

me: my name is Ian Pesola and I am interviewing My grandma at her house in Negaunee. Today's date is Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our interview will focus on her memories as a student at, were did you go to school.

N: ~~When~~ ~~First I started at Parkstreet school which~~  
When I started to school

Me: Were did you go to school

N: I went to kindergarten at the neganee Parkstreet school they just had a kindergarten and I was 6 years old at the time

Me: OK what is your full name

N: Nelma Kosonen

Me: Where + when were you born

N: My full name before was Nelma Hotander when I was a little girl that was my marriage name I gave you

Me: OK

Me: Where + when were you born

N: on Cherry street in 1915

Me: Describe a typical day at school

N: well in those days I don't remember <sup>kindergarten</sup> ~~very~~ much at all because I <sup>moved</sup> ~~went~~ to a farm when I was 6 years old and ~~had~~ that's when we had to walk a mile and a half to get to the school we had then winter and summer. A mile and a half it was a long way the roads were narrow through the woods there was nothing in between

Me: what did you do at school

N: well we learned to read and our arithmetic

Me: I grades 6-12 did you switch classes like today



N: no. You see I went to a country school up on a hill when I was lets see a couple years I went to the one on cliff drive that were our first school was then untill the township it was then <sup>they</sup> we decided to have a little school on the farm I have a picture of it and then that's were we started oh I don't remember when what year it was but anyway when I was through there with the eighth grade they started guiding us to the National Mine school *quote*

Me: what was lunch like at school

N: We brought our own all the time even when I was in high school I did so it was

Me: Was it always at school

N: Oh yea we ~~did~~ brought our own lunch but then when we started at National mine though I was in a cooking class in the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade and then ~~the~~ class use to make soups for the lunch room kids *include*

Me: what was your favorite lunch

N: creamed eggs I guess cream of egg soup

Me: After lunch did you have outdoor recess

N: Not when i was in high school but when we were little kids we did when we went to the one on the farm and then that other one we had a long lunch ~~but~~ hour we'd walk around all over

Me: what did you and your friends do outside

N: There wasn't much we could do when we were little there was lots to see there were lots of animals & birds but we did have make-believe places were we would hide

Me: were did you keep your coats & things

N: Mostly in the room all the classes were in one room untill we were through with the grade school

Me: do you have any memories of cloak rooms

N: we didn't have any. Do you know who my teacher was, my sister gent taught us when we were 7 she must have taught us for a couple of years

Me: How did you get to school

*need follow-up question on this*



N: When we went to the one on cliff drive we walked a mile and a half  
in bad weather sometimes with a horse and buggy

Me: Did you have any busses

N: No busses

Me: How long did it take to get there

N: National Mine, First of all the farmers use to take turns for a year to drive  
the kids to school My father drove first that's when he first bought his model  
each year the cars got better & better that's how we got to national mine  
*include + g note*

Me: Did it take long to get there

N: not to long it must have taken about 15 min they didn't drive fast like today

Me: what kind of clothes did you wear

N: warm clothes we had to stay warm heavy long underwear long slip wool jackets & sweaters  
home knitted sweaters

Me: was there a dress code

N: no in those days people wore plenty warm clothes all the time in the winter  
you had to because you had to walk all the time

me: what were your desks like

N: The same as they are now in the schools even in the high school they were  
the same in the big room

Me: Did you have ball point pens or inkwells

N: inkwells but no pens that I remember if there was any such thing at that time

Me: How were unruly children handled

N: They were all pretty good in school in high school I guess there were some  
they were sent down to the office when you got there boy you couldn't  
sass back that happened to just about 1/2 of the boys because they  
• wanted to act tough

me: How many teachers did you have

N: in grade school just 1 she took care of every grade there was  
not the high scooters just 1<sup>st</sup> on up



N: when she was with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders we sat there studying in high school 1 teacher per subject

Me: who was your favorite teacher

N: my cooking teacher that's where I learned to bake

Me: what was her name

N: Her last name was Lynn <sup>Lynn</sup> Philip's Lynn

Me: what kind of sports were there

N: Basketball mostly they didn't have any football teams in those days I know of in grade school there wasn't any sports

Me: what activities did you do during class

N: Not really any activities just in cooking class and in sewing class we had a chance to cook a little and sew a little that was nice I liked it the schools used to buy all the materials and every thing in those days

Me: How many years did you go to school

N: I graduated from high school in 1934

Me: How many kids were in your graduating class

N: My goodness not very many let's see what could I say 10 or 11 something like that maybe less

Me: Did any kids drop out? not in high school some were left behind especially when they liked their sports better than their studying that's what happened to one

Me: what kind of electives did you have

N: we didn't have any

Me: Did you have any married women teachers





N: I don't know about the women but the men were  
My principle Mr. Anala was I had him for algebra  
me what kind of grades did you get

N: Just about Average maybe sometimes it was a good as I  
could do Going to a high school from a country school Kinda makes  
You nervous about things

Me: How big was the school

N: It's the one you're in know same thing they haven't added onto it  
though they spoiled that nice gym It was nice I wish they hadn't  
taken it out we could sit & watch all the basketball games and programs  
that they had we had a good music teacher let's see what was her  
name she was good in music what was her name (Mrs. Coleason)

Me: Did you have a kinder garden & what did you do

N: I don't remember very much I had to walk a block & a half when I  
lived in nequree and we jumped on the snow banks and when you jumped down  
you can't get up that's what happened to me and my friends

Me: How old were you when you started school

N: Bout 5 maybe

Me: What are some memories of school

N: My memories everything was good I enjoyed going to school  
even though we had a lot of home work once in a while  
I remember one history teacher we had years ago she  
made us learn it all by heart when we had a lesson to learn we  
stood in front of the class because there were other kids in  
dit grades and then we'd say what we had to memorize

Me: What's the name of your first teacher and are they still alive



N: No there not alive my first teacher I dont remember Kg  
But there was one from N.M. that taught when we first started  
there I dont remember her name at that time then my sister  
gert was my teacher for 2 or three years thats when we got the others  
from national Mine

Me: what was your favorite class

N: Cooking class in high school thats all I know & like cooking  
best

Me: Are any of your parents aunts or uncles brothers or sisters still  
alive

N: I dont have anybody left sisters & brothers are all gone

Me: who is your favorite relative

N: They were all the same

Me: what was life like during WWI + WWII

N: You had to be pretty careful of what you spent your money on It was  
pretty scary everybody was worried I was too small to understand <sup>must mean well</sup>  
but I remember the war was over they had the bombs blowing and everything  
they blew them everywhere I was glad to know it was over

Me: In 1938 if you were old enough what was the snow storm like

N: Thats the year we ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> married, there was lots of snow  
there were big trucks with plows they'd have to push a little  
at a time there was so much snow



Me: How deep was the snow

N: About 6 feet high our house was upon the hill it was like seeing out on the prairies in order to get to the barn we had to make steps

Me: Do you know anyone involved with the flu epidemic in 1918

N: No

Me: Did you remember or were you told about the Barnes heckler mine disaster and did you know any one who died

N: I remember it I didn't know anybody personally or know every thing that happened The last man I know came running up the ladder with the water right behind him and he was the only one that got out

Me: How old were you and what were you doing when president Kennedy was shot

N: I don't know how old I was I spose I was doing house work It was such a shock we didn't do a thing for a long time We sat around numb I guess every body was numb

Me: When color t.v.'s came out what did you think of them

N: It was good I think they were better than the black and white



Me: Did you get one right away

N: no I don't think I got one right away

Me: what was your favorite radio station and why

N: WLS was from Chicago they had all those programs on there

Me: On Sundays did you go to church and were you allowed to work

N: Oh yea we were allowed to work our parents didn't do heavy work on Sundays we had Sundays off but we still had to milk the cows we did things like that but not too much

Me: How old were you when you went on a date

N: Not until when I was in my 20's that's when I went with Pappa that was my first big date I didn't think it was going to be though

Me: What did you do on a date

N: Oh we went to the movies the movies was the most important thing they had good movies back then nowadays there just trash



Me: Do you have any old yearbooks

N: No I don't have any

Me: What after school jobs ~~and~~ or chores did you have

N: Washing dishes

Me: Did you get an allowance and how much was it

N: no

Me: Did you have a favorite toy or doll

N: I didn't have many dolls back then we didn't have much like that I had one doll that my father's brother gave us It didn't last very long because it broke I had another baby doll I remember I had and some people came over and there little girl took it

Me: What kind of sicknesses did you have

N: Always colds and flus

Me: What was the best and worst time of your life



N: The best time when I met Poppa

Me: What was the worst

N: When I graduated from high school my mother died a month and a half later and after that I had to take over her place in the house while all the others were grown up and gone

Me: Was there a lot of discrimination toward blacks and was there different places for Black and whites

N: Yes they had to go to the back of the room I don't remember too much I wasn't too involved with that

Me: Was the school used for other school activities

N: no the national mine school when I was in high school then it was different in our old grade schools they didn't

Me: Do you have any school memorabilia

N: no I don't have anything like that saved up

Me: Were you mad when beer and wine was legalized

N: Oh I always hated that



Me: How big was the Marquette County Airport at first  
in 1937

N: I don't know it's a little bigger now the building is bigger  
now, before they had only little planes

Me: Was Dominic Jacobetti a good Michigan legislature, and  
what did you think of him

N: Jacobetti always helped the working men

Me: Was it scary when the Cuban missile crisis was going on

N: I don't like the sound of that

Me: What was it like when the challenger exploded.

N: I was shocked to think like something like that would happen

Me: What was the storm like when the Edmund Fitzgerald was lost

N: the storm was really big

Me: Is there any thing you can tell me that I forgot to ask  
about

N: I think you did pretty well