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Oral History Transcription with Lucille Bechard Rossignol

Lucille Bechard Rossignol

Cindy Raymond

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INTERVIEW WITH  
LUCILLE ROSSIGNOL  
BY CINDY RAYMOND

Today's date is March 10, 1981 and I'm interviewing Lucille Rossignol at her home in Stockholm. This is Cindy Raymond.

Q. Lucille, when were you born??
A. I was born the second month the second day, 1927 in Dickey Brook at home. There was no doctor at the time, my mother delivered herself. The doctor came in too late.

Q. Where did you live as a child?
A. As a child I lived in Eagle Lake for seven years and then, we moved to Stockholm and I've been staying here ever since.

Q. Who were your parents?
A. My parents were Wilfred Beechard and Alice Freabou, her maiden name. They were both born in Frenchville then moved to Eagle Lake, then to Stockholm and we've been here since. Their birthdates are, Dad was born March 25, 1894 and Mom was born February 10, 1904. They were married April 28, 1922.

Q. What was your father's occupation?
A. Laborer.

Q. Did your mother work outside of the home?
A. No, she was a housewife.

Q. Who were your grandparents? Your mother's father and mother?
A. Sarah Pelkey and Peter Prevou.

Q. Do you know your father's parents?
A. Peter Beechard and her name was Sarah too, Sarah but, I don't know her last name........Pelkey, Sarah Pelkey.

Q. Do you know where they moved when they first came to Stockholm, where they lived, your parents?
A. We lived in quite a few different places.

Q. Your father met your mother here, didn't he?
A. You're right. The first place we lived was on School Street. That little green house they have where Quists used to live. Then, from there we moved up to where Herby Lausler is staying, from there we moved towards the potato house up in the woods. From there we moved on Station Street where Albert Anderson had his store by where Rose Johnson's. From there we moved in the park and that's where we lived since.

Q. Will you give me the names of your brothers and sisters?
A. 1- Cecile was born May 8, 1921 at Stockholm.
2- Irene was born July 8, 1922 at Stockholm.
3- Wilfred was born September 20, 1923 at Stockholm.
4- Pete was born October 20, 1924 at Stockholm.
5- Claude was born December 23, 1925 at Stockholm.
6- Lucille was born February 2, 1927 at Dickey Brook.
7- Lorraine, August 25, 1928 at Eagle Lake.
8- Clifford, June 7, 1930 at Eagle Lake.
9- Gilbert, May 8, 1934 at Stockholm.
10- Richard, April 22, 1936 at Stockholm.
11- Leontine, May 28, 1939 at Stockholm.
12- Twins, Gloria and Theresa, October 2, 1942 at Stockholm.
13- Amanda, February 9, 1945 at Stockholm.

Q. Did your parents live in Eagle Lake for a while?
A. Yes, they lived there for seven years, then they moved to Stockholm. When I was born they moved to Eagle Lake and back to Stockholm and we stayed in Stockholm.

Q. Do you know where they all live now?
A. Gilbert lives in Bristol, Conn., Pete lives on the Presque Isle Road, Lucille lives in Stockholm, Richard lives in Stockholm, Gloria lives in Stockholm and her other twin passed away. Amanda lives in Stockholm. Cecile, Irene, Wilfred, Claude, Clifford, Leontine, Theresa and Lorraine are all deceased. Pete has four children, Gerald, Nancy, Lulu, they call her, and David. Claude has four, Bradford, Wilfred, Junior and Claudine. Clifford has three, Mary Ann, Lorrie Ann, and Roxanne. Gilbert has three, Debby, Kevin and Jerry. Richard has two, Ricky and Bruce. Lucille has six, Alex, Claude, Edmond, Marie, David and John. Gloria has three, Timmy, Cheryl, Vickie, and one with Bob Pellitier, Justin. Amanda has two, Roger and Lisa.

Q. Do you remember your school and your teachers when you went to school?
A. Yes, my first teacher was Mrs. Howe when I started in kindergarten, the first grade that was. Then, Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Savage and Mrs. Sodergren. That's about all I remember because I quit in the fifth grade so, I didn't go to far in school.

Q. Do you remember some of your classmates, kids that went to school with you?
A. Well, I know quite a few, Joanne Devine, Armand Plourde, Camile Plourde, Rita Dubay, Bella Viel, Armond Viel. There were quite a few, I just can't remember them all now.

Q. What was the school like then, inside of the school? Where was the school you went to?
A. I went to the same school, the one that burned down last time. I went to the little brown school across the road. Then, we went to school up in this big building here where Carl Forsman had his potato house and that's where they served school lunches. Then, we went across from where Billy Morin has his store, that big building. We went to school in the Lutheran Church, then, we had a schoolhouse across from Orielle's I attended too. They were scattered all around then.

Q. Can you tell me something about your church? Do you remember any of the older priests that were at the church?

A. Father Cyr, that was the oldest one I remember, the oldest one. Then, Father Melacon, Father Moe, Father Betti, Father Auger, there was quite a line of priests, I don't remember all of their names.

Q. What about catechism?

A. Catechism was taught by Father Cyr in our days, every night after school, we had to go to catechism.

Q. Every night?

A. Every night and the nights we didn't go, he'd come pick us up.

Q. Do you remember some of the kids that went to catechism with you?

A. It's about the same ones that went to school with me.

Q. Did you have any young people's groups when you were young, like the kids now have Brigade and Stockade?

A. No, we used to gather around and play ball or have parties. Nothing much going on then.

Q. Who did you marry?

A. Alex Rossignol, August 2, 1944.

Q. Do you remember who married you?

A. Father Cyr, Reverend Father Cyr.

Q. Do you remember your witnesses?

A. Arthur Rossignol and Dad.

Q. Did you have a honeymoon?

A. No, outdoors under the clothesline.

Q. Where did you live after you were married?

A. When I first got married I lived with his folks for a year then, I lived with Mom and Dad for a year. Then, we moved on Lake Street and lived there, then back with Dad for two years and lived in the B&A house for eight years. And I've lived in Red Row after that, ever since.
Q. What was your husband's occupation?

A. Trackman.

Q. Can you give me the names and birthdates of your children?

A. The names and birthdates of my children, my oldest is Alex Junior Rossignol, the year 1944, November 19, he was born in Van Buren. Claude Rossignol, 1946, September 5, he was also born in Van Buren. Edmond Rossignol, 1947, November 24, he was also born in Van Buren. The deceased on Robert Armand Rossignol, born in 1946. Then, I had my daughter, Marie Rossignol born in 1953, July 18, David Rossignol, 1958, September 25, John Rossignol, 1963, October 11 and those are the names of my children.

Q. Where are they and who are they married to? Do they have children?

A. My oldest boy right now is in Germany and he married a little German girl, she came from Sweden and they are back in Germany right now. They have four girls Gail, Enis, Christina and Sharon. Two of their girls are married now and two still live at home. As for Claude Rossignol, he still lives in Stockholm, always has, Edmond Rossignol lives in Sacred Heart, he's always stayed there. Marie Rossignol is staying in New Sweden. David Rossignol is in Colorado, John is staying here at home with me. My grandchildren are Gail, Enis, Sharon Christina, Robert, Claude Jr., Tammy, Angela, Faith, Shawn, Sheldon and Edmond Jr.

Q. Do you remember any celebrations in Stockholm, like Fourth of July or...?

A. Fourth of July we used to celebrate and march up to the cemeteries, then there was a lot of people which is a lot nicer than now. Nobody rode up, they all walked. As for Christmas we never went anywhere, we used to gather around and sing and have a little party. That's about all the celebrations we had.

Q. What are the businesses you remember in Stockholm?

A. Well, the only business I remember in Stockholm was Sam Collins' Lumber Mill, that's about all the businesses I can remember but, I can remember when they had movies up in Albert Anderson's hall. Downstairs we'd bowl, winter carnivals as they have now. Not much of anything really, just got together and enjoyed life, that's it.

Q. Do you remember any of the stores, the old stores?

A. Well, I remember Nick Wessell's store, that was across from Fernald's I.G.A. I remember Sim Jarvus when he had a meat shop in back of the museum. Then, I remember they had a big store where Carl Forsman's potato house burned, that I remember. Otherwise from that, I don't remember nothing I guess.

Q. Do you remember any stories your parents told you about life when they were young?

A. No, they didn't have too much time to talk with a house full of children. It took all Mom had to holler at us, "Go sit down, Go sit down!"
Q. Do you have any records of your parents like birth certificates or marriage license?

A. No, I don't but, my sister Gloria has those.

Q. Do you have any relatives still in Frenchville?

A. I don't know. The only relatives I have now are my mother's two sisters, they are in Chicago. Dad's got a sister in New Brunswick and he's got two or three cousins in New Brunswick and that's it. As for relatives, they're all gone.

Q. What cemeteries are your ancestors buried in?

A. Stockholm.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. No.

Q. Okay, thank you very much.

End