

Crystal; "Hi, my name is Crystal LaFreniere I'm interviewing Nat LaFreniere in her home in N. Lake, Today's date is Nov. 3, 1996. The focus of this interview is to talk to her about how her school life in N. Lake was as a child."

Crystal
~~Nat~~; "What is your full name?"

Nat; "Natalie Mary LaFreniere, but it was Elvetisy before"

Crystal; "Where and when were you born?"

Nat; "In N. Lake on Dec. 3rd 1934"

Crystal; "Do you have any siblings?"

Nat; "Yes, 3 sisters, they are all older than me"

Crystal; "What are their names?"

Nat; "Theresa, Angie & Sev"

Crystal; "As a child did any other people live with you?"

Nat; "I had a cousin live with us, his name was Lawrence, my mother & dad sent for him, he was from Italy, they sent for him so he could come over here & work"

Crystal; "Did he go to school here at all?"

Nat; "Just Grade School, he never went to high school, he worked in the Mines"

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Crystal; Did he go back to Italy?

Nat; No, he lived here for the rest of his life, infact he died just a couple of years ago

Crystal; where did you attend school for elementary? & how old when you started?

Nat; I was only 4, because at that time they didn't have this law where you had to be 5 when you started, & my birthday was at the end of Dec, so I was only 4, I went to N. Lake School for a full 9 years, k-8 "

Crystal; Do you remember your 1st teacher?

Nat; yes, her name was Mrs. Hammer

Crystal; what do you remember about her?

Nat; "I was scared to death of her, she was scary, I was a timid ^{quote} child, & she scared me "

Crystal; what was a typical day in elementary, what kind of things did you do before or after lunch?

Nat; Well, we had a regular reading & writing & arithmetic & stuff, & then we'd had a 15 min recess in the morning, then we went home for 1 hr. for lunch, we went home cause we had no lunch program

Crystal; Everyone went home?

Nat; Except the kids that lived like out on the Highway, they carried a lunch, & then they ate right in the room, cause there wasn't a lunch room in the N. Lake school at that time, & then in the afternoon we had a 15 min. recess & then we got out at 3:30

Crystal; How many kids were there in one classroom?

Nat; it varied about, I would say between 20 & 25, the classes were big, & sometime's there were 2 classes in one room, like the 4th & 5th grade were 1 room, the 8th was in a room by there selves, 6th & 7th were in one room

Crystal; Did any students drop out of school?

Nat; Many

Crystal; why?

Nat; they would go to work

Crystal; did you have to walk to school?

Nat; Oh, sure, ya

Crystal; how far was it?

Nat; Just 2 streets over, so I was lucky

Crystal; were there any childhood diseases that people had

Nat; Yes, Polio, T, B

Crystal; Any others?

Nat; Just normal childhood diseases like measles, mumps, chicken pox

Crystal; Did lots of people get it?

Nat; Not a lot

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Crystal; Did anybody you know get the disease

Nat; Yes, one girl I knew ended up in Morgan Heights

Crystal; Where's that?

Nat; out Past Negaunee, that were people went when they had T.B, they weren't kept in a regular hospital, they stayed at Morgan Heights cause that's where the T.B. patients were kept (It was a sanitorium)

Crystal; Did people have to take shots or get pills to take

Nat; Yes

Crystal; Where did you go to get them

Nat; just right in the hallway, the doctor & nurse would come & give small pox, diphtheria shots in the hallway *quite*

Crystal; Were there any pills?

Nat; No

Crystal; How was discipline handled in school? Was there hitting or pulling hair

Nat; Yes, teachers were allowed to do that then, sometimes I wonder if that could be used again today (she laughed) in fact when I think back to some of those teachers, they would if the kids acted up they'd slap um one, not hard but they'd crack them one & the 8th grade teacher was a man & if the boys missed behave he took them in the office & he'd crack a ruler over there ~~with~~ *knuckles* & everything, they wouldn't bruise up or anything, but there was definitely different kinds of discipline than there is today

*include
& quote*

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Crystal; what did kids do to get in trouble?

Nat; just, being disruptive in class, or sassying back or swearing or spitting

Crystal; did you's get in trouble for chewing gum

Nat; we weren't suppose to but we did if you got caught you'd get rid of it

Crystal; Did you yourself ever get into trouble? or sent to the office

Nat; I, did once

Crystal; for what?

Nat; at X-mas time they use to fill these little like, you know those cardboard buckets you get at the chinese Palace, when you take home your left overs, at X-mas time we used to fill them with mixed candy & orange & stuff, & the day before we filled the boxes the 7th & 8th graders would help Mr. Bully who was are 8th grade teacher fill the boxes & all the candy was stacked in the hallway & 3 of us kids from the 8th grade decided to take a candy, we got caught, just 1 candy & we got caught & he took us in the office I mean he really read us the riot act, & are punishment, he said that when the candy was going to be distributed the day before school got out for X-mas vacation we weren't going to get any, it broke my heart

quite parts

Crystal; so you didn't get any?

Nat; NO, he waited until til everybody else got there & then w 3 kids were called & we got are boxes, but at that time I thought it was really traumatic

Crystal; how did your parents react when you got home, what happened

Nat; furious, in that day your parents said behave & do what the teacher says & there were no 2 ways about it

quote

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Crystal; they never stuck up for you?

Nat; absolutely not, they didn't even ask, it was you or the teacher & it was always the teacher who was right, & you better behave quote

Crystal; Did you ever get grounded?

Nat; Oh, sure

Crystal; how long was noon hour?

Nat; 1 hr.

Crystal; what did everyone do at noon, play games?

Nat; oh, jump rope, play marbles, we would run home & eat a quick lunch & then you'd go back to school & play ball we go in the back, to play

Crystal; were there games like anti-eyeover?

Nat; ya, but not at school, no, jacks, we played jacks, hop scotch, all of those

Crystal; Did your school have saving bond campaigns or fundraisers?

Nat; Saving bonds, we all bought stamps, you could either get 254 stamps or 104 stamp books, then you would get a bond when your little book was filled

Crystal; Any fundraisers?

Nat; I don't remember fundraisers, cause at that time our parents were poor so they never had bake sales or anything, cause most families were really poor

Crystal; what was your favorite subject in elementary?

Nat; History, I always loved history

Crystal; Did you have good grades in there?

Nat; Yes, I still love history

⑦

Crystal; That's my worst subject

Nat; I'd rather watch CNN than anything (laugh)

Crystal; Do remember any teachers, or grade

Nat; Yes, ~~the~~ most memorable teacher was Mrs. Florence Jacobs, & she taught ^{my} 4th grade, she was an unmarried teacher, she was just the sweetest, nicest person, she made learning fun, she was just sweet. *quote*

Crystal; What did you do in her class

Nat; Nothing different from any other class but she was just fun, because she was so sweet loving person, if you did something good, she'd give you a hug she was just that kind of a person, always complimenting if you did something good *quote*

Crystal; Were there any fun activities in school

Nat; The only thing really exciting was every once in awhile a superintendent of the school Stanley Williams would come & show movies *quote*

Crystal; What kind?

Nat; Not movies like now, mainly things of history or nature, we thought it was great cause we would get out of class, & we all got to sit in the auditorium, & get out of class for 1 hr, it was fun *quote*

Crystal; Do you have any good memories of school

Nat; I always loved the X-mas programs, the X-mas programs were like productions, the 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Linberg, in fact she is still alive & lives in Marquette, she's about 90 yrs. old her name is May Linberg & she'd start in Nov, & they would practice

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CONT.

Nat; & if you got picked for a part for a play, it was pages that you had to learn, speaking parts & stuff & they were big productions

Crystal; were you ever in a play?

Nat; Oh, ya, in alot, I loved them, & Mrs. Bully & all the sewing class, the girls had sewing after school, we would make all the costumes, I mean everyone was in costume, they were beautiful productions, plays quite

Crystal; In the summer what would you & your friends do for fun? Like the movies

Nat; Ah, NO, the movies were a special thing, cause we couldn't really afford it, & most parents didn't have cars, so if you went to the you went on Saturday, & it would cost a dime

Crystal; what could you get for a dime?

Nat; Get in to the movies & maybe for a nickle you'd get a box of popcorn so for 15¢ you had a afternoon of fun, but when we stayed in N.L. during the week, we would go on picnics, play marbles, play hopscotch, house

Crystal; Did you do things with boys to?

Nat; In N.L. all the boys & girls really got along together it was like quite one big happy family, & every night all the kids would congregate on main street corner, & we would just stand around & talk & just goof around is what you kids would call it, but everyone got along, it was great, we would sit on the clubhouse lawn & just talk were King James apts. are now, that was like a community building then, & everybody, like I said we mostly all stayed in N.L. cause no one could afford to really go to town, when you went to town it was a special thing

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Crystal; How did you get to town?

Nat; Now they had buses that ran usually on Fridays night, & then like I said on Sat. if you could get a ride you'd go to the movies, then on

quote Sun, you would have to get a ride to go to church, until many yr. later they had a church in the 1st church we had out here, it was a catholic church, was held in the auditorium of the N.C. School

Crystal; So you could walk there

Nat; Ya

Crystal; know well talk about Jr. High

Nat; ok, good

Crystal; Did you have different teachers or switch classes like we do now

quote Nat; No, we stayed in the same class, you had you 7th & 8th grade teacher, & 6th, 7th, & 8th & you didn't, No we didn't switch classes

Crystal; Were there any extra circular activities you could join

Nat; No

Crystal; boys or girls

Nat; The only thing like I said was sewing, & the boys had manual arts they called it, they would make like, little wooden tables & hall trees

Crystal; Could girls join?

Nat; That was strictly for boys

Crystal; Did students ever go on field trips?

quote Nat; Yes, we did go on one once in awhile, & also like I told you we would go & plant trees out in the forestry plot, that was fun cause that was a whole day, we would pack a lunch & we went be hind the school we'd plant little seedling trees

Crystal; where else would you go?

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Nat; Um, just take nature walks, they really didn't take us to any places in Mar. or Ishpeming or anything, we stayed right in N.L.

Crystal; What sorts of things did your school cook for lunch?

Nat; We had no lunch program

Crystal; Why

Nat; There wasn't a real necessity for it, because most kids lived right here in N.L. & the kids that lived out, there wasn't all these other locations at that time, & the few that lived out carried their lunch & they ate right at their desk, there wasn't even a designated area at that time (lunch area)

Crystal; Did you play any instruments in school?

Nat; No, there was no band, nope

Crystal; Was there a dress code?

Nat; Nope, no dress code

Crystal; No dresses, it didn't matter?

Nat; No, whatever you wanted, like I said, most families didn't have much money, & most of us kids wore are sisters hand-me-downs & stuff, you'll notice in the old school pictures the boys had overalls that had patches on them - (laugh) you could wear a dress if you wanted but it wasn't required, you could wear pants whatever you wanted

Crystal; What about in Highschool?

Nat; Now in H.S. when we went to the Isl. H.S., there was a definite dress code, the boys had to wear dress pants or no Levi's or jeans

allowed the girls had to wear dresses or skirts

Crystal; & if you didn't?

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Nat; you did it, just automatically did it, you now you couldn't go to school in jeans if you were a girl or pants

Crystal; Did your school have a yearbook? Well you were in school

Nat; The H.S. kids did but not M.L.

Crystal; What was it like, a hardcover?

Nat; Oh, ya it was hardcover, the ones from Ish. H.S. oh ya, like the ones they have know

Crystal; Did you have any minorities in your class or anyone who didn't speak English

Nat; No, by the time we got to school most kids could speak English, there were yrs. before that when immigrant children that couldn't speak English, infact I remember my older sisters telling me that kids would come to class when they were growing up that could speak ~~Just~~ Finnish or Italian because their parents wouldn't speak English in the house but by the time I was there everyone spoke ↑

Crystal; About how many kids attended school? As big as now

Nat; Probably ya the classes were about the same size

Crystal; Did you have any role models that changed your life?

Nat; My teachers some of them, Now Mrs. & Mr. Bully they were husband & wife they lived off school street & taught at the school

Crystal; Mrs. Bully could teach even though she was married?

Nat; Um, um, that was years before were if you were married ya couldn't teach, but by the time we were there you could be married, most teachers were when I was there *include*

Crystal; Did you have any hobbies?

Nat; Reading & writing stories, I loved to read

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Crystal; were you good at it?

Nat; They said I was, I always got A's

Crystal; what kind of grades did you get?

Nat; Good grades, I was a good student, I loved schools, A's & B's

Crystal; Did you have married teachers? (laughed)

Nat; Yes

Crystal; How old were you when you started driving?

Nat; I didn't start till I was, um, a senior in H.S.

Crystal; So you were like 18

Nat; Um

Crystal; what did you drive when you started driving?

Nat; Grampas car, my boyfriends fathers car (laugh), cause we didn't have a car my father & mother never had a car

Crystal; how did they get around just buses & other people

Nat; Ya, other people friends, relatives on the bus

Crystal; Did you get an allowance

Nat; No, not really, but once in awhile like I said my parents would give me money to go to the show or something, but I babysat

Crystal; After school?

Nat; "For 25¢ an hr. I babysat after school"

Crystal; Was that alot then?

Nat; that was the going rate then, when you think about it now it seems impossible thats all we got but that was the going rate, if we got 35 an hr, you thought you'd be rich or 50¢ an hr. wan un heard of

13 cont.

Nat, But I use to babysit almost everyday after school once I got older, & then many, many nights a week & on weekends

Crystal; who did you babysit for?

Nat; Howard ^{Conodas} and um Mrs. Casper the guy that owned the N.L. store it was his grandson, they were living with him at that time & then I babysit Frank Heller children & he was the superintendent of the mines & he use to live on that big house on the hill were warshawski's live now, I babysat there & children

Crystal; oh holidays like X-mas did you get a vacation?

Nat; Yes

Crystal; How long?

Nat; it was long, like a week, like you kids do now

Crystal; Did you exchange gifts in school?

Nat; oh ya

Crystal; and have concerts or programs

Nat; Yes

Crystal; like I said are X-mas plays were PRODUCTIONS they were beautiful

~~Nat~~; what kind of gifts did you exchange?

Crystal

Nat; um, I think they were just like a dollar gift, because noone had alot of money & you would either by a book or if you were a girls, you bought hair ribbons or ^{include} barretts or the boys would get checker boards & checkers

Crystal; Did the boys by for the boys? girls for girls

Nat; I think it was mostly that way

Crystal; Thats how it is now

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Nat; Ya, us to

Crystal; Is there anything you would change if you were back in school, like study habits?

Nat; No, I had pretty good study habits, the only thing I often regret is that I didn't go on to college, cause I truly wanted to be a teacher

Crystal; It probably was expensive back then?

Nat; Ya

Crystal; How old were you when you got your 1st t.v.?

Nat; Oh, my goodness, I was married by the time I got my 1st t.v., because I remember Gram & Gramps getting there 1st t.v., my mother & dad, got there 1st t.v. in 1950, that was the year we were married, & it wasn't even real clear, it was kind of snowy, there were some nights, that were clear & some snowy

Crystal; Did everyone have one show they watched?

Nat; Oh, I think so, cause like I said there was only 1 channel, so everybody kinda watched the same things, & my favorite show at that time was the Ed Sullivan show, cause it was a variety show, & he would have all different stars.

Crystal; Do you remember the 1st movie you saw?

Nat; That I tried to think about but I couldn't think crystal, but I know one thing, that on Saturdays they used to have Roy Rogers & Gene Autry movies & they were like continued, they were like a serial group of movies & they would let you hang in sometimes & see it the next time you went & when there was a Roy Rogers or Gene Autry movie on Saturday afternoon, I swear every kid in Marquette County was there (laugh)

Crystal; Do you remember the 1st book you read?

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Nat: The 1st book was Heidi

Crystal: Is that book still around

Nat: oh, ya intact I have a copy of a old Heidi book, I bought at a used book store

Crystal: How many churches were in N.L.?

Nat: Just the one

Crystal: One hr. a week & everyone went

Nat: Um, & then one night a week we would have to go to catacism, the catholic kids went to school in the N.L. school & then the Nuns would come from town & we'd have catacism,

Crystal: Like CCD?

Nat: like your CCD classes know

Crystal: As a child did you have any toys or treasures that you loved?

Nat: My books, I loved my books, I have one know, I also found some old books in Grampas basement a Roy Rogers & Gene Autry book that are real old, if you would like to take them to school, & show them a little, big book, would you like to take um

Crystal: Ya

Nat: ok, I give them to you after

Crystal: what were you parents occupations when you were younger?

Nat: my mother was a house wife & my father was a mine worker

Crystal: Did they get alot of money then like they do know

Nat: No, No

Crystal: "Where was the 1st restaurant you ate in & what did you have?" *include & note*

Nat: I'm sure it had to be the Brown Durby in Ish,

Crystal: Is it still there

Nat: It was called the Brown Durby, NB it's not there anymore, It was on Mainstreet on the corner, & I'm sure my very 1st thing was fries, cause my mother ^{never} cooked fries at home

Crystal: where would you shop for clothes & groceries? & what kind of clothes did you get & how much?

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Nat: I use to shop for clothes at Dibinskies in Ish, & also a clothing store upstairs of Gatelys, or even Woolworths at that time use to sell clothes

Crystal: How much were they?

Nat: You could buy a shirt for \$3 or \$4

Crystal: Where would you go grocery shopping?

Nat: At Mr. Caspers store here in M.L., cause he had everything, it was one of those general stores like you see on old western movies, he had everything in there quote

Crystal: What was the price of food, like pop, candy bars, icecream?

Nat: Pop was 5¢, you could take a dime to the M.L. store & Mr. Casper had a candy counter that was so long, & you could go in there & for a dime you'd come out with a brown sack filled with candy cause some of the things were 5 for a penny or 3 for a penny

Crystal: It's kind of like Olson news

Nat: Ya, it is, um

Crystal: Do you remember ever going on big trips? With your family?

Nat: No we never did, cause we couldn't afford it my mother & father didn't have a car

Crystal: Did anybody ever go?

Nat: Very few people did, maybe they'd go down state, & at that time to even get down state you would have to take a Ferry across, cause the Mackinaw bridge wasn't built yet, they'd go across on Ferry, but we never did, we just couldn't afford it

Crystal: How did you & your family spend holidays like X-mas, Easter, Thanksgiving?

Nat: Just having people come over, & my mother was a fantastic cook, we had big meals, she could cook anything & it was just wonderful

Crystal: What did you get for X-mas?

Nat: Simple things, clothes & they would fill are stocking with fruit & candy & you might get a book or modeling clay, it was

(17).
nothing expensive

Crystal: Not like today with T.V.'s

Nat: Oh, no

Crystal: What did you do on B-Days?

Nat: I didn't have many B-Day parties, but I remember one in particular, & my mother made me a cake & the kids came over after school ~~the~~ & we would play games & stuff, but you didn't have little treat bags or anything like that I mean it was simple

quote ↗

Crystal: What did everyone do on Halloween? ↓

Nat: Well, we went trick-or-treating, but um & I don't know of anyone who had a bought-in costume, we just made up our own costumes, like your father's old hunting clothes or your mother's old dresses or whatever, you could buy like little cardboard paper masks, but I don't know of anyone who had bought-in costumes back then,

Crystal: Did you have things to paint faces?

Nat: Ya

Crystal: Who were the popular rock groups, like the Beatles

Nat: The Beatles came along when my kids were growing up, but um when we were kids it was Frank Sinatra, & Ben Crosby & people like that, no rock groups then, Crystal.

Crystal: What about dating, what would your dates do when you went out?

Nat: Well, you would probably go to a movie, & maybe over to the Brown Derby for a hot fudge sundae or something, but that was about it

Crystal: Did you go to the drive ins?

Nat: Ya, there were drive ins

Crystal: How old were you when you went on your 1st date

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Nat: Um, I was in the 8th grade, so probably around 14

Crystal: Did you drive there?

Nat: No, the bus, ya took the bus to the movie (laugh)

Crystal: Do you remember anything about the 1st school in 1911

Nat: No, No

Crystal: Do you no where it was held?

Nat: It was held in a home I know, in one of the houses in N.L., that was before the school was built, & from there they went to that big wooden building, then that burned, & then they built the schools that there know

Crystal: Do have any memories of The N.L. Fire? *include fire in PD*

Nat: It was only 3 or 4, but my sisters said they remember cause they were there & I remember, & faintly remember my mother having, grabbing me by the hand & hauling me over there to see if my sisters were ok, but I truly have no memory of it

Crystal: were they safe?

Nat: Yes, everybody was, thank god, I told you how the 1 girl panicked & hid in the locker, a Valuta girl

Crystal: Who found her?

Nat: Mr. Bully

Crystal: I wonder what she was thinking

Nat: Ya, she just panicked, & hid in a locker, & he went in & got her

Crystal: How he know she was in there

Nat: I guess kids from her class, said she wasn't the *check the name* Beunka not at heart, Beunka's not out here, & they started yelling so Mr. Bully went running in & found her in the locker, & he took her out, luckily the fire hadn't got in that room yet

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Crystal: Were did they go after the school burnt down?

Nat: I think they went to the clubhouse, the community building up here, the King James apts, were that is know, I think they went there for awhile

Me: Were there any injuries when the fire occurred?

Nat: No, everybody got out in time

Me: Was everyone evacuated?

Nat: Yes

Crystal: Do know how the fire was started?

Nat: No, I don't, I don't even remember ever reading anything, what ever started that fire

Me: What was your 1st job? If you had one

Nat: My 1st job was babysitting

Me: How old were you when you started?

Nat: I started babysitting when I was 12

Me: That's kinda young

Nat: Ya

Me: Ok, did you see if the building was badly damaged?

Nat: Oh, ya, but I was so small I don't really remember, but I guess the whole thing was burned almost to the ground

Me: Were you in school, no right

Nat: No, No

Me: How long did it take to rebuild?

Nat: I think the new school was, was up & ready by 1938, if I remember correctly,

Me: Was it in the same place as the old one

Nat: Ya

Crystal: What was the new school like? the same

Nat: It was built of brick, & terraz floors, but much more fire safe

Me: Is it the one that's there know

quite

(30)

Nat: Ya, the one that's there know.

me: Do you have any memories of the fire that we didn't mention?

Nat: No, I really don't.

me: Do you remember WWII?

Nat: Yes, I sure do, there were a lot of boys from N.L. that were in WWII.

me: students.

Nat: No, just boys that had graduated from H.S. some quite H.S. & gone work in the mines & they went to the war, in fact I can still remember when I was a child we used to go swimming down at rock lake & like I said the kids in N.L. were all real good about taking care of each other, & there was 1 young man in particular his name was Robert Dalton & he lived on ~~the~~ street, patriot street, & I remember going to rock lake one time & there was a raft that was a little ways out & we used to kinda like jogg/pittle our there, but the bigger kids kinda watched out for the little kids, & someone pushed me off the raft & I would of drowned but Robert Dalton they use to call him "Dunker".

Crystal: were you just fool?

Nat: Ya, & he rescued me but I think I would've drowned, & I can still remember during the 2nd World War, the day I heard he had gotten killed in weagema, I cried the whole day, because all my growing up days, whenever he would see me he'd tease me about saving me, "there's my girl" he'd say "I saved your life" & to this day Crystal, when I think of him he was just a young boy & he died, & there were several from N.L. who got killed in the 2nd WW.

me: were there a lot of people in the war?

Nat: Yes, I had a cousin who was a aviator, & his plane was shot down, but he wasn't killed, but he was wounded, & I had a brother-in-law in the war, who was also wounded.

Crystal: They all came back then?

Nat: um, um

Crystal: Are they still alive?

Nat: Ah, NO NO, uh in fact I had a cousin who was in the marines & he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese, & he was in a prisoner of war camp, his name was Toni Spagnolo.

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cont.

Nat: + his, & he was a prisoner of war camp for 4 yrs, & I can still remember when he came home & walked into our house, he looked like a walking skeleton & they were really, really mean to him we thought he died, cause he use to write to us & when he stopped writing we figured he died in the war

Crystal: What did they do to him?

Nat: Oh, they torched him, & he said there were many, many day the got nothing to eat but a little tiny, bowl of rice

me: Do you remember radio broadcasts?

Nat: Um, we use to listen to them always, cause like I said everyone who had somebody in the service had a little flag hanging in there window with a star on it, & if there was a gold star on it, I think that meant your son or brother were killed, but they had little flags in the window, but ya we use to listen to all the news casts, cause we new alot of the people who were in the service

me: How did the guy you now get killed, that rescued you?

Nat: I think he was killed on the shores of Wemagim ^{→ check spelling} when they stormed the shores & he was in that 1st bunch of marines that went in there, but it broke my heart when I heard he died

me: How did the war affect you?

Nat: I was scared, we were all worried, & scared, cause you didn't know if it, well it seemed like it went of forever & ever, & you wanted all these people to come home, & ever news cast was terrible

me: Did your mom ever have to ever go work in those factories?

Nat: No, see here we didn't do that, but in N.Y, they did, but well the world war was going on we were rationed for alot of things, we couldn't get sugar, they gave you little ration books & you could go the store & you could only buy so much sugar, you couldn't buy butter, you couldn't buy hardly any meat you just had so many stamps that you could use to buy those particular things, cause there was a shortage, they were shipping them to the soldiers & stuff

Q: Were there any parades after the war was over?

A: Oh, definitely, like I told you the night the war finally ended, when it came over the radio that the war was over, everybody was just screaming + crying on + they had a great big parade in Negavnee that night, everybody was out in the streets screaming + throwing stuff + everyone was singing + dancing + it was wonderful, but still took along time before alot of the guys got home, include

Q: Did you go down there?

A: Oh, ya, for sure, everybody did

Q: When did you get married?

A: 1952

Q: Who did you marry?

A: James LaFreniere, from NL, to

Q: What kind of wedding did you have, big

A: It was a church wedding, then we just had a reception at our home

Q: Did everyone come over?

A: Um, um

Q: Do you have any children?

A: 3

Q: How old are they?

A: Gary, he's 43, Debbie who is 41, + Jamie who is 27

Q: Do they work anywhere?

A: Gary works at the mine, Jamie works at Bresnan, + Debbie is a house wife, but she does alot of volunteer work at church + with the Booster Club at westwood

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me: Where do they live?

N: all in Ishpeming

me: Do you have any Grandchildren?

N: 5 grandchildren + 1 great grandchild

me: what are there names?

N: I have 5 grand kids, & They are Tori Sodergren, Amber Sodergren, Holley Sodergren, Tonya Burke, Crystal LaFremiere, & Courtney ~~Burke~~ Burke is my little great grand-daughter.

me: Do you have any photos, newspaper articles, yearbooks, or any other pictures you could borrow US

N: Ya, right here

me: Do you have any hobbies right now?

N: Woodcrafts

me: what do you make?

N: Seasonal things, like for Easter, X-mas, things for in the yards or signs but thats my therapy, I absolutely love doing that

me: Do you do anything in your spare time for fun?

N: Love to read, walk, go camping

me: where do you go camping?

N: Van Ripper, we always spend 2 weeks in Eagle River with the whole family, & we go to Mielans in Houghton & Wells past Escanaba, & we've camped down by Mackinaw City

me: Do you have any advice to give people about life or school?

N: Well, learn as much as you can, & stay in school & get that diploma & if you possibly can get a college degree, because it's something that no one could ever take from you & know with the way the world is going know if you don't have a degree, it's pretty tough quote

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Me: Is there anything more you would like to talk about that we didn't mention?

N: Well, when we would play B-ball as a kid at school or at home we didn't have gloves or beautiful B-ball bats + all this stuff, we made our bases out of old pieces of board, nobody had gloves + we use to use the bat's sometimes it was a board that are dads would carve a handle, like I said none of us had that much money, + in like I said where the cafeteria is know at the school that wasn't even a cafeteria, it was just a great big ^{gym} room with a sand floor, + we would go down there to clap erasers after school, we called it Clapping erasers, you were cleaning the erasers for teachers, it was sand, ^{in fact} there were a few rooms in the N.C. School that weren't used at all when we were there, they were just empty

Me: What made growing up in N.C. interesting?

N: One thing that was different was that alot of families had animals, cows, chickens, pigs, we even had pigs

Me: Did you's?

N: My mom + dad + a family called ^{Suardini's} Sordines, had a pig that they bought in partnership + every other day it was are turn to feed the pig, they lived on school street so the pig pen was right behind the house, behind there backyard so it was down kind of like in a field + every other day my mother would make this great big pot of corn meal mush + I had to carry it down to that pig, it was so embarrassing, so when it was my turn I would go + look up + down the street to make sure no kids were out + I would go like heck with that pot, cause I didn't want to see anyone, + then my father had rabbits + after school many days I'd have to take a pail + go pick Dandy Lions out of people's yard, I'd ask, you would pick with a little knife you would pick Dandy Lins, you'd fill that pail to feed the rabbits, but sometimes I'd fill half the pail with grass + put Dandy Lins on top, but I got caught every time, then I would have to go back + re-fill it, + alot of people had cows + the cows would wonder, + at night the people who owned the cows would go get um, + bring them home to milk them

Me: How would they know if the cows were there's?

(JS)

Ni Well they new, they had different markings on there little colars + they had belk + stuff + every fall the Italian people use to make wine + they would take the rind left from the grapes after they crushed them to make wine + then they would put them in alley because we didn't have regulare garbage pickup so you would put your trash in the alley + these cows would come by + eat those grape things + by the end of the day the cows were weaving up the alley they were actually drunk *include + quote*

me: The cows were drunk?

Nat: They were drunk, from eating those grape grindings from the Italians that were making the wine every fall they made wine *include + quote*

me: They would like fall over?

Nat: They wouldn't be falling over but were weaving up the alley + you new what had happened then, but of course the next day people couldn't use that millc

me: thats weird

Ni I know one of my girlfriends every morning before she went to school her mother had made her a little sack + she would *include* carry it over her sholders + she had to deliver milk to 4 different houses every morning on her way to school

me: Did you + friends ever have sleepovers?

Ni If we did have sleep overs, if you slept in the house fine, but if it was in the summer we would sleep on are porches cause we didnt have tents or sleeping bags + stuff, you would take a pillow + a blanket + sleep on the porch

me: wasn't it cold + buggy?

Ni It was buggy, but we didnt mind, we thought it was really neat

me: what would you do out there?

Ni Just sit + tell ghost stories + everything, it was fun

me: Did you play truth or dare, like kids do know

Ni We probably did, everybody had beautiful, beautiful gardens + my father, he was *quote* so proud of his garden + he use to tell us cause alot of boys use to go rob gardens they'd steal carrots + different things + then they would stand on the corner at night + eat vm + my father had warned me if you ever steal a vegetable out of someone's garden, your gunna really get it, + one night

Ni all the kids were standing on main street corner like we always did, & they dare us to go & rob vegetables out of someones garden, & I tell you crystal till the day this man died I couldn't look at him in the face, there was the nicest man who lived on 2nd street called Mr. Carlson, & they decided to go in his garden that night & just as I got my hand on a cucumber Mr. Carlson came to the door & he yelled & everyone went running, I was so scared I didn't let go of that cucumber & by the time I got to the end of the alley, cucumbers grow in like vines & had a whole row, & for days I was scared to death, I thought for sure the police were going to come & get me, my father would have killed me, but they never found out, & a lot till the day Mr. Carlson died I couldn't look him in the face & use to think about it every time I saw him, & many year later I told his daughter, & she laughed she thought it was funny, but she said she remembered going in gardens to & are fathers use to tell us, & like on Halloween they would knock down wood piles & if you got caught you would end up piling the guys wood ~~up~~ cause everyone had wood stoves

grate

me You had to work for um?

Ni You'd have to pile the wood back up

me Did people egg houses on Halloween like some people do

Ni No, you didn't egg houses, but like I said they knocked down wood piles, & a wax, we would go & wax windows

me Did you?

Ni Once I waxed my mothers own windows, & I got caught, I had to clean it, it was very hard to clean, we use to soap windows most of the time, but when you waxed windows it was much harder to get off, & I got caught, I had to clean them

me How did you get caught?

Ni They saw me out there, & if cars were parked on the streets you'd soap there windows, & the boys would go & push over old out houses, they did that

me were people in um (laugh)

Ni I don't know of anybody but I'm sure there were some at times (laugh), but I particulary didn't know of anybody (laugh)

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Me: I'm trying to think what else we did in N.L., where Friendship Lane is known, this big open street coming down, that was like a Blvd. & there were all these big wild bushes that grew in there & we use to go in there

Me: Along the street

N: well, there's a street on the sides, & then this big Blvd, between the street & the store well the apts. are known, we use to go in there & catch Bees, & stuff in jars

Me: Ever get stung?

N: couple times, ya, I we always use to pick berries in the summer or we go up to the bluffs & climb them & have a picnic, & still have my little lunch box

Me: Behind N.C. were all the rocks are, did you ever go up there

N: Definitely, but we always went in gangs of kids, cause like I said we always use to play in gangs of kids, there wasn't just 1 or 2, we all got along real well, like a big happy family, & everybody watched out for everyone else, especially the older kids, kinda watched over the younger kids, they would help you learn to ride a bike & the people from the mines would come & flood the ice rink by the N.L. school & we would go skating over there at night, & you would go over there & skate until you were so cold you would have to crawl home on the banks quite

Me: We use to do that, where Tickle-Belly-hill is

N: & even are skies they weren't like the ones known but we didn't have ski boats & all that stuff, you know how we kept our skis on, our fathers would cut rubber bands out of inner tubes that were in tires & you would put that over your foot & the back of your shoe & that would hold your ski on, we use to go by Tasson's farm & that's where we skied, that wasn't Marquette Mt., then you would walk back up (laugh), it's not like Marquette Mt. & the way you ski know, but we had a ball, & sledging we use to sled up on Boelius hill

Me: did you have a couple dare devils who tried doing stunts that didn't work

N: oh, ya, In fact the boys built a ski jump hill over on the end of 2nd Street, they had a little tournament, nothing like hills known, but we thought it was pretty cool & when we were young King James was the community building, & you

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Q: could go up there & they had showers in the basement, girls showers & boys cause alot of people didnt have showers in there home, & you would go up there & shower, they had a bowling alley there, they had one big room of to the side with pool tables in it *include*

me: did you have to pay?

A: No, & the older men could go up there & play cards, & there was a man up there & his name was Ducey Eckhart, & he had an office there, he was the one who ran the community building, & if you were out playing & you skinned your knee or something, you'd go up there & he'd bandage you cuts & he had little things of candy you could buy there to, he was a real nice old guy, & he worked there for yrs. & yrs, running that building

me: what did you do?

A: we sometimes during the week they would have B-ball games the older N.L boys, would play the boys from Ish. I dont think we even had to pay, we got in for free, & it was right up stairs of that building

me: Was it a big competition like it is know (sports)

A: Oh, sure, but it was a nice building to do things, they even had wedding receptions up there

me: They should have something like that know

A: Ya, we could use it know

me: how old were you when you had your 1st bike

A: Quite old, it was a 2nd hand bike from my cousin, I was in about 5th grade, even my skates were hand-me-downs from my sisters (laugh), that's one thing about being the youngest, you got the hand-me-downs (laugh) which wasnt fun

me: well, thanks for letting me interview you

A: it was fun Crystal