

DAN LARSON interview
with
Ms. Carlson

Me: What did Grandpa do for fun or recreation?

Ms C: He played a lot of baseball and lived in Gwinn and
Little ^{Lake =} area so he did a lot of fishing and a lot of hunting

Me: Well what chores of responsibility's did he have
around the house.

Ms C: Well they had farm animals and cows and had a lot
of chickens and of course they had to feed them,
^{probably} ~~probably~~ shoveling snow he had lot of different chores around
other ~~different~~ families to because he came from a
family of twelve so he had lot of odd jobs, he started
working when he was ten years old.

Me: Well what kind of special community events did he take
part in.

Ms C: Well they were very involved with churches, and in
the town of course Gwinn is a real close type of
town, I'm sure their family took part in a lot of that
stuff, but especially the churches.

Me: What was Christmas like when he was young.

Ms C: Well he told me that it was very special, his Grandfather came from Holland and he was a professor and when he came to this country he was a mill worker, ~~but~~ he had a lot of money, so when Christmas came they didn't have a lot of money you know, there family had worked for the railroad, lived in house that ~~they~~ supplied ~~the~~ water, they called it a tank house, they supplied to the trains, so when their Grandpa came over, he had presents for everyone and it was real special and same thing with the church, church was held in their home.

Me: What was church like for him?

Ms C: Oh ~~there~~ there was a reverend John Ham ~~le~~ that came from Marquette he was a missionary that ~~exactly~~ came from Holland that ~~exactly~~ knew their Grandfather ~~exactly~~ came over to this country, he would walk from Marquette to different places different homes and he held church right in their homes, he baptised all of them.

he married all of them, married my parents, and even married me.

Me: Did he take part in any church sponsored activities?

Ms C: I'm sure he had, I don't know any specifically

Me: Does he have any interesting stories about hunting?

Ms C: I'm sure he does and one I can tell that

was kind of interesting and in fact there's a couple

I can tell, I remember one that wasn't actually hunting,

but it was right up the road from us and we lived

out on a road west of Ishpeming in Greenwood

location and a bear was going into my aunt's house

she lived up the road ~~back~~ from us, the bear was

going right into their shed and she called my dad and he

went running out there and I guess he peppered him

with some buck shot and the bear did turn around

and run out well I ran into the woods all of the sudden I

well were going to see this dead bear and all of the

sudden I saw this bear flying past me, and it was the

bear.

and another time well I'll tell you now he's blind in one eye but he's right handed, right now he has to shoot Left handed and he's missed a lot of deer this fall.

Me: Did he have any special hobbies or ~~interests~~ ^{interests} as a child?

Ms C: He really liked boxing and gymnastics and he was very ~~very athletic~~ ^{Athletic}.

Me: Did he have a job before he was an adult?

Ms C: Yes he did, he was ten years old when he started working in the woods in his spare time and he was always doing jobs, he would always go to neighbors homes working in their fields or fixing, mending things ^{because} their family was so big they did need the money.

Me: Did he ever go to college?

Ms C: No he didn't, he only went to I think the eighth or ninth grade.

Me: What was his first ^{job} after finishing school?

MsC: Well he started in the mines, he lied about his age and he got in the mines at 16 or 17 years old,

Me: How did the stock market crash affect him,

MsC: It probably didn't I don't believe they had stocks,

Me: How did the Great Depression affect his family?

MsC: Well that did affect his family because they didn't, you know, everybody was out of work, every one had to go out and do things, well all those kids had to go out and what they did was either pick ~~the~~ marflowers in the spring or they picked blueberries in the fall, in fact he had picked blueberries and they would be dropped off near the forest ~~to~~ to pick, and he said he would get so tired and tired of picking, he filled ^{of} this pail with leaves, then he added to the top a layer of blueberries; well he got in trouble.

he ended up staying out there till he really filled the pail.

Me: What was it really like during the ~~the~~ Great Depression?

MsC: During that time the family got closer, I think they grew a lot of their own food, they had their cow and their own chickens. ~~And~~ And I think of all things they did ^{the} on side, help^{ed} them buy the other things they needed. But, they were, of course poor and they were never prosperous.

Me: What was his ~~the~~ opinion on Franklin D. Roosevelt?

MsC: I think my dad along with his whole family believed in him very very much. If he was alive ~~today~~ today, I think they would still be voting for him. They felt he had a better way of life and he was more for their type of people, the common man.

Me: How did ^{They} manage to make ends meet?

MsC: Well again they worked together, every one of them went out to try to find jobs working for ~~the~~ neighbors that had money, either helping with laundry or working at a resort like some of them did go to Big Bay and worked, some of ~~them~~ went out picking berries; what ever ^{they could} do, odd jobs.

Me: How did the Depression change his ~~life~~ life?

Ms: I guess one thing I could say is that he has such a respect for money and the way he lives. He can live on very little and manage to save so much on the little bit that he gets, he doesn't get a lot of money, but yet he could ~~probably~~ probably save more than most people can, because he can ^{live} on so little and the thing is the freezer is full, the refrigerators are all full, and I think he's got two freezer's full of food; when things are on sale that's when he buys. He ~~is~~ knows how shop, he knows how to spend his money wisely and you know

WORKING →

I started in the woods I worked in the swamp,
as a chore boy. I used to have to get
all the wood for the camp, and make fires at night and keep
fires going and then help cook during the day, and then
when I ~~wasn't~~ wasn't doing that, I ^{was} sawing wood during
the day.

Me: What was Church and Christmas like as a child?

Mr W: About the same as it is ~~now~~ now only everything
was ^{better} even, the stuff was made better at that time.
The Christmas presents were more realistic.

Me: You worked in the underground mines. Do
you have any experiences you remember most of all?

I had a few experiences like I got squeezed between
timber trunks one time and a pile of poles one time
and knocked the ~~breath~~ breath out of me, ~~one time~~ ~~the~~
I had a hard time getting my breath back, it pushed my
lungs ~~together~~ together, but I never broke nothing.

