

Brad Helsten's Interview
with
Mary Helsten

me: mom when and where were you born

mom: I was born in Ishpeming in July of 1948

me: what were your parents names

mom: my mother's name was Lydie Manikka
and she married my father Walter Icko and they
both attended school at National Mine and
my mother graduated for there

me: How many children were in your family.

mom: I have four brothers and one sister I am
the fifth child I have one younger brother and
all of my younger brothers and sisters attended
National Mine school and also graduated from
there

me: Where was your family originally from

mom: my grandparents were originally from Finland both
my father and my mother's parents

me: When did they come to America

mom: they came to America before I was born
I don't know when

me: where did you go to school

momm: I went to school at national mine I started
kindergarten with Mrs. Gleason and went right
through to the twelfth grade graduated in 1966
class was the 30th class to graduate from national
mine high school and being the 30th class we
were honored to have gold caps and on marking
the o'leghin there was three adults that
graduated without class in 1966 making it 21 in total

me: how did you get to school

momm: I walked to school everyday I walked to
school in the morning I went home for
lunch then walked back to school and at night
walked home again and during special field
trips and o'leghin's where we had to go somewhere
as a class I was always so thrilled to be able
to ride the bus well all the other kids that
rode there everyday did not think it was very
thrilling at all

me: what subjects did you have

mom: I had all the subjects that the kids have today english history math just about everything except now I think the kids are lucky to have the more classes and block classes at westwood than we had the opportunity to have

me: thats interesting

me: did you play in any sports

mom: I did not play in any sports because when I went to school there wasn't really any that much offered for girls like we didn't have basketball and so we could not go out for that like the girls can now but I did play in the band I played an instrument in the band and able to go on trips with the band to places like osceola and even mountain on special band festival days.

me: where kids punished in school

mom: yes we were punished if we did something

me: did you suffer at all

mom: no I don't think that I can ever recall anyone when I went to school being hit but if there was a reason for us to be disciplined we went to the office just like kids now and so if suspended if that was necessary

my: How'did you dress in school

mom: We had to dress in skirts or dresses uggirls
the boys where not allowed to where blue jeans
or boots they had to shoes and dressy pants

me: tell me about growing up in National Mine

mom: growing up in national mine was great I can't

think of a better place to be raised and to
raise my own children we have the good

Schools national mine always had a good
school we had a great environment and it's

just nice to be here and for those that are
away it's a nice place to come home to

me: tell me some special things when you
where a child

mom: really outstanding things I remember
as a child is being called a little mascot
cheerleader for the boys basketball team

when I was three and a half years old I ever
cheered in Negaunee tournaments that floor to a

three and a half year old cheer was his when I was
in the middle of it my picture was in the paper

everybody that all season people still come up to me
today and ask me if I was there little cheerleader
for national mine

I still have a sweater that was knitted for
me when I was small just especially for me
for when I was cheerleader

me: did you like school

mom: yes ~~in~~ in school I always had a good record
that I can be very proud of through high school
I think I only missed 3 days for my entire high
school years cause I had the mumps.

me: did you get a job when you got out of high
school

mom: yes I worked for a short period of time
after school then I was married and started to
raise a family which two of my children now
have graduated from high school Brad you know is
are in national mine which is continuing on which is
something I did and now you are doing in June
of 1991 it will be my 25th anniversary of graduation
from school and will be 75 years for national mine
so I think that will be a real memorable
for everybody and I think for the 1966 reunion we will
have on the 75 my classmates have someone to work
in many different jobs some are working in the mine
some are just moms some live in all different places
some are away some live just not too far even where
they grew up I think growing up in a small town knowing
your neighbors trusting the people that live with you is one
of the greatest things that you can have

being here is one of the best things you could
ever be
me: What's different today when you were going
to school

mom: Computers are really the in things now teaching
computers in school having the opportunity to
use them and the mechanics courses and just
all the extra things kids have the ability to learn
that is one of the best improvements that parents
as growing offered for every body

me: did you have a shop class when you were in
school

mom: yes we had a shop class but only the boys
attended the girls attended home mechanics girls
did not have to go into shop boy did not have to
go into home mechanics that was the way that was today
girls and boys attendent both classes

me: enclosing what advice could you give kids
today.

mom: I think the best advice would be get everything
you can out of your schooling go to school everyday
study hard get good grades and just be good in school
do the best that you can

me: thank you very much for the interview