tooth pulled or one filled or pulled and that's where he fixed our teeth right out the Restroom

Me - did you have to have anything done?

Mrs. A - oh yeah fillings, cause we couldn't afford to go to the dentist, it hurt, half the people today probably got there teeth pulled because no one had money to pay for them back then, no tooth paste or nothing like that, to clean your teeth you used salt just Rub it on your hand, then your teeth.

Me - did it work good?

Mrs. A - oh yeah, it took all the grimo and heat, and while you were doing it pump the water, take a bath in a big tub in the middle of the kitchen floor we would heat the water on the wood stove then mother would fill it up. Then we took our bath there then it was my sisters turn cause it was too cold to go down in the sauna cause it was outside it wasn't in the house ya know!

me - what subjects did you have in grade school?

Mrs. A - Reading, Writing, Rithmetic, Geography

me - government?

Mrs. A - no, in high school

me - what was your favorite subject

Mrs. A - chorus

me - who taught it?

Mrs. A - Oh I only had it in ^{high} school,

me - OK then, what in gradeschool?

Mrs. A - nothing!

me - nothing? OK (hahaha)

Mrs. A - I didn't care much for school. Recess! (laughs)

me - Recess?

Mrs. A - no um, I didn't like English because you had to punctuate things, I didn't like Arithmetic because I guess it must of been geography.

me - who taught this subject

Mrs. A - A Regular homeroom teacher

me - did you get a lot of homework?

Mrs. A - no, most in school

me - how many teachers did you have in one day?

Mrs. A - just one

me - describe a typical day as an elementary student

Mrs. A - my mother would pack our lunch

Mrs. A - we didn't have lunch buckets we had Lard Pails, my mother made my lunch, we had no Lunch Room we had this Room where we could eat, but most of the time we had to go home Lunch was a Sandwich, and cookies.

me - what did you write with?

Mrs. A - pencil

me - did you have pens you had to dip in ink?

Mrs. A - they were put out by Palmer Pens, they were good pens,

me - messy?

Mrs. A - oh yes but you always had a tiny cloth if you got bad you could wipe the tip off, you got a certain amount of points you could use.

me - Paper, did you write on Papers?

Mrs. A, yes, similar to this!

me - what did you do on your Lunch hour

Mrs. A - we just ate lunch, then went to Recess If it was bad walked home,

me - where was your Lunch kept?

Mr. A - cloak Rooms, where all jackets were kept.

me - did you have Recess?

Mrs. A - yes we used to play crack the whip, play in the snow, in the summer we played jacks

me - how long was Lunch hour

Mrs. A - an hour, cause sometimes we had to walk home

me - can you describe your clothing and how many layers you wore,

Mrs. A - well our clothing was homemade dress with cotton socks, w/ garden belts snow pants, not too many layers handmade mittens

me - how did you get to school?

Mrs. A - we walked, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

me - was there a dress code

Mrs. A - no, nobody had that back then

me - describe Holiday celebrations did you receive gifts

Mrs. A - we had a big tree our tradition we put it up in the gymnasium Mr. Christensen one year when

Mrs. A - when he was putting the decorations on the tree he fell and broke his back, and he was a very popular man, everyone liked him, we felt bad that this happened, but he came back and we had an Christmas program and I was in one of them, everyone had some small part, I was in one and there was a really nice play

Me - ok, what did you do after school?

Mrs. A, ah helped our mother, my brother had to fill the wood ~~box~~, Slop the hog, (laughing) keep the room clean cause we shared it, all we had was a bed and two chester droors, we hung our clothes up on wooden pegs,

Me - ok what extra-ciriculars did you have in school? Did yo do anything?

Mrs. A - in Champion school I did nothing, no basketball we didn't have anything like gym or anything.

Me - what sports, ... did they have at Champion?

Mrs. A - they had basketball

Me - only for boys?

Mrs. A - just for boys, year.

Me - how were unruly children handled?

Mrs. A - they got sent to the principals office

Me - did they get slapped with a ruler or anything?

Mrs. A - they just got reprimended, we only had one teacher that did that.

Mrs. A - that hit their knuckles with a ruler, because they didn't behave themselves

Me - was she mean?

Mrs. A - she was a pretty good teacher, but she did punish the kids that way.

Me - how did students get in trouble? did they break the rules?

Mrs. A - talked in class, things like that

Me - didn't one girl have to stick gum on her nose?

Mrs. A - oh yeah, one girl she was talking and the teacher saw she had gum so she had to stand in front of the class with gum on her nose.

Me - how would your parents have acted if you were in trouble.

Mrs. A - got a spanking

Me - really, with a belt?

Mrs. A - my dad used a belt and my mother used huckle nut switches. then if we cried he said "I'll give you something to cry for!"

Me - what kinds of grades did you get?

Mrs. A - fair, average

Me - did you have any male teachers?

Mrs. A - not in champion I didn't

Me - did you have any married teachers?

Mrs. A - no, I'm not sure, no we didn't

Me - were there any minorities or recent immigrants in your class?

Mrs. A - just Finnish

Me - did you graduate from high school? if so how many in your graduating class?

Mrs. A - yes, I went to night school I graduated

Mrs. A - I think there was about 100 graduates, I enjoyed it I took English and history

Me - OK, how old were you when you moved to Detroit? ~~I was 14~~

Mrs. A - I was 14, 9th grade

Me - Do you have any children and how many?

Mrs. A - I have three children, my oldest one Michael, my middle ones name is Cheryl my youngest ones name is Jeffery.

Me - OK, where did you go to high school?

Mrs. A - Ishpeming / Detroit

Me - did you participate in any school plays?

Mrs. A - I sang in a couple of them and acted in one of them

Me - did you enjoy your grade school years?

Mrs. A - Oh yes!

Me - can you tell me anything special about Champion School?

Mrs. A - well just cause everyone went to school the time I was nobody was envious of anybody, like if someone had a new car, all parents were all in the same boat, cause it was during the Depression and nobody had money. It was fun playing in the rock pile, sliding down on cardboard, I loved it I loved growing up there!

Me - could you say anymore or? any memories

Mrs. A - we didn't have a lot of kids participation in things, like plays and things were big in Champion School

Me - was the Depression hard?

Mrs. A - yes my dad couldn't get a job, we got commodities cod oil, lard, dry beans, preserves, dresses that I think the first time you washed them, we got all that free from the government, I can't remember what the WPA stands for we used to say we poke along!

Me - Thank you!!