

STORY OF

JULIA MAE YUGOVICH, PIVIK

BY

JULIE A. DOMSON

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Julia Mae Yugovich, Pivik is my grandmother. She has had cancer two times and has now developed cancer in her lungs. Julia is a very strong lady in body and soul. She has alot to say and many want to listen and remember.

This paper has brought me to the understanding of the generations before and the reasons behind the many times they scold the generations of today.

After The Surgeon Sewed Her Up

Old blood beaded from her nipples
dark against the hospital gown.
She drank clear water and felt
herself dry up like after her babies
grown now no longer needed
what she gave them.

Leaving out into the cold
she felt the old blood gather
in a rush, hot against the white
blouse her mother bought, a girl
in France, old lace turning
around her neck.

Barbara M. Smith

Julia Mae Yugovich was born on June 7, 1915 in an apartment behind a saloon on Pilot Butte. No doctor was present at the time of her birth. Her father Valentine Yugovich worked in the saloon after coming to the United States from Yugoslavia. Julia is one of eight children, two of these children were still born. After leaving his bartender job, Valentine Yugovich took his wife Frances and children to the number two Solantic Coal and Cok camp. Valentine became one of the many miners to work in the Rock Springs area in the early 1900's.

HOUSE

The housing in the coal camps consisted of four rooms. In Julia's family they used three of the rooms for bedrooms and one for a kitchen. Since eight people had to live in these accommodations, they had to sleep more than one to a room and also in a bed. One bedroom consisted of a double bed, nails on the wall to hang what clothes they had and if it could be fitted a trunk. The clothes had a curtain around them to make a closet. The only person who had a wardrobe (dresser) was her father. Valentine's work clothes were kept in here. Julia's parents shared their room with the two youngest children. In the largest room in the house there was a pot belly stove, this stove would be used to heat part of the house. When the weather was to cold outside, the bedroom doors would be closed and the family would live in the kitchen area. On many of these days Julia's father would put apple peelings on the stove and let them burn, Julia said that she

loved the smell of those apples. There was no storm windows on the house, so they would frost up during the winter. The children would put their thumbs on the window so they could see out or they would go around the house and look at all the different designs that the frost had made.

The bathroom or so called out house was placed twenty to twenty five feet away from the homes. If you had to use the chamber (bathroom) in the middle of the night you would have to go outside no matter what the weather. The younger children had a porcelain round bowl with a handle on it that they would use.

BATH TIME, WASH TIME

When it came time to take a bath, a #2 or #3 wash tub would be filled with water. Since there was no plumbing, the water had to be brought in from the water barrels. These barrels were filled up once a week by the watering truck that went around the camp. The water would be heated on the coal burning stove, then poured into the wash tub. If it was in the winter the tub was placed in front of the stove and the stove door opened. The youngest would take a bath first, when finished the tub would be filled with more hot water that had been heating on the stove. The children would receive a bath in this fashion. When Julia, her sisters and brother were older they would go to the Boiler House and get their own water, so they did not have to use each others as they did when younger. When the baths were finished the task of emptying the tub would be at hand. When emptying the tube, two people would grab a handle on the tube and take it outside and dump it on the ground.

Washing clothes was handled pretty much in the same manner as

with baths. The tub would be place on the kitchen floor and the water heated in the kettle. A wash board would be used to scrub the clothes clean. In the winter the water would be frozen, so they would have to chip the ice and melt it to use for water.

Julia's mother had bad legs, they would swell to the point that she could do very little at a time. The children would then help with washing by getting the water for her and many times when the were older, they would do the washing before going to school.

SCHOOL

Julia entered school in the fall after she turned six years old, she started in the first grade that year. At this time kindergarten was not available. Julia went to the first grade in the White Framed Building that was next to the Brick Building the older children went too. The White Building was later moved to Lee street. When she entered the second grade Julia went to the Rock Building, then was moved across the street from the Rock Building to the old Congregational Church, to the City Hall and then finally to the Yellowstone School when it was built. This all happened in her second year of school.

In school Julia was taught Reading, Phonics, Penmanship and Arithmetic. Later in school History, Geography and Health were taught. Everyone had Physical Education class from first through twelve th grade. This class was held every morning and all the students would do the same exercises.

When it was time for recess the children that were under weight would stay in and were feed milk and gram crackers to help bring their weight up. Julia said, "I use to look forward to it and was glad I

was under weight." This was a special treat for Julia because her family never received gram crackers at home, since they were considered some thing the was not needed. The milk was also treasured in the fact that milk cost fifteen cents a quart and at home a quart had to feed six children for one day.

The children did not receive hot lunches in school, so they had to take their own or go home at lunch time. When Julia went to grade school, she had to walk one mile to home, this was in all types of weather. Julia, her sisters and brother would run home, eat, then walk back to school slower. They usually had an apple to eat on the way back to school.

Julia's senior high years were spent in the Brick Building on B Street. Julia graduated with the class of 1932. Her class was the last graduating class the senior high would see (Rock Building). The ceremony was held at the Riolto Theater. The Rock Building was then torn down and made into East Junior Highs stadium wall.

GAMES

One-a-cat:

Need a small ball and a bat made out of a slat of wood. One person bats and one pitcher, the rest of the players are catchers. The object of the game is to hit the ball and run back and forth from the one base to home, before one of the players through the ball to home. If you got home before the catchers got the ball to home you were safe and got to keep batting until they got you out. The person with the most times to bat wins.

Tin Can Cricket:

You need two small holes dug at what ever distance you prefer from

each other. Place two cans behind each hole. To play you need a small ball and a stick. The object of the game is not to let the cans get knock^v down. The bat or stick would be placed in the hole, each time the ball would come near the cans, the opposite player would hit the ball away. When the ball was hit away the other player not the one that hit the ball, would run to get the ball while the opposite player ran back and forth placing his stick in the holes and counting how many times they did this before the other player got back with the ball.

Julia would also play hide and seek, run sheep run, which is a form of hide and seek. She would go slay riding in the winter, the camp children would sled ride on cardboard or old tin. Julia would also enjoy playing with a metal ring off of a water barrel. She would roll this ring around the camp and see who could go the fastest

Other Activities

A young newly wed in the camp had a car, so many of the younger girls decided to form a club. To be in the club one had to pay dues of one dime a month. With this dime gas was bought. All the girls would get into the car and go as far south of the camp as the gas would take them. On the way back to camp it was down hill, so the car would coast till they were back in camp. This car was the first car to be in the number two camp.

Many of the songs that Julia and her family and friends would sing are:

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Three Blind Mice

Spring Time in The Rockies

It's a long time to Tipperary
Barney Google, and
Yea, We have no Banannas.

The children when they were younger enjoyed the adventures of the hills. They would hide little trinkets in them and then go back to the camp and tell the other children they had a secret in the hills. The children would get a "where about" the trinket would be. many of these surprises were out of the Cracker Jacks box when one could be bought which was not often. All the children would run to find this trinket.

Playing house was also a favorite of the children. The play house was made out of grape crates that the grownups would get to make their home brew. The crates would be stacked one on top of the other, this would provide for the walls. These boxes would be swarming with flies, but this did not matter as long as the children were enjoying themselves.

In the summer months, Julia's parents would take all the children into the hills out of camp. A big fire would be started and after the fire died down potatoes would be placed into the ashes to cook. When done the potatoes were salted and eaten with black skin and all. Every ones faces were covered with sot when all was done.

Julia's father made each of the children a wheel barrel. The children would go along the railroad tracks and collect the coal that had dumped off the rail cars. They could do this in the summer, but in the winter the family had to buy their coal from the mines.

HOLIDAYS

On the Forth of July the children would go to the cliffs above

the camp and make a big circle of rocks around a pit. A large fire was built in this pit, the material used for the fire were old tires. Benches were placed around the pit in a circle and all sixteen families that were in the camp, would gather on the cliffs in the evening to watch the black smoke rise to the sky and also to let one cent fire crackers off. The camp members would then gather at the edge of the cliff and watch the well to do people of Rock Springs set off their sky rockets and fire works. The Forth of July was a time for the whole camp to come together and enjoy themselves.

Parades and Rodeos in Pride addition were part of the attractions held on Labor Day. The children would gather at the rodeo ground to watch the men do their feats, after words the children had leg races and won a few shekels.

Eight Hour day was held on April first. This day represented the day the mines allowed the men to work only eight hours in a work day. On this day all of the nationalities would put on a program at the Riolto Theater. The people would sing, and do skits through out the day. A parade would also be held on this day, proceeding the parade a free show would be shown.

On the children's birthdays presents were not given. Birthdays were not a big event in their lives. The only thing the children would get to recognize their Birthdays, was that their mother would make Struckla. This is the recipe for it.

| for the dough | Filling |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 cups of flour | 12 oz cottage cheese |
| 1 egg | enough butter soft to |
| dash of salt | spread on the dough |
| enough milk to make a soft | Cinnamon to sprinkle on |
| dough | dough and also Raisins |

Mix the dough ingredients together and let set in bowl and rise twenty minutes. Make sure you have covered the bowl with something. When the time is up flour a wooden board and place the dough on it. if the dough is to sticky to roll out knead it till you can roll it. After you have roll it to a square two feet by two feet spread butter on to it. Next you will want to spread the cottage cheese onto the dough, sprinkle some cinnamon on then add as many raisins on top as you like. Roll the dough up to look like a tube. Get a dish towel made out of cheese cloth and place the dough onto this and rap the Struckla in this. Have a pot of water boiling to you can place the Struckla into it to cook. You might want to rap some string around the roll so it will not come undone while cooking. place it into the water and let it boil for one hour. When done unroll the dough and place it onto a place, slice it and pour maple syrup over it.

On all birthdays Strukla was served.

Christmas was celebrated with no tree or decorations and no toys were given. When night would come the children would lay on the benches around the table and fall asleep. On the table would be a plate waiting for Santa Clause to come. After Santa came the children were awaken to see what was left. On their plates were usually a nickel, apple, orange and some Christmas candy. The children might even receive a new pair of shoes if the money was available.

New Years Eve was celebrated with all in the camp. When it got close to midnight the children would be awaken if they had fallen to sleep. When midnight came you would hear gun shoots, car horns blowing, everyone was screaming or making some kind of noise. The mine whistle and every possible noise would be in the air.

Easter was a time to receive new clothes, every child in the family would be outfitted in new array. The children would dye one dozen eggs each and then dye extra ones to exchange with their

friends. Egg rolling contests would be held to see who could roll the fastest to the finish line. They would also throw coins at the eggs to see who could brake the most. Children would also each hold an egg and see who could brake the other ones egg first.

Memorial Day seemed to be one of the biggest days of the year. Everyone in town would gather early on that day at the cemetery to decorate the graves. This was an unique situation since concession stands were set up there. Ice cream, hot dogs and other foods were at these stands. Julia said that they could not afford to eat at the stands, they would take their lunches with them, if they were lucky they might get an ice cream cone later in the day. The big highlight of the day was decorating the graves and trying to do your best at it. To decorate them Julie use to take cedar bowls and if they could be found with berries on them they made the decorations look nicer and place these on the graves first. Next they would place wild flowers about the grave or they would make flowers out of crape paper. When all was finished everyone would walk around to see the decorated graves. One grave that everyone made sure they went to was one that had two little girls barried in it. This grave was a mosoleum and it had a window in the front of it. Each year the girls parents would place toys in the mosoleum for them. All the children had to look in the window each year to see the toys the children had received.

CLOTHES

Clothes were made most of the time, not many were bought. Julia's mother, Frances would knit their sockings and also make them shirts. When Julia was younger she wore bib overalls to play in the hills in and also do things around the house. The good outfits,

though not many were kept for school and church. Her under clothes, slips and bloomers were made out of oxident flour sacks, some times the lettering was still on the under clothes when worn.

The girls that lived next door to Julia's family had store bought bloomers and they were the black satin, Julia wanted a pair of those very bad, but it never did happen.

Julia's brother was the only child in the family that had store boughten pant and that was because you could not buy levi material.

The first boughten under clothes that Julia received was for graduation, she also received a new dress for the occasion.

FOOD

The Yugovich family for breakfast would have a cup of coffee and some bread. For lunch they would receive coco and Zigansa (crumbled hot cakes) and on the way back to school an apple or orange.

For Julia's fathers lunch that he took to the mine, salami was hung in the cellar and cheese was in the cellar also to keep it fresh. No food was wrapped to keep fresh, so when the lunch was placed in the box and as it set in the mine during the day it got musty. When father came home the children would run to see what was left in the lunch pail and eat it, even though it had the musty smell to it.

For dinner meat, potatoes and vegetables from their garden were eaten.

When the children were on their way to school, many times they did not receive an apple to eat and one of their friends did, so when that friend was done eating their apple then children would say "core on you" and the first on to say this got to eat the core.

Another favorite of the children was when they got a piece of

gum. They would chew this gum till it was very hard and when it got time to go to bed they would hide the gum in some secret place to find another time. Many times the gum was found by someone else and chewed. The gum would be dipped into sugar that would be in the palm of the hand or coco and sugar and even sometimes cinnamon and sugar.

Julia's mother would also make Potesa on Easter, this is a nut roll that melts in ones mouth. She would also make Flancita when she had the time, Flancita is a fine pastry that powder sugar is sprinkled on.

The Yugovich's did not have very many cakes and cookies until the girls got older and learned to cook in school.

Fresh bread was made all the time. The bread was baked in the stove in the house or in the oven outside. The out side oven was made out of brick, the fire would be started in the oven and when it burned down the ashes would be taken out and the bricks would then be hot enough to bake the bread. The bread would be put in the oven and a metal sheet would be placed over the opening to keep the heat in. When the bread was fresh out of the oven, Julia's mother would not let them eat it till the bread was cooled off. She use to tell them that eating fresh bread was not good for them.

WHEN SICK

When someone in the family got sick camomile tea was usually given to them. If someone had chicken poxs or measles the were left to go their coarse. Sore throats were treated by putting juniper oil on the neck and then a flannel rag placed around the neck. The juniper oil was very sticky.

When the children would step on a nail, they would pull the nail

out and go off and play. The children never had a tetanus shot.

DISCIPLINE

The children knew what they could and could not do, so there was no disciplinary action taken. In the camp all the families had the same rules, so when you went to someone else's home you knew the rules.

DEATH

When the babies were still born Julia's mother was taken care of, then the doctor was call to pronounce the child died. A small casket was brought home and the baby placed into it. When it came time for the funeral, Julia's father placed the baby in casket on his lap in the funeral coach and went to the cemetery.

At the Salvation Lodge when a member had died, the body would be kept at the home and lodge members would keep watch over the body till it was time for burrial. The lodge members would carry the casket to the cemetery for burrial. Even though this was a sad time there would be a band playing behind the procession.

Julia's brother died when he was thirteen years old.

NATURAL DISASTERS

The only disasters that Julia remembers is when Bitter Creek would flood. The camp would not be effected but West Flats homes

basements would receive much water. Goble Street and North Fronts east end would also flood.

In the camp when there was a cloud burst, the creek by the city dump would over flow and bring water down the creek between the Boarder House and Julia's home. Since there was no garbage pick up every one through their bottles and cans in this gully. The children of the camp would take off their shoes and wade in the galley while the waters came. Broken bottles and cans would float by then and even died animals from the city dump would be in the water. Many times the children would be cut, but they thought that the dirty water would clean the cut out. Julia said that she does not remember anyone getting since from the water.

CHINESE MASSACRE

Julia does not remember the Massacre, but she remembers when the chinese in number two camp deserted the company houses. One day on their way home from school Julia and her sisters went into the cellar of these homes and found dishes and lamps that they had left behind. The girl took some of the dishes home and played with them in their play house.

HUNTING

Julia's dad did not hunt big game, they, got their meat from the butcher shops in town.

The men of the camp would go out rabbit hunting on Sunday mornings. There would be three to five of them that would have their

shot guns on their shoulders and walk out south of camp. When they returned they would have rabbits hanging all around their belts. It was then time for the women to take over, they would skin and clean the rabbits and then cook them for dinner.

MARRIAGE

Julia meet Frank Pivik at a party that Frank uncle was giving at his home. Julia said that she remembers him from school, but did not get to know him till latter. They dated for a short time, then eloped on March 16, 1935, they were married in Manila Utah by the Justice of the Peace. Julia was just about nineteen and Frank was twenty one when the got married.

When they returned home no one was told about their marriage. Many years before, Julia's father was hurt in the mine; therefore, he could not work that job any more, so they moved to Rock Springs into a house on Tisdal Street behind the Salvinsic Dome. Julia's father worked at the dome doing maintance. The family lived three years on credit after Julia's father got hurt, so the oldest girls worked to help with the bills.

Julia knew if her parents found out that she was married, they would not except the money to help out. Also Julia would have to quit her job as a secretary at the Highway Department, since if you were married you could not work in those days.

No one knew of Julia's marriage till a year latter. When told the family accepted her husband and what she had done.

On March 18, 1936, Julia gave birth to a daughter, Helen Frances. The baby was fine when born, but Julia had problems after the birth was over, her albeum level was off and almost made her go into

convolutions. Julia did not have any prenatal care.

Julia had a miscarriage latter in the marriage.

NEW HOME

When Frank and Julia were first married they lived in a house on Pine Street that belonged to the Bertagnolli's. Latter they moved to a two room bachelor shack in Blairtown, till the house they live in now was vacated. When they moved into their home on Third Avenue West, Frank's father owned the house and had been renting it out.

HUSBAND AT WORK

Frank worked at the Union Pacific Bakery on the east end of town for awhile, he then went to work at Ass. Bakery. He latter went to work at the Butcher Shop at the Union Pacific Store. When he left the U.P. Store Frank went to work at the Rock Springs Butchering until it closed, Frank was sixty two when the Butchering store shut down. From there he worked at the Union Merc till its' closing.

CAR

The first car that Frank and Julia had was a Old Studagager[✓] Turbo, it had silalode windows.

The second car that they had was a 1941 Club Coupe. They traded in their 1934 coach on this car. The owner of the car lot asked Frank how much he could afford on payments and he told him fifty

dollars a month. The owner then asked how much Frank made and they told him ninety dollars a month. The owner could not believe his ears, but was surprised when many months they even paid seventy dollars a month on the car.

The depression and the boom of Rock Springs did not affect the Piviks in any way. As Julia said, "When you don't have alot to start with and do not live on credit, then these times were not hard."

Julia's family consists of her six sisters, her husband and daughter Helen (Petersen). She has four grandchildren, Mark, Julie (Domson), David and John. Four great-grandchildren, Jenni Petersen, Daniel Domson, Justin Domson and Amie Domson.

Julia wants peace for the future of her family. For all of them to grow and learn from each other and their mistakes.

STORES

This is a list of stores that Julia's family used in their shopping and also a map is provided of the places mentioned in the paper.

- (1) Butcher Shop (some Yugoslavian own it)
- (2) Andrew Burnard Butcher Shop
- (3) Chicago Market
- (4) Lincoln Market (Frank Goser Sr. owner)
- (5) Penneys
- (6) C. A. West
- (7) Stock Growers
- (8) Buminers
- (9) White House (when talked about in a laugh, this place had prostitution.)
- (10) Rock Building
- (11) Brick Building
- (12) White Building
- (13) City Hall
- (14) #2 Camp
- (15) House on Tisdal
- (16) Blairtown
- (17) Riolto Theater

Map drawn by: Frank Pivik

NAME: Julia Pivik (Mrs Dr. Pivik)

PRESENT ADDRESS: 633 3rd Ave West, R.S., Wyo.

1. Present profession or occupation: Homemaker
2. Occupations followed in the past (give dates): Secretary 1933-36 Bookkeeper 1955-57
3. Date of birth: June 7, 1915 Place of birth: R.S.
4. Date of moving to Wyoming: Native
5. Full name of parents (give mother's maiden name)
Valentin Yagovich - Frances Bartelj
6. Names of brothers and sisters (and to whom married):
Frances (Mrs. E.R. Adams)
Valentina (Dora) (Mrs. Henry Lemji)
Anne (Mrs. Victor Menghini)
Mary (Mrs. Peter Reich)
Stanley - deceased
7. Schools attended (give dates):
Rock Springs public schools 1921-1932
8. Places of residence in Wyoming (give dates): Rock Springs 1915-1986
~~Central Coal Co. Nat. Camp 1919-1921~~
9. Military service (dates, awards, area served, rank, etc.):
10. Political offices held (give dates):
11. Political affiliation: Democrat
12. Religious affiliation: Roman Catholic
13. Marriage (spouse's name, date and place of marriage):
Frank
14. Children (names, dates of birth, grandchildren, etc.):
Daughter, Helen (Mrs Alfred J. Petersen) 3-18-36
Grand children - Mark Petersen 12-20-57
 Julia Anne (Peterson) Domson 5-4-60
 Devide Petersen 58-61
 John Petersen 2-11-83
Mr Brand:
Daniel Domson 11-29-79
Justin Domson 6-30-81
Amy Lynn - 8-2-83
Jennie Lee - 1-23-84
15. List of clubs and societies of which you are a member:
Catholic Golden Agers