

Tina Hill's Interview
with

Pearl Anola

me: This is Tina Hill and I'm going to do an interview on Pearl Anola on when she went to National Mine School. I'm going to do this interview on Dec. 12th at her house in National Mine

me: um, when and where were you born?

Pearl: I was born in the house I'm living in.

me: oh!

Pearl: (Ha! Hi!) In 1919. I ~~was~~ lived here all my life

me: and, what was your family like, how many kids were in your family?

Pearl: um, I had 3 brothers, and one of my brothers died when he was a baby, ^{and} I have one brother left who's living.

me: do you remember their names?

Pearl: oh, yes! one was called Frances, and my brother John was in in a mine accident and died in that, and my brother Roy is still living.

me: do you remember what John's last name was? cause my uncle died in a mine accident.

Pearl: Solka.

me: Oh, um, what parts did you attend National Mine?

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Pearl: I started when they opened this new school.

~~The school burned, and uh~~ There was a fire and the school burned, and uh, when they opened this ^{present} school they have their now, I started in '25 and graduated in '37.

me: hm, um, did you have any kids?

Pearl: ~~no~~, no.

me: um, like what was your favorite - do you remember any favorite teachers?

Pearl: Oh! many of them! we had real good teachers! um oh in the grades, it was Miss Herring, Evelyn Herring and ~~also~~ Ruth Roberts and um, my Home teacher was Phyllis Lynn, I ~~was~~ just loved her! she helped me so much! And my music teacher was Dorothy Ekason and uh, she was just marvelous! ~~and um~~ we had music all through school because ~~it was~~ I belonged to the "filee club" and um, and at Christmas we'd have a Christmas Dinner and um, we'd exchange gifts, and um it was really fun, and uh, let's see - Mr. Bath was our class advisor but he was also one of my favorite teachers.

me: Did you have any funny stories about him?

Pearl: any funny stories? ~~um~~, let's see, Oh and Mr. Annala was one of our other teachers and I remember when we were on a picnic one time ~~and~~ up at Champion Beach, we were making coffee in a pot, and nobody remembered to bring a spoon.

Pearl: (cont.) and Mr. Anjala just broke off a branch and wiped it off and said ah, this'll, this'll serve the purpose! and um, we used to take part, I used to take part in all the Christmas plays and operettas and things we put on which was a lot of fun.

me: Do you remember any of them?

Pearl: Do I remember any of them? ah, I was the part of most of them, but I don't remember any names! I remember, I was uh, one time when ~~the~~ when our plays were on, we had to do our minuet and I was ^{the} pilgrim and another time, I was Arag dohl and another time, I was a pirate and we were in the dance chorus, and I almost lost my pants upon the stage! (Ha! Ha!) That was kind of embarrassing!

me: (Ha! Ha!)

Pearl: (Ha! Ha!) I think I might've been around in 6th grade when that happened!

me: wow! That must have been quite embarrassing!

Pearl: I caught 'em but I had to hang onto them! (Ha! Ha!)

me: Did you, well, did you start in kindergarden?

Pearl: mm hm, and I went right through!

me: oh! so you graduated there!

Pearl: mm hm,

me: Did your school have any annual picnics or parties parties parties? when you were there?

Pearl: Oh, we used to have, uh, as I mentioned, our Christmas party for "Glee club" and uh, once in a while we would have a dance. and uh, our school board was pretty strict. we were I don't know if we had to get out of there by ten or but, that was very rare. But the teachers, the teachers joined in with you. And they'd have their own dances and stuff you know.

me: mm hm

Pearl: we had a lot of fun. they were dedicated and very good teachers but we had a lot of fun with them.

me: um, do you remember any funny stories of what happened to you when you were at a dance or something?

Pearl: I remember one time um, in Latin class, we were supposed to uh, we were supposed to have something prepared and uh one of the girls & I, one of my class mates, we were walking down the hall and we hadn't prepared for our lessons and she says, well, how about you be the dog and I'll be the master she says. so we goes in there and she'd say to me how old are ya? I'd say woof! woof! woof! and uh, she'd say it in Latin see,

Pearl: (cont.) (Ha! Ha!) we got away with it! (Ha! Ha!)

~~me~~ me: (Ha! Ha!)

Pearl: all the questions that she asked. (Ha! Ha!)
in latin I was supposed to beurt or something
you know! and that was kind of unique
you know and we had just planned it when
we were walking into class! (Ha! Ha!)

me: wow! you must have been worried!

Pearl: Yeah! Because I wasn't one ~~out~~, that's why
I don't know how I didn't have anything ^{ready} that
day because I used to care about all my lessons
and things, but, I guess I couldn't think of
anything to do.

me: Do you remember what your school did for like
christmas or anything? Or anything special
like, you baked or something?

Pearl: let's see, we used to make ~~cookies~~ christmas
cookies and um, we always had a christmas
play, and we ~~made candy~~ always
had a bag of candy and stuff like that.
we always had a treat ^{because} ~~we know~~ we didn't
have much money in those days. and uh,
so an apple and an orange and a bag
of candy meant a lot to us.

Pearl: (cont)

me: hm m.

Pearl: mmhm

me: Do you.. Did you have a favorite subject?

Pearl: Oh! I loved sewing! I just loved Homec and ~~we used to~~ reading and spelling and arithmetic. and uh, I can't say that there was one or any that I did not like ^{really}

me: hmhm

Pearl: But Homec was really ~~one~~ one of my favorites.

me: Did you do good in it?

Pearl: Oh yeah mmhm! It went on to uh, my husband and I had a dry cleaning ~~store~~ ^{plant} and uh, I really deduced my sewing that I was taught because I did all my sewing for the repairs and things that the customers brought in. and uh, I still do! uh, ^{at the bit,} I got a couple customers here that have a couple things I'll be sewing for them.

me: um, did you have any special friends that you remember?

Pearl: Oh, special friends! ~~was~~! Helen, Woody Kiala, and Virginia Sjolm, uh Maki, and we were all real close because we were a small class!

Pearl: (cont.) there were only 11 of us! ⑦
and um, Jennifer Chalmers Kane, and
Elmer Helstine lagging, but uh, we were
all real close

me: hmmm. what kind grades did you get? Did
you get real good grades or...

Pearl: well! average and better. mhm there was n't
anyone in our class that was below
C average

me: oh!

Pearl: and I think I was the 3rd.

me: so, you were almost a le Victorian or salut-
a foriam?

Pearl: hmmm!

me: wow! Do you remember? um,

Pearl: I remember um, uh, in Algebra, one night I
was having a wash, having a problem trying to
figure out, figure out the problem, and my mom
only, she had to quit school when she was
in 6th grade because she's from a big family,
and would you believe, she sat down and
helped me figure out the problem?

me: She knew it?

Pearl: Yeah! and uh, it was amazing,
you know, because this was in Algeria
and she helped me figure it out!

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me: now! like did you, did you ^{remember} like, what, where
the school was? Has it changed a lot?
Have you been there?

Pearl: Oh, it has changed a lot, they used to
have a big auditorium with a stage
which they have taken out. and uh,
they've changed so many rooms!
It's a long time since I've been up
there now! to go through the school.

me: umhm.

Pearl: but, uh our stage and everything
was completely different. and uh,
I think where we had the 3rd
grade,

me: oh, there's one room that there's no windows,
it's the chorus room now.

Pearl: hmhm

me: no, there's two rooms, the band room and
the chorus room.

Pearl: mmhm.

me: the band room is where the auditorium used to be. or the stage

Pearl: m hm

me: um, do you remember like, what were the teachers like, were they really strict or.

pearl: yes, we had discipline, but they were also our friends. But if, we did wrong, they would let us know. But, uh, I think that's one thing they lack today. course there are so many things the teachers are restricted with. not that any of them ever hit us or any thing. but I mean we would be told or punished. ~~oh~~ I remember oh I can tell you something that I remember, we had to learn... Mr. Bath was our uh, History teacher and we were supposed to learn, uh, Star Spangled Banner, and I missed one word, and I had to write it over 25 times.

me: wow!

Pearl: and then when he gave us ~~over~~ us, we had to do it again, anybody that missed had to write it 50 times!

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Pearl: This was uh, uh, these were uh, uh, ways we were uh, punished in school. and if you were chewing gum in school you had to put it on your nose and leave it there all day long. and you weren't aloud to sit in school with your caps on and things like they do now. the dress code was uh, much better I think.

me: what did you have to wear? we just have dress codes like, you just have to wear reasonable clothes.

Pearl: you have to wear what?

me: we just have to wear reasonable clothes.

Pearl: yeah, back in those days we didn't have any uh, slacks that like you do now. but uh, we used to call them overalls. you'd get them for a dollar a pair, but the boys were not aloud to wear them to school. they had to be dress pants.

me: what did the girls have to wear?

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Pearl: well, you'd wear your dresses or skirts or, you know what ever you know, sweaters and skirts you know.
mm, hm

me: was there any, fads or favorite sayings like, cool dood, and rad and

Pearl: I don't know, I suppose we did have them, but I can't say that I remember them.

me: what was the style then?, like the poodle skirt, or

Pearl: Oh, no, that was the poodle skirts were quite a bit after. saddle shoes and uh, you know regular skirts and, (cough! cough!) and dresses, sweaters, we made most of our clothes, my mom sewed for me, she had to, because we were poor. but I liked wearing what she made because it was stylish. She was really a good sewer.

Pearl: (cont.) and uh. I remember one time, uh, in the glee club. this is something I remember, and uh. that was when nylons were just coming out. (cough! cough!) (excuse me.) and uh. some of the girls were uh, would go without stockings, and I remember Mrs. Gleason said, "anybody gets on stage with bare legs... she was gonna put them out of glee club and she did! there were 3 girls who defied her, and uh, they were put out of Glee Club.

me: Oh. what was the Glee Club like?

Pearl: (cough! cough!) we used to put on performances, on one big one a year. But, we studied music and we'd get together and we'd sing different things you know, and uh you had to be in one public um.

Pearl: you had to be in one public school program a year ~~and~~ in order to earn a pin, and which I did, I earned my pin, and uh, we used to put on marvelous Christmas plays, and when we'd have an opera in the spring, you know.

me: mmhm, um, were you in any other clubs or extra-curricular activities and,

Pearl: not really, just in um, club at church.

but we didn't have, we didn't have a car, and we belonged to the church in Ishpeming, but, um after they moved our old Swedish church, from top of ~~Rock~~ Hill there, and uh, well, like for uh, for choir practice or that, you had to go into Ishpeming for practice, and Cruisers League and things like this, so we'd go to the English church, not too far from here. It was within a walking distance, and uh, so we'd did a lot with them.

me: like, um, were there any T.V.'s or radios or anything?

Pearl: did not even have electricity when we ~~were young~~. I graduated.

me: was there any entertainers that you remember like, comedians or anything?

Pearl: Oh no, not really.

me: did you play any instruments when you were

Pearl: no, I really wanted to learn to play the piano. we never had one, like I say, we were poor. we couldn't afford one. and um, I still have a yen to learn to play the piano. but, we didn't have uh, the only sport we uh, had in school, was basketball, and um, we had gym and we used to play girls basketball, and volleyball, I loved volleyball, but, we didn't have teams for the girls like they do now. umhm.

me: um, like, do you remember any, do you remember going to any basket ball games or anything?

Pearl: yeah, I went to all the home games. we used to play different schools at that time you know. of course some of them are now combined. we used to play Palmer, Michigamme, Champion, Republic, and um, I think there was another one we played maybe, Gurnee, Champion, or Michigamme.

me: I shpeming?

Pearl: no, we weren't in that class, but that was the big thing, going to basketball games and,

me: did you go to any games that weren't home games or anything?

Pearl: no, because we weren't aloud to ride on the school bus.

me: oh, only the team members could?

Pearl: yeah, mmhmm. yeah we weren't aloud to ride the school bus, because they said the insurance wouldn't take care of it.

me: um, like how far did they travel?

Pearl: I imagine it was just those different towns that I mentioned but, we had rivalry, (Ha! Ha!) especially Michigan and champion! (Ha! Ha!) Oh, I think all ones I named we were all, pretty good teams you know.

me: Did national nine do good?

Pearl: Oh yes! we were ~~we~~ we did real well! we didn't have that many boys in high school. but we did real well! uh, Pat G. Leason coached the teams and uh, I think one year uh, the boys wound up in the tournaments and uh, the only boys in high school were on the team. they did real well!

me: The only boys in high school were on the team?

Pearl: mmmhm

me: wow! um, like do you remember any funny stories that happened to you at a game?

Pearl: not really.

Pearl! (cont.) we'd get pretty excited! (17)

me: were you a cheerleader?

Pearl: I, uh, a little bit. when they just, they were just starting that then, and Vera Lammis and I. She another one that uh, was a good friend of mine. uh, we did a little bit of what ~~do~~ dance, but not like they do now.

me: did you have uniforms for it?

Pearl: no, all they'd do is give you a megaphone so you'd make the calls, no getting upon stage with their performing or, they're really made an art of it now.

me: um,

Pearl: I worked on the, uh 50 year reunion that we had of the graduates, it was a lot of fun, and uh we had a chorus, and uh, Mrs. Gleason was the one that played the piano and uh, we practiced with her, and um, never dreamt or even thought of it, uh 15th! but, here ~~at least~~ we are!

Pearl: (cont.) (Ha! Ha!)

me: um, do you remember, like, any of the classes, like any of the classes that we don't have? like, penmanship or something?

Pearl: oh yeah! we had Palmer method.

me: Is that a kind of penmanship?

Pearl: oh, yeah. and that's something I can tell you about, uh, Mr. Annala taught that. I think I was in 1th or 2nd grade, and uh, he wanted me to try for a certificate and uh, I didn't think it was necessary and he says,

"If you don't try for that certificate" he says. "I'm going to fail you!" and that's all he had to say, (Ha! Ha!) and I tried and I got it! but, um,

me: Mr. Annala was, is he I don't know but he's related to my teacher Mr. Annala. this my history teacher.

Pearl: he's probably an uncle, what is, uh your teachers first name?

me: I don't know.

Pearl: Oh!, He's probably an uncle. He was a very, very good teacher, and I worked in Mr. Backus' office in the superintendent's office when I first was out of school, and um, a 3rd grade teacher, Melma Rangas and I, were the ones who started girl scouts out here.

me: really? do you still, are you still in girl scouts?

Pearl: no, I was uh, girl scout leader for about 12 1/2 years, and then, my mother was losing her eyesight and uh, I was working by then, and uh, I just didn't have enough time to devote to it. But we did a lot of great things. camping and hiking and uh, we used to cook our meals over an open fire, and uh, did lots of things, real nice things.

me: do you remember any, what lunch time was like?

Pearl: oh lunchtime! uh, for a while we weren't aloud to take our lunch, we walked from here to school, and uh,

Pearl: (cont) but finally, um, they let us, uh, ones who had to walk so far, uh, take our lunches, and uh, we'd have one of the teachers watch over, we'd have lunch duty, and uh, they didn't have hot lunches. I think one time when, uh, um, the Depression was on, they had a guy used to make cream soups and uh, things like that and serve them down at the lunch hall, and I used to help Phyllis ~~at~~ Lynn at the Home room and I used to help with some of that stuff

me: um, did, did, did, what was the food like? for how much?

Pearl: well, all we ever had was like cream soups.

me: that's all?

Pearl: mmmhm. It wasn't programmed like they have today.

me: uh,

Pearl: and uh, was when they'd get uh, I remember one time they got grapefruit, and omigodness we squeezed grapefruit and I remember my wrist was about ready to break.

Pearl: (cont) from squeezing it nonstop for the juice downstairs for the students.

me: did you ever work at national mine?

Pearl: well at the national youth demonstration I remember I did uh, work in my senior year and uh, then I worked in Mr. Booth's office for uh, quite some time. then I got a job at shipping ~~for uh~~ which paid a little more, but I walked every day and I got a dollar a day to begin with.

me: a dollar a day?

Pearl: mmhm, a dollar a day mmhm, and it was 3 miles, down 3 miles.

me: the school was?

Pearl: no, when I went to work

me: oh

Pearl: the school here is um, oh better than 2 miles from here.

me: do you remember any funny stories at lunchtime? what happened to someone?

Pearl: no, not really, we'd go out and play when it was nice,

me: did you have to stay in the yard?

Pearl: oh yes.

me: yeah, we still have to

Pearl: mmhm.

me: what do you think the biggest change in national mine is?

Pearl: oh, the biggest change in national mine or in the school?

me: both

Pearl: well, whenuh, they built Westwood, and combined all the schools, I think that's one of the biggest changes.

me: mmhm.

Pearl: and um, oh National Mine, I've lived here all my life but, I used to know about everyone, but, now, there's so many new families. and um, people have to drive unto Shipenning to work and, oh Hercules, they used to have Hercules Power Company which employed ~~probably~~ ^{probably} a few men, and then they closed, a hat and a lot, of our good friends moved out to Salt Lake City in Utah.

Pearl: (cont.) to hold their jobs

me: What were problems like in the Great Depression? Did it have any effect on the school?

Pearl: Oh, I would say so.

me: What happened to the school?

Pearl: Well, I can't say anything directly happened to the school. But we had to be very careful, we had to be very careful in the way they spent their dollars.

me: So you didn't get any new books very often?

Pearl: We always had good books though a lot of things we didn't have that you folks have now.

me: Did any tragedies occur when you were in school?

Pearl: Any tragedies? While I was in school? I suppose there were probably some. I remember I had a girl friend and uh, she was crippled and she had a club foot.

Pearl: (cont) and uh, I remember the teacher when they asked me to go home with her. she lived down in 'Jinntown' and uh, they were going to see if they could send her away ~~because~~ because the state could take care of her ~~because~~ because they were poor too. and ~~she~~ as have her foot operated on. and which they did. and um. it was not a total success but it was better than what it was. and her mother spoke Finnish so, I went home with her and I used to go and visit there anyway because uh, she and I were good friends too. and uh, so the mother consented to sign the paper and uh, she was gone most of our 4th grade.

me: oh, it happened in 4th grade.

Pearl: what? when she had her surgery.
 oh, I'll tell you a funny story that happened when I was in 4th grade when I start thinking. we were studying about iron, and um, the mines and so on and, one of the girls, had found a railroad spike, she brought it to school to illustrate you know.

me: mmhmm.

Pearl: and um, the teacher put it in the wastebasket, (Ha! Ha!) she caught the hem of her dress on it. She wasn't too happy about it. (Ha! Ha!) I could still picture it. it was a new dress and it had airplanes in it. (Ha! Ha!) and she wasn't too happy about that. the spike catching the hem of her dress and tearing it. I imagine I wouldn't have been either, but,

me: yeah. If you had anything to say to the national mine students now, what would you say?

Pearl: Pardon?

me: if you had anything to say to the National Mine students now, what would you say? a message or something?
Pearl: ~~or anything or studying~~ anything or studying

Pearl: about what?

me: anything or studying

Pearl: well I think, there should be a little more discipline but, I think discipline begins at home, and um, what worries me is about, um, fact what where are so many drugs ~~and~~ around which we never had to contend with,

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Pearl: (cont.) and liquor and of course we didn't have the cars which they have now.

me: mhm a lot of drunk driving happens now.

Pearl: mhm. it's really sad you know. But sometimes ~~when~~ when you reach a certain age you think you know all I know went through like everyone else I suppose. But, uh, to think that someone may be as a senior or something and you get ~~over~~ involved in an accident that kills - that takes a person's life and they've been drinking and uh, this is sad. because really they ruin their life it's something they'll never forget.

me: um, do you remember anything else about National Mine that you'd like to say?

Pearl: it was great! I loved the school. kinda hated to think that uh, they combined and formed Westwood. but, I think in this day and age it's the better thing.

me: yeah because it's really crowded there.

Pearl: mhm but I don't like this, we never had any children, but I - I uh, always said I'd hate to think if my child had to

Pearl: (cont.) and get on the school bus
6:30 in the morning and not get
home until 5:00 or after at night,
that's a long day.

me: mmmhm

Pearl: you know because you're riding for a long
time, but (Ha! Ha!) I suppose riding is
better than what we had to do, we walked,
(Ha! Ha!)

me: yeah.

Pearl: and we uh, played so many games uh, I think
everything is planned for youth today,
which, I don't know, it's good and yet it isn't,
because we played so many games like
huntle, Antle-Q-over and kick the can and hide
and seek and run sheep run, and uh, in
the winter when you were out you didn't
have any \$200 ski outfits or, you were lucky
if you had an old pair of old skis with a
innertube back - straps and uh, they used to
make these things they called skippers and
uh, it was like a single, they'd make it
on a barrel, uh there was a feet, they'd go
down the hill, on those and uh, on yeah! Sleigh
riding and things like that,

me: did you ever go down the hill in one of those?

Pearl: no, uhuh. I, we never owned one, but some of the boys made them in manual art you know and, everything now costs so much, but of course was ~~so much~~ ~~is~~ ~~it~~ then aren't like they are now either.

me: um, is there anything else you'd like to add?

Pearl: oh I don't know, I don't think so. after learning the basic-reading, writing, and arithmetic, I know computers - if I ever went back to night school, this is what I would study, not, what I would intend as work, but just for my own knowledge. but, I still think they should learn the basics first.

me: oh yeah! um, do you like, what were you work now?

Pearl: pardon?

me: where do you work now?

Pearl: I - I'm retired

me: oh,

Pearl: mmmhm. but I've never been busier, I do a lot of volunteers work. - things I couldn't do when I was working.

me: where did you work before?

Pearl: um, we owned and operated the J&L cleaners in Ishpeming. I worked there for 45 years, but my husband and I bought it in 1960 and then uh he died in '80 - 1980, and uh, I sold it in 1984. and I still do a few things - do some sewing for some of my old customers, and uh, they're real good to me and I'm real good to them and we get along real fine, and I do a lot of volunteer work - a lot of volunteer work. I work at the gift shop and at the hospital and uh, I belong to the business women's group and uh, I couldn't tell you how many things I do.

me: oh!

Pearl: but, um I'm the advisor for the Salvation's army and, uh, I'm the social administrator at church and, many, many other things.

me: yeah!

Pearl: yepasta of the advisers, I was made "woman of the year" one year.

me: for Ishpeming

Pearl: for our business club - that's Ishpeming.

me: oh.

Pearl: (cont.) that includes I shpeering,
-Negaurer, um National mine
Republic, champion I think it was
um.

me: wow!

Pearl: I think we had 103 members and I
never ever dreamt what I would - I
think it was 1984. 84-85- I was made
"woman of the year. uh because
community things and then I've done
volunteer work and things

me: did you get a big plaque or anything?

Pearl: yeah, I gotta plaque and a corsage and
special pin saying "woman of the
year"

me: do you remember anything else?

Pearl: I could keep going till 10:00 (Ha! Ha!)
I love to sew and do hand work.
I love to read travel I'm a bum, cause
I'm not working. (Ha, Ha!) and uh,
left alone, my niece and I went to uh,
London, last spring.

me: wow! That must have been fun!

Pearl: (cont.) yeah, her daughter was uh over there, I've taken many over-sea trips, Nova-Scotia, out eastland, Smoky mountains, I don't know, I've just taken many trips,

me: Yeah, my sister lives in Finland right now.

Pearl: she lives where?

me: in Finland

Pearl: does she?

me: just for a year.

Pearl: are uh, are um Avis & walt back? (ring: ring!) (the phone)

me: yeah um, ok, so anything else?

Pearl: I don't think so, if you think of anything you can just call me.

me: yeah

Pearl: mmhm.

me: ok, well, thank you for your time and everything

Pearl: Oh, ~~it~~ you're more than welcome! It was a pleasure meeting you and come to see me

Pearl: (cont) again!

me: yep!

Pearl: I love little girls! and boys!

me: uhuh!

Pearl: my niece Chris is coming over this weekend
~~for~~ from Appleton. Hopefully the
weather ~~is~~ is nicer.

me: are all these presents for her?

Pearl: not all of them but, some of them
(Ha! Ha!)

me: yeah,

Pearl: you know (Ha! Ha!) what I was doing today?
writing cards

me: writing cards and wrapping presents and
everything.

Pearl: mmhm

me: ok, I guess this is the end then. or,
do you have anything else?

Pearl: I don't think so, but if you think of something
you can just call me.

me: ok

Pearl: mmhm