



Me: When and where were you born?

Gram: 1905 in Marquette.

Me: How many sisters did you have (No brothers)?

Gram: Seven sisters or um six and me.

Me: And who were they?

Gram: Do I have to say all their names?

Gram: Lilly, hazel, Olive, Jean, Gladys, Dorothy, and Evelyn?

Me: And who were your mother and father?

Gram: My mother's name was Emit Jane Johnston and my father's name was Eugene Ristle Johnston. (coughs) + better get some pop for my cough.
Eugene Russell

Me: Where was your house in Marquette?

Gram: In Marquette? Well we lived down in the prison location, you mean where I was raised?

Me: yeah.

Gram: We lived in the prison home, in the prison location, It's hard to describe.

Me: How was it there?

Gram: How was it? wonderful we were a bunch of happy girls.

Me: What was it like living there?

Gram: Well the lake was right in front of us and the; no it was nice and we didn't have to worry about the convicts and we raised right there and nothing ever happened to us. And these people saying about you know saying about we were raised there.

Me: who were your mother and father?

Gram: Didn't you ask me?

me: No.

Gram: My mother was Emit Jean

Me: (I said I did ask you. sorry. but it got cut off.)

Me: what did your father do?

Gram: what did my father do?

me: what did your father do?

Gram: He was the haul master down at the prison; third man from the top. he had a good office job.

Me: What were the prisoners like?

Gram: The Prisoners they were all Murderers and a different assortment; lots of times we'd say oh poor this or that but my father would say "There ^{good quote} not in there for buildings churches (laugh) "so just come down to Earth". And there was a murderer there we used to call him old Grandpa William. We used to call him Grandpa and he was the nicest old man, and he escaped in the end and they never found him. ~~As that~~ all you took?

Me: Well what was it like right next to the prison like?

Gram: We were young when we moved down there and the other kids were born there and it was a nice way of life very nice.

Me: How did it feel being next to the prisoner like that?

Gram: They never harmed you at all, seven girls and we'd walk through the lumber yard with the convicts all around, working in this lumber yard; cause our house was right there and you had to go through the main prison and there was a lumber yard there and they'd always say "hello miss Dorothy" they always called us by you know miss Olive or miss Dorothy you know they were lovely better than some of these guys walking around now (laughs) yeah.

Me: um; were did you go to school?

Gram: I went to school, let me see, we had to walk all the way from the prison all the way down 141 down, down to the, what do you call, docking home. you know. were we lived. And then to the Fisher school and then the high school, we didn't think nothing of it. And we were healthy kids.

Me: Long walk!

Gram: and these kids now adays wount walk, of course don't forget I'm older; from an older generation.

Me: what were the teachers there like

Gram: It's not like now; the teachers had the upper hand and the kids weren't brats like they are now. And I tell ya then I learned more; there was a miss Daisy I had very good English she demanded we used good English and it was wonderful and now they say college kids can't read or write in fact theres somebody living in hear now that can't read or write.

Me: And did you have any favorite teachers?

Gram: Yes, I'll say Miss Daisy; but I had loads of good teachers and I'll tell ya when the P.T.A. started I went to the very first one and that's when, mothers were worried about how there children were and race came, and teachers said otherwise, no sir this is when the teacher had full swing, and the kids behaved and, and respected them, a teacher, they were the best. *include*

Me: And I guess you never had to drop out.

Gram: a little job?

Me: Help support your family.

Gram: Did I ever have to? Have a little job.

Me: Drop out and help support your family or anything?

Gram: Oh no, my Dad made good money. (some thing else I can't understand)

Me: well, what did you do for fun?

Gram: oh we had fun, the kids now a days have so many toys they don't even enjoy life, we had a long swing, we had a swing, well of course anything us kids wanted the convicts would make it. and we had all that stuff outdoors but we were outdoor kids and we were all healthy, and no we had more fun and the kids now a days don't know how to entertain them selves. maybe I shouldn't add to much. *include*

Me: Where did your mother and father come from?

Gram: My mother came from Canada, and my dad was born at cherry creek I think and my Grandpa Johnston came from Scotland, no he came from Scotland, no Grandpa did (talking with other people present) and his wife died at sea and was buried at sea and then he moved to cherry creek and I don't know why I wish he had headed for Florida (starts laughing) hear it's cold otherwise.

Me: Ok

Gram: you know how many times I say that I wish Grandpa had chosen some other place, I think if grandma had lived they wouldn't have gone to cherry creek.

Me: So, what year did you get married?

Gram: Oh God, why do you say things at me like that? Let me did up my marriage license is that on yet; 29, 1928

Me: Who was your husband?

Gram: Who is, or who was?

Me: who was.

Gram: Joseph Henry Derocher.

me: And were did you meet him?

Gram: where did I meet him? I don't know, he was always a nice guy always good looking always a nice guy.

me: At school or what?

Gram: oh, no this was after I was twenty years old when I got married I must have been sixteen when I met him. but I mean it wasn't serious but he must have carried the marriage license around in his pocket for five years, and it had to be renewed when we finally did get married. No that's true

me: why did you wait so long to get married?

Gram: Well I think I just wasn't, I always said I wanted to be a nun. (laughs) It makes the doctor laugh too when I say that.

Me: How many kids did you have? (no sons)

Gram: count em, I had three daughters never had any more, I'd know is there one under the chair there?

Me: And who were they?

Gram: well first there was Joan, and we always called her Jo-Ann, (as we thought it was pronounced that way, and then she's married to a Perry, what's his name? Glen, then theres who, Nancy, and she married Bill Pasoski, Don't ask me how to spell it, and the comes Judy and she married another polish fellow Smokowski.

Me: And what did you husband do to support you and your kids?

Gram: oh, he had a good job he was a railroad engineer.

me: When you were married with kids were did you live?

Gram: when I was married with kids?

me: yeah

Gram: we lived in several places we lived on fisher street then on 5th street

me: In Marquette,

Gram: yes, In Marquette.

me: And your husband was working during the depression right.

Gram: No, it even effected, was he working?

me: Yeah was he working?

Gram: He had been working but even the rail roads failed and even of course some of the older men could have been working and they'd bump each other off of a job. but then he wasn't working but we were happy and we'd go for walks through the woods.

me: Who did you support your family?

Gram: Well I don't know but we were certainly healthy.

me: Who did you eat?

Gram: well I hate to say on that, well I mean I hate to say it I'm a respected member of Marquette, but we knew this guy with a garden and we'd take a walk and dig up a few potatoes.

→ (I had previously skipped a bout world war two on my tape and I tried to re-do it over but I got my tape messed up. Sorry.)

me: How about the twenties?

Gram: It sure was roaring, no it was, because we weren't so restricted and we wore short dresses and people were just shocked and I stockings rolled oh, a woman never showed her legs in those days. and rolled my socks down below my knees. and oh, that was the worst, and there was the Charleston, do you know how to do that.

me: no

Gram: I'll show ya. Anyway it was just different we were let loose and it was fun, women before wore long dresses that's why they thought we were so terrible, by having dresses up to our knees and that was terrible.

me: And there were gangsters there, hey.

Gram: If'n were?

me: the twenties.

Gram: There was moonshine, that was the moonshine age too, the what do you call moon. Yeah, Prohibition days then and that was a time and people home would make their own they called it moonshine, whiskey. then many people went blind from it. many people went to these they call em a blind pig. all these houses sold it, you to sneak in and sneak out, many people went blind over that stuff. the way it was made.

me: Were there like gangsters and people like that in Ishperming.

Gram: Oh sure they were connected with moonshine, see this makes gamble ing and all that, gangsters follow any thing out of the law. and it was terrible, it was a dangerous age.

me chud

Me: What did your husband do to support your family during the depression? Page 6

Gram: Well no one was working though Grandpa was always a good worker and he'd pick a job here or there like helping the mailman at Christmas that they had to have a helper, and things like that, but it was a different age and every one equal nobody felt poor as this was the time that the banks failed and those million and those people like that were jumping out of windows and killin' them selves and every body was equal and a no worries as no one paid rent, because nobody had any money. But one time cigarettes were ten cents a pack and one time the man that lived next door to us, somebody had given him a pack of cigarettes and he'd come over to share it with grandpa, and that's the way people were. They got a hold of some little thing they'd come over and share it. no it was nice a really different age I'll say. never knew I was so interesting did ya.

include

Me: And where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

Gram: We lived down by the the Coast Guard station and it was a Sunday December 7, we had a short wave radio. I've never seen one since. And you could tune it in and get Washington, came right from Washington. And Pearl Harbor had been attacked, by the Japs, and I called up my mother as I knew it meant trouble, and Mother had a tea party going and she said "oh yes oh" and thought light of it well any way, but after a while that's all you could hear about on the radio, as we didn't have t.v.s t.v.s weren't invented yet, but I was just blasted all over.

Me: How did you feel about Pearl Harbor?

Gram: Well I didn't affect me that bad as I had three daughters and there were just kids I knew it mean war as I was kind of smart in my days.

Me: And your husband never had to fight in war right?

Gram: No. He was in between war but he was disappointed any as he loved to wear the clothes the navy jackets and the uniform, but no he tried to serve but was too young or too old. Then he got to be an old man he was too old.

Me: Ok, And,
Gram: How many questions?

me: How did you feel about the war yourself?

Gram: The war on my self, well ~~rationed~~ ^{silk stockings} ~~Meat, I could tell ya it was a different timey And I~~ ~~Didn't feel good about that no one did. Because everything was rationed.~~ ~~why didn't he know that infact I got a book yet with some~~ ~~ration tickets in it, now those are really antiques because you~~ ~~don't see them too often because other people used all theres up,~~ ~~But then I still had some left over and I don't know~~ ~~were they are.~~

me: ok, and how did you feel like about Hitler trying to rule the world and things like that, how did you feel about him.

Gram: Well I know what we were taught I mean if you remember back every body hated germany we were taught that, I don't know because it didn't affect me that much I don't know. But I know I didn't like him. So any way it was kind of ingrained in us to hate him.

me: How did you feel when we dropped the bomb on Japan?

Gram: well I didn't really affect me one way or another I know it did a lot of damage and people were burned and all but then it didn't affect me that much. I think it was so busy with my three girls it didn't affect me much.

me: what did you do with your life after your kids were out of school?

Gram: well I still had one daughter left in high school and I always wanted to be a nurse so I did take up practice nurse training, and I am an L.P.N. Licenced, practice, nurse. And I just loved nursing. My Mother had been a nurse now Judy and Nancy are nurses.

me: when did your husband retire?

Gram: He didn't, he was sixty two when he expired and then he wanted to wait till he was sixty five cas- then they'd get a larger amount of money. But we had wanted him to retire. He did have diabetes.

me: How did he die?

Gram: well We had come from lower Michigan and there was a tornado down there and it was raining and the wind was just territic and we would change off driving and any way it was too much for him cas, even for myself when we got home that pain had followed us of course that wind and that was down in lower Michigan.

Gram: (cont.) Anyway when we got above it was still raining and terrible so you can imagine a diabetic is more weak and anyway we just went up stairs and died I could hear that breathing and I knew that death rattle and I ran up stairs, 'cos I was reading the paper catching up with the mining journals and you know my husband had called in and he had to go to work the next day on the rail road and I heard him breathing like that and I knew that death rattle and I ran up stairs and he was dead and it was a very big shock.

me: Where did you live when that happened

Gram: I lived on Lake shore boulevard. We had bought a house on the lake.

me: Yeah, and after that you were a nurse.

Gram: No, I was a nurse before that.

me: I mean ~~after~~ he died you were still a nurse,

Gram: Oh I worked for years I worked till I was eightyone years old, when my house when down in the lake and I lived at Joan's house I had to quit because I couldn't come all the way from Ishpeming and be there for nine o'clock and I worked here.

me: And when your house when down in the lake, what kind of storm was that, what happened during that. *Can you get more dates this?*

Gram: Well the house was condemned! Two police had to come get us out.

me: What was going on that put it in this condition?

Gram: The wind had cut my lights off and it made the furnace go out and no lights and I dialed Joan. (conts. conversation in background)

me: And you had a dog too right

Gram: Yes

me: Who was your dog?

Gram: Dinky

me: Oh, yeah Dinky.

Gram: And I just loved him, I don't know what happened to him.

me: After your house fell into the lake were did you live then?

Gram: Don't ~~put~~ with your hand in front of your mouth.

me: ok, where did you live then?

Gram: at Joans, my daughter's see I had to have some place to go then, oh I'm telling ya, It's been a different type of life since then.

me: Then you moved here so that's it with the interview.

Is she your grandmom - or great
grandma?

Birth - RED

child family - Green
hood

Prison - Yellow

School - blue

Parental family - brown

~~Jobs~~ Jobs - Orange

20's - Purple

Dept + war - Black

Moving
(Updated life) - RED

ambrose