

We are losing so much of our history every day. Seniors have stories that, if not written down, will soon die, and that's a shame. Let me give you an example:

My Mom knew Henry Ford and Charles Lindberg.

My Mom was raised in Pequaming, Michigan. Growing up in Michigan, I spent several weeks during the summer in L'Anse, Michigan, a stone's throw from Pequaming. While visiting my grandmother in L'Anse, my Mom and I would visit Pequaming, wandering through the then almost deserted town. She would tell me stories about how Henry Ford had built a huge foundry in the town and would spend many weeks each year overseeing the work being done. He had also built a large summer home in town. The one thing that my Mom remarked about was that Henry Ford always took care of everyone in the small town, and everyone knew him. She remembered that he did not want to see anyone go hungry and would ensure everyone had what they needed. In turn, the employees at the foundry gave a good day's work, remained loyal to their boss, and were saddened when the foundry was shut down. My last visit to Pequaming, in the late 1960's, was a great reminder of what my grandparents went through to survive. The town was almost deserted. The foundry was decaying. But the dock on Lake Superior (Keneewau Bay) was still standing, although slowly being destroyed by the harsh winters. Mom always remarked about how her and her brothers would dive off the docks into Lake Superior. As I look at Pequaming now on Google Earth, it appears that the dock is gone, along with the foundry and most of the old houses. Someday, I will visit L'Anse and Pequaming, just to revisit old memories.

After Mom was married she worked at the bomber plant in Detroit during WWII. When Charles Lindberg was in town he always flew into the bomber plant, came into her office, dropped his hat on the top of her filing cabinet, gave a cheery hello, and proceeded to do whatever he was there to do. He would always stop to talk to the secretaries, staff, and anyone else around. He was forever upbeat, never arrogant, and left a lasting impression on my Mom.

Please submit articles to me about a famous person your parents or grandparents met, or an exciting experience they had. These are the stories we want to save for future generations.