

Me: My name is Kirsten Nelson, I'm interviewing Dona Nelson at her house. Today's date is November 3rd, 1996. The focus of the interview is Dona Nelson's attendance at North Lake School. Give me your full name.

Gram: Dona Marie Nelson.

Me: When is your birthday plus the year?

Gram: November 30, 1931.

Me: Where were you born?

Gram: I've lived in North Lake all of my life.

Me: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Gram: Four sisters.

Me: What are your siblings' names?

Gram: Beverly, Sharon, Georgia, and Marcia.

Me: Which sibling did you get along with best?

Gram: Sharon.

Me: Why?

Gram: I guess because we think a lot alike. Two of a kind.

Me: (laugh) Were you consistent about going to school or did you have to stay home to help around the house?

Gram: ___ no I ___ had to go to school everyday. Didn't like it, but I went.

Me: (laugh) Hey - who does? Which teacher did you like the best?

Gram: Miss Jacobs.

Me: And what grade teacher was she?

Gram: I really don't remember... I'd say maybe-
4th grade?

Me: And why?

Gram: I don't know - she just was nice, she was pretty, she was a good teacher.

Me: Which grade was your favorite?

Gram: (hmm) Oh gosh, I don't know if I had a favorite.

Me: (laugh)

Gram: I really don't know.

Me: You don't? Okay.

Gram: Probably my senior year 'cuz I was graduating!

Me: [I want to] get out of this place!

Gram: (laughing) I was not a very good student.

Me: Either am I. What, ok - what schools did you go to?

Gram: North Lake and Ishpeming High School.

Me: Which was your favorite? Which did you like better?

Gram: Oh - North Lake.

Me: What curriculums were you in?

Gram: What do you mean by curriculum?

Me: Like - quiz bowl, you know, stuff you have after school.

Gram: Oh - you didn't have that kind of stuff.

Me: Didn't have it?

Gram: Mmm - mm.

Me: Nuts. Well, what sports were you in?

Gram: None.

Me: None? Girls -

Gram: There was nothing in grade school.

Me: What about high school?

Gram: No - I didn't participate.

Me: Just boys - that's it? Did the boys even - was there teams

Gram: There was no girls basketball teams - there was nothing like that back then.

Me: No fair. (laugh)

Gram: And there was no - like tennis and all that. It was strictly just football and basketball.

Me: Wow. Tell me about your special memories of school like some just that pop up that you like, and whatever.

Gram: Well - North Lake was like an extended family. It was just all your friends. It was a small community and - I don't know. We just stuck together and we enjoyed our friends and got along real well.

Me: Who was your best friend or your best friends?

Gram: Susan Anderson - Perry

Me: What were the classes like, about how many kids, classroom size, how much time was it?

Gram: I'd say anywhere between 30 and 40, maybe even not that big.

Me: How big was the classroom: really big or little... just judging the size?

Gram: Well, I went to school at North Lake so, as is right now

Me: Oh, so it's like the same thing?

Gram: Mmm hmmm (yes)

Me: How long was school?

Gram: 9 o'clock in the morning 'til - gosh, what time did we get home? Wasn't as early as you kids get off, that's for sure.

Me: We go to school from 8:15 to 2:45.

Gram: Mmm.. just 9 o'clock maybe we had it till four.

Me: That's how we had it before. But they changed it

Gram: Maybe 4 o'clock. We got an hour for lunch.

Me: What were the teachers like? most of them...

Gram: Very strict, very strict. There was no monkeying around when we went to school. Or if you did, there was consequences. (laugh)

Me: (laugh) What was your favorite subject + why?

Gram: Penmanship, reading.

Me: Because...

Gram: Because that's what I liked to do - write + read, read + write. (laugh)

Me: (laugh) In what grade did you start doing homework? You don't have to remember exactly.

Gram: I really don't know. I wasn't much at homework. I had to have it in high school, but I don't remember doing a whole lot in grade school.

Me: What was your homework like? Did you like to do it? How long was it? What did you have to do? Is it like nowadays, you just look in a book or did you have to do long....

Gram: No, I didn't like to do it. Well - what was it like? (laugh)
That was a long time ago, Kirsten.

Me: (laugh) I know, I know. We're asking like...

Gram: All I know is that I was always in trouble for chewing gum, and I always had to... I was very poor in arithmetic so, they always punished me, I'd have to write the times tables like 100 times each.

Me: (laugh) I've got your genes.

Gram: So I got, I got to write the times tables a lot. (laugh)

Me: (laugh) What did you write with?

Gram: I imagine pencil and I think or pens used to dip in the inkwell. We had inkwells on our desks. *quote*

Me: Inkwells, what did you write on, a slate or regular paper?

Gram: Regular paper. There was a... North Lake School in the office used to have a supply office, where back then, we were allowed to go in there and take what we needed. We got everything, everything. Crayons, paper, everything.

Me: What was lunch like?

Gram: We went home + had lunch.

Me: You got to go home + have lunch?!

Gram: Well, there was no lunch programs in my day, my dear.

Me: Okay, I was going to say what, did you have lunch at school or did you eat at home? Um... what did you eat?

Gram: Not much. I was a very picky eater, back then, look at me now + you'd never know it! Because back then I ate a sandwich, half of a sandwich, who knows. (laughing) I was a lot like your brother. I was pretty hyper; I didn't have time to eat.

Me: (laugh) Where did you keep your lunch?

Gram: Grandma probably made me a sandwich. We didn't keep it at the school.

Me: Well, you didn't keep it at the school, you know.

Gram: No there was no...

Me: Describe recess.

Gram: We always went out ~~at the school~~ and played "Kick the Can", "Hopscotch".

Me: "Kick the Can"? How'd you play "Kick the Can"? Yeah - explain how do you play "Kick the Can"? So, you know, we have an idea what to do.

Gram: You just, kick the can, up the street, the farther you kick her. But hopscotch + marbles always marbles, when we were kids, we used to.

Me: Boys + girls? Play marbles?

Gram: Mmm hmm. And we used to have beautiful marbles back then. The "Big One". That was your leader marble. You traded marbles, + sometimes you'd have to trade 3 or 4 marbles to get 1 pretty one from somebody else + everybody had a marble bag. And we played a lot of jokes.

Me: They're not plastic, like nowadays, you had metal ones.

Gram: They're metal them - still metal ones.

Me: I know, they still come out with them, but nowadays they're plastic.

Gram: They're 8 dollars now, for the metal ones.

Me: Wow. In high school were you allowed to leave school during lunch hour?

Gram: Mmm hmmm. We were allowed to walk downtown. And of course, I headed straight for Woolworth's candy counter, every Wednesday. And Johnson's drug store to have french fries.

Me: (laugh) That would be so cool.

Gram: They had a soda fountain. Always were having malteds + french fries. That's when we could get money.

Me: How long was recess?

Gram: Grade school?

Me: Grade school + high school.

Gram: I would say an hour, because an awful lot of kids had to walk a long distance to get home for lunch.

Me: What were your desks like? You know like were they a big bench or what?

Gram: Well, I remember one grade there was 2 at a desk, I think we were in the low, low, low grades, they were 1 at a desk alone + the seat was attached to the desk. I think the chairs would move? But then when we got in the little higher grades, maybe around 4th grade, then we shared a desk. It was just like a table with two slots underneath. There was room for 2 kids.

Me: Hmm, where were your jackets kept? And cloakroom stories.

Gram: Yeah, there was little cloakrooms; they were right in our rooms.

Me: Do you have any cloakroom stories or?

Gram: I sure do. On the day that the school burned down, I had gone home for lunch. I was a messy eater so grandma (her mom, my great-grandma) made me wear a bib, + I remember, I went back to school with the bib around my neck. And I remember stuffing it down - there was a little compartment.

just

Gram: where we kept boots + I remember stuffing that bib down in
(cont) the boots! And that day the school burned down + I was so
relieved that nobody ever knew that I wore a bib to school!
(laughing)

Me: (laughing) That's funny! Describe your clothing in winter + summer.

Gram: Always long cotton socks. Probably snow pants every day, there was
no windbreaker suits like you kids have.

Me: Did you wear like a bunch of layers?

Gram: Oh yeah, you wore ^{a lot} of clothes, but I think clothes were warmer then.
Everything was wool and...

Me: Did you have to wear dresses like all the time?

Gram: Yeah.

Me: You never went to school without a dress through all your years, and
you don't know any girl that did - revolting like?

Gram: No - not through school. Not at this school. That was against the
dress code at Ishpeming High School. Nobody wore slacks. Nobody.

Me: Did you have uniforms?

Gram: No.

Me: No? You just...

Gram: We didn't have many clothes so [we] repeated pretty often.

Me: How did you get to school?

Gram: North Lake - I walked.

Me: So you don't like too far from the school did you? You lived right
4 1/2 here

Gram: 3 blocks ~~there~~ + too busy ~~to do it~~

Me: Oh 3 blocks. (imitating old man's voice) I walked 3 miles up a hill
both ways - you know.

Gram: Oh - when I went to high school and took a bus. There was
2 in the morning + 2 in the evening, the early bus + the late
bus.

Me: And what was the bus ride like? Was the bus like really -

Gram: Lots of fun. But the Ishpeming kids always kind of
I guess to put it politely, (2) looked down

Gram: their noses at us because we were always the poor bus (cont) kids. And to this day when I go to class reunions it's still, "Oh you bus kids" *include + quite*

Me: Township k- it's a . . .

Gram: But what they didn't recognize is all the athletes came from the township. They all came from the township.

Me: How long did it take + how far away was it?

Gram: I would say 3 miles

Me: And how long did it take?

Gram: Well we all got on here + I guess we must of stopped in West Ishpeming. It only took 1 bus to get us all down there. Probably stopped in West Ishpeming- yeah we did. And then that was it. The Barnum kids + that- they walked.

Me: Describe any memorable holiday celebrations at school.

Gram: Christmas was always fun. We used to fill big, big, ice cream cartons with candy every year in the principal's office. We had beautiful Christmases. *quite*

Me: Ohmigosh.

Gram: And when you got in the upper grades, 7th, 8th grade, then you were allowed to pack the buckets. So, of course, for everyone you packed, we threw a few in our mouth.

Me: Ohmigosh!

Gram: And then my class in 8th grade, we made the, we made the bulletin for all our veterans in the township living + dead, + I think right now, that stands in Ishpeming Township Hall. So that's your grandmother's work on there. *quite*

Me: Wow!

Gram: It was a lot of names.

Me: What gifts did you give to other people + what did you get?

Gram: Oh I don't think we did. Nobody had money when we were growing up.

Me: You didn't exchange gifts?

Gram: Oh, no. We were- there was no money for that. 18

Me: Describe any special programs.

Gram: Christmas programs were always a big, big production at North Lake.

Me: Did you have like costumes and all that?

Gram: Oh, the whole bit. Beautiful sets, I mean they were plays.

Me: Oh.

Gram: I imagine I was in a couple.

Me: Were you a model student + receive, average, above, or below grades?

Gram: Below.

Me: Below?

Gram: Below. I was a very poor student.

Me: Hmm.. It doesn't seem like it.

Gram: I think if it had been another day, I would have been diagnosed with hyperactivity. I had a real hard time sitting.

Me: In grades 6-12 did you switch classes?

Gram: Nope.

Me: You had one teacher?

Gram: One teacher, eighth grade. (til 5th grade) *quite*

Me: Oh. That would get kind of boring.

Gram: In high school we did our switching. And boy, that was a break. Big change for me! (laugh)

Me: How many teachers did you have like a day in high school? One different one for each?

Gram: Trying to think of how many periods there was in ~~each~~ a day. You had a new teacher for each period. Do you have 6 or 8 periods a day?

Me: 6 now - no we have 7.

Gram: I don't quite remember how many, but we had a different teacher.

Me: 6 or 8?

Gram: I'd say at least 6.

Me: Because our school is like some teachers repeat your classes, so, you had a different 1 for each?

Gram: Mmm hmm.

Me: What sports did boys &/or girls participate in? Okay girls didn't participate in any?

Gram: Girls didn't.

Me: None. You don't remember anything, like girls trying out for basketball team or anything like that?

Gram: No, I don't think girls would try out for boys basketball. It was just boys basketball and maybe

Me: they didn't try out for boys?

Gram: And maybe football. That was if there was no tennis or golf, none of those. When I dig out my annual, they'll be a lot more information.

Me: How has the tv improved? Oh, wait, I better skip these. Oh wait I'll put all in school, so you know just how the school has been. So you can go - I'll go through school & then to tv. So then you're on the same wavelength. Okay, going back to the beginning of school, was there a kindergarten or preschool?

Gram: There was kindergarten.

Me: Do you remember (? ? ?)

Gram: I remember no

Me: What did you do?

Gram: ~~But~~ I remember fingers in gooey stuff.

Me: Finger paint? (laughing)

Gram: Finger painting. We always had - there was a sand box in the kindergarten room.

Me: Inside the room?

include

Gram: There was a sandbox.

Me: Inside the building?

Gram: Inside the building.

Me: That's kinda strange. Whoa.

Gram: Inside sandbox.

Me: (laugh) Get sand all over the floor.

Gram: One of my friends' boys had to repeat kindergarten + she said, "~~How~~ Did you ever hear of someone flunking sandbox?"
(laughing)

Me: (laughing) How old were you when you started school?

Gram: 4 years + 10 months.

Me: Well, you're exact.

Gram: Too early (laughing) It's too early.

Me: Describe a typical day as an elementary student.

Gram: Get up + eat + ...

Me: go to school

Gram: go to school + do the best you could do which was always writing in penmanship for me.

Me: What did you do like - after school?

Gram: Play.

Me: Just play?

Gram: Play, play, play. In the winter we did lots of sleigh ridings + toboggan riding down the hill + in the summer we'd always go to Rock Lake. Everybody swam, but I wouldn't dare go in. I was always bashful so - I'd watch the others swim. And every evening it was kide the Can + Aunty, Aunty Iover.

Me: How do you play Aunty, Aunty, Iover?

Gram: Throw a ball over the house.

Me: And...

Gram: The other side catches it +

Me: Oh.

Gram: Come around → what did you do then? After that? We played Aunty, Aunty, Iover every night.

Me: We tried to figure out how to play that, cuz people would always mention that & we didn't exactly know how to play that.

Gram: What do you do once you catch the ball? I know you have to catch it on the other side.

Me: Oh yeah, they chuck it & if it goes over they go, "Aunty, Aunty, Iover", you gotta catch it.

Gram: Aunty, Aunty, Iover - yeah. We'd stay out 'til dark playing games. And then most nights, almost every night of the week, we'd go down in the pit back at Cottage Street & we'd have our potato roast, every night. *quote*

Me: Oh - sounds fun.

Gram: Throw in the potatoes, until they were pitch black & crack them open with a salt shaker. Best tasting stuff you ever tasted!

Me: Okay - describe a typical day as an elementary school student. Okay - is it the same thing? You wake up, went to the school.

Gram: Yeah.

Me: That's pretty much all you did? And high school, you get to leave for lunch.

Gram: Yeah, yeah we left for lunch. Then get on the bus & come home & if I had a bad report card I'd skip the first bus & take the second bus! *(laughing)* And delay it another 45 minutes. I always got a lecture.

Me: What did you major in, in high school?

Gram: Home Economics.

Me: Ah. All the girls - "Susy Homemaker" you know.

Gram: But all I ever wanted to be was "Susy Homemaker". *include*

Me: They didn't really go for like, they didn't, what if you didn't get married?

Me: You'd just.

Gram: Everybody did back then. That was, it was a different time you just got a boyfriend, got married + ...

Me: Well, what if you didn't? I mean, you'd just be sitting there like ~~uh~~ ah.. I have no money. Live with your parents

Gram: Well some of my girlfriends do. Some of them might have gone into nursing.

Me: Well, did you finish high school? All your years?

Gram: Yup.

Me: And... what year did you graduate?

Gram: 1949. (laughing) It sounds like, my goodness.

Me: (laughing) It doesn't seem like you're that old. (Meant ^{you} nicely!)

Gram: 1949.

Me: How many students were in the graduating class about?

Gram: That'll be in my annual. *for the interview*

Me: Okay.

Gram: I think it might have been over 200. *Dear you for allowing me to interview*

Me: 200?

Gram: Ishpeming used to have a big, big class. *Thank you for your time + approval in a*

Me: Okay, so once you find your annual give me it + we'll figure out how many. *Some of your time*

Gram: Oh, we'll get all that out of there. *couple of months.*

Me: Do you know how many ~~at~~ dropped out? Like - did everybody finish it or did some like drop out + go work at the mines?

Gram: Some, but I'd say just a handful. Maybe...

Me: To go work at the mine, or what?

Gram: No - couple girls dropped out to get married + that was it.

Me: Geez! It's different.

Grami: Now I'd say it's different.

Me: What courses did take like besides Home Ec. + you majored in that...

Grami: I had math, history, science, biology, I loved biology.

Me: You loved it? Dissecting frogs + stuff. You loved that?
You know - stereotyped girls - Oh my gosh a frog! Lcky!

Grami: Yeah, I loved it. Biology

Me: Yeah, I liked dissecting a fertile pig that was pretty neat o.

Grami: I think of all my teachers, I had German which I did not do well at. I had German for 2 years. I hated gym, I tried everything. I tried my damndest to get out of pool every time. There was pool day.

Me: I hated gym. What kind of lab facilities did you have in biology?

Grami: We just did it right in the room.

Me: Did you have anything special? You didn't have any setup?

Grami: Well - no we pretty much did it at our desks.

Me: You just grabbed stuff and -

Grami: The frogs they were (??) soaked in formaldehyde + we just did our experiments. I'm sure chemistry must have had a little lab, but that was not my cup of tea, I don't know.

Me: What was the men to teacher, men to women teacher ratio? You know like -

Grami: I'd say pretty much $\frac{1}{2}$, well - I'd say pretty much $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$. I had a lot of ~~men~~ + I had a lot of 14 ladies.

Me: Did you have married women teachers or married any teachers? Or were they not allowed to? ~~those~~

Gram: Most of the men are married, but I think a lot of the women were spinsters.

Me: You couldn't get married or you'd have to quit teaching - is that how it was?

Gram: They didn't have to quit, but I'm trying to think - Miss Haney wasn't married, the music teacher wasn't married, Miss Gorley wasn't married, no. Miss Ginzman wasn't married. For the most part, the women were single.

Me: How did students get into trouble or how were rules broken?

Gram: The worst I ever did was chew gum, I guess.

Me: Do you remember anybody else?

Gram: Oh, it was strict in Ishpeming High School. You just didn't break the rules. You just didn't. *quote*

Me: There's always some trouble makers, though, you know

Gram: I don't know what they would have done; they were strict. And punishment was swift & it was -

Me: How were they handled?

Gram: I guess we were just - I guess it was just instilled in us to just respect the building, respect our elders, & we did. You just did. It wasn't questioned.

Me: What if, how were unruly children handled, like if they did something?

Gram: I imagine they went to the office.

Me: ~~Was~~ Were they whipped back then, or smacked with a ruler,

Gram: They weren't at North Lake, well, I think, I think a few got swatted at the North Lake 15

School! (laugh)

Me: What would have, what would have happened if your parents found out you were in trouble in school?

Gram: I don't know. I never got into big trouble. I don't - you just didn't! That was the way it was back then.

Me: Do you remember any sickness or broken bones from when you were a kid?

Gram: Mm, mm. (No) Mumps.

Me: No? Mumps? That's it? Did your family work on Sunday or rest? You have to do all your work on Saturday + rest Sunday?

Gram: No.

Me: Or - you just -

Gram: (_ ? _ ? _ ?)

Me: How often did your family attend church?

Gram: My parents never did.

Me: Did you go to church?

Gram: I went along with my friends to wherever. Mostly to the Trinity. I went with my other friend to the Catholic church a lot.

Me: Did you ever - oops! Finish, finish, finish. You were still, like talking. Did you ever have or know somebody with whooping cough, polio, scarlet fever, measles, you had mumps, but did you know anybody that died or got that disease?

Gram: My dad's sister died of diphtheria. There was a big outbreak of diphtheria in the early 1900s. His sister died in that.

Me: Did any of your friends -

Gram: A lot of people in my day, - there was the Morgan Heights Sanitarium on the old road to Marquette. All kinds of people had TB, + you were put in

in there + you stayed in there for a year or two. Till your lungs got better. My neighbour was in there + my sister was in there. There was a sanitarium out there in
(→) you went there + ate well + got lots of rest. There was a lot of TB.

Me: Hmm. Were there any minorities or recent immigrants in your classes or did you have any non-English speaking ones? You know, like, Finn?

Gram: No. In my mother's day. A lot of them spoke Finn but - it was beyond that.

Me: About how big was the school? Was North Lake the same size it is now?

Gram: Well, until, my mom, grandma + grandpa can tell you what year the school burned.

Me: I have some questions for that.

Gram: It was a big, old, wooden building. But then, when they built the new one, I went to this one. And I was pretty small when the school burnt so I pretty much had all my education in that one. But the year the school burned, we went to school till they built it, up in the clubhouse on that corner. That apartment building. It used to be called the clubhouse.

Me: Oh that's where the clubhouse is!

Gram: They showed movies up there, there was a bowling alley, there was pool tables, there was - it was the community clubhouse. You went there for your medicine, it was the only telephone in North Lake, so you went there to call. Nobody had phones.

Me: Do you remember any family trips?

Gram: All the time. Grandpa took us tenting + camping all the time.

Me: Around the U.P.?

Grami: Oh, the Copper Country and Potticoat Lake. Potticoat Lake all the time. And Fort Wilkins up in Copper Country. (3)

Me: I thought not many people would take trips...

Grami: Grandpa was great for riding.

Me: How did the flu epidemic of 1918 affect people around you or family members?

Grami: I don't remember. Just that my dad's sister died of the typhoid.

Me: Okay, that's it.

Grami: I don't know if that's one of the same.

Me: What was the snow storm of 1938 like? Were you even alive then?

Grami: Oh sure, I was alive. Couldn't see out the windows! (Laughing)

Me: How old were you? How old were you? About what age?

Grami: Gosh, what year was it?

Me: 1938

Grami: 7.

Me: You were about 7?

Grami: I was born in '31.

Me: Oh. I don't know that.

Grami: Oh, you couldn't see out of the bottom windows.

Me: Oh! How much snow fell?

Grami: Grandma's got all the pictures, I'll have to get some. The snow was up to the telephone wires. Not telephone, we *gosh* didn't have them, but up with the power wires.

Me: Oh, my gosh.

Grami: That's where it was. When you get pictures where they plow streets I'm telling you banks were—

Me: You talking 10, 20 feet?

Grami: Oh yeah!

Me: Oh my gosh.

Grami: They were up there. It was something.

Me: How many days of school did you miss because of it?

Grami: Oh gosh. I'm going to have to do some homework with 118

Gospo

grandma.

Me: (laughing)

Gram: I imagine we must have been out that week.

Me: Was it more of a nuisance to you or fun? Like were you at-side?

Gram: Oh, it ~~was~~ was a ball!

Me: Oh! You could like jump out of your 2-story windows! Jump into a snowbank. That would be cool!

Gram: Grandma got pictures. You'd be astounded when you see it. Men were out snowshoeing even on the roofs of their houses.

Me: Did like any of your family members, do they, would they remember the Italian Hall "Fire" of 1913?

Gram: Grandma + Grandpa would.

Me: Were they there? Or-

Gram: No, but it was, they talked about it. It was a tragedy.

Me: Was anybody that they like know killed or any family members?

Gram: No. They lost friends in the Barnes + Hecker mine.

Me: So, they lost friends?

Gram: Yeah.

Me: How did it effect, oh, nevermind. That's for grandpa. How-

Gram: He can tell you so much.

Me: Oh, okay, good. How did the strike, you know, of the mine, of 1946 affect you? You know, that was when the union was started. First started-

Gram: My dad was one of the ground breakers. Yeah, carried one of the first ^{union} cards on the on the armorage. And I'm ^{quite} proud of him for it. Through his fighting, he made it better for you kids and for every later generations. I mean it was primitive, they way they had to work. (They didn't have the right to vote?)

Me: They had no decision?

Gram: They were like cattle; they had no decisions when they

were in the mine.

Me: They were told how to vote?

Gram: They were told everything. There was a company store, that apartment, that little yellow one that runs behind us over there, that was the company store. That's where you cashed your paycheck, that's where you bought your groceries, that's where you got your clothes.

Me: You had to buy it from the company store?

Gram: Oh, you heard the song. ♪ I got my (Z) at the company store. And there was everything in that store: shoes and clothes and the best penny candy you ever saw! I headed straight there everyday. Counter full of penny candy + back then, a penny bought you... lots of candy! (laughing)

Me: Wow! A penny can't even buy you candy anymore! How did you feel about WWII? Were you - wait, were you alive? When was it? Oh, the second one.

Gram: Very much alive. I remember the day it broke out.

Me: What about WWI? Were you like - how old were you then?

Gram: I wasn't born then.

Me: You weren't born yet? So -

Gram: It was sad. I know everyone loved when Roosevelt was president + then when the war broke out, we were going over my Aunt (Coney's) over here to eat + all the adults were crying. And that bulletin came over the radio + they bombed Pearl Harbor + of course, being a kid you don't realize the seriousness of what was starting. And I lost a 19-year old cousin that got (left?) out on Normandy Beach. So we lost a lot of, I'd say 4 or 5 right here from North Lake. Never came back. But it was a proud war, it was nothing like the Korean War. I mean, we went to war to win. + mean, Vietnam.

Me: Yeah I know. I know what you were -

Gram: Yes, we went over there to win. That's the war I meant.

Me: How did the De-

Gram: That was just, everybody bonded. Everybody pulled together. The women left their homes + went out + worked. "Rosie the Riveter," making the ships + that. Everybody pulled together in this country, but everything was rationed. Sugar was rationed.

Me: How did the Depression affect you? How did that, like -
Gram: I was little but we didn't have anything. Nothing. Grandma
payed 50 cents ^{a month} on her bedroom set.

Me: So you had rations?

Gram: Not in the Depression, but in WWII.

Me: How did that work? Like -

Gram: Well, you got only so much sugar - yeah, I guess butter was

Me: Oh.

Gram: Gas. Gasoline.

Me: Gas? So what if you need to drive to -

Gram: You got only so much & that was it.

Me: To fill tanks or what? Or why did they need gas?

Gram: I think we had cards that you punched and when you used
it up, that was it. You alloted it for the necessities.

Me: Oh, I see - cards, okay.

Gram: Yeah, cards.

Me: So like, okay, here's your butter - click - you only get that
much?

Gram: No, not that way. I don't know how it worked, but I knew
it was rationed.

Me: Was there fall-out shelters or air raid drills?

Gram: No, but in school we always had our fire drills. Always,
down the fire escapes. Especially after the school burnt
down!

Me: Yeah, did you think that day it might have been a fake drill
or something, oh I'm going to get into the fire.

Gram: That particular day, nobody, when we were kids, we were poor. quod
We didn't have a lot of oranges & a couple times a year they'd
hand out fruit to us. And the day the school burned, they had just
handed out oranges. And I left mine on the desk & I went back into
that burning building to get my orange. I did.

Me: (laughing) You went back to get your orange!

Gram: I went back & got my orange.

Me: Oh migosh!

Gram: I loved ~~that~~ fruit & we didn't get much. I wanted that 21
orange!

Me: You went back to get that orange! (laugh)

Gram: (laugh) And I was so relieved my bib burned!

Me: (laughing) What did you do on Halloween like, Devil's Night, did you go (down? around?) chucking eggs + toilet paper?

Gram: All the kids around here were pretty mischievous.

Me: Like did you toilet paper + all that?

Gram: I didn't participate much, but they... there's a man over here. They'd string his tree full of toilet paper + they pushed over the outhouses.

Me: Pushed? When people were in it?

Gram: ^{NO} you know, we all had outhouses when I was a kid.

Me: So, they'd shove over your outhouse if -

Gram: Yeah, they'd just tip them over.

Me: Yeah (laughing) Yeah, they were talking about when somebody was in it when they shoved over an outhouse.

Gram: Yes we couldn't tip ours because most of ours were - ours is still over there connected to the barn. Nobody, there was outside toilets. And your garbage pick up was twice a year. We just dumped it in the alley *quoll*

Me: Twice a year?

Gram: Twice a year. Sometimes those piles were as high as the barn. Very, very unsanitary. Very. But that's the way it was back then. It's a wonder we didn't all die.

Me: Oh, what did you do on a date? Like, did you go to the movies + how old were you when you first started dating?

Gram: I don't know if they were dates. I guess I started going out with boys when I was 16.

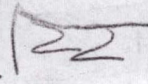
Me: That late?

Gram: Of course! (laugh) We aren't like you kids today!

Me: Yeah, 10.

Gram: What we'd do most of the time, we'd go, always be maybe I start before that. We were always mixed company. It was a bunch of girls + a bunch of boys. What we mostly did is ride around. Those that were lucky enough to have a car, we'd just ride around.

Me: That's all you did - ride around. (laugh)

Gram: Go down, back by the mines there, hit the rail-road tracks + see how much you could bounce. 

Me: (laugh) You didn't like go to the movies or anything?

Gram: Oh, from when I was a little kid, we went to the movies all the time. We used to, a bus used to come to North Lake in the evening & you'd catch the bus & go down to the movies. But as a child, my dad took me to all the movies. Him & I went to all the shows.

Me: Did they have news, like is that how you watched the news?

Gram: Big news reels. You started with the news first & then the cartoon & then the feature. But we never missed at Saturday at the movies. Never.

Me: Every Saturday?

Gram: Because every Saturday there was a (serial or series?) you had to get there next Saturday to see what was happening.

Me: Oh, like a cliffhanger?

Gram: Yes, it was always -

Me: Tune in next Saturday for the end of the story.

Gram: Bella Lugosi (sp) was in the graveyard, scare you half to death. A lot of westerns. The westerns were the serials you had to go every week to see. We did that a lot. Everybody went to the show. Ishpeming Theater.

Me: Butler?

Gram: Ishpeming. It's gone now.

Me: Where was it?

Gram: Ah, where Joseph's old store was & where the Salvation Army now. It was - now I think it's now just an empty lot, but there was the Gozard building.

Me: What was the price for pop, & like pop & popcorn? Just like now it's 75¢ for a can.

Gram: Oh, the ones were a nickel.

Me: A nickel? For a little thing of pop? And for like a can of pop you spend a nickel? Wow!

Gram: I'm trying to think. I wish I could remember everything.

Me: How about like popcorn? Would that be - ooh - 10¢?

Gram: I imagine there must have been popcorn machines back then. There was always a piano player up front, they kept the music going. *quito*

Me: Like at the Butler?

Gram: Hmm, mmm.

Me: Where they have that at the beginning?

Gram: The clubhouse up there, I don't remember going, but they used to show silent movies up there all the time. That was everything was in that building. Basketball games. I mean that was a beautiful building. I don't know if they tore them up; there was a bowling alley in there.

Me: It doesn't look that big, in that? It like-did it used to be bigger, because it looks kind of small?

Gram: We used to walk over... no, that's a big building. That's a big building. And there was 3 floors.

Me: 3? Oh?

Gram: The bowling was in the basement, so actually there was 4 floors. And... what was I going to say about it? When you were sick, you went over there + got your medicine. And you shot pool over there, a beautiful billiards room. Everything went on in that clubhouse. We didn't have to leave North Lake. In fact, Marcia, my sister, Marcia's wedding ^{reception} went on over there. And they had showers down by the bowling alleys + that's where we paid every Saturday night to have our baths. We went over there + took our showers. *quote*

Me: Wow, you didn't have any?

Gram: There was no indoor bathtubs. Mmm, mmm. (No)

Me: Did you like, have a pump to get water or did you have running water or what?

Gram: I think we had a faucet in the house. We never had hot water.

Me: Oh, so you had to heat it up on the stove?

Gram: Yes. And nobody had, none of my friends, nobody had a bathtub. We washed in tin tubs on the floor if we didn't go over there + take a shower. It was pretty crude! *quote*

Me: (laugh) What was I going to say now? What was the price of gas per gallon, milk, bread, candy, anything on average? Compared to now.

Gram: I'd have to go to Marquette + put my year in that machine + you get all that stuff. I'll do that for you.

Me: Oh, like when you get those birthday cards?

Gram: Yes, yes.

Me: Okay, that would be interesting.

Gram: I just, well the milk was delivered. There's a farm down here + they delivered our milk + ~~stuck~~ ^{stuck it} on your doorstep every morning. And you washed your bottles + you put the empty bottles + they'd take the empty bottles. *quote*

Gram (cont): they'd put your eggs out there.

Me: Did they have the cream on the top & the milk at the bottom?

Gram: Absolutely. The cream always rose. Yup. Those 3 sisters are still living there where we got all of our milk & eggs. Of course, when I was little, we had chickens, so we had chicken dinner every Sunday.

Me: You had chickens?

Gram: We had chickens.

Me: ~~At~~ in your house?

Gram: No, we had a pen in our yard.

Me: Yeah, yeah, yeah, not in your house.

Gram: Yeah, we always had chicken dinner. I cried because they were like pets to me. I had "chicken Little". He was my pet! (laugh) (left)

Me: How old were you when you first started driving? Did you even?

Gram: Grandpa, he was a (2) ^{probably 14.} He always let us drive (referring to her dad) There was no driver's ed.

Me: Now you have to be 16 or 17.

Gram: Grandpa would always let us drive down the backroad + ... he taught all 5 of us to drive.

Me: How old were you when you got your 1st car?

Gram: I've never had my own car. Never. (Probably never?)

Me: Did you share your dad's car?

Gram: I always had my dad's cars. He always had nice cars.

Me: How much was ... how much did it cost? Nowadays it's like \$20,000 but like back then would it be ...

Gram: I doubt the 1st one my dad bought was over \$1000 maybe it wasn't even that much. His cars got nicer & nicer. He always had pretty cars, and fast cars.

Me: Did you have a favorite doll or toy when you were a kid?

Gram: My favorite thing in all the world + still today I'd like is paper dolls.

Me: Paper dolls?

Gram: I've had every paper doll book that ever came out. I could spend hours behind that oil burner in the living room & just play paper dolls by the hours.

*include
+ quilt*

I'd make houses out of cardboard boxes + cut clothes out of Sears catalogs + I mean I could entertain myself for days on end with paper dolls. I just loved them. I still do.

Me: Paper dolls for entertainment you played games, you went to the movies. What else did you do? Just for entertainment +...

Gram: I was at my girlfriend's or she was at my house. I mean, if the weather wasn't where you could be out, I don't know what we did in the house there was no tv. My best girlfriend they when they left Northlake, I think they had 9 kids. We did lots of babysitting. I helped my mom a lot because there was a big difference between me + my 2 younger sisters. So I did lots of babysitting + helped around the house. quote ✓

Me: Okay. Could your family afford a radio?

Gram: We had a radio but my girlfriend's mother had a radio that recorded. We used to sing our birthdays over there. That was a big thing! That was really big. Every birthday we'd sing into it + hear ourseves come back. And that was really something.

Me: Now days were just sitting here, taking this for granted. What programs did you listen to on the radio?

Gram: (2) "Goober ^{Febber} Molly"

Me: (laughing) (3) McFee? What?

Gram: That's (3) it was back then. Oh, every Saturday night I'd go to my girlfriend's because they could pull in the "Grand Old Opry". Every Saturday night without fail, we went to (Player's?) + listened to the "Grand Old Opry". quote

Me: When did you 1st watch tv?

Gram: I got it when Brian was, when Bradley was 6 mo. old, so, 41 years ago. And then it was on only 3 hours a day. "Tess Pattern".

Me: Which programs did you watch?

Gram: all day long. Oh, "I Love Lucy".

Me: Oh, that's still on.

Gram: All the cute ones.

Me: What were your favorite ones? Like just, "I Love Lucy" + all that?

Gram: Gosh! We were so excited when we got it, some days we'd sit there + watch the "Tess Pattern". They'd show the "Tess Pattern" almost all day + it would come on in the evening for just a 26

few hours + "I Love Lucy" + Gleason + Carney on "The Honeymooners".

Me: What kind of picture did you get, you know, was it really fuzzy + did you have to bang on the tv a few times.

Gram: It wasn't anything up to this today, it was pretty crude. Pretty crude.

Me: How has it improved? Channel-wise, picture, everything?

Gram: Oh. (laughing) Boggles the mind.

Me: How many channels did you first have?

Gram: 1.

Me: Just 1?

Gram: 1. Channel six. Whatever they brought in, that's what we got. (2 2 2) Local station.

Me: When did you first get cable?

Gram: When did we get cable.

Me: It couldn't have been too long ago.

Gram: It isn't all that many years we've had cable Kirsten. We used to have rabbit ears, you'd have to monkey with them, you'd put tin foil upon the tips of them, + adjust them to get the picture in clearer + . . .

Me: Did your family watch tv or listen to the radio more? Well, did you even have a tv?

Gram: Well, when I was a child it was the radio. Of course when your dad + his siblings were growing up, it was tv. It was a novelty.

Me: Are you married who? I have to ask these questions so I can use them in my interview, you know.

Gram: Am I married? Yes.

Me: And who?

Gram: Jack Nelson.

Me: Do you have any children? What are their names?

Gram: 3.

Me: And their names?

Gram: Bradley, Brian, + Faye.

Me: And, where do you live now?

Gram: North Lake.

Me: All your life you've never moved?

Gram: All my life. I left once for 3 months + got married.

Me: Where did you go?

Gram: Out in Green Creek Location + came right back to North Lake.

Me: You've just moved houses -

Gram: We were on one street, my maternal grandparents were on this street, my mother's sister was on the next street, + my paternal grandparents were on the next street, so I never had to leave. My cousins were all here, my grandparents were all here. It was a, it was a family time back then. It was an extended family. It was fun growing up out here.

include + quote

Me: Did you have any special memories of pets, past + present? chickens?

Gram: Oh, we always had dogs, but Sing, I think, was my favorite dog.

Me: Who?

Gram: Sing. S-I-N-G. Sing. We had her for many, many, many years.

Me: What kind?

Gram: She was just a hound dog, but I was really crazy about her.

Me: You always had dogs?

Gram: Always had dogs. Always. Always had a dog. They were pretty much allowed in the house. My dad when Sing would get pregnant, he'd always let us watch the birth. He'd take an old traveling trunk + put it behind the kitchen woodstove + she'd come in + have the little babies. We'd be allowed to watch + it was exciting! It was a lot of fun. And of course, we'd have the chickens with his mail order form, when they'd come, they'd be all just little tiny, fluffy ones + you'd have to keep them in the kitchen because they had to be under a brooder, a special light with water with you'd put a tablet in + the water would always be purple. So we'd always started them in the kitchen, so we'd always have all those little peepers, you know a couple hundred peepers in a little brooder, but 28

quote

that's how you started them + got them healthy + trying to move them outside.

Me: Now what do you do in your spare time?

Gram: Read, read, read.

Me: Read + that's it?

Gram: Read, help my parents.

Me: What are your hobbies?

Gram: Reading. Writing to people. I love to send cards. I try to send a card to a shut-in at least every day. Everyday. My grandchildren of course, are top priority. I try to think of different ways to spoil them!

Me: Is there anyone else you think that we should interview that are really interesting...

Gram: My parents.

Me: Yeah, okay.

Gram: My parents. Absolutely!

Me: So, how did George go to North Lake? Did he go to North Lake?

Gram: I don't know what grade he started in, but he went to 8th grade + that was the end of his education.

Me: Wow. Is there anything else..

Gram: In the North Lake School, we always had a 4-H project 4-H program where down in the basement of North Lake, we'd build these big, ornate, forest projects. You'd put little paper under the glass + make big (glades, lakes?) + you'd get all the little twigs + make trees. You got prizes for those! Then you'd, I think twice I went to Camp Shaw, which was the 4-H, like summer camp. I went there + there was a girls' dorm + a boys' dorm + I got involved ~~involved~~ in 4-H projects. And we always went out + planted trees every fall. That's a lot of our trees are out here. You can see them on 4! And every fall, we got out of school to go pick potatoes at Belongchamps farm. They'd load us up on big, big trucks. All of the kids would go to the farm + they didn't have potato pickers like they have now. We kids hand-picked the potatoes. That was every fall we picked potatoes.

Me: Know what?! - (tape stops)

Me: Okay this is on (Tape stops) This takes a while. Okay, this is on the North Lake Fire + okay? What year did it burn? Do you remember? It was 1938 or '39 or something?

Gram: Probably Grandpa could give you the exact year. Grandma's great with dates.

Me: Was it in winter spring, fall, summer?

Gram: I don't think it was the dead of winter, but I remember we had warm boots that day. I should of worn a coat.

Me: Did they have time to get their jackets?

Gram: Well, they just got us out.

Me: So, were people freezing to death out there or what?

Gram: Oh yeah, we were outside, mothers started running + crying + looking for their kids.

Me: Was everyone accounted for?

Gram: Everybody. But I got scolded for going back in for my orange.

Me: Didn't somebody get handcuffed to the desk that day as a joke?

Gram: I've never heard that.

Me: Someone was interviewing somebody that got handcuffed to a desk + they had to go back in there + they couldn't find the key. I don't know what happened, but they got him out.

Gram: Oh, I never heard that story. Mr. Bouley was our hero.

Me: So, was anybody hurt or killed? I know he was burnt.

Gram: A little. I mean that was it. It was great. I mean that was an old, wooden, clapboard building + when it went, it went. And there was a lot of kids in there. So then they transferred us over to the clubhouse over here + all the classes were held there until the new school was built. My class, there was 2 classes with a sheet between,

Me: Did you peek - ^{us} quite

Gram: Yeah, it was hard to concentrate because you could hear what was going on behind the other sheet. Mrs. Lindberg, who's still living. She's still living.

Me: Do you know how to spell that?

Gram: L-I-N-D-B-E-R-G. She's coming for our North Lake reunion next year. She's going to be the guest of honor.

Me: Okay. We'll, well have to interview her. I don't know her 1st name or anything, but oh well. How badly was it burnt?

Grami: Burnt to the ground.

Me: Collapsed?

Grami: Burned to the ground.

Me: Do you know how it started?

Grami: No.

Me: It just started.

Grami: I don't know. Lots of commotion. Lots of commotion. There was a lot of children in there.

Me: Who saw it? Do you know who saw it? How did you know it started?

Grami: You know, I was so little, that I, that grandma would probably grandma could fill you in on the details because I'm sure it was a traumatic day for great-grandma + she'd have all the final details.

Me: Okay, when did you go back?

Grami: I don't know how long it took them to build this. (???)
I love-

Me: Is that the school that's standing today or did it burn again?

Grami: That's it. That's it. I'm just so sad it's closing. I'm real, real sad they don't build schools like that anymore.

Me: How did this school improve? Is it bigger or-

Grami: Oh, yes this one's really, really modern. This is the latest.

Me: So like was it bigger, higher floors, was it in the same spot it is now?

Grami: Oh yeah, it's in the same spot but... it must of had a couple of floors because I remember coming down the fire escapes. But, I was on the 1st floor when it burnt. I don't remember a whole lot about the old school except it was a big clap board, wooden building. But grandma's got it in all the different stages of burning from when it started right until it was done. She's got the storms. A lot about the storms.

Me: Do you have anything else, about the fire, anything?

Grami: No, but suppose we were kids, we must have cheered.

Me: There goes our school!

Grami: There goes our school!

Me: No school for us!

Grami: I was just relieved that my biko went!

Me: Yeah, my bibs gone!

Gram: That's impressed on my mind!

Me: Go get my orange! Run into a burning to save an orange,
~~the~~ a piece of fruit.

Gram: I think I took my school books that were on my desk too.

Me: Oh, you just left your jacket.

Gram: Oh no, you didn't take any of that stuff.

Me: You didn't have any boots either? You just ran out
in your stockings? Oh, well you were wearing shoes
obviously.

Gram: I imagine we had shoes because in those days we
didn't have these kind of boots, we always had rubbers
that went over our boots. They all got left in there.

Me: Okay. Got everything?