

me: What year and day were you born on?

Mrs. S. October the 5th 1909

me: Where were you born?

Mrs. S.: I'll have to look for the spelling. In Italy.

me: What were your parents names?

Mrs. S.: Cece Angelo Mongiat

me: What were your brothers and sister's names?

Mrs. S.: I had a brother John and Louise, Lucy, and Nora. I had a sister that died in Italy but I don't know anything about her.

me: Who are your current ^{living} family members?

Mrs. S.: Who were they?

me: Just your brothers and sisters.

Mrs. S. Louise and Nora.

me: What were your parents occupations when you were a child?

Mrs. S.: My mother was a house wife and my father was a miner.

me: What mine did your father work at?

Mrs. S.: He worked here at Morris Mine and then he worked in several states but I can't remember what states.

me: Where did you live when you were growing up?

Mrs S.: Right here in North Lake.

me: How old were you when you started school?

Mrs S.: Well I think I was... I don't remember but, I was little older than most. I think I was 7.

me: How long did you go to North Lake?

Mrs S.: Eight years.

me: Did you attend kindergarten?

Mrs S.: Yes.

me: What do you remember about your first teacher?

Mrs S.: I don't remember about her.

me: What is your earliest memory of school?

Mrs S.: I really don't remember.

me: Did you have to walk to school?

Mrs S.: Yes.

me: How far was it?

Mrs S.: About a block.

me: How many kids were in your class?

Mrs S.: About 10 or 12. There wasn't very many

me: Were there any different minorities or immigrant students in your class?

Mrs S: There were Finish and there were Italian.

me: Did all the children in your class speak English?

Mrs. S: Yes they all spoke English.

me: Describe a typical school day.

Mrs. S: We ~~were~~ went to school at about nine-o'clock and then we would have recess then we would go home for lunch and then we would go home and carry buckets to our fathers in the mine with their dinner and then we would go back to school and we would get out at four-o'clock.

me: How long was an average school day?

Mrs S: Well it would be from 9:00 to 12:00 then from 1:00 to 4:00.

me: How long was your lunch hour or recess?

Mrs S: An hour. The recess wasn't an hour the recess was only about a half an hour.

me: What did you do at recess?

Mrs S: Well, we played jacks, and jump rope that's about it.

me: Were there any particular oh, What kind of lunch did you bring to school?

Mrs S. We didn't bring lunch, we went home for lunch.

me: What kinds of clothes did you wear to school?

Mrs S: Well, we wore the same dress, everyday, wash it over the weekend, and wear it again the next week. The same thing.

me: How many layers of clothes did you wear to school?

Mrs S: How many layers?

me: Yes.

Mrs S: We'd have our dress and maybe a sweater and then a coat.

me: Where were your coats kept at school?

Mrs S: We had a cloak room.

me: Do you have any stories that you remember about the cloak room?

Mrs S: No, we just kept our coats in there.

me: Do you remember fearing any particular childhood diseases?

Mrs S: No

me: Do you remember anything about Tuberculosis?

Mrs S: Yes, I remember a lot of people died at that time, especially children.

me: Did you know anyone that died?

Mrs S: Oh ya, mostly young babies, if they came from tubercular families they usually died.

me: Do you remember getting any vaccines?

Mrs. S. No, I don't remember getting any vaccines.

me: Do you remember visiting a doctor, going to the hospital, or getting any other medical treatment?

Mrs. S. no.

me: How often were you absent from school?

Mrs. S. I can't remember ever being absent.

me: What forms of entertainment did you have?

Mrs. S. We'd play house, and we'd did alot of hiking.

me: How old were you when you got your first t.v.?

Mrs. S. It was after I was married, I don't know just when that would be, I don't remember the date, but it was after I was married.

me: Did you go to church on Sunday?

Mrs. S. No, not really cause we were so far away. We lived in North Lake and the church was in town. We never went there was no cans or anything so. We went maybe at Christmas or something, but.

me: Did you family do anything different on Sunday?

Mrs. S. no I don't remember doing anything different.

me: Do you remember the Italian hall disaster in 1913?

Mrs. S. The what?

me: The Italian Hall disaster.

Mrs. S. no

me: Do you remember the flu epidemic in 1918?

Mrs. S. Yes madam.

me: What do you remember about it?

Mrs. S. my mother died during that, and we were all sick at home. My mother and my youngest sister were brought to the hospital

my mother died and my sister was taken and raised by another family.

me: What sister?

Mrs S: Nora.

me: What do you remember about the Barnes and Hecker Mine disaster in 1925?

Mrs S: Well I was in school when it was announced, I was in my English class or my history class.

me: Did you know anyone that died?

Mrs S: Oh I knew them all really, I knew the families yes.

me: Did your brothers collect baseball cards?

Mrs S: no

me: What was the price of a candy bar or movie?

Mrs S: five cents

me: Where did your family do its shopping?

Mrs S: Well we shopped here at Caspers store and _____ in town, that's it and Koski's in town, that's our only stores.

me: Were there any of your family members in World War I or II?

Mrs S: no

me: What ~~was~~ was a typical day at high school like?

Mrs S: Well we'd catch the bus at seven we'd go from class to class. We all sat in the auditorium we all had our own seats like you have your lockers, school would always start with an assembly and then we'd go from class to class.

me: Where did you go to high school?

Mrs S: Ishpeming High School

me: What kinds of classes did you take?

Mrs S. I took mostly the science classes.

me: ~~where~~ Were there any extra curricular activities offered to you?

Mrs S. We were offered, but we ^{participate} couldn't because we lived in North Lake and we had to catch the bus home and once we got home we stayed there until we went to school the next day. We couldn't join otherwise we'd have to walk home.

me: What did you do on a date?

Mrs S. A date,

me: yes

Mrs S. We'd walk we just stayed right in town and we'd just walk

me: do you remember any strikes in the mines?

Mrs S. Well I remember the first strikes yes.

me: What do you remember about them?

Mrs S. Oh, I can remember them getting together and having some grand old fights

me: How big was a typical class at ~~the~~ school?

Mrs S. I say about 20.

me: Did anyone you knew drop out of school?

Mrs S. Oh yes, several of them.

me: What year did you graduate in,

Mrs S. 1928

me: How was discipline handled in school?

Mrs S. very strict

me: were you even sent to the principals office?

Mrs S. No.

me: Where did you go to college?

Mrs S. I went to _____ Memorial Hospital in Grand Rapids.

me: What is the biggest difference between school today and when you were in school?

MrsS: Discipline,

me: Is there any advice that you would give to people about when you were in school,

MrsS: Do the best they can and do every days work and don't skip one that's the main thing. Do every days work.

MrsS. We came over steenige. their was my sister, my older sister, my brother, my mother and father and I, and we got off in Neganuee and we lived with relatives of owns there for a while. Then we came here to North Lake and then my two younger sisters were born here in North Lake, and my mother kept bordens my father worked in the mine and then my father was killed in the mine in 1917 and my mother died of the flu epidemic in 1918 so we were left five children, and so we stayed in the same house that my mother and father lived in, My brother left school and went to work in the mine he wasn't quite sixteen, and he brought us up.

me: What brother?

MrsS: I only had the one, then we lived with these people that took care of us for a little while until my brother turned eighteen and then we moved into two rooms and he still worked, and we lived in two rooms and then we moved in a regular house

get more details about trip over

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Mrs S: My brother and sister were the ones that brought me up she was in the seventh grade he was in the eighth grade and they both left school

me - did you stay in school?

Mrs S: I stayed in school ya we all went to school except my brother and sister because my brother worked and my sister kept house just like a mother and they brought us up. In high school I wanted to go to nursing school but my brother insisted that I go to high school and at that time you could go into nursing and different schools you could go for two years so I thought he wouldn't let me quit so I thought I'd pull a dandy and I played ~~hook~~ hooky for a month and I thought by that time that I'd be so far behind that he'd let me go but he didn't. When he found out I went back to school and I had to make that up. That was in my jounier year, when I was gone I'd just bum around different places out in the woods and then I'd come back to the bus and get on the bus and come home and once in a while some of the other kids would come like Marie Bunin and _____ I did that for a whole month but I went back to school and I had to finish I did. My brother made me go back. Well you see at that time if you missed school you just missed school, they didn't call the families or anything. He finally caught me. I don't remember just how he caught me. So I thought this is a way of getting away from going to high school, but I went back and I finished.

~~The only~~

me: What do you remember about when you came over on the boat from Italy.

Mrs S. The only thing I can remember really is that we were below deck and we slept in hammocks. It was just like an open area and you just had the hammocks. It was strange I guess you'd call it, and I remember coming, dimly remember when we landed it was a lot of noise and everybody was throwing things overboard that they had accumulated or something and then I remember landing in DeGanuee and these people picked us up and brought us to their house and we stayed there for I'd say about a month or so and we moved out here in North Lake near

ask about symptoms etc of flu

— you know where — lives? The house just before that. Then dad died he was killed in the mine. Then we had the flu. I remember the flu we were all sick all of us except aunt Lousie she never got sick, and we had borders and I'll tell you another thing I remember very much about school is was lice. We had a lot of lice and I mean lice. I mean lice honey, I don't mean one or two I mean we were just covered with them they'd crawl down our necks and.

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me: what did you do to get rid of the lice?

Mrs S: We didn't. We didn't know how, Aunt Louise didn't know how she was just out of school you know, she was, she couldn't have been anymore than twelve, she was in the seventh grade. We'd wash our hair and we'd comb ~~it~~ um and we'd be crying all the time, but no one ever told us how to get the eggs, you know the nits out so that didn't do any good. You got rid of what you had, but they just blossomed all the time.

They just kept coming and coming, so they were really bad and I remember that women who used to take care of us there for awhile after mother died. She cut my hair first of all, then she poured kerosene on it. Then she tied a bandana? on it you know. Well my whole head burned then. Then it got all these sores on it, and it was full of lice, just full of lice, I mean full of lice you wouldn't believe it, and so then the woman that raised Nora she took me down there and she cleaned me up, she just combed through my hair, all the lice and all the sores it was awefull. Then she used vinigen to take the nits out. Then I got rid of them, but then I'd go back to school there I was again. Well then of course my hair was cut I was cut right bald headed almost you know. It was just like boys wear you know, and I used to wear a little dust cap, and I'd go to school and I'd sit under this old Cherry tree that's just been cut down not too long ago over here by the school. I'd sit there and cry and cry and cry and go to school. It was awefull.

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me: Didn't the other kids have lice?

Ya, but they didn't have it like we had it, they had mothers and fathers who took care of them, but we didn't, and we didn't know what to do. You know all we knew was comb it and wash it, but that didn't do any good, ~~but~~ because you had to get the eggs, you know the nits. We didn't know anything about that. Sure we'd get rid of what we had but we'd be just full again the next day, they just came in ~~bunched~~ bunches.

My sister and I Louise, We'd wash our hair and we'd put a sheet on the floor, and we'd comb our hair, and they'd be by the millions, terrible. Then of course none of the kids wanted to play with you.

~~dad~~: Do you remember when the school burned down?

Mrs. S. Dimmly I remember, I remember someone coming to say the school burned, but I don't.
me: How old were you?

Mrs. S. Well I was married then.

dad: Did you have indoor plumbing in the school? ~~Yes~~
~~we had indoor~~

Mrs. S.: Yes, we had indoor plumbing. Yes, we must of. I think so, I can't remember going out outside. Come to think so I can't remember going to the ~~bathroom~~ toilet. No I really don't think so.

dad: You probably went home.

Mrs. S.: Yes that's right. I don't remember ever going to the bathroom when I was in school here. That's crazy ain't it. ~~Of~~ Of course none of us ever had indoor plumbing. ~~As~~

aunt M.: When we were a kid we used through the garbage in the alley and they'd clean it every spring and fall. ~~Just~~ Except for your cans everything went out in the alley. Just before the snow would come they'd shovel it all and then they haul it all away. In the spring and the fall they used to do that. Except for your cans every thing went out in the alley. But then you didn't have plastic like you do today. We didn't have diapers and stuff like that.

interesting!

Mrss. All these were all alleys and in the spring they'd come.
And almost everybody had a cow so all the manure
went back there in the alley. Then they'd come with
wagons because they didn't have cars then.
aunt M; We had wooden fences to keep the cows out I remember
that,