

Carol Giotto

me: This is Maria Giotto interviewing Carol Giotto an ex. graduate at National Mine School. She lives in Elshpeming Township. Her husband's name is Richie Giotto. I interviewed her on ~~Mar~~^{Dec.} 10, 1990. When and where were you born?

Carol: Elshpeming December 7, 1943.

me: Where? Oh yeah wooooe. (laugh) How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Carol: One brother.

me: What's there names. What's his name?

Carol: Bill Mason

me: When were you married?

Carol: December 16, 1961.

me: How many children do you have?

Carol: Two.

me: Their names?

Carol: Debbie and ~~Michael~~^{Mike}.

me: Where were your parents born?

Carol: In Elshpeming.

me: What were their names?

Carol: Bernice Morose and Carl Mason.

me: What years did you attend National Mine?

Carol: All thirteen years

me: (Laugh) Do you remember some of your grade school teachers?

Carol: My kindergarden teacher was Mrs. Reed.
My first grade teacher was my Aunt
Viola Magesin.

me: Somebody else is interviewing her.

Carol: Oh really.

me: Yes.

Carol: Quite a few of them. I can't remember them all do I have to name them all.

me: ~~Ha!~~ Do you remember anything funny or interesting?

Carol: I was in 6th grade when band started.
That was a big deal in National Mine.

me: I can just imagine.

Carol: Ya.

me: I'm not in band or nothing but I could just imagine what they sounded like.

Carol: Ya, they were kind of flat. (Both of us laughed)

me: Do you remember any of your middle school or high school teachers?

Carol: Ya, Mr. Bath was the super intendant at one time at the school. Mr. Lindberg was the principal at the school. Mr. Honken was band teacher.

me: Laugh. Mr. Honken

Carol: Ha, and Mrs. Bantalla was are Home, Ec. and are gym teacher.

me: Did you have Mr. Keto or Mr. Betts?

Carol: No, but my kids did. Debbie and Micheal had them.

me: Were they nice?

Carol: Ya.

me: Do you remember anything interesting about them? or funny, or just something funny that happened to you?

Carol: Not really.

me: I remember my teacher was telling me that he um he fell, he was playing football and there was, it was a long time ago in the school and there was horse manure there and he fell in the horse manure and his face was all icky. How did you get to school?

Carol: From kindergarden to sixth grade we rode the bus and after that we had to walk.

me: Woah!

Carol: When we were in kindergarden we got to ride the bus to school but we had to walk home from school.

me: Woah!

Carol: That's another thing I remember I hated kindergarden in fact I quit after February because I was afraid there was cows at that time in National Mine. And I was always afraid of being chased by the cows. So the Superintendant thought I was such a big baby I guess. So the Superintendant told me to stay home and start kindergarden. first grade I mean.

me: Woah! That would have been scary.

Carol: Yeah! It was about a miles walk one way.

me: I wouldn't have liked doing that. That would've been quite a hike. Are you involved in any sports or no? Probably not sports but course or band?

Carol: Band I was.

me: Did they have course?

Carol: No everybody that was in school had music, and everybody was in the play when they had one. In my day you just didn't have to be in Chorus.

me: What instrument did you play?

Carol: The clarinet.

me: Some of my friends play that some are good but... What was your most difficult subject?

Carol: I would say algebra and geometry.

me: Are sixth I mean seventh grade are doing geometry right now and Oh my gosh we never did geometry in seventh grade and were not doing it eight grade either it

me: looks to complicated for me. Because my friend was asking me how to do it and I said I don't know. What kind plays did you do sing or did you do little skits?

Carol: Mrs. Gleason was are music teacher she put on all the plays she was really good. He did skits and when we were in are senior play the senior class did a program called or a play called Our Town you probably heard about it there is a book written on it.

me: yeah!

Carol: It was a long time ago, I think are English teacher was in charge of that.

me: Did the basketball team ever win like the big...

Carol: No, not when I was in school, no but they had some good teams. I've played all of the smaller schools though at that time all the ones that are combined were individual schools.

me: What punishments were you given? My teacher said there was a ruler you got hit with on the knuckles or something

Carol: The worst punishment that I can remember is getting sent into the hall.

me: That would be ~~so~~ embarrassing if kids walked by.

Carol: Yeah.

me: How were kids suppose to dress did they have to wear a uniform?

Carol: No, we had to wear skirts all the time and it was cold walking to school we were allowed wearing snowpants or slacks underneath are skirts but we had to take them off when we got in the school. In those days we wore anklets and ~~tenner~~ shoes or whatever. It's all ways had to wear dresses or skirts. Slacks and pants were a big no no.

me: Were there any special fads to the skirts or anything.

Carol: Short skirts and sweaters and alot of cardigans and you would wear them buttons down in the back. On Backwards.

me: Where did you eat your lunch?

Carol: There was a cafeteria down on the first floor.

me: Was it.

Carol: I think right now it's the art room. It's right next to the Superintendent's Office. You know where the flagpole is at the school.

me: Oh yeah.

Carol: You come in that door and it was right on the right hand side.

me: Yeah that's where the art room is now.

Carol: Yeah that used to be a cafeteria, then that little room by the steps that come down. That's where the kitchen was we used to come down the steps and pick up our lunches.

me: That's the shop room now. Was there ever a room like if you just kept on going straight and there was a big room there.

Carol: That was the auditorium at one time. You mean where the cafeteria is now.

me: Yeah.

Carol: That was the auditorium that was all

Carol: ~~seats~~. And then there was a stage. Then they played basketball up on that stage. And across from the stage there was a net. ~~Oh my~~

me: Oh my gosh!

Carol: There was a space between the net and the stage the cheerleaders used to be at the edge of the stage part cheering and the audience was sitting down below them.

me: I can just imagine if somebody ever fell off.

Carol: Yeah and they had seats just like they would have in a theater. There weren't bleachers like they have now.

me: Not many people could fit then probably.

Carol: No it was small.

me: What did you eat for lunch?

Carol: We used to have good meals in those days. Lots better than I think they have now. Lots of soups and casseroles. They would have something for dessert like fruit or something. We had an excellent cook. Yeah I think

Carol: she's still living.

me: Was her last name Monty.

Carol: No I had Andrew Anderson. Yeah she was one of our cooks.

me: I don't even now we cooks names. Um did you eat any breakfast there?

Carol: No.

me: Because are teacher said that he could when he first got here. Did anything ever funny happen to you when your play was going on? Like somebody fall off the stage.

Carol: No, not that I can remember.

me: There's this little boy in third grade and he sings and he goes for it and he's off tune and everything. It's really funny. And it's funny because he doesn't look like he would sing. At the end of the school year did you have a school picnic?

Carol: No, not that I can remember we might have had a party or something but never a picnic.

me: Was there a trail you'd go skiing on or anything back behind the school?

Carol: No, we weren't aloud to go skiing in those days.
No. But we were aloud to play baseball in the field.

me: It's go back then to play baseball to. Then we have to go skiing, that's a real treat because I can't ski good.

Carol: Then there used to be a playground like down like, if you looked out the home ec. window right below that. There used to be playground with swings and slides.

me: There's nothing there now, just pavement.

Carol: Yeah. There's a road up that way now.

me: Yeah. When we were doing sprints in gym we have to hurry up so a car doesn't come up behind us. All you got to do is walk around the school.

Carol: I don't know how the little kids have fern outside anymore.

Carol: Yeah. It used to be nicer. When they had lawns and stuff now it's all paved.

me: Did you have any teachers that had an impact on your life?

Carol: Not that I can think of.

me: Can you describe your graduation ceremony?

Carol: Yeah. It's had the biggest class that ever graduated from National Mine ^{up} until that year. Up until 1961 we had a whole 25 kids. I don't know whether or not there was a bigger class after that. Before that my dad's class was the biggest class and

Carol: I think he graduated in 1935. They had a nice ceremony at that time where they would have a priest speak. Like they would have the graduation services, they had the blue gowns with the gold tassels. The school colors.

me: Did you have any special memories or did you have any parties after your graduation?

Carol: Before graduation we had what they called a ship day and we went to Mackinaw Island. It was a lot of fun. We spent the whole day there.

me: Our junior high eight grade used to be allowed to go to Washington. But weren't allowed to any more.

Carol: Yeah. That's so sad now.

me: Were you aloud to keep contact with any of your childhood friends?

Carol: We had one class reunion, I see the ones that live around here after.

me: Who?

Carol: Mary Johnson is one and Ilene Austila she's called Brooke and Beverly Wood Lawrence. She's a little bit older than me too.

me: Did you do anything special with them like spending the night?

Carol: Oh yeah we would go to youth center dances in Ishpeming. On Friday nights. And go to the shows. That's about all they had around here. It would keep the kids off the street.

me: Did you do anything weird when you were with them?

Carol: We would go swimming with our clothes on after the dances.

me: I could just imagine what my mom would think. What

me: are your fondest memories of National Mine school?

Carol: It was a nice school we had fun we had nice teachers

me: Did you have a pop machine?

Carol: No not in those days.

me: We have a pop machine but were not allowed to use it unless we stay after school. I try keep it in a room of all the students they should put it in a room. It had is the biggest change in the school today?

Carol: National Mine school.

me: yeah.

Carol: Physically it doesn't even look like the same school from being remodeled. It doesn't seem like the same school if you go back there.

me: How many classes did you have a day?

Carol: We used to have eight periods in school. One night there been a study hall or band. Lighter a band or gym class.

me: I have a study hall and if it don't have a study hall I have chorus. We have math, computers, English, Science, History I can't remember any more. If you had a message for the students what would it be?

Carol: Study hard and go on with school.

me: all lot of parents say that there school years are the best years of there lives do you agree.

Carol: yeah. You don't appreciate until your out of school. You should try to do everything you can. Then your not missing out on anything.

me: try to pin everything you can.

Carol: yeah.

me: Do you have anything else to add?

Carol: No