

1

Robin Kahkola's interview
with
Lidia Keto

me: My name is Robin Kahkola and I am interviewing Lidia Keto who is a former student of National mine school. I am interviewing them on December 12, 1990, at their house in National mine. I would now like to ask you a few questions for a biographical sketch. When and where were you born?

Mrs. K: I was born on November 16, 1913 in Ishpeming, Michigan.

me: ok. When and whom did you marry?

Mrs. K: o-k. um, I married uh, Walter Keto in 1936 and what else did you say? And I had seven children, six of whom are still living.

me: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Mrs. K: uh, we are a family of nine but there are five of us living, four sisters and one brother.

me: o-k. When and where were your parents born?

Mrs. K: My parents were born in Finland. My mother was born on in a 1989 on September 15 and my father was born on November 23 in 1888. I don't know if I said 19.

Florence: Father? February, February 23 19

Mrs. K: I said that ~~February 23, 1888~~ didn't I say that? February 23, 1888

me: o-k

Mrs. K: Both of them were born in 1888. I hope I didn't say 1988.

me: o-k

Mrs. K: o-k

Florence: Dad was a year older than mom.

Mrs. K.: Yeh, well this is going on while we're talking.

me: Yeh, o-k, what years did you attend National mine school,

mrs. k: well, I was four years old when I started school in 1917 and I graduated in 1931

me: o-k. Do you remember the names of any of your gradeschool teachers?

mrs. k: well, there was Miss Jeffery, + Mrs., Miss La joy, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Milimacki, I said Miss Peterson uh, Miss Kokala, Miss Lumbland

me: # o-k

mrs k: that's all

me: do you have any favorites?

mrs k: Mrs. Milimacki seemed to be nice.

me: o-k do you have any humorous or interesting stories about them?

mrs k: uh I can't think of any. Ha, Ha

me: o-k, Ha what was your first day of school like?

mrs. k: well, kind of nervous I guess going to school for the first time.

me: yeh.

mrs. k: being that young, you know four years old.

me: yeh, how long was your school day?

mrs k: we started at 9 o'clock and stayed there till 12, then had an hour off for lunch and we stayed till 4 o'clock.

me: o-k, How did you get to school each day?

mrs k: walked Ha, Ha

me: Ha, Ha How far was it?

mrs k: uh, half mile maybe

me: o-k what kinds of subjects were taught?

mrs k: uh, everything that they teach you today except all these technological things that they got, computers & stuff like that, Spelling, Reading, writing, geography.

me: o-k, what was your favorite subject? why?

mrs k: my favorite subject was Home economics I think I like to uh, sew and I like to learn how to cook.

me: o-k what was your most difficult subject? why?

mrs k: Chemistry, physics, they were all ~~hard~~ beyond me I guess ha, ha

me: ha, ha, How were kids expected to act and behave?

mrs k: oh- they weren't allowed run the halls and they weren't allowed to sass the teachers chew gum or make a lot of noise you know in the assemblies.

me: yeh, about the same as today, what kinds of punishments were given?

MRS. K: I think a few times they were cracked on the nuckles with a ruler and then again somethimes they were put out in the hall, they had to stand in the hall.

me: yeh. How did kids dress?

MRS. K: Well the girls always wore dresses and the boys wore trousers, blue jeans weren't in style at that time. Ha Ha

me: ha ha I suppose. Were there any special fads or saying when you were young?

MRS. K: everybody did the same thing I guess there was nothing spectacular. Ha

me: Ha, ok, what kind of music did you listen to?

MRS. K: Well Kate Smith was one of my favorites and Lorence Welth was another one of my favorites Ha Ha I don't know if you would know her Oh none of this jazz you know or rock-n-roll

me: Ha, what kinds of extra curricular activities ~~were~~ did you have?

MRS. K: well we had basketball and baseball and gym an extra

me: o-k. what ones did you participate in?

MRS. K: just gym Ha Ha

me: Ha o-k Did any of your teams win a trophie or a tournament?

5

MRS K: yes

me: Basketball?

MRS K: Basketball yes, they're up there in the school

me: um are they?

MRS K: yes, in the cabinet up there

me: o-k what were your textbooks like?

MRS K: well, just about the same as they are now, arithmetic and Reading I guess they have typing now that we didn't have.

me: um were they harder than some of them or were they hard or easy?

MRS K: yeh, they were hard just like they are today I guess Ha Ha

me: Ha Ha How much home work did you get?

MRS K: lots!

me: Did you get lots?

MRS K: yes, every night come home with many books

me: o-k, what was lunch time like?

MRS K: we went home for lunch

me: and please describe not lunch, you didn't have not lunch

MRS K: ~~yo~~ we didn't have not lunch

me: and you don't know how much it costed?

MRS K: no

me: o-k, where was the cafeteria?

mrs. K: we didn't have a cafeteria.

me: o-k Did the school look any different then than it does now?

mrs K: oh yes, There's lots of changes

me: There was an autatorium?

mrs K: yes there was an autatorium then they took it out and made it into a lunch room + they put the bleachers into the gym. yeh.

me: ok. Describe recess

mrs K: just went out, and played for a while

Ha Ha

me: How long was it?

mrs K: oh I guess about 15-20 minutes some-thing like that I don't know. I don't remember recess, wasn't to long

Florence: in grade school?

mrs K: yeh

Florence: I can't even remember recess

mrs K: oh Ha

me: Did you have any special plays or programs and please describe them.

mrs K: yeh, well we had Mrs. Gleason would put on a spring opereta every year and then at Christmas, before Christmas we would put on a spectacular Christmas program

Florence: Miss Osten, I always know her as Mrs. Osten Osten Gleason, she married our gym teacher.

mrs K. our shop teacher, basketball coach

Florence: yes, basketball, she married the
basketball coach.

me: o-k Did you participate in any of the plays
or programs?

mrs k: yes, every one of them

me: Did you?

mrs k: um hu

me: o-k Did you remember any interesting or
numurous stories about them?

mrs k: I don't know hu, just, went into the, oh
we had senior class plays too. yeh and
I was in that, but uh but I don't know,
we just went there, practiced and
went home that's all. hu

me: ha, How long did you usually get for
vacation?

mrs k: same as you do now. The beginning of June
till the first, day after labor day. I guess

me: Did you do anything special for the
holidays? Parties or something

mrs k: They used to pass out treats.

me: oh did they?

mrs k: um.

me: were there strict rules to follow?

mrs k: oh yeh, you had to be quiet in your
classes, you had to not horse around in the
halls

me: o-k describe the graduation ceremony at the
National mine school.

mrs k: well, we always had a valedictorian, a
soludictorian, a prophesy, a class history
and a class will. And the sunday before

graduation we always had a backatoria
service at the school.

8

me: ok what special memories did you have
of your graduation?

mrs K: nothing really because I went home right
after ha, ha

me: were you able to maintain contact with
any of childhood friends?

mrs K: yes, they all lived in National mine so we
were friends all along.

me: do they live here now too?

mrs K: well some of them are gone and some of
them are dead

me: yeh, did you have any teachers that made a
great impact on your life?

mrs K: a teacher

me: or a principle or anything

mrs K: yeh, I think mr. annala was a very
conciencious teacher

me: o-k. Did you have any yearly picnics or
outing?

mrs K: yeh, before the last day of school we would
always go on a little picnic.

me: where was that?

mrs K: we would go up on ~~the~~ Greenwood mine
road. There was a place up there were we
we'd go and, walk way up there and have
a picnic, Ha

me: play games and stuff?

mrs K: yeh, I guess so

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

9
Mrs K: Trodgedies, well, when the school burned down, I was scared to death because it was in the evening and I could see that big fire and I thought it was going to burn the whole National mine down. Ha, Ha

me: what grade were you in?

Mrs K: I was in the 5th grade at that time.

me: oh, why did it burn, I mean what caused the fire?

Mrs K: well, I guess the furnace, something happened to the furnace I think

me: oh what do you think was the biggest change in the school since you were a student?

Mrs K: oh, They added on to it and they got more subjects you know and stuff like that

me: what are your fonest memories of National mine school?

Mrs K: going to the basketball games I think, yeh, because I went to ever one of them until they went up to West wood.

me: That's good. If you had a message for the students today what would it be?

Mrs K: Behave yourself, listen to your teachers, & obey them Ha respect them.

me: Is there any thing you would like to add before you complete this interview?

Mrs K: oh, let's see, well, my school days I loved them I never missed a day of school unless I was so sick that I couldn't get there and I got married and all my children have gone to school and graduated from National mine.

me: oh that's neat, Well thank you much for your time,