

Jessica Lundin interview  
with

Hilda Kauppila

Me: When and where were you born?

Granny: in Westishpeming on a farm by Hooper St. on way  
garage is the house down in

me: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Granny: altogether 6 brothers and 6 sisters well 50  
was the 1st

me: what were your parents names.

Granny: Edward \_\_\_\_\_ and mothers was Marie  
but Marie Catherine, Mary Catherine

me: Do you know where they were born?

Granny: Finland Suikava

Me: When did they come to America

Granny: Oh my gosh they had a boy and  
girl in Finland that died, then she had three  
then she came to America, I wouldn't remember  
the year page

Me: when they came here did they come to Michigan right away?

Granny: yes, he came before her, he was working the mines here

me: what was your husbands name?

Granny: Frank

me: how many children did you have?

Granny: 5

me: what were their names?

Granny: Gladys, Marlene shes not here any more, Jimmy, Beverly and Charlotte

me: what was she like for you?

Granny:

me: where did you go to school?

Granny: Westishpeming, we walked to school

me: what were your teachers like?

Granny: Teacher? she was a miss Pryor at the time she was my teacher first but she taught for many years and then she was a Mrs. Lynnum

me: Did you have favorite subject in school?

Granny: no nothing special, Geography I liked

me: How long did you go to school?

Granny: till eighth grade just

me: did you have a big class?

Granny: no there was 3 classes in a room

me: were the teachers real strict or how were the kids supposed to act?

Granny: well yea they were strict we were not aloud to talk or whisper or you know and turn around we were told to turn around if we turned around (laughs)

me: what were the punishments if you did something bad?

Granny: Ah they never punished

me: Do you remember any special thing that happened at school?

Granny:

me: what kind of chores or responsibilities did you have

Granny: Oh we had all kinds of chores  
wash dishes and clean the house  
and later when we were older we'd  
help mother baking especially  
making donuts (laugh)

me: What did you do for fun or what  
games did you play?

Granny: Oh we had lot of fun with our  
neighbor kids play hide and go  
seek and gosh I don't what it was  
called turn the bottle over or  
something when  
can't remember what it was  
called even anymore Oh we had  
a lot of fun with them

me: Did you have any family reunions?

Granny: no not that I know of

me: What was your first job?

Granny: I think I went Gauzert

me: How old were you when you started?

Granny: about 15 and then I did housework  
for

Me: How did the great depression affect your family?

Granny: depression? we got married in depression days that was tough.

me: what did you do to have enough food and things

Granny: we had cows, chickens, pigs, then we butchered some for winter all the time and we had a garden and work in the woods

me: Did any of your friends or relatives work for government programs

Granny: no I don't know of any

Granny: I wouldn't <sup>want to</sup> move out of here, not here, but I didn't mind where ~~mother~~ lived but I don't like to live in town

me: what do you like about it here?  
in Michigan

Granny: Short distance to the store and not much shoveling

Me: What was one of the most memorable events in

Granny: |

me: What do you consider to be the important things in your life?

Granny: You mean before, important things were my housework oh god of course now, I knit & \_\_\_\_\_

me: My mom told me something about your potatoe sack dresses or something

Granny: they were feed sacks, chicken feed used to come in floured bags, they were just like dress material. I had for a long time Gladys's dress I sewed, no pattern I made her a dress from that, we used to make sheets out of feed sacks out of the white feed sacks or ~~out~~ of flour sacks but flour sacks weren't as big as feed sacks, we made pillow cases and sheets, those were the depression days ya I used to make table cloths I made curtains

me: is there anything else special you remember

Granny: Our christmas programs were the ~~the~~ <sup>niciest</sup>

Granny; and we had sewing and we  
were picked first prize then you  
go to the Marquette county fair  
then the best ones were picked to  
go to the state fair our programs  
were always picked by the superintendent  
of schools in Marquette county and  
he always picked the best one came  
to ~~we~~ had to go to a place called  
normal school university and we had  
to put them programs on it was  
kinda fun then we went to a show  
there that was \_\_\_\_\_ we'd get lemonade  
and we took some lunch with us I think  
I had gone 5 times cause I had 5 years  
of sewing we had to sew by hand the  
first year make a bag to carry our  
sewing in

Me: Then you got to use the sewing machine?

Granny: ya then we went to the machines I  
remember making a green it was a wool  
skirt pleated all around, and Julia  
Parsons was there and she liked that color  
because she must have been ~~to~~ Irish (laugh)  
because she said it was an Irish color  
I wonder if they've been dying I never hear  
about them anymore. One teacher my eighth  
grade teacher be writing to me he lived in

Granny - Lower Michigan first time I went there after  
I was working at the mather inn he come  
there & his wife his girlfriend at the  
time and she used to come with a  
girlfriend to the school <sup>though</sup> but now she's  
been in poor shape I haven't heard from  
him I wonder if she's still living she had  
alzheimer's. We used to have picnics at  
the end of school we used to go to Gangly's  
field and Mrs. Gangly would make  
a great big pot of coffee for everybody  
the last time we had that park down  
there of course. now its  
had our last picnic there we

Me: what did you used to do at the picnics?

Granny: I don't remember to much but they  
used to play ball whatever they wanted  
to do. you know