***Lara Fordis Consulting***

***Grandmother Video Project***

***July 11th, 2015***

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 1.mov (07:34)**

GOING OVER SOME FAMILY PHOTOS

Lara: Hi, I’m here with Grandma Mu and we’re going to spend some time on this July 11th, 2015, going over some family photos. The first one is this one. Grandma is going to go through from left to right and tell us who these people are. Who’s that?

GM: That’s Auntie Bea.

Lara: Auntie Bea.

GM: My mother’s younger sister.

Lara: And is there anything we should know about Auntie Bea.

GM: She was everybody’s friend.

Lara: Did she get married or have kids?

GM: She got married and divorced, and no children.

Lara: Okay, and then below her is your mom and Vera.

GM: My mother with my sister, Vera.

Lara: What year do you think that was around? Vera looks really like a baby.

GM: Vera is a baby there. Well I’m going to be 92, so Vera would have been 94. If you take 94 years off today that would be about the day.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

Lara: Okay. So what do you want people to know about your mother? Obviously I didn’t know her.

GM: She was a remarkable woman.

Lara: In what way?

GM: She always put on a great front. Everything was always okay. She never complained.

Lara: And how did she get to England?

GM: She was born there. My grandfather came from Russia when he was 13. His mother had died and his father had remarried, and the children came, and went on a boat and came to England. We spoke very little English at that time.

Lara: What was his full name?

GM: Mark Lavradofski.

Lara: And how did he meet your mother? I mean how did… and Grandpa meet your mother?

GM: I think it was just with a group of friends. In those days there were always so many of them. There was always a cake in my house sitting out, neighbors, friends, and I think that’s how they met, because she was very very young.

Lara: How old was she when she met your father?

GM: About 15 or 16.

Lara: And do you know where they met?

GM: … (inaudible)

WHO IS THIS?

Lara: Okay, so moving on. Who is this?

GM: That is one other sister of my mother’s. She died when she was about 15…

Lara: What did she die of?

GM: Of cancer.

Lara: And then this looks like your dad?

GM: This is my grandfather.

Lara: Oh. What was his name?

GM: Marx.

Lara: What was his first name?

GM: His first name was Marx, second name was Lavradofski.

Lara: Oh, okay, I was getting people mixed up.

GM: This was the eldest daughter, Doris, who was Lillian’s mother. Lillian is my first cousin.

WHERE DOES LILLIAN LIVE TODAY?

Lara: And Lillian today, where does she live?

GM: She lives in a retirement home and she’s just turned 95.

Lara: And who are Lillian’s children and grandchildren?

GM: She never had children.

Lara: But she lives close by. And do you still see her?

GM: Yes. Not too often.

AND THIS IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

Lara: And this is your grandmother?

GM: Right.

Lara: What was her name?

GM: Dolly.

Lara: And what was her maiden name?

COUSIN HAROLD

GM: You know, I don’t know… with women. This is my cousin, my uncle, Harold. He was the only boy amongst all of these girls.

Lara: How many girls among Harold?

GM: I think there were seven.

Lara: How did Harold turn out?

GM: He was a very nice quiet guy. I think he was overruled by all the women.

Lara: And what happened to Harold? Did he get married… ?

GM: He got married and he got divorced, and he had two children, a girl and a boy.

Lara: And are they still in England?

GM: I really don’t know what happened to them, it was so long ago. They were in England.

WHO IS THAT?

Lara: And who is that?

GM: This is… you may have heard me talk about… that’s his mother.

Lara: Did she have any other children?

GM: She had two boys and a girl. Sid was the youngest, and there was Jasper who was older, and they had a girl named Marian who unfortunately died when she was quite young.

Lara: Did they have children? Does she have grandchildren?

GM: Yes, her grandchild is…

Lara: And who are Sid’s children?

GM: They’re not here. His children, he never had children, grandchildren yet. They’re not married.

WHO’S THE LITTLE GIRL IN THE LOWER RIGHT?

Lara: Oh. And who’s this little girl in the lower right?

GM: That is Mickie. She’s one of the youngest children. I think she is the youngest child. She got married and had a girl named Jill who… with. And she had a boy, but I don’t remember the name.

WHEN YOU SEE PICTURES LIKE THIS, HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

Lara: So when you see pictures like this, how does it make you feel?

GM: It makes me feel very nostalgic. I often think upon… what fun it must have been to live with so many people in the house all the time.

Lara: I wonder how many bathrooms they had.

GM: One.

Lara: One for all this?

GM: You’d always see everybody knocking on the door, “let me in, let me in.” (chuckles)

(END OF RECORDING)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 2.mov (0:00:50)**

Lara: …

DO YOU THINK YOUR MOTHER WAS MARRIED OR DATING THERE?

GM: Yes, my mother was probably about 18 there.

Lara: Do you think they were married or dating?

GM: I think they were married.

Lara: How old was your mom when she got married?

GM: 16.

Lara: 16, really?

GM: Um-hum.

Lara: Was that common in those days?

GM: Yes, very.

Lara: And so they got married where?

GM: In Manchester, England.

Lara: And tell me about what life was like there for them in Manchester. What did they do?

GM: The earliest thing that I remember was we had a little house on Brentwood Street which was round the corner to my grandmother.

(END OF RECORDING)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 3.mov (00:17)**

(RECORDING BEGINS)

GM: And so that’s why we all have stone problems today.

Lara: When did you get your first indoor toilet?

GM: I must have been about…

(RECORDING ENDS)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 4.mov (06:43)**

(RECORDING BEGINS)

GM: I would think this was taken after they were married.

A PICTURE OF YOUR PARENTS AFTER THEY WERE MARRIED

Lara: So this is a picture of your parents after they were married. Now tell me about them. Let’s go over again how they met and how old they were.

GM: I don’t know how they actually met. I would think they were part of a large group of children. In those days the families were so big that everybody had a friend in a similar age group in the people you were related to. They met when she was 16 I’m told.

Lara: And how long did they date before they got married? Or did people really date? What was that like then?

GM: You know, I don’t know. I imagine it was less costly than it would be today… I think we only did things that were free.

Lara: And how long before they got engaged and then married?

GM: I don’t know. They were married when she was 16, so it must have not been too long.

Lara: And how old was she when she had Vera?

GM: 17.

Lara: And had you?

GM: 18.

THE HOUSE YOU LIVED IN AND THE BATHROOM SITUATION

Lara: And you had told me once about the house. Tell me about the house that you lived in and the bathroom situation.

GM: Well there was one bathroom outside. You had to go outside in the dark, down the path, and there was an outhouse. I don’t remember any of my friends having an indoor bathroom at that time.

Lara: And when did you get the indoor bathroom?

GM: When I was about 7. We moved to a house that had an indoor bathroom and that was a really big deal.

Lara: And did they use toilet paper or newspaper? What did they use back then?

GM: They used everything actually. Toilet paper was very rare. In those days, the thing we used a lot of as I remember was, oranges were wrapped in a piece of paper, like tissue, but maybe poorer quality, and they used to pull the papers off the oranges and put them on the hook, and people used that for toilet paper.

Lara: Interesting. I never knew that.

GM: Um-hum.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT GROWING UP IN MANCHESTER?

Lara: What else do you remember about growing up and being a kid in Manchester?

GM: It was pretty steady, got up, went to school, you came home. I was lucky I had a sister that was 18 months older than myself and we always did things together. Everybody came from big families. We didn’t have a lot of brothers and sisters but we had a lot of cousins.

Lara: Was having just four of your considered a lot, average, or small?

GM: It was considered average actually in those days. Very few families were less than two or four, but most of them were seven or eight. Not my generation, the generation before me. In my generation we started having smaller families then.

WHAT DID YOUR FATHER DO FOR WORK?

Lara: And what did your father do for work?

GM: He was a film salesman, sold movies to movie theatres, and we loved it because we always got in free.

Lara: How did he get involved with that?

GM: How did he get involved with that?

Lara: Do you know?

GM: I don’t know. All the boys of that age group, young men, I suppose, became film salesmen.

Lara: Was that in your family or all just men of that particular age?

GM: Men of that particular age I think.

Lara: Hum.

GM: It was a new business in those days.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT GROWING UP?

Lara: And what else do you remember about growing up? What was most memorable, besides the bathrooms?

GM: Everything seemed so normal for that time. You went to school, you came home, you played with your friends or your sisters, did homework. There was always a lot of homework.

Lara: And did you think about pursuing anything in math, because you’re so good at math. What were the options for women back then?

GM: For women there were very few options at that time. I remember my parents coming to school for open house, and the teacher talked to my parents about me going to college, and they thought that was hysterical, because women never thought of going to school.

Lara: And did they tell you that later? Did you know that at the time?

GM: At the time it was more or less a joke in the family, that Mu…‘s teacher wants her to go to college.

Lara: How old were you when that came up?

TAKING EXAMS WHEN YOU WERE 11

GM: In England in those days the education was different. You went to school, and when you were 11 you took exams, and that determined whether you went on to school or went to a trade school and learned a trade. So at 11 we took all these exams, and that really was your future for you, except most girls that should have gone to college never went because it was considered a waste for a girl to go to college. You were going to get married and have children anyway, so why waste the time and the knowledge.

IF YOU WERE GROWING UP NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO DO FOR A CAREER?

Lara: If you were growing up now, what would you want to do for a career?

GM: I think if I was growing up now I would want to do something where people who can’t afford to go to school could go to school, because I think there was a lot of wasted talent in those days.

Lara: Well we’ll wrap up this one and we’re going to move onto another photo.

(RECORDING ENDS)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 5.mov (06:35)**

(RECORDING BEGINS)

Lara: … when they’re older. How old are they in this picture?

GM: I think about 40, 45.

Lara: Really?

GM: I think.

WHEN THEY WERE 40 AND 45, WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WERE UP TO?

Lara: So when they were 40 and 45, what do you think they were up to? What was life like?

GM: The men went to work, the women stayed at home. Each person had their own social group of friends they went out with. Not a lot of money was spent in going out because we never had it.

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE AT THAT TIME?

Lara: And by this time, what was going on in your life? We’ll go back and talk about how you met Papa Lew when we come to his pictures, but can you tell us a little bit about what life was like at that time?

GM: Looking back now, it was very small-town-ish. Weekends you had house parties, so you’d meet different people. We would do it one week, and another person would do it the following week, so it came to about four times a year we would have a party in our house, but every weekend there would be a party somewhere.

Lara: And was this with family or friends or both?

GM: It was mostly friends.

Lara: And how many people would be at these parties every weekend?

GM: I would say probably about a dozen girls and a dozen boys.

Lara: So this is more what like the kids did when you were single? You’re talking about when you were single? Or when you were married?

GM: No, single.

Lara: Okay, so people would come to the houses. So the parents would sort of sponsor-host the party? Or how would it work?

GM: It was not really a party, it was a get-together. We made tea and cookies and sometimes fruits, depending the time of the year and what was good.

Lara: And at this point you were in California, or New York, or England?

GM: England.

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO AMERICA?

Lara: When did you move to America?

GM: When I was 14.

Lara: So what transpired that you moved to America? How did all of that go down?

GM: My father traveled selling films to foreign countries, Germany, France. He would leave on a Monday morning and come home on a Friday night, and he used to travel to Germany and all over, and he could see that it was very bad days… so he decided we would come to America. My mother actually at that point was supposed to be in America. My grandfather came on a trip to America where they paid you 10 pounds to become a citizen.

Lara: They paid you to become a citizen?

GM: Um-hum.

Lara: Why was that?

GM: Because they needed people in America so badly.

Lara: Wow, that’s changed in the way things work now.

GM: Yes.

Lara: So what had brought your grandfather to America if he became a citizen?

GM: Jester used to go down to Liverpool, which was near Manchester, and they were advertised in these sailings, that if you want on the boat and became a citizen you got so many dollars. So a lot of people were doing it.

Lara: And then their kids could become citizens? Or how did that work?

GM: What?

Lara: And so the children of American citizens?

GM: In those days children didn’t become automatic. They didn’t become automatic… In those days if you became a citizen, and when the war came they called my grandfather down and asked what he wanted to do. Did he want to go back to America, or stay in England? So he chose to stay in England and he chose to become an American citizen.

Lara: Interesting. And so that’s the grandfather in the picture we were looking at?

GM: Right.

WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE OF COMING TO AMERICA?

Lara: Okay. And let’s see, so you came when you were 14. How did you come? What was the experience like?

GM: We went on a train to Liverpool, and then we went on a boat to America.

Lara: And where did you land?

GM: New York City.

Lara: Do you remember the process of going through immigration?

GM: We had passports, going through immigration, going through the immigration. What’s it called?

Lara: Ellis Island?

GM: Ellis Island.

Lara: And was Papa Lew with you?

GM: No.

WHERE DID YOU GO WHEN YOU FIRST GOT HERE?

Lara: So where did you go when you first got here?

GM: We went to Chicago. My father had an aunt that lived here, so we went to Chicago.

Lara: How long were you in Chicago?

GM: About eight months, and then we went to New York.

Lara: And how long were you in New York?

GM: I got married and had children in New York.

Lara: So quite a while.

GM: Yes.

HOW OLD WAS YOUR MOM WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY?

Lara: And how old was your mom when she passed away, because I never knew her?

GM: She was 57.

Lara: What did she pass away of?

GM: … (inaudible)

Lara: And your father? He lived a lot longer as I recall.

GM: He died when he was 68 I think. He had a heart attack.

Lara: Well now we’ll stop here and pick out a picture –

(RECORDING ENDS)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 6.mov (10:37)**

(RECORDING BEGINS)

DO YOU REMEMBER THE OCCASION FOR THAT PICTURE?

Lara: … the picture of you and Papa Lew and my mom. I don’t know what the occasion was. Do you remember the occasion for that picture?

GM: I think somebody got mitz-vahed…

HOW OLD AND WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU MET PAPA Lew?

Lara: So let’s start with how you met Papa Lew. How old you were and where you were.

GM: I was – my sister got scarlet fever, and we had to leave the house, and she had to go to the hospital, and my mother wouldn’t let her go, so we all had to go stay with my grandmother. And in those days it was social life that was built by groups… and clubs mostly, and the huge club that we went to at my grandmother’s was different than the one we went to because we lived quite a way, so we had to go to the club, my grandmother’s, because we were living there. And that’s where I met Papa Lew.

Lara: So what did you think when you first saw him?

GM: He was just another boy with a group. We used to go dancing every Sunday.

Lara: What kind of dancing?

GM: Modern dancing, ballroom dancing. Grandpa was a very good dancer.

Lara: So when did it change? When did you think he was special and not just another boy at the club?

GM: We’d met at about six or seven times and I thought he was quite charming.

Lara: And so what happened? Did you have to go back away from his club, or were you still close enough to visit?

GM: No, actually, we went back home and went to the club nearer, and he came there. It was just from here to…

Lara: Well that’s not too far.

GM: It wasn’t too far.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU DECIDED HE WAS CHARMING?

Lara: So what happened next, when you decided he was charming?

GM: What?

Lara: Once you decided he was charming, what happened?

GM: We kept going out every Sunday, and then went out every Saturday as well. And then he was coming over every Tuesday, so we were seeing each other three or four times a week.

Lara: And what was he doing at the time?

GM: He was working for his father. He had grocery stores and they sold peanuts.

WHAT DID YOUR PARENTS THINK OF PAPA Lew?

Lara: And what did your parents think of Papa Lew?

GM: Well going back to a very odd story, they thought he was a nice young man, but it came out later that when Grandma’s father was working with… baking business, when Lew started, everybody used to take in a young girl or boy to stay with them for nothing, to give them a chance to get on their feet. So Grandma and Grandpa, my mother and father, took in young boys so they could to Temple and pray, and all those things, and the people who stayed with us was my grandmother, my mother’s mother and father, and so… came out later. So he used to read these love letters to my grandmother from all over the world. My grandfather was a traveler, and when they found out they were seeing each other… they thought that was marveLews because he loved my grandmother so much.

Lara: I wonder where the love letters are.

GM: I don’t know. But she couldn’t read or write so he had to read and write all the letters.

Lara: So how long was it before you got engaged?

GM: Grandpa and I, we never actually got formally engaged because the war broke out.

Lara: And so what happened? Did you just get married?

GM: We just got married.

WHAT WAS YOUR WEDDING LIKE?

Lara: What was your wedding like?

GM: There was about 20 people in the room, in an apartment, and the Rabbi…

Lara: …

GM: … and we got married. And that morning my mother and I got up. Well the night before at about 11 o’clock at night there was a knock at the door, and my cousins came from Boston, there were about four or six of them, so we only had an apartment, so I slept with my Aunt Sadie and my mother and father slept with someone else, and we gave these rooms to my cousins from Boston. So we got up at about 5:00 o’clock in the morning and we made a full chicken dinner. We served it at 1:00. The wedding was at 3:00, and we cleaned up, and we had the wedding.

HOW LONG BEFORE MY MOM CAME AROUND?

Lara: That’s a really nice story. And so you had the wedding and you lived in New York, and then how long was it before my mom came around?

GM: We were married in August and she was born a year the following March. I couldn’t get pregnant. I was very unhappy. But then it happened.

Lara: And then how long after did Sandy come along?

GM: 13 months.

Lara: So you didn’t have any trouble after that.

GM: What?

Lara: You didn’t have any trouble after that.

GM: No.

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE WITH TWO BABIES?

Lara: And what was life like? With two babies?

GM: It was very hard. We lived in an apartment, so everything you do, you took them to the park, you took them outside and it was very hard, just four months really… pregnant. Looking back it was really hard work.

Lara: And what was Papa Lew doing then? Was he still at the peanut store?

GM: Papa Lew then was selling pinball machines. He found a placement for a pinball machine and installed it, and then he got so much the placement, and he was doing very well at it, and then the… came along and banned the pinball machine, in one weekend we were rejoicing at home much money he had made, and the same weekend we were out of work.

Lara: What did you do next?

GM: He actually sold peanuts, and started our own little business. We took little packages and filled them with nuts and pinned them on a cardboard, and it was a quarter in those days, and then you went around selling placements and put this cardboard up, I’d say it had 24. In those days they went for like a dime, so you would put them in the store, and then every few days we’d go around and they would pay you for what was gone, so we had no investment. It was encouraging to make extra money, so we did that.

THE CHICKEN FARM

Lara: I remember hearing about a chicken farm or something.

GM: Then we got interested in a chicken farm. That was work. And when we’d been in the chicken farm about two months, Lew and Jerry had an automobile accident and Grandpa ended up in the hospital, and I had just had your mother… and I had to get up and start feeding the chickens, because they would die, and Lew and Jerry… and Jerry was busy working to pay for the feed for the chickens. It was so expensive, you have no idea, to keep these chickens in feed was a full-time job.

Lara: So how long did the chicken business last?

GM: What?

Lara: How long did you last in the chicken business before you did something else?

GM: It was a year. We had to bring the chickens to grow before they could kill them, otherwise we lost all the money. So we had to, whether you liked it or not, you had to bring the chickens from being a little teeny egg to being a full-grown chicken before you could sell them, and that takes 13 weeks. So we did that three times, we turned them over. It seemed like forever.

Lara: Well, I think we’ll wrap up for today, but this was really informative, and I’ll come back. I know that Nick is anxious for me to –

(END OF RECORDING)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 7.mov (00:40)**

(RECORDING BEGINS)

THE AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT & TAKING CARE OF THE CHICKENS

Lara: So you had mentioned that Uncle Jerry and Grandpa had an automobile accident and it was right around when you were taking care of the chickens and my mom was born.

GM: Your mother was born.

Lara: What happened then?

GM: All hell cut loose. (chuckles) It was very very hard. I used to go to the hospital every day, actually every other day. One day we would… the chickens, and the other day I would go and see Papa Lew. That went on for –

(END OF RECORDING)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 8.mov (06:04)**

WHEN DID PAPA Lew FINALLY GET BETTER FROM THE ACCIDENT?

Lara: Okay, so what happened? When did Papa Lew finally get better from the accident?

GM: It took 8 months.

Lara: And you were by yourself with my mom and the chickens?

GM: And we were had Jerry with us. We shared it.

Lara: Was it in the country, or where was it?

GM: It was in Northport, Long Island.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER YOU GOT OUT OF THE CHICKEN BUSINESS?

Lara: So what did you do after that? After you got out of the chicken business?

GM: We moved to Seagate where Grandma and Grandpa were, and they went into the silverware business.

Lara: What did they do in the silverware business?

GM: They bought and sold knives and forks. Anything that could be bought and sold.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO MOVE TO CALIFORNIA?

Lara: And when did you make the decision to move to California?

GM: We were sitting around in New York, in Long Island, and it was freezing, and we were snowed in, and we got a letter from my aunt and uncle in California Christmas Day, and they were sitting on the quilt, and we decided there and then… to move out, so we did.

Lara: Who all moved out with you?

GM: My mother and father and my sisters…

Lara: And where did you move first?

GM: Santa Monica.

Lara: And what did Grandpa do for a living then?

GM: … buy and sell, and then he went into the silverware business. What did he do after that? He worked very hard.

HOW DID HE GET INTO THE SHOE BUSINESS?

Lara: How did he finally get into the shoe business?

GM: Grandpa was in-between doing things, and he was bored, and he used to read ads in the paper all the time. There was this ad that intrigued about a man looking for a partner in the shoe business. And his mother, when she was a girl, worked on shoes, and I think that was the attraction in the beginning. Then we went in business with this guy wo was a very nice guy but had no idea about business, and after about six months… and Grandpa kept the slipper business…

Lara: And how did that evolve?

GM: It was very hard work and very different. Grandpa found a guy named Mullin who could run the sewing machine. It was a completely different business than we’d ever done before. It was… that you clicked, put the fabric in the soles, and at that time everything was foam rubber. And the soles were cut out, and it was very… so we did a child’s slipper… and Grandpa was buying the materials for the slippers, and they shipped two different… and the guy didn’t notice it, and he cut out the slippers, and the rights were one way and the lefts were another way, and they were absolutely horrible. I don’t have to tell you, we was demoralized. There was money tied up in the material. Anyway, Grandpa somehow got rid of them, sold them… and we never cut the slippers again out of one role, we did the sides and the front all out of the same… because… can be just slightly off. And then we went from doing that to doing a ladies’ slipper. It was hard work.

Lara: So what happened next?

GM: We just continued with slippers, and went into doing what we’re doing now.

THE SLIPPER BUSINESS

Lara: So with the slipper business, when did it become Countess Casuals and Angelettes? Where are those names from?

GM: 1951 we incorporated and we did Countess Casuals. Angelettes… in Los Angeles…

Lara: But why Countess Casuals? Why that name?

GM: I don’t know… I think it was the English… came out.

Lara: Okay, well we’ll take a break and then we’ll talk about kids and grandkids.

(END OF RECORDING)

**Lara – Gma Mu Video 9.mov (04:06)**

WHAT IS SPECIAL & MEANINGFUL TO YOU ABOUT EACH KID & GRANDKID?

Lara: I can’t tell how old you are there. If there was a time capsule and you wanted to say something to each of your kids and grandkids, what is special and meaningful to you about each one? We can go in age order. Like when you think of my mom, Francine, what do you think about?

GM: Well that was very hard to come by. It took me a long time to get pregnant, and she was very very precious, but then all my children and grandchildren are precious.

Lara: And Sandy?

GM: Hum?

Lara: And Sandy? What do you think of when you think of Sandy?

GM: When I think of Sandy I think of the heartache of not being able to get pregnant and then realizing I was pregnant so soon after Fran was born. I was in shock.

Lara: And what do you think of when you think of Steve?

GM: Steve was an extra bonus blessing. It was years later than Sandy and Fran, and I’d given up thought of having another one. It just seemed to happen.

DID YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY TRADITIONS AS THEY WERE GROWING UP?

Lara: And so as they were growing up, did you have any family traditions, or like meals that you made for the kids when they were growing up that they particularly liked?

GM: They always liked chicken soup with matzo balls, and potato pancakes, meatballs, different things when they went through phases. I always tried to make something that they liked.

FUNNY STORIES

Lara: And were there any funny stories that you can think of growing up? I remember you telling me about a story of Papa Lew and a shirt that you hated and got blown out the window or something.

GM: We always went on business trips. We took the three children in the station wagon, and used to set off to every town… and we had a vacation, and went on a… trip. There was one… that the kids hated. It was… with… One time we were driving a long way and we were all exhausted, and he took his shirt off and he was just in his undershirt, and the wind came along and bLew the shirt out of the window, and Lew was trying to stop, and the three kids yelled, “get rid of it, we hate that shirt!” (chuckles)

Lara: Are there any other stories that you can think of? Family trips or family holidays that stand out for you?

GM: Every family holiday was a bonus for me. Seeing the whole family around the table together was the most important thing in my life. I was blessed with wonderful children and a wonderful husband and a wonderful family.

Lara: And so now, to the grandchildren. How old were you when you became a grandmother for the first time?

GM: What year were you born?

Lara: 1967.

GM: And I was born in 1914, so I was about 53.

Lara: 43 or 53? I think you were 43.

GM: 43.

Lara: Wow. (doorbell rings) Okay, we’ll stop and get the door.

(END OF RECORDING)

**Sean – Gma Mu Video 1.mov (05:35)**

THE DODGERS

Sean: … moved to LA. Did the Dodgers follow right then or were they already here?

GM: What year did they move?

Sean: I want to say ’59, 1959. Or no, they came before. Maybe ’40, ’45.

GM: …

Sean: I think you guys might have moved before though, right? And you guys were excited when they moved here too, right?

GM: Lew was so excited.

Sean: Yeah. And you guys would go to all the game in Brooklyn, right?

GM: That’s right.

Sean: Yeah. That’s so fun.

GM: And if they lost I never made dinner because Lew wouldn’t eat.

Lara: Grandpa didn’t eat? That’s not the Grandpa I remember. (laughing)

Sean: (laughs)

GM: He was younger.

Lara: And so what else, kind of sports things. Sean probably knows more about the sports than I do.

Sean: Yeah, did you guys go to the World Series games, when they made the World Series?

GM: Yes.

Sean: Wow, that must have been ---

GM: It was exciting.

Sean: Really exciting. It would be a long time until they were in the World Series again.

GM: If ever. And whenever we used to go on a business trip with the kids, we used go to the ball games in that city.

Sean: Oh wow, that’s so fun, that’s really fun.

Lara: Did you see any really memorable ball games that you remember, or memorable sports games?

GM: To tell you the truth I never noticed. I enjoyed it. I never thought… like Grandpa did.

WHEN DID THE INTEREST IN BASKETBALL KICK IN?

Lara: And when did the interest in basketball kick in? Sean and all the kids were so interested in basketball.

GM: I think that came from Steve.

Sean: He was really into it when in the time when Jerry Watts was playing. I remember he went to – he told me he went to like the Pacific Auditorium to watch the Lakers in the finals when they played the Nicks in the early ‘70s and everything, and then I think it picked up a level when Showtime happened with Magic in the ‘80s probably, and then probably since then it’s been nonstop loyalty to the bad team. (laughs)

Lara: So Sean, how old are you now?

Sean: I’m 28.

Lara: 28. I’m going to be 48, so we span 20 years in grandchildren.

Sean: Yeah.

Lara: What are your sort of grandparenting memories, because you were 45 when I was born, and you were 65 when you figure Sean was born.

GM: I was always so thrilled to be a grandmother that nothing else mattered. I didn’t care, a boy, a girl, anything, to me it was the most joyful thing in the world.

Lara: What made it so special for you?

GM: What?

Lara: What made it so special for you?

GM: I don’t know, maybe because by the time grandchildren came along you were a bit more settled financially, it wasn’t the money worries that it was when it was earlier. Maybe that gave me more peace of mind. I just loved it. I worked hard, and I was so glad when weekends came.

THE SHABBAT DINNERS

Lara: Tell us about the Shabbat dinners. What kind of Shabbat dinners did you create? Because I remember that, and I know they kind of changed over time.

GM: There was always chopped liver and meatballs. We loved the meatballs. Always chicken soup with matzah balls.

Sean: That chicken soup was the best.

GM: Yeah, I must make a new batch for…

Sean: (laughs)

GM: I always made what you kids liked. I tried to do it all.

Lara: Are there any rituals you want to make sure are passed down, or traditions that you want to make sure that if someone is looking at this 100 years from now knows what is important to you?

GM: To me, the Jewish holidays were all important because we were all together. Anything that is done by family is to me the most important thing in the world. That’s all you want is for your children to be healthy and happy, and that includes the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren.

SEAN, ANY PARTICULARLY SPECIAL MEMORIES YOU HAVE?

Lara: And that’s true. Sean, do you have any particularly special memory you want to remind Grandma Mu about?

Sean: I think the 85th and your 90th birthdays in San Diego are two fond memories, having everyone together and celebrating your birthday, which was great. And then I think just coming here, when I’ve come back from school, stop and see Grandma on the way back from school, and then also sometimes after work, and just the daily visits, seeing Grandma, are always the best. That’s the best quality time. Those are some great memories.

GM: And you’re everything. The children and grandchildren.

(END OF RECORDING)

**Sean – Gma Mu Video 2.mov (03:10)**

GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Lara: … word associations with each grandchild and great-grandchild that I was worried was too complicated. I was trying to think of something special for you to remember about each grandchild and great-grandchild, but I think that’s too much.

GM: Each child, grandchild, great-grandchild, each child is so individual and special, and just very precious to me.

Lara: It’s been fun collecting some of your memories.

GM: Yeah, it is wonderful that you’re doing it.

Lara: Well, Nick’s only 10, so by the time he’s old enough to care, it could be 15 years, and you’ll be 107, and you may not be up for sharing as much information with him as you are with me now. So I’m just planning ahead. I want to have a record of what happened. I’ve learned some things from Grandma Mu today that I didn’t know, when I was talking to her earlier about the chicken farm. Did you know they ran a chicken farm?

Sean: Yeah, yeah I knew that.

Lara: Details like that that I’d only heard mentioned.

GM: It’s been very interesting…

Lara: I was going to ask you about your hobbies and your interests, but it seems like it’s mostly about family for you. Everything comes down to family.

EVERYTHING THAT’S IMPORTANT IS FAMILY

GM: To me, everything that’s important is family.

Lara: Yeah.

GM: With family, you share everything, you… for everything, it’s the most important thing.

Lara: Is there anything else that you would want Nick to know about you when he’s older?

GM: I want all my grandchildren to know when they’re older that I love them very very much, and I want nothing but the best for them. And let them know that you work hard, and you can eventually get what you want. Nothing comes from nothing. Everything has a price.

Lara: Do you have any more funny stories about Papa Lew or other things?

GM: I must put on my thinking cap…

Lara: The nice thing about the iPhone is that you can just take video whenever.

Sean: Yeah.

Lara: So I’ll let you have some more time to think about stories and I’ll add them later.

GM: Okay.

Lara: I think that I’m going to go over to Beth’s and get Nick.

(END OF RECORDING)

***Transcribed by Lightning Bugg Word Processing***