

OK Mrs. L.: So that's the first thing you want to know? How old I am hey?

Me: Yep!

Mrs. L.: Well, if I said I was 70, would you believe me?

Me: I don't know.

Mrs. L.: You don't know! You haven't been around old people?

Me: Well, my Grandpa is 86.

Mrs. L.: Well, do you think I look younger than Grandpa?

Me: Maybe, I don't know.

Mrs. L.: Well, there's my picture right there. We had our church pictures taken this summer.

Me: Oh.

Mrs. L.: And you want my full name?

Me: Yes.

Mrs. L.: Okay, May, M-A-Y, Viola

Me: Is that V-I-O-L-A?

Mrs. L.: Yes, and 1904

Me: And, how do you spell your last name?

Mrs. L.: L-I-N-D-B-E-R-G

Me: Okay, and what month and day were you born?

Mrs. L.: May first.

Me: Okay, um going to North Lake; when you were teaching there, were there more women teachers than men?

Mrs. L.: Yes!

Me: What was your teaching salary at the beginning of your career?

Mrs. L.: Hmm. I went back, I had taught before, I had taught in Twin. And I was married, then my husband died, and so it was. — And you wanted my salary? pg. 1

Me: Yes,

Mrs. L: \$800.

Me: And what's that—

Mrs. L: a ~~month~~ year.

Me: Oh my!

Mrs. L: \$80/month, yes because there's 10 months. — I had waited 2 yrs. after my husband died to get a job — so I was so happy when I got this one, I ~~was~~ was told in August and school started in September. — I was living in North Lake at the time.

Me: How long did you teach at North Lake?

Mrs. L: Hmm!... 13 yrs.

Me: Did you enjoy teaching?

Mrs. L.: Yes!

Me: Was the school fairly big?

Mrs. L.: Well, it had 8 grades. — We each had 2 grades, like I had 2nd and third. — I had 2nd & 3rd and there was 30 pupils each.

Me: For Each grade?

Mrs. L.: Yeah, no! For each teacher. Are you interviewing other teachers?

Me: Well, there's been other people interviewed, actually I interviewed one of your students.

Mrs. L.: Beg pardon?

Me: I interviewed one of your students, Gardner Wallberg.

Mrs. L: Oh yeah! Interesting pupil!

Me: Yeah. I just interviewed him

Mrs. L: I'll bet he didn't say anything good about me.

Me: Well, he said he loved you.

Mrs. L: How could he? I was - the thing that bothers me now that I'm retired I've been retired for 28 yrs. then I have all this time and I look back and Oh! I was so strict with those little kids! And Gardner was one of them. I was strict with them, I don't know how they could say anything good about me.

Me: Well, you gotta be strict when you're a teacher.

Mrs. L: Well, I didn't even like it when Mr. ^{Bouley} came and said there's a movie in the gym. And here I have my plans all written out and I couldn't follow my plans. And so, that's the way I felt with those kids, when they acted up, I didn't have time to talk to them nicely, you know. I would just shake them or something (chuckling). And so I was too strict, too strict with those little kids. I should've taken some more time to make them stay after school and then talk to them or something. I did that sometimes. Did Gardner tell you about after the fire he couldn't come to school because he was mentally disturbed?

Me: No.

MRS. L: — I didn't go along w/ that. I thought: He could be in school like the other kids. And that bothers me, I wish I could do something.

Me: Yeah, he said he really liked you as a teacher.

MRS. L: I have apologized to other people — because I was too strict. But she says, yes you were strict but we learnt!

Me: He told me about when you used to march around the room, when they got perfect Spelling grades.

MRS. L: Oh I don't remember that.

Me: Yeah, he told me about that & he said they all liked you as a teacher.

MRS. L: Oh, well that's good to hear because, there's a — & I had him in 6th grade and he couldn't — & there were a few others that couldn't remember me, but here I remembered them & I had how many children over the past 36 years & they don't remember me so maybe I wasn't too bad to them because if I was that bad they'd remember me.

Me: Yeah, I suppose. What is your fondest memory of teaching?

Mrs. L: ~~the~~ Hmm. I don't know. I like little kids. And ah, not all the years — I had a little record player & I would put on a march as they came in to the room.

Me: So they kind of marched in?

Mrs. L: Well, it was, pleasant, something pleasant you know, children liked it, to be active.

Me: They like to romp around.

Mrs. L: Yeah, And so I put that on every ~~time~~ time they came in. They weren't allowed in the room before that, they were in the yard. And I put that on.

Me: As a teacher when you first started, were you allowed to get married?

Mrs. L: NO! That's why I didn't stay in Twin, 'cause I got married. And I didn't tell them either. They could find out on their own. I finished the year.

Me: Do you know why they wouldn't let you get married?

Mrs. L: Beg pardon?

Me: Do you know why they wouldn't let you get married?

Mrs. L: They didn't know it, but they just told us the rules. And I think that it was because they'd expect the person to get pregnant & then they'd be sick & miss school & now they can teach until they feel labor pains. labor pains!

Mrs. L.: But times change.

Me: How ~~do~~ ^{did} you handle unruly students?

Mrs. L.: ~~Do~~ Beg pardon?

Me: How did you handle unruly students?

Mrs. L.: Oh I just told you, I'd, sometimes I'd shake them or I didn't do that so much, that was when I started, I was just 20 yrs. old when I started, so I had to learn a lot of things & oh so later on I, whatever the student did that was wrong, I'd give them 3 chances & if they didn't do after I gave them those 3, I'd write it out, what they did & they had to take it home & their parents had to sign it. And bring it back.

M: Oh, what sort of games did the students play at recess? while they were outside

Mrs. L.: Hmm, I know I had to be on duty, take my turn to be on recess duty. Um, in the winter like this they played "King on the Hill". They'd make a big snow pile & fox & Geese, the fox would be in the middle & the geese would come out on these paths & he tried to catch them. Fox & Geese that was it. Hmm, I don't know, I thing they played Pom, Pom, Pullaway

Me: How did that game go?

Mrs. L: Well, there were 2 sides. People standing over here and over here (motioning her hands) and in the center was... "it". And when they went through they'd try to tag somebody. And whoever they tagged, they would be it.

Me: Oh yeah!

Mrs. L: Did you used to do that?

Me: I played that when I was little.

Mrs. L: Yeah! I think they did that too.

Me: Was there any sort of yearbook while you were teaching? Like they have this book w/ all the students' little pictures are or..?

Mrs. L: They didn't have a book but - I taught at several different schools so, um they had their picture taken & they could buy a sheet w/ their pictures on them, but they didn't have any book.

Me: Did you go to college to become a teacher?

Mrs. L: Yes, you had to didn't you?

Me: I don't know.

Mrs. L: How could you be a teacher? Yeah, I know. You could take an exam when you are out of high school & if you passed that you would get a temporary license.

Mrs. L: Or you could go to summer school & get a certificate.

Me: How many years did you have to go?

Mrs. L: If you went 2 years, you got a life certificate, that's what I did.

Me: Where did you go to college?

Mrs. L: I went to Normal Illinois, near Bloomington you can't tell when you went to Bloomington, you went from Normal to Bloomington. That's where I got my life certificate, but I got my degree up here. I went back, I got a job in '35, fall of '35, I took correspondence courses & I took Saturday morning classes, and night courses, ———. Got my degree up here.

Me: Do you remember teaching when the fire broke out at North Lake?

Mrs. L: Hmm! Do I ever!! I sure was there, and my son was in my room, I had 2 children, and when I went back to teaching I had my daughter for 2 years and then I had my son for 2 years. And my son was in my room that year and I think I even have a clipping from the paper about it. Umm, it was in the afternoon and Charles Umm, was sitting by the register, or not the register, but a place for air to come out in the back of the room, that wall. And Charles said - (there was ~~of~~ smoke) pg. 8

Mrs. L: Oh there's a fire! And I said if there's a fire then we should, we had fire drills, and I said we better go out. So then we went out and I opened the door and there was a door here and back here was a door for the entrance to go into the hallway where we hung our coats, and I went out & Mr. Booley was there, the principle & couple other teachers were there. There was still snow, and so — teacher & she had I guess quite a valuable coat & I was the only one who lived around that place & — there was a room, end of the hall where they hung these wraps, she ran back there through the smoke & got her coat, and then we start helping everybody, around there coming toward the school to get the wraps and then the teachers helped to move the desks, Mr. Booley and the 8th graders, that in the school went, and they ~~also~~ threw out all every piece of furniture they could find & threw it out the window. And then the Clubhouse was just on the next block, so we were moving all the furniture there. The desks & all of that went to the Clubhouse. And I was helping do that. pg. 9

Mrs. L: And John was, he was following me & crying and we lived on the other side of North Lake, a few streets & we lived over there & I said "Go on home", and I think, that's one of the things that bothers me too, I didn't, I was just strained, he just, I couldn't help him, but he knew the way home, so I and oh, the way it started, Mr. LaFreniere was there, the ~~janitor~~ janitor & somebody was going by & they said there was smoke coming from, the top of the school, and that's where, in the attic and it burnt, but we all got out of there, nobody got hurt. And um, later in the evening I went over and watch the school finish burning, down to the ground. That was an experience. And that's when Gardner got frightened and he was afraid to come back to school. I talked to his mother & they kept him out of school. Because he was so disturbed.

Me:

Do you recall any of your other former students?
Any of the names?

Mrs. L: Yeah, Grardoni's, James & humm, Polly & I ran across her a few years ago & she never, she went pg. 10

W.S.L; by "petunia"; and she says, dont tell anybody
because they'll tease me. so I didn't —.
That was in North Lake, but I told you I
was across —. And then there's the Pepins
George Pepin & David Pepin, what's his sisters
name? Next to George humm. I can see the
person in my mind & I can't think
of there name. When the children —.

The students having a harder time to
learn, they wouldn't get a recess, & I
would help them to learn, 5-6 children
& this one - Rohomaki & um, he was
in that group & I helped him to learn
& was on my way the ^{Sault} Sault, my daughter
lived in the Sault & my son lived
there too. So I was down there to see
them & I stopped in Newberry at a
restaurant & there was Mr. Rohomaki
with his own boy & can you - I don't
know exactly what he's doing right now,
he became an instructor; a teacher and
I said, you sure got to give him credit,
he was LD & now he's got a degree
from Northern & he had this little
boy with him, his boy was 9 years
old.

~~Q: Q:~~
Me: Can you describe what it was like teaching in the North Lake (clubhouse)?

Mrs. L: (chuckling) yes. How did you know I did all of this? Gardner?

Me: Yeah, Gardner.

Mrs. L: Yeah, well all right. We had a first grade - well it was a big ~~room~~ gym. And we had a white sheet, on that side (motioning) Olson taught, and on this side, I taught. So we could hear each other in those things. We could hear each other. It seems to me (Ella LaJoy taught. We finished up that year, ~~in~~ from March and we didn't miss many, well Ishpeming had a lot of extra desks, and so they set up a room, and we didn't miss more than a couple days of school before we went back there. What did you ask me?

Me: Um, what it was like teaching in the North Lake clubhouse.

Mrs. L: (chuckling) Oh! Well, we got along all right —

Me: You just listened to your own side?

Mrs. L: Beg pardon?

Me: You listened to your own side?

Mrs. L: Yeah, we listened to our own side. Elsie! Elsie Olson was her name. I could hear her, if she was reprimending one of hers, or if I was to mine. But, we didn't pay much attention to each other.

Me: What year did you retire?

Mrs. L: Beg Pardon?

Me: What year did you retire?

Mrs. L: In '66, 1966, so that makes me retired 30 years. It doesn't seem possible.

Me: Do you remember when Mr. McClare got shot?

Mrs. L: No, who was he?

Me: He was the principle of North Lake. And he was shot by a janitor; a janitress.

Mrs. L: I don't remember about that at all.

Me: There was a in the library, we were looking through newspapers, and we found that.

Mrs. L: Oh.

Me: He was the North Lake principle.

Mrs. L: What happened?

Me: He was the principle, and a janitress shot him.

Mrs. L: Oh! A janitor shot him!!

Me: Yeah.

Mrs. L: What a janitor!

Me: It was a lady.

Mrs. L: It was a lady? I don't remember that. When was that?

Me: It was, like 1920s. Do you remember the flu epidemic of 1918?

Mrs. L: Yes.

Me: Did it affect you?

Mrs. L: No.

Me: Did anyone in your family get it?

Mrs. L: No.

Me: Do you have any other brothers or sisters?

Mrs. L: I have one sister still living.

Me: What about when you were little?

Mrs. L: What about it?

Me: Did you have any other brothers or sisters?

Mrs. L: Oh yes, I had 3 brothers but their all dead now.

Me: What were their names?

Mrs. L: Robert and Floyd and Theodore. And 1 sister, Sarah.

Me: Do you spell that with a "h" at the end?

Mrs. L: Yes. By the way do you call yourself Hannah?

Me: Yeah

Mrs. L: And I call it Hännah. H-A-N-N-A-H?

Me: ~~Yeah~~, alot of people, they call me Hannah & Hannal

Mrs. L: Because I have a great grand-daughter & named Hannah.

Me: And my middle name is Mae.

Mrs. L: ~~Do~~ Do you spell it M-A-E? When I was in Gwinn, I had a pupil, May—

Me: In Gwinn you had her?

Mrs. L: Hm, mm

ME: What administrators did you teach under? At North Lake.

MRS. L: Now administrators, do you want Superintendents

ME: Yeah,

MRS. L: Or do you want ^{principal} principle?

ME: Both.

MRS. L: Well, when I was at North Lake, I taught under Henry Balle. — And he was boss. And ah, the administrators, the superintendent, if I can remember his name. But um, I can't think of his name. I know the janitor was Mr. Lafreiner - Williams!

ME: Mr. Williams

MRS. L: Now what was his first name? Do they uh, come in the back of the room and watch the teacher teach?

ME: They do once in a while.

MRS. L: Once a year, what did I say his name was?

ME: Mr. Williams.

MRS. L: If I can think of his first name. But anyways, — After the fire. I was on first floor. And, he visited me often. The supervisors, every time he came to North Lake, he came to my room. He'd sit in the back of the room & even fall asleep. (laughing) Stanley!! Stanley Williams.

You know sometimes I have a hard time remembering. A couple years ago I had a mini stroke. pg. 15

Mrs. L: And I don't know if I would have this trouble now or not. But that's the way my mind is, or maybe it's natural for anyone around my age, or even younger to not be able to remember names. Well, sometimes I can think of it 5 minutes after, sometimes it's not until the next day! It's tangled up, up there.

Mr. Well you have a pretty sharp memory for your age.

Mrs. L: I know, everyone tells me that. I just thank God, just thank God.

Mr. Do you remember the storm of 1938?

Mrs. L: Hmm, mm.

Mr. Can you describe that for me?

Mrs. L: Yeah, well, we had lots of snow, but not as much as this.

Mr. You didn't have ~~more~~ as much snow as this?

Mrs. L: No. Not nearly as much as this. I even have some pictures. My son was 8 years old & I have, him, a picture of him, I had a car at that time too and at that time we only had radios and ah they didn't close the schools, the radio didn't say all the schools were closed like today. A neighbor had been to school that morning before I left, and he said NO school today.

Mrs. L: Then I had already put on - I didn't have slacks either, I had an old pair of my husband's trousers and I put them on to protect my legs, and ah it's just 3 blocks from where we lived - Cottage Street I don't know if it's still called that but it's the last street and the school was on the last street there so I had to walk about 3 blocks. But so I didn't go and they didn't plow streets at that time, if you had to go somewhere in a car well, you just put your lips in your hands and shovel ~~the~~ until you see the _____. But I didn't go out _____. I had been someplace though because it _____.

Me: Um, how long were you out of school during that time?

Mrs. L: I don't know a day or 2. Just a couple days.

Me: Where were you born?

Mrs. L: LaSalle Illinois

Me: Can you spell that for me?

Mrs. L: L-A-S-A-L-L-E Illinois

Me: What were your parents' names

Mrs. L: Lora and Henry Bernard

Me: And do you spell Lora C-O-R-A?

Mrs. L: Yes.

Me: And what was their last name?

Mrs. L: Bernard B-E-R-N-A-R-D

~~Queso~~ me: Where did you live through your childhood years?

Mrs. L: Well, I was born in LaSalle until I was 2 and my father & mother got a homestead out in Southwestern Nebraska near the foot of the Rocky Mountains we lived there for 7 years and we had a sod house on the side of a hill, the wall was the side of the hill, and they dug into that & they put pieces of sod, they laid them, I don't ~~at~~ know. But that was when I was just 2 years old. But instead of bricks, they had pieces of sod about this big, and that's what they did. The house was sod, and the ~~house~~ barn and the chicken house were all made of sod, like that.

me: Where did you go to school?

Mrs. L: I started at Kimball. That was 4 miles and there was a road that not very many people lived in Colorado and it was curvy & hilly and I had a horse collection, I used to ride a horse or drive a horse and a 2 wheel cart and then when I was 10, the doctor told my mother that she couldn't stay there another winter, or she'd be under the ground. So we moved back to LaSalle.

me: Why did you move up here?

Mrs. L: Well, when I got my degree in 1924 I came to
Gwin to teach.

Me: What advice would you give to kids my age, like teenagers?

Is there any advice you'd give them?

Mrs. L: I don't have anything in mind, resist temptation. I had to resist temptation too. When one of my friends had a bottle of booze or something, they'd try to make you drink it, and, just, resist temptation. — someone would have parties, or give you a ride or something, and if you didn't drink it, you had to walk home. But I never had to walk home (chuckling) But, it was serious, you know they talk about today, it was just as bad as today, only it wasn't —. They were just as ornery as they are now.

Me: Do you have any photos or memorabilia? That I can borrow for a little bit?

Mrs. L: Yes, I have, ah, a picture of all the teachers, Tyne wasn't a teacher then, & I have a picture of the fire. Several of them.

Me: Oh do you?

Mrs. L: A picture of the new school, 8th graders, and then I have pictures of the students, individuals on a sheet of paper. Gardner, I don't think, but my son was. There all there, he was folded on these desks. You could borrow. When Gwin n had their celebration pg. 19

MRS. C: and they wanted pictures, and they said they'd bring em' back. Are you looking for a clock.

Me: Oh! No, I have lots of time.

MRS. C: I thought maybe you were, what was I saying.

Me: Gwinn celebration.

MRS. C: His son is _____. They would give the pictures back, and ~~at least a~~ ~~one~~ of Evelyn Lindberg ^{had some}, I brought ~~the~~ pictures, and she got hers back, but I never got mine back.

Me: Well, these will be back, they'll be in an envelope w/ your name on it.

MRS. C: Well, the only reason I keep them is, I had a box, & whenever I got a picture or clippings from the paper. I'd put them in there & that's what I'm working on now, putting them in albums.

Me: Well, that's all the questions I have for you, so thank you.

MRS. C: You're welcome.