

Jeremy Skrenes's interview with Lois Toy

This is Jeremy Skrenes and I am going to interview Lois Toy on the 12th of December, 1990. She is a student of National Mine

Me: Where were you born?

Lois: I was born in Ishpeming.

Me: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Lois: I have two brothers, Burton + Robert

Me: Did you marry?

Lois: No

Me: When + where were your parents born?

Lois: They were born in Ishpeming around 1894

Me: When did you graduate from National Mine School?

Lois: I graduated in 1944

Me: Do you remember the names of any of your grade school teachers?

Lois: Miss Herring, Miss Solka, Miss Millanaki, Miss Gleason, They were always willing to send homework home when I was out of class because I had an ear infection and was in a bad automobile accident + they were always very helpful.

Me: Do you remember any of your junior high + high school teachers? Could you describe them?

Lois: Mr. Gleason, Mr. Annala, Mr. Lynn, Mr. Gleason taught geography + he was always interested in everything we did, he was kind of fat + jolly, he also was the coach, Mr. Annala taught spelling + penmanship, helped a lot with writing, Mr. Lynn taught Home Ec.

Me: Do you have any interesting or humorous stories about your high school years?

Lois: I can't think of any right now.

Me: What was the first day of school like?

Lois: Sad, people were crying

Me: Were they nervous?

Lois: Yes, Miss Gleason was our kindergarten teacher, we sat around her & she told us stories, later we worked with peg boards & played games.

Me: About how long was the school day?

Lois: I think about an hour and a half.

Me: How far were you from school? Did you live in this house all your life?

Lois: Yes, I lived next door to the school.

Me: What kind of subjects were taught in school?

Lois: Reading, history, spelling, arithmetic, geography, algebra, biology, chemistry, general business, typing, shorthand, & geometry.

Me: What was your favorite subject?

Lois: Music, because I liked music & all my relatives were interested in music, so I became interested.

Me: What was your most difficult subject?

Lois: I didn't like biology, I didn't like cutting up frogs and things like that.

Me: How were the kids expected to act & behave in school?

Lois: We were expected to behave, to sit quietly, no running in the halls, no whispering.

Me: What kinds of punishments were given?

Lois: You got sent to the office, or you had to stay after school, sometimes, you got the ruler on the knuckles.

Me: Were there any special facts or sayings when you were young?

Lois: I know we had some but I can't think of any right now.

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Me: What kind of music did you listen to?

Lois: I liked classical the best, popular too. My favorite singer was Bing Crosby, I liked opera, I used to listen to the opera on Saturday afternoons, some times, when I wasn't skiing.

Me: What kinds of extra curricular events were offered?

Lois: Girls glee club, high school mix chorus, we had a string group for a while, ferencics, school paper, we had a newsletter.

Me: Were there any sports?

Lois: Basketball was about the only sport

Me: Which ones did you participate in?

Lois: all of them, I guess,

Me: Did any of the teams win a trophy or a tournament?

Lois: Yes, we had some good basket ball teams, I remember we lost the U.P. tournament by one point, people were pretty sad, crying.

Me: Did they have any major effects on the school?

Lois: We were really interested in basketball, today I'm struck by the lack of cheering in basketball,

Me: Did the teams travel a lot?

Lois: Yes

Me: How far did the teams travel?

Lois: Marquette, Negaunee Naima, Amason.

Me: Who was the principal when you were a student?

Lois: Mr. Annala

Me: Was he strict or leniant?

Lois: He was strict but fair

Me: What were the textbooks like?

Lois: Your math books seem to jump into algebra quickly, but ~~we~~ we had algebra + geometry in 9th grade. Some students would take advanced math, we didn't have as much local history as we do now, there was more spelling.

Me: How much homework did you have?

Lois: We had lots of homework.

Me: What was lunch time like?

Lois: I went home for lunch. Kids on the bus took their own lunch.

Me: Was there hot lunch

Lois: No

Me: Did you have a lunch recess?

Lois: We had lunch recess.

Me: How long was it?

Lois: I'm not sure, maybe 20 minutes.

Me: Did you have any special plays in National Mine?

Lois: Yes, we had Christmas operettas, operettas in

Me: ^{the spring, class plays,} what were they like?

Lois: Miss Gleason put on some really nice operettas we had costumes & it was a big thing / Christmastime.

Me: Did you participate in them?

Lois: Yes, I used to sing.

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

Lois: I remember I was singing & Scrooge, who was Jimmy Moody, and chases me away. Miss Gleason wrote an operetta & later when I became a teacher, I put on that same operetta.

Me: What was the graduation ceremony like? (5)

Lois: It was on Sunday evening, the minister spoke the senior class usually voted on who would speak, later in the week we had commencement teachers & board members attended, we had songs by the glee club, a presentation of a senior memorial, the presentation of diplomas by Mr. Bath & then the valedictory & then the recessional, I had special memory of this because my father was on the school board & signed my diploma.

Me: were you able to maintain contact with childhood friends?

Lois: Yes, I still see most of the people I went to school with

Me: Did you have any teachers that had an impact on you?

Lois: Mr. Annala impressed me by his excellent teaching, Ms. Brown ~~taught~~ taught me a love of literature, Ms.

Gleason taught me music.

Me: Were there any yearly outings?

Lois: There weren't a lot, but I remembered going to the fish hatchery when I was in third grade, ~~we~~ we used to go out to plant trees, we had girls conferences, we went to other schools, I remember we went to Negaunee.

Me: What happened when you went to Negaunee?

Lois: We had readings, business meetings with advisors, dancing, there was a tea dance.

Me: Did any tragedies happen while you were in school? (6)

Lois: When I was in the grades, Karol Brown Died, We were awfully sad about that. I remember watching the funeral from her grandmother's house, we stood on the Hill where the flagpole is now.

~~Me: Was she a student about 12 yrs. old. This was the first time most of us faced death.~~

Me: Was she a student or a teacher?

Lois: she was a student about 12 years old. This was the

first time most of us faced death.

Me: What do you think is the biggest change in school since you were a student?

Lois: There are a lot more activities, you have band + chorus a lot more sports, football + track, dress is a bit different, girls had dress + a blouse, boys wore pants + shirt no jeans, boys didn't have long hair either.

Me: What are your fondest memories of National Mine?

Lois: It was a small school + we made a lot of friendships more than a large school.

Me: If you had a message for students, what would it be?

Lois: Study hard, get a good education.

Me: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Lois: No not really, just that I'm proud to be a graduate of National Mine School.

Me: Thank You for allowing me to interview you.

Lois: Your welcome