

me: Hello my name is Dustin Lucarelli and I am interviewing Mrs. Rundman ^{Carolyn} at her home. Today's date is February 17, ~~1997~~ 1997. The focus of our interview is to discuss her years teaching at the West Ishpeming School and also her childhood memories.

What is your full name?

Mrs. R: Carolyn ... I always go by Lynn Rundman

me: When and ~~where~~ where were you born?

Mrs. R: In Medford, Wisconsin in 1933.

me: Do you have any siblings? *(she misunderstood)*

Mrs. R: Yes, I have three children.

me: What are their names?

Mrs. R: Eric, Donna, and ~~Shera~~ Cherie

me: When were they born?

Mrs. R: Well, let's see Cherie was born in 1955 and Donna in '57, and Eric in 1960. Hi, Rick!

me: Do you have any brothers or sisters? *(nice comeback!)*

Mrs. R: One sister

me: When was she born?

Mrs. R: She's, grew up in Wisconsin so she is three years older

me: Where did you live as a young child?

Mrs. R.: I lived in Medford until I was eighteen then I went away to school.

me: Where is that located?

Mrs. R.: That's located near Wausau in the middle of the state.

me: What year did you begin school at.

Mrs. R.: For college you mean

me: no just for elementary

Mrs. R.: I was five so I guess kindergarten

me: What, what would you do for a normal day of school

Mrs. R.: In Wisconsin I don't know just the same thing any kindergarten does now ~~you know~~ it would you know basic education reading, writing, arithmetic.

me: How were unruly children handled at the schools?

Mrs. R.: ~~When I grew up~~ when I grew up, you know I think the focus ~~is~~ is ~~the~~ the schools here but in Wisconsin we were probably disciplined in the same way, we were ~~usually~~ usually separated from the class in another area

me: Do you remember what it was like with the polio virus?

Mrs. R.: Yes, my sister had polio.

me: How was your life affected by it?

Mrs. R.: Well, I was thirteen at the time and I remember getting days ~~where~~ she was home having hot pants, & things locally she ^{wasn't} affected permanently.

me: how were you summers spent?

Mrs. R: Well, my parents were gardeners, I was active in 4-H and I spent a lot of time. My mother made me pick berries I didn't ~~really~~ care for ~~them~~ much for it, we did a lot of things you know canning & things a lot of fun times to swimming & good times.

me: How were the winter times spent?

Mrs. R: At when I was growing up it seemed like we had a lot of snow in Wisconsin more than they do ~~now~~ now. We did a lot of sliding & skiing, & a lot of ice skating so obviously ^{the winters were} we didn't have a lot of snow ice skating.

me: What do you remember about being a teenager?

Mrs. R: Well, I was active in the band, sports ..., but at that time sports were mostly volleyball and they didn't have ^{interested} girls basketball teams or anything. and I enjoyed high school ^{the} classes, the kids, & parties, & dances. The social part of it especially.

me: What was the name of * high school you went to?

R: That was the Medford high school

D: How about the elementary school?

R: I started school at the Lincoln school & that's where I spent my first four years, & then I went to the Medford middle school.

D: Where did you go after high school?

R: Then I went to Minneapolis & I went to a technical college for medical technology & I graduate from that & come to Ishpeming to work in the lab. I worked at the hospital lab there ^{annual reports} until I Page 3

R: I went back and got my teaching certification.

D: How many years of college did you take to get that?

R: Well I had 3 years for the technical, technical school & then I spent 4 years at Northern getting my degree.

D: What courses did you take while attending northern?

R: Basically they were I majored in math & science because that's I had a technical background & I minored in English so that was the focus & element any education.

D: Once finishing college at WNU what did you do after that?

R: I started working right away I applied for. At that time there still was a teacher shortage I applied for a job in Ishpeming & the Township I was offered both jobs, but I wanted 3rd grade & that happened to be the township job & they said we're going to consolidate ^{how} ~~any~~ so ~~that~~ doesn't make any difference, cause at that time it looked pretty sure that Ishpeming township & Ishpeming would consolidate so I started out there & that's how I ended up at West Ishpeming School.

D: Why was there a teacher shortage?

R: Evidently, ^{the} there were still a lot of young students coming into the schools at that time. It wasn't a year or two later that there seemed to be a ~~big~~ surplus of teachers & jobs ^{were} ~~was~~ hard to find and it's been that way ever since teachers had to sub to get a way in. So I guess I was lucky, I graduated at the right time.

D: What kind of certificate did you receive when you graduated.

R: It was a permanent teaching certification at that time, I was certified for life I guess.

D: Did you have to take any summer classes?

R: Yes, I always did, I worked toward's masters degree, ~~but~~ ^{although} in the end I got the BS+30 because I just equal in honors like masters & I was more interested in the classes they were offering. They were more appropriate for elementary classes.

D: How many grades did you teach?

R: I taught third, then second for many years, then back to third when I ended so I didn't get too far out of early elementary.

D: How long did you teach second grade for?

R: Why lets see I think it was three years with third, about I'd say, about 15 years in second grade

D: Then you went back to...

R: Then I went back to third grade when I had the chance just for variety.

D: How many kids did you teach?

R: Well classes were fairly large back, I taught 22 years & I know I must have averaged 22 kids in a class.

D: Were there ever more than 1 class in a room?

R: No, although I know in the West Ishpeming school ~~one~~ one year we had a double 3rd grade in the auditorium

Q: Describe a typical teaching day for you?

R: Well, the focus of early elementary is always reading & math. its pretty basic the other subjects were covered you know health & science & those but the large majority of the time was spent on reading, tests, & math work. lunch because West Ishpeming School ^{ended up with} ~~was~~ ^{had an hour} ~~the last~~ ^{school day, we were} to be picked up ~~on~~ ^{the} bus so they gave us an hour for lunch which wasn't so practical for the little kids since they had nowhere to go anyhow they had to stay at school, but we had allot of fun during the noon hour it was a good time for the kids to get out & play on this large play ground,

~~we~~ would make a ice rink in the winter the teachers & the kids would skate & play frozen tag & we had alot of fun, but when the weather was ~~we~~ ^{got} sloppy that hour got ~~so~~ ^a little long the kids would come in ~~at~~ ^{they were} ~~so~~ ^{so} wet & muddy the way it is now I guess, but the noon hours are ^{so} shortened.

Q: Could you describe the size & appearance of the class you taught?

R: I would say the average size was 25 children & most of the time they were pretty evenly divided girls & boys every once in awhile you would get a whole raft of boys or a whole raft of girls, but generally speaking they were pretty well divided, and most of the kids were very well behaved and they seemed to enjoy school & there were no big problems.

Q: What was the most kids you taught in one year?

R: I think the largest class was 29 & that was not fun.

D: How about the least.

R: The lowest I had was 22 ... I had no really small classes

D: How did you transport yourself to get to school.

R: I drove & later I carpooled with Mrs. Blawitt who taught out there in 2nd grade, 2nd grade also.

D: What subjects were included while teaching?

R: Besides Reading & math, Social Studies, English, & Health, Science, & then of course the specials gym, ~~home ec~~ ^{home ec} art.

D: What happened if you were sick?

R: Well, fortunately we had good subs available

D: Did you own your own house while teaching?

R: Yes

D: Where was it located?

R: Right here, right here in Ishpeming

D: How would you discipline the kids if they were misbehaving?

R: Most of the time they'd respond to a reminder, a verbal reminder & if they didn't they would be removed from the group activity either to a part of the room where it wouldn't be as obvious or with the aid in the work, work...

D: How would most parents react to a phone call.

R: Most parents were very cooperative, I rarely had to contact a parent there... I should say overall the parents the few times I did were very understanding.

R: Do you have any stories of a child misbehaving?

R: No, not really that wasn't a real big factor in the second & third grade you know there, they liked school, their teacher they liked the things we'd do so that wasn't a

R: Did the school have any after school activities?

R: No, most of them were bus students they left &

R: Did you do anything else besides teaching?

R: You mean school related?

R: Yes, school related or a job?

R: No, just a mother and a homemaker, that was plenty, I... there's a lot of preparation time in a teacher of elementary we don't... there's a lot you do even at home for prep time so you don't have a lot of extra. You figure these are little kids & their interest span is short you have to have a lot of materials and a lot of hands on things for them to do & it all takes time to prepare that so that these learning in a more concrete way.

R: Describe some of your more vivid memories of teaching?

Well one of the things the kids loved the outdoor fire, fire stairs that we had, fire escapes, & they were metal with a opening glazing, so that was, for a 2nd grader this was pretty challenging to go down a whole stair case ^{not} open steps so ~~we'd~~ ~~practice~~ ^{we'd} ~~practice~~ ^{practice} allot & they'd love the practice. ^{that was a big thing} Some would hang on so tight you'd have to guide them down. Gradually they'd get more familiar, but then the clogs, the shoes with no banks & the wooden soles came into vogue & these little 2nd graders started coming to school with these clogs on & they were absolutely impossible to wear when they were going down the fire escape so we finally had to have a no clog rule because if we'd ever have to leave the building in a hurry they never would have made it with those shoes on so that was our dad that wasn't too practical when you had metal open staircase. Another I remember once the furnace backed up it & was a explosion & I mean we all left not knowing what was going on, & all the classes were out except Mr. Jordon our... janitor, & we were so worried & then suddenly the door opened & he came out, He was absolutely black, ^{he was} covered with ~~soot~~ ^{soot} out. When it had exploded all the soot flew and he was down in the area. Fortunately he wasn't hurt, and we were all so relieved to see him, but it was funny the kids just hollared because he was blacked so he laughed about it to. We were fortunate it wasn't more serious. After that they did some major repairs on the boiler down there. That & the fire escape, the clogs & the skating were some of the more vivid memories the fact that we had allot of fun in the winter with those ice rinks it was a time the

R: Teachers & the kids enjoyed a time together. Otherwise it was quite a happy little school just the early elementary kids when I first started teaching there was 1st - 5th & after about 3 years changed to 1 kindergarten & 1st & 2nd. That was the age kindergarten - 2nd grade well its really just little children playing together & so it was quite a happy place to be teaching we all enjoyed it. Anyone who came here always enjoyed it too! The kids felt very secure there were no big kids to worry about & the teachers enjoyed it.

D: Did you eat lunch with the kids?

R: Yes, we had to eat lunch with the kids that was part of our job & Mrs. Kippman was our lunch lady & she never called any of us by Mrs. or Ms. she always would hollar Rundman, or Blewitt, or Cox 'cause Cox worked there or lets see she was really funny.

D: What was the salary for you when you taught?

R: Well, I can remember I started at \$600 & I thought I was rich, but at that time that was the prevailing wage.

D: Did you belong to a teachers union

R: Yes, I always

D: What one

R: the emian **MEA**

D: what would you do with them?

R: Most of the time you didn't really have much contact with the union, but except to pay your dues, they carried the insurance, you come under their umbrella insurance so that in case any family would want to sue a teacher they'd you were covered for that type of insurance

R: and that was important because you never know, it's more common now than it was then but it was something you had to consider so it was not only for representing yourself for teachers in negotiation for salary, but also because of that insurance so that you would not be sued & then find yourself losing your home

D: Do you have any pictures or memorabilia from when you taught?

R: I have many class pictures

D: Can I see them?

R: I'll have to go up & get them. Is there any other questions you need.

D: Why was everyone mad when the school closed?

R: Because it was a beautiful location for a school & very supportive little community around them & we had such a nice atmosphere at early elementary kids & they all felt that because it was closer ~~than~~ to Westwood so it would make sense to add on to West Ishpeming since they had the room & more centrally located, but instead they closed West Ishpeming & sent us to Elk which was way off the high way ~~like~~ you know

D: What are your thoughts about the school & how it is now?

R: Well, I feel very sad I see the boarded up windows & the fact that the building isn't utilized at all. The beautiful grounds around it are just grown over & I think that it was a great site for something special, but don't know what. If it couldn't be a school I would've liked to see it be a little park or something not just a boarded up building.

D: When were you married?

R: I was married in 1951

D: To who?

R: Ralph, my husband Ralph

D: How about your children what are their names?

R: Eric, Eric is married his wife Joan & they, with no children, & my daughter Donna is married to her husband Bob & they don't have any ~~children~~ ^{family}, & my daughter Cheryl, Cherric is married & she has 2 Boys so those are my only grand sons

D: Where did they attend school?

R: they all went to Ishpeming

D: Thank you Mrs. Lundman for ~~you~~ allowing me to interview you on your thoughts about the West Ishpeming School.

R: Well okay, thank you. I'll look for those pictures

D: Okay.