Harmony Area Historical Society

Voices of Harmony
Isabel Flavia Daniels Paolini
b. December 21, 1921
94 years old
Interviewed: January 13, 2016
Clara House, Harmony, Minn.

Interviewer: Amy Hahn
Harmony High School
Class of 1938

Vice President
Valedictorian

Father: Herbert Alonzo Daniels
Mother: Auyse Harstad Daniels

Siblings: Shirley, Bayonne, Alma Jean, Marjorie, Roderick

Spouse: Attilio “Otto” Paolini
Son: Armand Roderick Paolini

Education: Business school, Chicago
Occupation: Stenographer
Neighborhood Play

Memories of playing with neighborhood kids during the summer evenings.
Evelyn Johnson Was Isabel’s Best Friend

They Were Neighbors and Played Dolls

James Edmond "Eddie" Johnson, Evelyn’s Father
Harmony Milk/Cream Hauler

Grown-up Evelyn Mae
She was one year older than Isabel and an only child until she was a teenager.
Isabel always wanted to tagalong with her older sisters. Sometimes they took her with them to the movies!
Before the JEM, Harmony’s movie theater was owned by A.J. Teigen. Isabel remembers the silent cowboy pictures and comedy “talkies”.
Silent Western Stars

Starting in 1903 with *The Great Train Robbery*, westerns were among the most popular silent films produced in Hollywood. Isabel would’ve seen stars like Buck Jones and Tom Mix in these silent cowboy films.
W.C. Fields: The Golf Specialist (1930) Radio Pictures
Isabel attended both the old frame school and the brick school. The brick school housed the high school and the teacher’s school. Her mother attended graduated from the teacher’s college. Education was very important to Auyse and she loved to go to school and learn.

Isabel participated in a high school play, enjoyed speech contests, and loved picnics held at the end of the school year. She recalls many girls wanted to play basketball but when Isabel was in high school girls weren’t allowed to play except as an intramural activity.
Isabel loved live theater at the Opera House, far better than the movies.
Isabel’s mother was very active in the community, a member of the Women’s Club which was instrumental in creating the Harmony Public Library. In the beginning it was in the same building as the Rest Room – a place where farmers’ wives could sit and rest while after getting groceries while their husband’s did business in town.
The Park

The Harmony Women’s Club also contributed to many community projects, including the City Park – later Selvig Park. The park became a central gathering place for the community and was center stage to picnics, celebrations and Memorial Day services.
The Toggery

Isabel visited the Toggery mercantile often when she was a young girl. It was owned by the Johnsons.
This is the first oral history conducted for the Harmony Area Historical Society’s oral history project titled *Voices of Harmony*.

The oral history project began as a capstone project for Amy Hahn for completion of an historic preservation certificate.

A special thank you to Isabel Flavia Daniels Paolini for agreeing to be the first ‘Voice of Harmony’.

The list of possible interviewees are endless. The HAHS has started a list. More people are being added. More volunteers needed!
Community members are encouraged to get involved and help with collecting oral histories of family and friends who have memories of Harmony.

Contact the Harmony Area Historical Society about how to participate and contribute to this project. There is a process. All people interviewed must sign a consent release form.

A guideline and procedure book is available for review at the HAHS. This book offers tips and guidelines on how to research, organize, conduct, transcribe and archive an oral history interview.